A SPEECH PRESENTED BY MFORMI NDZEREM STEPHEN NJODZEKA, PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE NSO CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION-NSODA ON THE OCCASION OF THE GRAND ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS OF NSO GROUPINGS IN TOWNS AND PRESIDENTS OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS, HELD IN BAFOUSSAM ON OCTOBER 5 2013.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear Wirfon

Today is a bright day for us, the Nso people and I feel so proud standing in front of all of you as NSODA President General to welcome you all to this august meeting. We first give thanks to God for leading us successfully to this meeting. Once more Vesen wiy kijung.

If I fill so fulfilled today it is first of all due to the enormous sacrifices you all have made to be part of this great. It is the total of these sacrifices that will give all of us the image that reflects our status.I mean the great Nso that we are known to be in our country, Camerron .Why have we therefore made these sacrifices to be here today?

If we are here today, it is because of the love we have for our land and people. I mean the Nso land. It is because we have seen that something is lacking in our search for the much needed greatness to be re-established. We have noticed a missing link in our endeavours at attaining that greatness. It will therefore be an opportunity for us to brainstorm, come out with possible solutions and from there forge ahead as one people with one identity and one culture.

No one doubts it that if the Nso people were to harness their human and material resources, we would have no match in this country. Why then have we not been able for the past decades to do all this? In our joint vision, we must make things happen in our land.We must all build a formidable lobby force that will make us outstanding. If others with numerical inferiority and little intellectual strength have done it in their own places why can we not do it a hundred fold?

Before we delve into our discussions, I would like to fall back on our stewardship for the past months since we took over on July 15 2013.What did we meet at taking over?

We met an existing Exco without clear-cut functions, a situation that rendered most of the redundant.

We met a constitution that was no more reflecting the modern exigencies of the Nso people as it had outlived its usefulness in the present dispensation.

The functioning of NSODA did not touch the grassroots, thereby making the Association look like an elitist movement that represented only the interest of the Kimbo people.

The NSODA Secretariat had gone out of function for want of means to sustain it.The Secretariat functioned from the home of the Secretary General while other Executive members held their own files with them.

There has been disfunctioning between NSODA and the Nso Groupings in the towns of the Republic.

We met empty coffers which made things difficult for us to function.

With all these problems encountered we however did not fold our arms and wait till this day. We had to forge ahead.

-In order to make the EXCO more functional, the existing roles each has to play were resurfaced and each member refreshed on them and given a free hand in making their position to be active and performant. This has made us to discover the talent in the different Exco members, thus making the functioning of the Exco to be cohesive.

-After a careful study of the Internal Rules and Regulations of NSODA, the present excecutive body found out that it was no more responsive to the modern exigencies of the present Nso society. Consequently my exco engaged in moves to get some sound minds of Nso to reflect on the existing constitution and propose possible amendments which will be englobing and reflecting our present day Nso realities. These will then be deliberated upon and the proposed draft tabled before the GENERAL ASSEMBLY for debate and adoption. This work has been effectively done after much concertations thanks to the co-rdination of our indefatigable Legal Adviser,Barrister Kpudzeyem Sylvester. After this day we shall wait for the AGM of NSODA come March 2014.

-Without a clear cut focus at succession, the present executive saw the need for a plan of action to help guide and direct their actions within the next two years and beyond for the Association. This was the reason behind the proposed plan of action which we circulated to for digestion and eventual input if we must succeed. I seize this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you who took a minute from your busy schedule to look through and thereafter chip in a contribution.

- We equally found out that the grassroots that constitute the backbone of NSODA was completely absent from the functional system of the Association.We then engaged in a sensitization and all-englobing march towards the Village Development Associations VDAs, and the different Nso Groupings existing in the different towns of the Republic and out. Today NSODA is the talk of all Nso Villages and proof is the presence of the various Presidents or members of the different Executive bodies of the associations in this august assembly in Bafoussam.

- We equally saw the need for the creation of the home-branch of NSODA. We are seated here with the pioneer exco members who have taken the challenge and are ready to move mountains.

Our expectations from them are that they will spearhead the organization and follow-up of NSODA Events and projects back at home .I seize this opportunity to congratulate Mr Free Albert the new NSODA home- branch President. We call on them to stand up to the challenges that the Nso people are known for giving their leaders.

In order to bring the Fon’s administration closer to the people, the NSODA has reinforced and elected the various Village Traditional Councils.

The functioning of NSODA depends much on the functioning of the NSODA Secretariat..This was one of our proirity.We have put everything in place to see the Secreatriat go functional, a reality that is there for verification.

- In order to break the deadlock and reach a communication bridge between NSODA and the Nso Groupings in the different towns, the present exco has undertaken contact tours to some of the towns to meet either the exco there of the entire body for communion or for ih-house discussions. These have dissipated the mistrust and negative feelings already built towards the Association. After this day we shall continue with the drive towards our people in those towns we have not yet visited. We need your full collaboration as we come towards you.

We have equally undertaken visits to the different Fondoms to explain our vision.We still have it as our priority and will continue till we have visited all our dear fathers for a

- Many of you might be wondering how we have been able to carry on when we claim our coffers were empty at take-over. Yes you are right. It has been thanks to enormous sacrifices made by the exco members from their pockets. This has been pushed forward by their zeal to see us succeed. On your behalf I thank them immensely. That is what we need if we must forge a better Nso society for the future generation.