



Movement for
Democracy,
Development and
Transparency

MDDT SPARKS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN



Moka Lisette Ndolo
Editor-in-Chief

"This being our very first edition, we can only hope that MDDT Sparks is heartily embraced in its bid to offer information that is useful, inspirational and motivating to society.

We pride ourselves with a culture of giving back to society through **information sharing and teaching-by-example, as easy ways to promote democracy, safeguard human rights, and foster sustainable development.** Such information and more on current global issues, especially those affecting our local African societies shall constitute our focus in this regard.

Partners of democracy, promoters of social justice, nation builders, visionaries of sustainable development, keepers of peace, and most importantly the vulnerable in Africa and the world at large, accept greetings from MDDT, "The Movement for Democracy, Development and Transparency".

MDDT is an NGO created on August 30, 2001 in conformity with Law N° 90/053 of 19th December 1990 on Freedom of Associations and launched under PREFECTORAL ORDER N° E29/01/143/vol8/569 in the North West Region of Cameroon on 09/11/2002. It is a not for profit, non-Governmental and non-political Association.

"**MDDT Sparks**" is part of MDDT's mission towards filling the void that exists in the socio-economic and political framework of our society through the promotion of democracy, human rights awareness and sustainable development. If we should inter-relate the virtual meaning of the MDDT Logo and the definition of sparks, then the purpose of MDDT SPARKS is clear in a nutshell.

MDDT Sparks aims at sharing information, news and insights on issues related to human rights, democracy, development and various actions taken by MDDT, its constituents, partners and stakeholders to combat the continuous impediments to sustainable development in Africa and the World at large.

MDDT in its endeavour to reach out to more communities of the national territory, has moved its Head Office from the North West

Region, to the South West Region of Cameroon, re-energizing its National Bureau with dedicated and innovative young executives who share in its vision of creating a society where Social Justice and sustainable development are enhanced through the effective and efficient use of resources; a response to the global need of restoring hope to the oppressed and underprivileged.

The government can never do it all. Civil Society Organizations must revitalize their mission of filling the vacuum between the government and its people. We must discourage malicious activities of some suitcase NGOs who vehemently exploit donors for selfish reasons. This has and continues to be a great obstacle to fostering partnerships with national and international donors. NGOs must communicate authentic activities, giving room for easy access to information and transparency.

The African continent is endowed with abundant Natural and Human resources. The Diaspora is very rich in tech-know-how; it is time that we come together and harness these resources for the good of mankind.



Mr. Clifford A. Niba,
MDDT National Coordinator

For detailed information on MDDT's program components, activities, projects, staff and membership etc., please visit our website: www.mddtcameroon.org. You can also visit our facebook page and join our network or get to us through any of the addresses given in our "**CONTACT US**" column, found on page 4. We implore you to join us and support our efforts as we look forward to working together to build a better tomorrow"

MDDT In Action

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP & SEMINAR IN BUEA, S.W.R., CAMEROON

The Movement for Democracy, Development and Transparency [MDDT] is presently on a high gear in training and development. In its noble objective of ensuring social justice and sustainable development, MDDT is branding itself as a true force in real social change through its direct involvement in capacity building. As a movement which focuses on development, MDDT equally relates to the ideals of a learning organization, making sure that people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire.

It is in this connection that MDDT organized a 7-day free capacity building seminar and workshop in Buea, the South West Region of Cameroon. The main objective of the workshop and seminar was to equip MDDT members as well as the public with resourceful information on relevant functional skills. “Hard work, commitment and participatory leadership are vital for the realisation of MDDT goals”, emphasised Clifford Niba, MDDT National Coordinator”.

In this way, MDDT members will discover a shared picture of the future that will foster genuine commitment rather than just compliance. Topics such as: How to write a project proposal, leadership and service, The role of human resource management in organizations, Budgeting, Time Management, Volunteerism and community service, Managing Diversity in the workplace and How to write a business plan were presented.

The feedback from participants was highly positive as many remarked that the training was enriching. There was a manifested interest demonstrated on topics directly related to organizational activities such as: How to write a project proposal, Volunteerism and How to manage Diversity at the workplace.

At the end of the workshop/seminar, participants were awarded certificates and encouraged to engage tirelessly when it comes to learning or capacity building.

For more information on these training workshops you may log on to our website and visit the appendix section of presentations (www.mddtcameroon.org).



Above: “The role of human resource management in organizations”

Below: Talking on “Volunteerism and community service”



Right: Certificates were awarded to all seminar participants.

Below: MDDT members and participants pose for a group picture at the end of the seminar and workshop.



MDDT Celebrates World Human Rights Day

It is not every day that young Cameroonians get together under the vision of an NGO and challenge old approaches to perform a unique action. Yet through a compassionate visit to sick children and orphans on the 15th of August 2012, members of the Movement for Democracy Development and Transparency (MDDT) did just that, demonstrating that direct contact with beneficiaries of donations is more symbolic, establishing grounds for mutual reverence and appreciation.

The purpose of MDDT's visit to both the paediatric ward of the Regional Hospital Buea and Rhema Orphanage Ombe, was to join in the celebration of the World Human Rights Day 19th August, by touching the lives of sick and orphan children. In line with MDDT's commitment to ensure the promotion of human rights and social responsibility, MDDT offered the children gifts that ranged from toiletries, syringes, mineral water, laundry detergents and clothes to food items such as sodas, biscuits, popcorn, candies and rice.

"This is the way MDDT can be supportive and share in the realities of these children and their respective families" said Cyril H. Fuh, MDDT Board Representative. *"This is but the beginning of a participatory affirmative stance by MDDT towards the plight of others, especially that of children"*

The children, parents and nurses at the paediatric ward received MDDT with great delight; offering their appreciation and encouraging MDDT to continue the good work they have started. Meanwhile, the children at Rhema orphanage, Ombe, had a much more interactive time with MDDT members. Both children and Rhema Orphanage volunteer staff sang and danced with MDDT members. MDDT members were later offered a tour of the orphanage premise. The orphanage's need for better infrastructure was emphasized during the tour.

Members of the MDDT Delegation pose with patients, their guardians and hospital staff upon completion of the visit.

For more information about MDDT Humanitarian activities visit our website:

www.mddtcameroon.org

or use our contact information on the next page.

For More information about World Human Rights Day visit:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsdays/>



MDDT offering medication and gifts to patients and staff of the paediatric ward of the Regional Hospital Buea, S.W.R. Cameroon in commemoration of the World Human Rights Day.

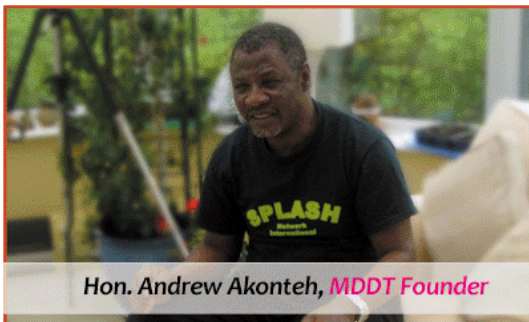


Mothers and children of the Paediatric Ward expressing their appreciation after receiving medication and gifts from the MDDT Delegation



MDDT At Eleven: 2001 - 2012

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE MDDT FOUNDER



Hon. Andrew Akonteh, MDDT Founder

For its first edition, MDDT Sparks spoke to Hon. Andrew Akonteh, founder and Chairman of MDDT. Hon. Akonteh is former Questor of the Cameroon National Assembly and Regional Chairman of the Social Democratic Front. He has a rich background in Personnel management, leadership, community service, volunteerism and community development. During the interview, the founder answered questions regarding MDDT's activities, achievements, setbacks and commented on the overall growth in its eleven years of existence.

MDDT Sparks: As the brain behind the creation of MDDT, what was your inspiration?

Hon. Andrew Akonteh: During my service as regional chairman of the Social Democratic Front, I had the privilege of visiting rural communities in all 10 regions of Cameroon. Again as questor of the National Assembly I was able to visit many African countries, Europe and America. This motivated me to make a thorough and comparative evaluation of the value of development. The frequent images of wars, poverty, hunger, abuse, deprivation, bad governance, political and economic instability prompted me to create a movement that will address the aforementioned issues.

MDDT Sparks: For how long has MDDT been existing?

Hon. Andrew Akonteh: MDDT was created in August 2001 hence has existed for 11 years.

MDDT Sparks: What are MDDT's focal areas of intervention?

Hon. Andrew Akonteh: MDDT's operational programs revolve around Education, Economic Empowerment, Human Rights, Anticorruption, and Conflict resolution.

MDDT Sparks: How successful has MDDT been in realising its objectives/goals?

Hon. Andrew Akonteh: For the past 11 years MDDT has recorded major achievements in the following areas;

Education: Over the years, MDDT has been involved in organising capacity building seminars and workshops in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon. For example, MDDT in July 2012, organised a 7-day workshop in Buea, on Leadership and service, managing diversity in the work place, time management, budgeting, human resource management in organizations, how to write a project proposal and drawing up a business plan. In 2007, MDDT, organized a two-week seminar and workshop in the Ngoketunjia Division on the legalization and restructuring of rural groups, as a means to enhance development.

Economic Empowerment: For the past eleven years, the Movement has carried out a number of community services in the North West Region of Cameroon especially among the women folk and vulnerable children. MDDT provided the women of Donga and Mantung Divisions with farm inputs like improved seeds such as corn and beans, fertilizers, pesticides and in some situations, farm tools like hoes, cutlasses, spades and wheelbarrows. The movement also initiated the women of Bafut in particular, into farming ginger on a large scale. Right now the Bafut women in the Northwest Region are the highest producers and suppliers of ginger in our local markets. MDDT intends to solicit small ginger industries to make use of the large production of ginger in the area.



Legalization and restructuring of rural groups to foster economic development in Ngoketunjia Division, N.W.R.

Human rights and Anti-corruption: In the last ten years, the movement has organized numerous Workshops and Seminars on the rights of people. MDDT has participated both as a resource Organization and Participant in many National and International Human Rights Seminars and has been awarded several Certificates. Thanks to MDDT's anti-corruption research, the National Anti-Corruption (CONAC) and Operation Sparrow-Hawk etc were born in Cameroon. The Movement has also been able to come out with a Corruption tree from the research work that simplifies the corruption web existing in Cameroon and how it can be tackled. More so, together with partners and sponsors such as Change Habits and Oppose Corruption (CHOC) and PCPA, MDDT carried out projects to handle corruption in schools nationwide and to build integrity in selected schools of the North west Region. MDDT was also accredited by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization to monitor the last Presidential elections as Observers under the canopy of Transparency International.

Peace and conflict resolution: MDDT acted as an aide and mediator in the resolution of the Bali-Bawok 2007 Crisis in the North West Region of Cameroon.

MDDT Sparks: Could you elaborate on pertinent setbacks MDDT has faced over the years?

Hon. Andrew Akonteh: Despite its overall achievements, MDDT has not been able to operate in full capacity due to a number of limitations namely; lack of volunteers, limited funds and inadequate infrastructure.

MDDT Sparks: What does the future hold for MDDT?

Hon. Andrew Akonteh: MDDT looks forward to expanding its network locally and internationally, attracting volunteers and partners to participate actively in the successful accomplishment of its goals.

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