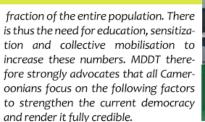
# **ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP ADVO**

When citizens in a democracy vote, they simply exercise their rights and responsibility to determine who shall rule in their name. In a dictatorship the contrary prevails. There is a coerced show of public support for the government. The task of education in a Democracy is not simply to avoid

the indoctrination of authoritarian regimes, and provide instruction that is neutral concerning political values but entails active engagement motivated by informed and reasoned government.

The participation rate of Cameroonians in elections (about 4million out of 20 million) is way below the average of the total population. As such, the outcome only reflects a



"educating the people on democracy is the first

step towards triggering collective active

citizenship as it enhances their intellectual

capacities to make improved decisions."



- 1. Massive Registration especially by women and youths
- 2. Research and evaluation of each candidate's plan of action and political programs
- 3. Perseverance and commitment to follow up correction of names and identification of voting polls.
- 4. Massive voting especially by youths and women
- 5. Protection of votes using modern and transparent technologies

following questions and did not hesitate to communicate their views and desires to MDDT Sparks.

How did you come in contact with the MDDT and when did you become an MDDT member?

What is your role within the organization? What do you gain being an MDDT member? Where do you see yourself in five years time within MDDT?

MDDT Sparks for its second issue spoke to some MDDT members on their involvement within the Movement. They were all asked the



youths and women in policy making.

I came in contact with MDDT via a friend's profile on Facebook and for 2 months now, I have been an active MDDT member.

I have participated in MDDT activities and training courses (seminars and workshops, charity visits) and I have recently been offered the position of Environment and Agriculture Coordinator. This is a great opportunity for me to work with a fun and dynamic team. Within my new role, I see MDDT working to enhance environmental friendly practices within local communities and increase youth involvement in agriculture.

I first learnt about MDDT from a friend who is an MDDT member and I have now been a registered MDDT member for two years.

I have been an active participant within MDDT working groups. I am presently in charge of MDDT

I can't really measure the benefits I have achieved. However, as an MDDT member, I benefit from a pool of diverse skills, experiences and educational backgrounds within the Movement. As an MDDT member and Research & project Coordinator, I see myself fostering MDDT projects and research nationally and internationally





My husband told me about MDDT and since then, I have been with the Movement for one year. I contribute to the Movement's vision by participating in Committee and Executive meetings as MDDT Women's coordinator.

It gives me great joy to give back to my community and share in the plight of others. I feel most obliged and willing to do all I can to get as many girls and women involved in MDDT activities. In the future, I see tremendous improvement in the socio-economic and political lives of women in local communities via MDDT activities.

### **CONTACT US**

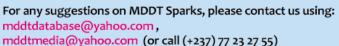
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or email us on: mddtngo@facebook.com





Movement for Democracy, Transparency

# Development and

**ISSUE NO.2 OCTOBER 2012** 

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MDDT Sparks interviews some of its

# Letter From the National Coordinator

Members of MDDT, and distinguish readers of Involvement in Policy Making and Good MDDT SPARKS, I would like to use this opportugovernance". nity to inform you on the development of A further exciting development that we are MDDT since our last Sparks issue. The MDDT

modern office space.

In a bit to foster youth solidarity, involvement and participation in Africa's Development, nial Youth Alliance for Leadership and Develop- backs. We are working hard to improve the ment in Africa (YALDA) Conference in Lagos, communication and reach-out of MDDT Nigeria. The theme of this year's conference so that we can better serve our was "Innovation and Creativity for a Better members, communities and do Africa: Implementing Your Dreams".

MDDT represented Cameroon with two and sustainable development. innovative ideas, "The Use of Mobile Phone Technology and Internet to Enhance Food Clifford Niba Akonteh Security" and "Social Media, a Means to Youth

working on at MDDT head Office is the finaliza-Team has during the past two months been tion of a commitment agreement with the working relentlessly on realizing MDDT's Vision Regional Delegation of Public Health, Buea. It is and we have some achievements to share with the government's honour to collaborate with the civil society to improve livelihood. MDDT had Firstly, as regards the strategic move of our a working session with the South West regional Head Office from Bamenda to Buea, I am delegation of Health on procedural parameters delighted to let you know that we have of partnership. In the areas of promotion and successfully settled down in our new office. prevention, MDDT aims at enhancing health Logistically, we can now accommodate our security in local communities. This leads us to the operations team and also receive visitors in our raison d'être of MDDT's ongoing strategic and innovative programme activities on active citizenship and enhancing food security as a means to sustainable livelihood.

MDDT represented Cameroon at the 4th Bien- MDDT is moving forward despite inevitable set-

more to promote social justice

MDDT Cordinator

### **EDITORIAL COLUMN**

MDDT Sparks is a medium that MDDT uses in communicating information on the Movement's activities and circulates news concerning global development. It is published once in two months by MDDT and is distributed to members, stakeholders and everyone else who is interested.

> **Moka Lisette Ndolo** Editor-in-Chief **Walters Shashan Mbinglo** Design & Layout

The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to edit all text submitted.

MDDT Publications

# MDDT HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON HEALTH PARTNERSHIP



### Regional Delegation of Public **Health visits MDDT Head Office**

The South West Regional Delegation of Public Health (RDPH - SW) - at the invitation for partnership by MDDT paid a visit to MDDT Head Office on the 18th of October

As the first official visitor in the new MDDT Head office. the Delegation's mission that was led by Mr. Njie Ernest - representative of the South West Regional Delegate of Public Health, expressed great satisfaction for the warm reception by the MDDT Team.

(Con't on Page 2)

RDPH representative, Mr. Njie Ernest commends MDDT's commitment to comply with partnership terms.

# **GOING ACROSS BORDERS**

**MDDT Represents Cameroon at the** YALDA Conference, Lagos - Nigeria

Right: YALDA International Chairperson, Bakumu Laone addressing the delegates



In its drive to promote entrepreneurship and good governance, MDDT recently participated in the fourth biennial Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) conference, in Lagos, Nigeria. With the Theme 'Innovation and creativity for a better Africa: Implementing your Dreams', the conference attracted young people across the African continent to constructively interact by presenting their innovative ideas in a bid to trigger innovation in all sectors vital to African development.

"The youth constitute about 60 percent of the African population which remains a tremendous potential which could become a demographic dividend if well harnessed," remarked Mmasekgoa Masire Mwamba, Deputy Secretary General of Commonwealth.

MDDT was represented at the conference by its National Coordinator Mr. Clifford Niba and Secretary General Mr. Christian Fonye. Their participation was felt through their brilliant presentations on "Social media: a means to youth involvement in policy making and Good Governance." and "The use of Mobile phone technology and internet to enhance food security."

MDDT also displayed Cameroon's cultural prowess by translating for the few French speaking African countries present and participating in the cultural evenings organised by YALDA delegates.

"The conference was a true expression of the buoyancy of Africa's diversity. This in itself will reinforce African integration as a vital step towards achieving its development" affirmed MDDT Secretary General, Mr. Christian Fonve.

The YALDA conference ended on a positive note with an inspirational piece of poetry by one of the delegates suggesting that the youths have to be the change rather than wait for it to happen. MDDT looks forward to spreading YALDA's vision to Cameroonians and Central Africa and is equally working hard for Cameroon to host the next biennial YALDA conference.

Christian Fonye

## Regional Delegation of Public Health visits MDDT Head Office (con't from page 1)

reliable collaborators in the health sector such as MDDT. The ment letter from the Regional Delegation of Public Health. Delegation applauds MDDT's sense of commitment especially towards health" said Mr. Njie. Other RDPH dignitaries present included Mr. Ewang Terence, Chief of Bureau of Administrative Affairs and Mr. Ichu Kenneth, Administrative Assistant.

of the conference

According to Mr. Njie, the RDPH visit is aimed at establishing contact following MDDT's formal request for Partnership. The visit included a meeting with MDDT Executives and Operations Team and a tour of the Organization's Office.

During the meeting, MDDT National Coordinator Mr. Clifford Niba, addressed the Delegation's mission and presented a brief overview of MDDT's vision for health.

"Health is vital to human life. MDDT therefore recognizes the important contribution health has on development and is committed in promoting healthy communities" stated Mr.

The Chief of Bureau of Administrative Affairs, Mr. Ewang presented the Ministry of Public Health's legal requirements for collaboration with any health advocate such as MDDT. These conditions are "The Ministry of Public health is always in need of many intended for MDDT to successfully obtain a Collaboration Agree-

> At the end of the meeting, the Public Health Delegation was given a tour of MDDT office.

> > Moka Ndolo Lisette

Below: MDDT Staff members take a group picture with the representatives from the South West Regional Delegation of Public Health



ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

# The MDDT "Farmers" House" Project

The Movement for Democracy Development and Transparency (MDDT) has recently conceived an agricultural project, the "Farmers' House" in its effort to ensure food security in Cameroon.

This "Farmers' House" project is one in a series of projects and activities that the movement has conceived with the hope that its adoption and implementation shall meet the expected outcomes.

According to The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), food security is "When all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."





However, extreme poverty (i.e. less than one dollar per capita income) remains the central factor affecting household food security and the livelihoods of over 900 million undernourished people worldwide (FAO, 2006a).

Through the "Farmers' House" project, MDDT aims at growing and storing crops that are suitable for local resources and conditions as well as create and optimize market opportunities in a bid to increase food availability, food access and food adequacy for all.

"This strategy will enable small-scale farmers especially women to take advantage of new market opportunities and the changing worldwide demand for both staple and high value food products" stated Mr. Kikishi Kenneth, MDDT Programs Coordinator.

The Movement is currently developing partnerships with local Chiefs, environment & agricultural Common Initiative Groups and other Development institutions particularly in the North and South West Regions to acquire land and personnel. The project is expected to start in the next farming season.

Etame Nadege & Andoh Rex

# MDDT PARTICIPATES IN EUROPEAN UNION-PASC CONFERENCE

PASC] on the 18th of August 2012. MDDT strongly identifies with will entail how to make information useful and available PASC's objective of building the institutional and technical capacity of  $\,\,$  through different media. He equally defined the criteria for ther interest groups and stakeholders.

overnment's efforts in collaborating with the civil society. The regional delegate of MINEPAT equally expressed the government's commitment to forge a lasting partnership with the civil society. He  $\,\,$  ships between private and corporate entities. urged the civil society to adopt a proactive and innovative approach to

The head of PASC Committee Mr Koffi Awity affirmed his commitment of materials to be disseminated. He assured all to the people of the south-west and he promised to employ the organizations that they would benefit from a rewarding principle of positive discrimination so that the final document could relationship with PASC and the European Union if they represent the aspirations of the varied civil society groupings in the 10  $\,\,$  complied with structural, technical and legal requirements. regions of Cameroon.

Mr Koffi gave a breakdown of PASC's expectations from civil society organizations stating vital areas which the civil society has to work on.

for effective operation. He emphasised on capacity building laying emphasis on institutional, technical and operational enlightened participants on how to strengthen partner-

Mr Koffi urging organizations to engage in the production

Mabel Bakari & Walters Shashan Mbinglo