



**PROGRAMME FOR THE CORONATION OF
HRM Chief Dr. Robert Esuka' Mbella ENDELEY V,
Paramount Chief of BUEA and Naliomo of the Bakweris**

The Vision and the Theme

The coronation is a purely traditional and cultural event. The event is anchored on the theme: RE-LAUNCHING and BUILDING the MBANDO YA WAKPÈ.

It will be a 4-day event envisaged to begin on Wednesday, 16th March 2022 and end on Saturday, 19th March 2022. During the forthcoming event the people of PHAKO will:

- Showcase their RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE (their language, art, music, dances, songs, symbols, norms, values, artifacts, clothing/attire, religious beliefs, economic system, social organization, rules, and leadership well as other unique traditions and culture of the clan, etc.), and
- Showcase their sense of belonging, solidity, and clan cohesiveness.

Coronation of the Paramount Chief of the Bakweri (MÒKPÈ) Kingdom happens after long intervals, **precisely at succession to the paramount stool of the land.**

The event this time around calls for the participation of all sons and daughters of the clan, friends and admirers both in Cameroon and in the Diaspora, to be part of the platform for RE-LAUNCHING and BUILDING the MBANDO YA WAKPÈ.



DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE 2-PHASE EVENT

PHASE I: TRADITIONAL PHASE (Some parts of this phase will be very restricted while some will be open).

- Venues will be the Royal Palace Grounds and the Buea Town Wrestling Field (Ewoka Whezruwa).
- It involves certain rites by the Wonya Likenye Royal Family, the Kingmakers of the Paramount Chieftaincy, the oldest living person in the Bakweri Land, and the Fako Chiefs.

PHASE II: OPEN CULTURAL MANIFESTATION

- To take place at the Buea Town Green.
- Manifestations and animation will be done by Bakweri (Mòkpè) groups and artists and Non-Mòkpè (other ethnicities) groups and artists.

I. PROPOSALS FOR DAY I:

1. Since it is said the KING does not die and only disappears, the womenfolk of the lost King's family have to go out during the day from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm looking for him. They must visit at least 25 houses and some dignitaries around the town and within the King's area of command, in search for where the King might have possibly gone.

Dress code of the womenfolk: They will be dressed in black clothes, with dried plantain leaves tied around their waists, some around their heads, and carrying fresh leaves showing signs of mourning.

2. From Day I the **Nganya Juju Dance** will go out at night from 1:00 am or 2:00 am.
3. Placement of a giant TV screen at the Wrestling Field (Ewoka Whezruwa) or the tarred open-air space at the Buea Town Green, for broadcasting and film shows of Bakweri cultural aspects.
4. Quiz Sessions for Bakweri children to be handled by a constituted jury of 10-15 people, (historians, BALALIA teachers of the language, media people, etc.) *Questions for the children must reflect issues of the Bakweri Clan i.e., the founder of the land, the origin of the people, the political culture of the people, livelihood system of the tribe, etc.*
5. Showcasing and exhibition of emerging artists of Bakweri land.
6. Teaching young boys how to tie the zranja, amongst other things. Strangers may be given room to display items too. The King is theirs also. *Winners will be awarded prizes at the end of the event.*



II. PROPOSALS FOR DAY II:

Showcasing the cosmopolitan and multicultural nature of Fako Division and hospitality of the indigenes.

Venue: The Wrestling Field (Ewoka Whezruwa) or the tarred open-air space at the Buea Town Green.

1. **Fashion parade involving both men & women:** Participants should be able to introduce themselves in their dialect and tell the jury about the village they come from.

Dress code will be purely traditional: *For example, Bakweri women are expected to dress in long kabas and maybe carry an Ezròkò packed with firewood on their backs.*

Men are expected to dress in the zranjas, white shirts and hats. These are customs that are fast eroding and need to be revived and preserved.

2. Grand musical concert: All Bakweri and non-Bakweri artistes in the Municipality will be invited to perform during the award of prizes to the winners of competitions. There will be interludes by choir groups. Strangers can be given a chance to perform too.
3. Bakweri movies – MAIJA, BELLE EVEYO, STRAY, and VOTARY;
4. Wrestling competition between villages;
5. Tug of war and prize award in three parts: *between men, between women, and between men and women.*
6. Choral singing competition.

III. PROPOSAL FOR DAY III:

Traditional Coronation – Details are confidential

IV. PROPOSAL FOR DAY IV

Open Cultural Manifestations

Venue: The Buea Town Green.

Expected participants: the Bakweri people in general, invitees, spectators from all corners of Cameroon and the Diaspora.



Procession from the Palace Ground to the Buea Town Green will be as follows:

1. The Monarch will be accompanied by 15 to 20 dance groups and driven on a Royal Chariot pulled by horses.
2. At the Buea Town Green, the Monarch will be received by Fako Chiefs in a traditional house (ndaw'a mbanjo) constructed in the field.
3. Traditional rites will be as follows:
 - i) Traditional performances led by Fako Chiefs;
 - ii) Traditional performances led by other Notables.
4. The Monarch will then be accompanied by Fako Chiefs, etc. to his seat
5. Start of manifestations as programmed.

ROYALTY and CULTURE will be given pride of place through:

- Attire, procession and sitting positions of Fako Chiefs and traditional leaders of different Ethnic Groups at the event ground.
- Special traditional attire of the different groups of sons and daughters of the land and their place in the event ground.
- Special traditional attire of the hostesses
- Magnificent entry of the Monarch and his entourage into the event grounds.
- Prayers by a Christian Clergyman and the Imam of Buea
- National Anthem
- Playing of the *jimbi* in the middle of the field and blowing of *zrewa* at intervals followed by:
 - 3 to 4 short speeches by the Mayor, a youth, a male and female elite, and maybe the Monarch.
- ✓ **Showcasing of the best of Bakweri dances:**
Motio dance touching on the Bakweri-German war of 1891.
Malay, Nganya, Malowa, Lingombi, Chacha, Mondame, and Liengu Dances
- ✓ **Showcasing dances of other ethnic groups in Fako:**
Bafaw, Bakossi, Balong, Bangwa, Bassosi, Bayangi, Oroko, Bamileke, Bamoun, Hausa/Fulani, Nigerian Community, North West groups, Sawa, etc.
- ✓ End of the ceremony followed by grand entertainment of participants and guests at different venues in Buea.

The event will culminate with a thanksgiving service on Sunday, 20th March 2022 at Presbyterian Church Buea Town.