10TH

CONVENTION OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT

JOSH!

A LEADER WE CAN COUNT ON

Stronger, Together !

Plus forts, Ensemble !
Stronger, Together !

For the last 33 years, only one party has emerged with and stayed committed to a clear social democratic ideology throughout its history. That party is non other than our darling Social Democratic Front, a serious Party that has stood the test of times, ushering tremendous change and progress to the political life of our country.

For 33 years now, together we have followed the footsteps of all those who preceded us. I, like many of you, have played my part, as a loyal follower, ardent supporter and strong collaborator of our great leader who led us with courage, honesty and determination for the last 33 years. Together, we fought several battles, both victorious and less glorious, with each providing us several opportunities to learn and to grow. Some joined the fight along the way and others left us along the way. But we have stayed true to the course, with the goal of giving power back to the people our goal, a goal I am determined to see to the very end.

Once more we are compelled to renew the leadership of our party, through a convention. An exercise we have done several times over the years in respect of our sacrosanct constitution and in lockstep with our firm belief in obtaining the mandate and support of our committed militants. Unfortunately, this convention is not a convention as we have known before. This is the first convention without our emblematic leader, our National Chairman Ni John FRU NDI. May his gentle soul rest in peace. With such a big loss to bare, we as true soldiers of the struggle for democratic liberation, equal opportunities and social justice are obliged to act maturely to honour his legacy and walk together to make this convention a historic moment. Together, united, and determined we must come out stronger to achieve our collective goal and that is why I am posturing as your leader.

10TH CONVENTION OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
OCT. 27 - 28, 2023
YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON

Dear Comrades,

On October 28th, with your vote, you will decide on the destiny of our Party, the Social Democratic Front. Ours is a serious and credible Party, which aspires to govern our country, Cameroon. It needs experienced leadership, and a capable and serious person at its head.

It is not a question of occupying a chair, but rather, it's about doing a job. Many aspire to the position, to the title, but the extent of the responsibility must be emphasized. Having been up close, I know what our political family is missing, and how much we will have to roll up our sleeves. I do not claim to be able to achieve this without your contribution, because it is together, and only together, that we will build and win with our Party. I know our strengths and I have confidence in our future.

Political career

Born in Kumba 55 years ago, I am a child of this Cameroon that I love deeply and that I want to see change positively. We deserve to be a prosperous nation. This requires strong political structures. And we are one of them. I aspire to the leadership of our political Party, with my knowledge of our environment, and my political experience, having been responsible at all levels of this party, from the base to the top:

1990 Joined the Social Democratic Front and obtained his first card in March 1991 in Bonakouamouang, Douala 1

2002
- Candidate for legislative and municipal elections
- Elected Municipal Councillor of the Toko Council that the SDF won with an absolute majority
- Regional President of the South West Province

2006 Elected 2nd National Vice-President at the 2006 Convention and SDF delegate to the Socialist International congress
- Designated Chairperson of the Party Finance and Oversight Committee

2007 Candidate for the legislative elections

2012 Elected 1st National Vice-President at the 2012 Convention.

2013 Elected SDF Member of Parliament for the Wouri Center electoral constituency, in Douala, Littoral region.
- Vice-President of the Finance and Budget Committee of the National Assembly
- Special Rapporteur in charge of the Finance and Administration sector at the National Assembly
- Vice Coordinator of the Youth Advocacy Network of the National Assembly
- Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie

2015 Founder and coordinator of the Progressive Alliance of Central Africa (Alliance of Progressive Parties from 9 Central African countries).

2017 Re-elected SDF Member of Parliament for the Wouri Center electoral constituency, in Douala, Littoral region.

2018 Re-elected 1st National Vice-President at the 2018 Convention.
- Candidate for the presidential election for the SDF

2020 Re-elected SDF Member of Parliament for the Wouri Center electoral constituency, in Douala, Littoral region.
- Elected Questor in the Bureau of the National Assembly
- Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- Coordinator of the Youth Advocacy Network of the National Assembly
- Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie

A solid experience

Having a certain mastery of our political environment and having held various responsibilities across different sectors of activity, especially in the private productive sector, I know how to position myself as a man of solutions. And we need it badly.

A man in the field

No revolution takes place in lounges and at banquets. This is why I travel all over our country all year round to be as close as possible to the population, our militants, our youth, and all those who believe that a new Cameroon is possible to listen to them, share with them and better understand our local realities and thereby find solutions to our problems together.

Local leadership

Because I like discussions around big ideas, because they guide our actions, I remain close to each of us, man or woman, old or young, radical or moderate, whatever your opinions are because our diversity enriches the dialogue and remains our greatest strength.

A family man

We are all committed to our traditional values, to the importance of protecting our personal relationships, and safeguarding the best interests of our families. I share these values. Beyond my biological family, I have this family that we all form together.

MY VISION FOR OUR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT

To perpetuate the legacy left by our historic Leader and build a conquering Party, dear delegates, the actions we have to carry out are based on three pillars:

1- Renew Trust with all our members and build a conquering Party

We aim to restore trust in our members by being transparent and honouring our commitments. We are also going to implement a real "Power to the People" internal policy and this involves:

- ☑ Organize a bi-annual national conference for the formulation of our public policy proposals bringing together all the Electoral District Presidents, the divisional coordinators, the regional presidents and the National Executive Committee.
- ☑ Hold meetings of the National Executive Committee on a rotating basis in our different regions.
- ☑ Obtain the regions to hold the meetings of their Regional Executive Committees on a rotating basis in the different Electoral Districts.
- ☑ Rebuild our communication with a graphic chart that better reflects our times, a repositioning of our branding, a dynamic website, a web TV, a web radio, digital publications, social media presence, online political training modules and digital internal communication platforms.
- ☑ Strengthen political education and training to have cutting-edge local leadership.
- ☑ Develop a national strategy to win local elections.
- ☑ Build our national headquarters in Bamenda and the liaison and regional office in Yaoundé.
- ☑ Implement innovative and transparent digital fundraising methods.
- ☑ Establish a micro-health insurance for Party members.

2- Prepare our future with our women and youth

We like to remember 1990 and those years of fierce struggle for democracy. We were young, and we had results. We have the duty to prepare and supervise a new generation of militants, with whom we will do even better than the youth we once were. Cameroonian youth are brilliant, they are talented, and today have the tools to do better. We must show them the way and open doors for them. Our women must not be left behind. And to do this, we will:

- ☑ Set up Social Democracy Summer Schools across the country to address youth issues, and offer them lasting opportunities with partners, businesses, schools and captains of industry;
- ☑ Improve exchanges between militants, better connections between the base and the summit, and the provision of development opportunities;
- ☑ Support youth and women's initiatives at the local level and invest in high-impact individual political projects;
- ☑ Promote young entrepreneurs in our party through mentoring, with particular emphasis on young women;
- ☑ Supervise and facilitate solidarity movements for young people in the party in difficult situations.

3- Bring together the largest left-wing political force in the country

We did it. And we're going to do it again together. We will join forces, beyond our differences, and we will expand our political demographics and our level of influence. More than ever, we will remove barriers and bring together energies.

This goes through:

- ☑ The creation of a true left-wing national front;
- ☑ The effective establishment of a real labour front, the CALAMO, the Cameroon Labor Movement, with the main confederations and trade unions of Cameroonian workers;
- ☑ Fully assume our leadership as a Party advocating Federalism and Parliamentarianism;
- ☑ Strengthening and modernizing our communication system and therefore our image;
- ☑ The multiplication of possibilities for engaging new members into the party;
- ☑ Expanding our circle of supporters and sympathiser;
- ☑ The putting in place a real political career plan in the Party;
- ☑ The effective establishment and political development of the SDF in all the electoral constituencies of Cameroon and in the diaspora.

Message to the attention of the activist of the Social Democratic Front

Dear friends,

Today we hold a piece of our nation's history in our hands. Following our founding fathers and all our eminent predecessors, we are embarking today on this journey which will lead us to the victories of tomorrow. It is an exercise of democracy through which we will give our voice, not to the fairest or the most intelligent among us... nor to the headiest or the most adventurous... but to the one who best represents us and is best placed to carry our aspirations.

I am Joshua Osih, and I represent each of you.

This Party belongs to all of us and I started out like most of you at the bottom of the ladder, no more to me than to each and every one of you. I did all my political classes with you. Day after day, my love for Cameroon, our country, has been strengthened in this Party. My victories, but also my failures... In short, I also owe all of my political experience to this party.

I have learned alongside many of you. Having held elective positions all these years, I know the value of the trust placed in me, and the weight of responsibilities that results from it. I enjoyed the trust of our Chairman Ni John FRU NDI, I have enjoyed the trust of the Cameroonians, and I have your trust. I come today, on the occasion of this historic convention, to renew this trust between us, with the assurance and the firm conviction that we will do better.

Comrades, I am and remain at heart a grassroots militant. I know the hopes that drive each of us. At all levels of our party. The challenges, the difficulties, the disillusions, the intrigues,... I know who we are. But above all I know where we are going to and I am determined to lead us there with firm steps. We will all have to roll up our sleeves, and together we will make history.

We owe it to the Chairman, we owe it to Cameroonians who have the hope of seeing an end to their sufferings, and who have the right to a better life in this country which is our common heritage. After our Chairman, I have only one word.

A lutta Continua,

Josh

JOSH!

FOR SDF PRESIDENT

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