

# Improving Rural Areas Through Urban – Rural Linkages In The City Of Bamenda



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# Urbanization in the City of Bamenda

- ❖ Bamenda is a cosmopolitan city and capital of the North West Region, Cameroon
- ❖ Its the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Cameroon after Douala and Yaoundé, located 366kms north-west of the country's capital, Yaoundé
- ❖ Its population is 600,000+ inhabitants over an area of 1076km<sup>2</sup> with a density of 744persons/km<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ It is a city council with three Sub-Divisional councils (Bamenda I, II, and III)
- ❖ Bamenda is a socio-economic, political and commercial hub for the region and also connects other major cities and towns to Nigeria

### LOCATION OF BAMENDA WITHIN CAMEROON



**Bamenda, Capital of North West Region**



### Bamenda City Council North West Region



# Urban – Rural Linkages (URL) in Bamenda

Some outstanding actions strengthening urban – rural linkages in the city of Bamenda and the neighboring rural centers

## ▶ Road Infrastructure;

- Development and paving of 47.6km of roads linking the city to its periphery and neighboring rural centers
- Funded by the world bank, an ongoing construction of the dilapidated major highway into the city linking smaller towns and the Sub-Division of Santa (a major rural agricultural zone) into the city.





# Actions Strengthening Urban – Rural Linkage in Bamenda

- ▶ **Markets,**
  - Ongoing inputs by the French Debt Relief programme (C2D) which provides for the development of decentralized market centers and structures for the Sub – Divisional Council areas located at the city peripheries to absorb the supplies from the rural centers. These include, the bulk market at Nsongwa which is linking the city to other rural settlements along the Bamenda – Enugu road.
  - Also included is the rehabilitation of some existing market structures located at the city peripheries



# Actions Strengthening Urban – Rural Linkage in Bamenda

- ▶ **Capacity Development;**

Inter-municipal collaborative workshops and knowledge exchange, to understand and deal with technical and financial challenges faced in urban and rural development actions that require joint actions for long term benefits to the urban center and rural areas

- ▶ **Planning;**

The adoption of the city's master and land use plans with the participation of Bamenda I, II, and III Sub Divisional Councils in 2015, provided a vision and orientation for the development of the city and its peripheries

# Actions Strengthening Urban – Rural Linkage in Bamenda


- ▶ **Extension of services;**
- Water vision 2018, began in 2015 to rehabilitate and extend the water supply network across six councils; that is the city center and some neighboring rural centers.
- Yearly, the city extends public lighting and maintenance at 20% with target to cover the peripheries of the city and some neighboring rural communities.

# Impact of URL Strategies on Rural Areas around the City of Bamenda

- Growing Rural Economy with 4 new major commercial and service centers, Bafut, Mendakwe, Bambui and Bambili,
- Improved Mobility and Transportation of Goods within Bamenda and the neighboring rural areas, with approximately 30% improve in the tonnage transported especially along the Bamenda – Enugu road



# Impact of URL Strategies on Rural Areas around the City of Bamenda

- Improved Urban – Rural Partnership which empowers rural governance, rural planning policies and access to finance
  - Improved knowledge on development planning which has enhanced the preservation of the rural environment and culture to further promote tourism
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# Challenges of Implementing URL Actions in Bamenda

- ▶ **A semi decentralized system** that leaves Councils with **limited resources** (personnel, financial and technical equipment), and more decision and financial power at the central level. With a population above 600,000 inhabitants, the city council has an **annual budget of approximately five million (5,000,000) USD**, with about **30% dedicated for major development projects** within the city and peripheries.
- ▶ **The ongoing Anglophone crises** in the NW and SW regions of Cameroon since 2016 has directly affected the city of Bamenda, with frequent instability **limiting major developmental activities** especially around the city peripheries. This has greatly limited the Urban – Rural connectivity in Bamenda and surrounding rural centers

# Challenges of Implementing URL Actions in Bamenda

- ▶ Uncompleted paving of a road at the city periphery



# Conclusion and Way Forward

- ▶ The city of Bamenda wants to distinguish itself as a case study in Cameroon with respect to reflections on URL guidelines and strategies to further implement the New Urban Agenda (NUA) within its city and rural space
- ▶ The City looks forward to more partnerships and technical support in realizing its URL vision within the Bamenda City Master Plan



# *Thanks*

