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A SPEECH PRESENTED BY REBECCA JUGA:
PRESIDENT OF BAWUFAG CAMEROON

Introduction



- Women's collective empowerment is crucial for advancing networking initiatives. As Kate Hodges wisely stated, "Behind a great woman is another great woman," emphasizing the importance of mutual support in achieving success. Therefore, it is essential for women in Cameroon to collaborate and establish a strong network.
- Furthermore, embracing authenticity, as Rozonda Thomas suggests, is key to empowerment. By recognizing our inherent value and appreciating the strengths of others, we can cultivate genuine connections. Networking in this natural and supportive manner will enable us to achieve sustainable goals that benefit both ourselves and our communities.

Networking in Cameroon



We practice networking as a process of making connections and building relationships. These connections have provided us with advice and contacts, which is helping us in making informed career decisions.



Networking has helped us find unadvertised jobs and internships, it takes place in a group or one-on-one setting.



Four principles of networking are.



Focusing on the mission of the organization



Managing the organization through trust and not control



Promoting others and not yourself



Build constellations and not stars.

Advantages Gained In Networking



Networking enhances communication and information availability.



It is convenient in sharing of resources.



It enables easy filing and data sharing.



It is highly flexible and affordable.



It increases cost efficiency.

Networking in Practice in Cameroon

In Cameroon, networking serves as a vital tool for community development and NGO success. By fostering collaboration among NGOs, local governments, businesses, and civil society, it creates a strong foundation for progress. Through these diverse networks, capacity building initiatives empower community members with the advanced skills and competencies needed to achieve their goals. Simultaneously, NGOs benefit from strategic partnerships with other organizations, including government agencies, facilitating their activities and addressing potential administrative and financial hurdles. This multi-sectoral approach underscores the power of networking in driving positive change throughout Cameroon.



Collaborative Learning & Information Exchange



- In Cameroon, networking has facilitated knowledge-sharing between NGOs and for-profit organizations, leading to the adoption of similar management structures and practices. Through workshops and seminars, both sectors have embraced professional tools for marketing and growth.
- Networking extends beyond these formal sectors. Smaller entities in Cameroon also utilize networking to achieve their goals. While NGOs leverage networks for capacity building and information exchange, smaller groups utilize similar strategies for their own advancement.

Community & Knowledge Sharing

The NDIEBUFULEG group, originating from the LEBIYALEM tribe in Cameroon, is a global network of individuals dedicated to preserving and sharing traditional herbal knowledge. Leveraging their collective expertise and WhatsApp communication, they offer guidance on using herbs for health and wellness, particularly in cases where conventional medicine may have limitations. Their services are provided on a voluntary basis, underscoring their commitment to community well-being.



The Tinechung Development Association is driven by a community-based approach to development, empowering villagers to actively shape their own future. By identifying gaps in government support and mobilizing local resources, the association fosters a sense of self-reliance and collective action. Through organized groups and targeted sensitization efforts, they encourage residents to pool their resources and tackle crucial infrastructure projects such as water supply and road construction. The association also recognizes the importance of networking and external partnerships, actively seeking funding and support from outside agencies to supplement community efforts. This strategic approach to resource mobilization underscores the association's commitment to achieving sustainable development goals, demonstrating that even with limited external assistance, progress can be driven from within the community.



Importance of networking within civil society in Cameroon

It is important to network within civil society in Cameroon, beyond formal organizations like NGOs and local governments



The RETREWAL, formed by former colleagues from the treasury department's mission is to combat the challenges of loneliness, stress, and health issues often associated with retirement through regular social interaction and support.



RETREWAL members meet monthly for meals and discussions about their well-being. A WhatsApp group facilitates ongoing connection, enabling them to share information, offer support to those who are ill, and provide advice on health and self-care.

Conclusion

- To conclude, I would like to highlight the fact that networking is a key to the expansion of an organization, a necessary tool for knowledge sharing and learning and a way to achieve sustainable goals for every community. However, many NGOS in Cameroon are still in need to advance their capacity building skills in networking.

THANK YOU

