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The contribution of the Bangem municipal council to the development of the municipality

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Abstract

The objective of this article is to show that decentralization is an important mean to improve the leaving conditions of the populations of Cameroonian municipal councils. Our study focuses on Bangem municipality, and analyzes its contribution to the amelioration of the wellbeing of its populations. Our main question is as follow: how does the municipal council of Bangem contribute to the amelioration of leaving conditions of its populations in the process of decentralization in Cameroon? Our methodology focuses on investigation through documentary collection, to analyze the actions of this municipal council. Our theoretical frame is based on political sociology, to decipher the movement of decentralization in Cameroon in relation with local development. As a result, our study shows that decentralization appears in Cameroon with the Constitution of 18th January 1996. Through the transfer of resources and competences to municipalities as that of Bangem, local authorities are able to supply drinking water, building hospitals and school for the benefit of local development of their populations.

Keywords: Decentralization, municipal council, Bangem, development, municipality

Introduction

This article examines the contribution of Bangem municipal council in the development of the community. The council is defined as a basic decentralised local authority, a smallest subdivision of the territory administered by the Mayor having the status of a corporate body under public law. It has a legal personality (it can be sued to court) and financial authority. This subdivision is responsible for promoting local development. In Cameroon, the various laws of 18 January 1996 and 22 July 2004 place the council as the centre of Development ^[1]. These laws also define the task and powers of municipalities. The Bangem municipality is no exception and in the application of this law has financial autonomy of its own budget and resources for the management of the local interest by promoting economic, social, health and cultural development within the municipality ^[2]. Urbanization with developed local economy and a local population flourish. To achieve or realise this vision, the council has embarked on a development policy materialized by several achievements. Our main question is as follow: how does the municipal council of Bangem contribute to the amelioration of leaving conditions of its populations in the process of decentralization in Cameroon? Our methodology focuses on investigation through documentary collection, to analyse the actions of this municipal council. The collection of oral sources helped to obtain the testimonies of local populations and actors of local governance in this process. Our theoretical frame is based on political sociology, to decipher the movement of decentralization in Cameroon in relation with local development. The plan of analysis is based on its contribution on the social domain and after on the economic domain.

The contribution of Bangem council in the social development of the community

Considerable efforts have been made by Bangem municipal council to contribute to the social development of the community. Some these areas include education, health, hygiene and sanitation, provision of portable water, youth and women empowerment, protection of widows and the vulnerable persons within the municipality and the construction and equipping of schools.

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Health

Health forms an integral part of every individual or community. It involves the sensitization of the general public by community trained personnel, Doctors, Nurses or community representatives who are trained as health workers. Communities have been given significant authority in health responsibilities. They have competence in the creation and management of health facilities. In this light, the Bangem municipality has 15 health centres with health facilities which are accompanied by the council ^[3]. For instance, the council in partnership with the National Community Driven Development Program (PNDD) with a French acronym Programme National pour le Développement Participatif has built and equipped the Bangem district hospital in 2010 for a sum of 22 million to improve the access of the population to the care. The Bangem Cultural and Development Association (BACDA) created by the Bangem council also in 2014 have equipped the Bangem district hospital with medical materials. We have the construction of the new Bangem district hospital with part of the funding coming from MINSANTE ^[4]. The council have completed the construction of Nkack health centre and have equipped Eloum health centre. The sanitary equipment was made up of beds, a box of surgical equipment, a microscope and a delivery box. The picture below best describes the construction of the Bangem district centre building constructed by the councils:



Source: Picture taken by author, Thierry Foutem, Bangem, 17/03/2021

Picture 1: The Bangem District Centre constructed in 2007

From the above discussion, it is discernable that through the efforts of council community sensitization on health education is very effective as attested by NGOs like CERUT in the Bangem sub division that have equally sensitize the local population in planting of medical plants like *Promus Africana* use in the treatment of STDs and other related diseases ^[5]. The Bangem municipality have created awareness-raising campaign and has been organizing HIV/AIDS awareness and testing campaign to advise the population to undertake free voluntary screening. The organization of the campaign against malaria and the distributions of insecticide-treated mosquito nets were equally noted. The respect of the rules of hygiene which include the washing of hands and use of clean latrines in the

³Interview conducted on the 06/04/2021, at Ekqnjock (House), with Ajang Prisca Ntuba.

⁴ N. Lyonga, "Local Government and Social-Economic Development of Communities: Case study Kumba City Council 1990-2007", DIPES II Dissertation, University of Bamenda 2011, 21.

⁵V. Ngome, "The role of Non-Governmental organization in the socio-economic development of Bangem sub division: the case of CERUT, 1990-the present", B.A in History, University of Buea 2000, 51.

municipality is been handled by the hygiene officer ^[6]. In addition, the council within the sub division have contributed to the construction and approval of integrated health centres within the Bangem sub division. Like the case of the Boka integrated health centre that was constructed thanks to the efforts of the council in collaboration Boka Development Association (BOKA).

Provision of Portable Water

Water is an essential part of our daily lives. Clean fresh water is a basic necessity for all societies, be it traditional or modern. In Bangem sub division, the main sources of water is from the Muanenguba twin lakes that serves as the main source to many fast flowing rivers made up of the muanenguba watershed. Many streams flow in the numerous valleys and have been the source of drinking water to many communities for many years ^[7]. In the main town, the supply of water is control by the Bangem council in partnership with structures such PNDD, European Union, Plan Cameroon and assistance from NGOs such as CERUT; CAD supplies the villages with drinking water ^[8]. The construction of water catchment and a reservoir were developed to supply water in villages like Nkikoh, Nyan, Muanyet, Muanjikom, Muabi, Ekambeng, New Bell, Muanenguba and Ndong. This project was carried out by the Council in partnership with PNDD ^[9]. The rehabilitation of two gravitational water supplies with assistance from CAD in the villages of Mobor Bajoh, Muedibe and Ekanjoh Bajoh has also been rehabilitated. The council equally have provided the Mbororo community in the Bangem sub division with portable drinking water and a cattle-drinking trough. Many rural communities like Muanyet, Nyan, Muanenguba and Bangem were assisted in protecting their water catchments while communities like Boka were supported ^[10].

The municipality has also supplied schools and markets with drinking water with the construction of taps. This is the case in 2007 of the Bangem Wednesday market which had been equipped with taps by the municipality and also has made to the population the availability of water supply points especially pumps and taps ^[11]. In 2010 the Bangem council call on communities based groups organized sensitization campaigns on the need for communities to protect their watersheds in a bit to solve some major water problems that come as a result of deforestation and the planting of non-friendly environmental trees such as the eucalyptus ^[12]. These achievements aimed at improving people's access to drinking water ^[13]. The picture below

⁶ Interview conducted on the 03/03/2021, at Ekakuh (in his Chamber), with Ekuh Ojeh Simon.

⁷Interview conducted on the 12/04/2021, at Eloum (Resident), with Epinkwelle Divine Etone.

⁸E. Alunge Ekane, "The role played by SOWEDA and some NGOs (CERUT, NISCAM, WICOF), in promoting Economic Activities and Alleviating poverty in Bangem sub division", DIPES II Dissertation in History, E.N.S Yaoundé 2001, 48.

⁹Interview realised on the 04/04/2021, at Bangem (Office), with Ekome Muene Aristottle.

¹⁰Interview conducted on the 06/04/2021, at Mbillah (House), with Mbong Napoleon Nsuli.

¹¹N. Lyonga, "Local Government and Social-Economic Development of Communities: Case study Kumba City Council 1990-2007", DIPES II Dissertation, University of Bamenda 2011, 32.

¹²Interview realised on the 07/04/2021, at Nkikoh village (Office), with Nnane Stella Muke.

¹³Interview realised on the 23/05/2021, at Muanenguba (House), with Dasimou Dawah.

presents a reservoir constructed by the council to supply the community with portable drinking water.



Source: Picture by author Thierry Foutem, Bangem, 12/04/2021

Picture 2: A Water Tanker Constructed by the Bangem Council in New Bell in 2001

Education

The state has transferred decentralized territorial authorities to education which have given councils powers not in promoting environmental and health education but equally engaged in the promoting of the educational sector in general and the Bangem council is not an exception to this rule. The degree of development of any municipality or community is more or less measured by the level of education of its resident. In capacity building, a community may have all the necessary resources available to development^[14], but might be lacking in development due to lack of educated elites to empower and harness the available resources into meaningful development for the community. Man is provided with the ability to contribute to the advancement of his community due to education^[15]. The Bangem municipal council has preoccupied itself with the implantation of communal plan for development for elimination of illiteracy, monitoring, educational campaign and evaluating illiteracy through multiple ways.

The Bangem municipality is made of both government and private schools which ranges from nursery, primary, secondary and high schools, without living out vocational training centres that play the role of educating residents of the area. Most villages that make up the municipality have government nursery, primary, and secondary schools^[16]. Villages without a secondary or high school are obliged to move to villages and towns where they are found to complete their education.

The town is proud with four (04) government high school found in the Bangem council area. Which are; Government Bilingual High School Bangem at Ndong-Up School, Government Secondary High School Muambong at Muambong, Government Secondary High School Muebah-Nninong at Muebah And Government Technical High School Bangem at GRA (Government Residential Area) and two (2) private schools namely; Presbyterian

Comprehensive Secondary College Bangem (PCSC) and Bangem Academic Evening School (BAES) having a complete high competition in the area as the increasing number of schools in the municipality worth noticing^[17].



Source: Picture by the researcher, Thierry Foutem, Bangem, 24/03/2021

Picture 3: Government Bilingual High School Bangem in 2011

The Bangem council does not own a school, but works in collaboration with the divisional delegation for kupe muanenguba in charge of basic and secondary education respectively in order to foster education in its municipality. In keeping with the school map, the council is managing, equipping, tending and maintaining nursery and primary schools and pre-school establishments with the municipality^[18]. The council also provide financial assistance for the maintenance and construction of classrooms of both government and community schools^[19].

The council equally contributes to education through general sensitization of the population, granting of assistance and subsidies to schools and provision of employment to holiday makers. Within the past years, the council has employed more than 200 holiday makers during long vacations^[20]. The payment received from these holiday jobs assist most students in preparing next academic year thereby helping their parents in buying some of their school needs.

The council also help in constructing and equipping schools. For example, the construction of a block of two class room at Ekanjoh Bajoh, Muakwekang, Mueba and Enyandong, the equipping of class rooms with 50 benches each for government primary school Muanyet, Nyan, Nkikoh, Ndibsie, Bangem, Muakwe and 100 benches each for government bilingual high school Bangem, government technical high school Bangem, Muambong, Muebah-Nninong, PCSC and BAES. The council as well supply dialectic materials to schools yearly such as rulers, chalk, erasers, registrars, basic first aids drugs and gives encouragement packages as end-of year prize award to ceremonies to schools in the municipality. These prizes were given to students of both sex and the best performing

¹⁴ F. Tasang, "FEICOM and the Development of Local Councils in the North West Province of Cameroon (1974-2005)", DEA Dissertation, University of Yaoundé II, 2007, 28.

¹⁵ Interview conducted on the 17/03/2021, at Bangem (School), with Mr. Ewambonde Kelvine.

¹⁶ N. Lyonga, "Local Government and Socio-Economic Development of Communities: Case Study Kumba City Council (1990-2007)". DIPES II Dissertation, University of Bamenda, 2011, 24.

¹⁷ Interview conducted on the 10/03/2021, at Muakwe (House), with Ngwesse Rolland Edie.

¹⁸ J. O. Ajang, NGOs and Socio-Economic Development in the Bangem Sud-Division: A Historical Survey 1990-2015, DIPES 1, in History, University of Bamenda, 2017, 28.

¹⁹ Interview realised on the 02/03/2021, at Bangem (House), with Ngalle Elvis Ekane.

²⁰ Interview conducted on the 18/05/2021, at Bangem (Officce), with the S.D.O TchakuE Noundie Jean Marie.

student for each school ^[21]. These prizes were in the form of writing materials such as text books, exercise books, pens, pencils, rulers and other writing materials. Financial assistance was also given to some parent teachers association (PTA) to motivate them since they were not direct recruits from the government. This is done every year in the government primary school muakwe and community nursery school Mbokuh.



Source: Picture by author Thierry Foutem, Bangem, 19/03/2021

Picture 4: Community Nursery School Mbokuh Constructed in 2014

The council was not only preoccupied in promoting youth's education; it also assisted in the education of its administrative staff, the councillors and revenue collectors. This was in a bid to enable them to be responsible and to manage the council affairs with ease. While most of the council staffs who were sent to further their training were mostly private council workers who were employed without receiving a formal training ^[22]. This staffs were sent to acquire training at the council training centre CEFAM in Buea. All those who received training returned to the municipality and continued working with the council ^[23]. Also, apart from promoting environmental, youths and health education within the Bangem sub division, the council through capacity building projects have empowered councillors, workers and many parents with alternative income generating enterprises that has been assisting the families to improve on their living standards and to cater for the education of their children ^[24].

Ensuring Sanitary Inspection and Organising Sporting Events

The municipality has responsibility in the field of social inclusion which include sanitary inspection and sporting events such the organization of football tournament within the municipality. It is in this logic that the municipality of Bangem has undertaken several achievements in social reintegration. In this light, the council have put in place a hygiene and sanitation committee to ensure the sanitary inspection in the municipality. This commission ensures

there is keep Bangem clean every first Thursday of the month which involves the council workers, bike riders, drivers, vendors, technicians, business men and mechanics respectively. The council has rehabilitated the malfunctioning shops and they ensure food vendors have medical certificates to ascertain their health condition before serving food to the population, make sure that public square in the municipality are kept clean ^[25].

The council in the domain of sport and physical education, the council organises football tournament which include inter-quarter, inter-village in all the clans of the municipality base on the council development plan. The council provide assistance to sporting organisations within the municipality. Example is during the organisation of the kupe muanenguba peace and solidarity tournament organised in 2014 by the council, all the ten (10) teams were provided with a pair of jersey each. The council also encourage the veteran club and deux zero club by giving each a pair of jersey in 2016 to encourage their skill. The council also support sporting activities and other cultural talents especially during fenasco B and C games for primary and secondary schools.

The contribution of Bangem council to the economic development of the community

Considerable efforts have been made by Bangem municipal council to contribute to the economic development of the community. Some these areas include the promotion of sustainable agriculture, encouraging the modernisation of the town and the promotion of food crop production through agro-forestry.

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

The municipality has responsibilities in the field of promoting sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture has been major drive in the since the last three decades with the growing need to increase food crop production, improve soil fertility, and household income levels as well as enhance a more sedentary farming system against the traditional shifting cultivation. This is emerging from the growing threat from environmental degradation and global warming that affects agricultural activities especially within world countries warranting innovations in the agricultural sector with precaution on environment. This important innovation that is mostly new to the local communities, call for sensitisation and follow up by government and local authorities and cooperatives as well as social groups to ensure the respect of this innovation in order to increase productivity in food crop production and reduce royal poor ^[26].

Municipalities are encouraged to developed activities directly generating income. At the moment, council intervention in this sector as concern the Bangem sub-division has been of great importance especially in promoting and improvement on sector such as organic gardening, snail farming, livestock farming, pastoral, artisanal, tree crop farming and fish farming activities of common interest ^[27].

The Bangem council in 2002 created cooperatives such BAFCOOP (Bangem Farmers Cooperative), Muambong

²¹Interview realised on the 07/04/2021, at Bangem (Office), with Martin N. Etone.

²²Interview conducted on the 12/04/2021, at Muagwekang (House), with Anoh Derick Mbelle.

²³F. Tasang, "FEICOM and the Development of Local Councils in the North West Province of Cameroon (1974-2005)", DEA Dissertation, University of Yaoundé II, 2007, 34.

²⁴Interview conducted on the 12/03/2021, at Nyan (House), with Nnqne Alakanthony.

²⁵Interview conducted on the 23/03/2021, at Bangem (her Office), with Muene Agnes.

²⁶Interview realised on the 03/03/2021, at Ekakuh (in his Chamber), with Ekuh Ojeh Simon.

²⁷Interview conducted on the 24/03/2021, (her Office), with Clementine Agbor.

Farmers Cooperative Society (MUAFCOOP) and CHEDE Cooperative Union in Muambong and the ASONEP Farmers Cooperative Union in Ndibisie in order to assist and bring farmers as a group to sensitise them on tree crop farming in attempt to increase productivity and poverty alleviation in assistance by the ministry of agriculture and rural development to spark up the idea of Green Revolution in the Municipality [28]. The council in a bid to encourage farmers has provided them with pesticides such as fertilizers, herbicides, and tools like cutlass, spray machines, files, and boots to boost productivity in the municipality. The council have also trained and sensitisation about 50 Mbororo youths involved in green spice and Irish cultivation on market gardening techniques along the muanenguba slopes within the Mbororo community. From 1999, the Bangem council in partnership with CERUT embark on a program for pig credit scheme known as “Hand over the Gift” provided farmers with improved bred of female piglets at a the cost of 5000FRS [29]. The farmers were supposed to repay council with just one of the new several piglets which was then passed over to the next farmer. Through this scheme, many farmers became actively involved in livestock rearing with a good profit margin which empowered many families. The council also constructed a cattle-drinking trough in Muanenguba in an effort to promote cattle rearing within the Mbororo community [30]. Equally, the council has also trained and supported over 70 local farmers (40 youths, 18 women and 12 men) on pig farm construction and management with two groups and several being assisted and sensitized to benefit from SOWEDA (South West Development Association) livestock credit program.

Promoting Food Crop Production through Agro-Forestry

The Bangem council have taken the initiative to promote the cultivation of food crop via agro-forestry in the municipalities. The growing threat from environmental degradation with its underlining impact on food crop production is a general cry to farmers especially in the rural areas thus making it necessary for the rural poor farmers to be highly sensitized and assisted in developing new farming techniques that will increase their yields with less effect on the environment. Agro-forestry has been seen as an alternative means to curb this situation. This is done with the planting of environmental friendly trees that at same may have valuable economic potentials within the community [31]. This sensitization process has been a major preoccupation by the Bangem council in assisting farmers in the planting of nitrogen-fixing trees in the Bangem sub division. In conjunction with Tree for the Future (TFTF) in USA and the ministry of Agriculture and rural Development, the council launched a tree-on farm programme with objective to educate and train rural poor farmers on the importance of Agro-forestry use of nitrogen-

fixing trees on the farming system. Through this project, the council supplied farmers with seeds of Agro-forestry trees such as, Acaciaspp, caliadraspp mahogany and Neem in 2007 with over 200 farmers trained on tree planting [32].



Source: Adapted from council office photo Album, 2010, on 14/04/2021

Picture 5: Local Tree Planter (Farmer) trained by Council on the importance and Techniques of tree planting through Agro-Forestry

From 2007 [33], over 1259 trees have distributed to farmers and integrated within the farming system many social groups like the ASONEP cooperative group in Ndibisie, individuals and cooperatives like BAFCOOP assisted by the council in partnership with WWF, TFTF-USA and TFTF-Cameroon to set up agro-forestry farms with many nitrogen-fixing trees including medical trees like Promus Africana [34]. This nitrogen fixing trees has help to increase fertility leading to increase in productivity in food crop production thereby reducing rural poor.

The Modernization of the Town

The achievements in land management and development are the services related to resource management and land use planning. The municipality is responsible for issuing building permits to the population in the community. The municipality has brought much in terms of the urbanization of the town. Although the Bangem sub division is linked with tarred streets at the centre, there has been a problem getting into the interior. Thus under Ekuh Ojeh Simon we had the extension of the urban centre in direction of Muambong with the construction of a road outside the urban centre from Muambong passing through central Assume. This road was constructed in some villages such as Eloun, Njom, Muebah, Nkack and Muetan to link them with some major's villages such as the Muaku and Central Assume to Muambong. The construction of the road linking Bangem and Muanenguba touristic site passing through Mbat without living neglecting the improvement in town planning by opening of streets and cross streets like the improvement in the market structures [35]. Also the council has open up farms to market roads like the Ekajah farm road aimed to improve on the deplorable state of the road and ease the

²⁸B. Etta, “Twenty-first Century Strategic Studies and Research on Community Development; The African Approach”. Bamenda: Maryland Printers.2006.p.56.

²⁹Interview realised on the 02/04/2021, at Bangem (CERUT), with Ajebe Nnoko Ngaaje.

³⁰ V. Ngome, “The Role of Non-Governmental Organisation in the Socio-Economic Development of Bangem Sub Division: The Case of CERUT 19906-present”, B.A in History, University of Buea, 2000, 47.

³¹ Bangem Council’s Annual project 2007, 11. Consulted on 19th of April 2021.

³²Interview conducted on the 11/05/2021, at Ntho (at his Resident), with Mr Mesumbe Hene Julius.

³³ Bangem Councils annual project 2007. P, 11, consulted on 19th April 2021.

³⁴File No Cd 292/2007, Divisional Delegation for Forestry and wildlife Bangem, consulted on 10th March 2021.

³⁵Interview conducted on the 08/04/2021, at Ndong (House), with Nkumbe Godwill Ebu.

transportation of agricultural product especially coffee and plantain. The council have maintained and opened up roads linking the community. The road linking Muaku and Central Assume to Muabong which are the small village to the major town were rehabilitated in 2015.

The municipality has also worked on public lighting. It has set up a public lighting system on major roads, major crossroad, and streets and cross streets, in particular in solar streetlights. This was very good to the Bangem municipality because it eases the movement of the people and their goods even during the night and this facilitates economic activities [36].



Source: Picture taken by Thierry Foutem, Bangem, the 23/03/2021

Picture 6: Solar Lamp Post Planted in 2016

The municipality has also developed land use plan, urban spatial structures and urban renewal. These plans facilitate a modernization of the city and also its enlightenment since places look brighter [37].

In the field of transport, one noticed the development of a larger motor park at squares which include bike riders, bus drivers and taxi drivers by the Bangem council. The Bangem municipal park has the purpose of welcoming and facilitating all the people who wish to come or to travel out of the Bangem municipality. This park also has certain refreshment stores and toilets for the benefits of its users and it also serve as a store house for goods which stay in the park for one reason or the other [38].



Source: Picture taken by Thierry Foutem, Bangem, 23/03/2021

Picture 7: Bangem Park

The municipality has also made available to the population garbage bins for household refuse. The municipality has equally provided the population with 12 trash cans across the street to solve the problem of dumping of refuse waste in the streets [39].

Construction of Infrastructures

The socio-economic development of an area depends on the level of connectivity and infrastructures. The municipality also has competences in the management and maintenance of the market as well as the development and management of the council touristic sites. Thus, the Bangem municipality undertook the construction and equipping of a hotel and bungalow of the muanenguba twin crater lakes. There is also the construction of the Guest house by the council at Ekajah [40]. The Bangem municipality undertook the construction of two slaughter house in Ekanbeng and Muagwelong. The municipality has also opened 10 markets in Nkikoh, Muaku, Eloum, Nyan, Muanyet, Nkack, Muambong, Nteho, Muabi, Ekambeng, Ndong. At the same time, 27 shops were built in the central market and 4 shops at squares the formal market centre in partnership with PNDP through investment project. The municipality in partnership with the MINCOMMERCE organizes anti-life campaigns characterized by price balances on raw products [41].



Source: Picture taken by Thierry Foutem, Muambong, 03/04/2021

Picture 8: Muambong Market

Employment

Although the municipality remain non-profit enterprise, it helps to create employment opportunities in the community in which it operate. The different programs carried by the council such as health, education, water supply, construction of infrastructures and sanitation programs are headed by people from the community in which it operate. This helps to reduce the unemployment situation within the sub division [42]. Again, the various capacity building programs run by the municipality in the sub division have imparted individuals with several skills that have helped them to engage many income activities such as gardening, economic tree planting, livestock farming that has gone a long to make

³⁶Interview realised on the 06/04/2021, at Bangem (Office), with Ekungwe Christopher Kang.

³⁷ Intervierview conducted on the 25/05/2021, at Bangem (Motoor Park), with Ebombe Kelvin.

³⁸Interview conducted on the 07/04/2021, at Dionkong (Resident), with Ekonloeh Benedict Nzege.

³⁹Interview realised on the 04/04/2021, at Bangem (Office), with Ekome Muene Aristottle.

⁴⁰Councils annual project 2007, 19. Consulted on 19th April 2021.

⁴¹Interview realised on the 17/03/2021, at Ndong (in School), with Ewambonde Kelvin.

⁴²Interview conducted on the 10/04/2021, Bangem Town, (resident), with Ekeh Elvis.

them self-employed. With income obtained from these activities, individuals and workers in the municipality are able to take care of their needs thereby reducing unemployment and rural poor within the sub division ^[43].

Conclusion

Haven come to the end of this chapter which was the case for us to discuss the Bangem Municipal and its contribution to the development of the community, we came to realise that, the council which is a smallest subdivision of the territory administered by the Mayor having the status of a corporate body under public law. It has a legal personality and financial authority. This subdivision is responsible for promoting local development such as the constructions of Markets, Schools, roads, Hospitals, the training of farmers and the subsidisation of famers. However, looking at the above analysis one can firmly conclude that the heading over of power to local authorities through Councils is a blessing to communities such as the Bangem Municipal Council.

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22. Interview conducted on the 23/03/2021, at Bangem (her Office), with Muene Agnes.
23. Interview conducted on the 24/03/2021, (her Office), with Clementine Agbor.
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29. Interview realised on the 06/04/2021, at Bangem (Office), with Ekungwe Christopher Kang.
30. Interview realised on the 07/04/2021, at Bangem (Office), with Martin Etone.
31. Interview realised on the 07/04/2021, at Nkikoh village (Office), with Nnane Stella Muke.
32. Interview realised on the 17/03/2021, at Ndong (in School), with Ewambonde Kelvin.
33. Interview realised on the 23/05/2021, at Muanenguba (House), with Dasimou Dawah.
34. Interview conducted on the 10/03/2021, at Muakwe (House), with Ngwesse Rolland Edie.
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