

Augustin Ngom Jua: Political Development in Cameroon 1961-1972

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Biography, Reunification.**

Abstract— This article on the political figure A N Jua seeks to give the Political career of this Cameroonian actor in the political scene, most especially his government from 1961-1972. Here, we shall state the circumstances that led to his appointment, the achievement and failures of Augustin Ngom Jua's government not forgetting the consequences of the fall of Jua's Government, these prove his input to the Cameroonian People. Of importance is his Biography and private life, how it affected his political input in Cameroon from 1961-1972, his contribution or role to the reunification of Cameroon.

Generally, Augustin Ngom Jua contributed immensely for the reunification of Cameroon, was the need at the time, he supported the Ahidjo government along with John Ngu Foncha, Hon. Francis I W Nkwain to build Cameroon as we see today.

This paper material is elaborated with the help of archives materials, documents and interviews from diverse libraries and personalities on bases of questions and answers and discussions. Actually, this actor contributed very much in Cameroon Political Development from 1965-1968.

I. INTRODUCTION

Augustin Ngom Jua a pro-unification Southern Cameroonian politician from the Grassfield advocated against EML Endeley.¹ For integration with Nigeria, alongside with Dr. John Ngu Foncha and their Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP). Jua who originated from the Grassfield Bamenda developed a charismatic personality which took him to his higher height through his withdrawal from the Kamerun National Council and Endeley as a leader and alongside with John Ngu Foncha in 1953 formed the Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP) replaced Foncha as Prime Minister of West Cameroon after handling the post of minister of West Cameroon and had support from within and outside. Jua became too strict in handling state affairs. This actually

reduced his stability in his political career which at this moment he was to be flexible and dynamic with his fellow Cameroonian brothers which he advocated to reunite with in 1961. All these tantamount to his failure in his political development. But viewing the political figure he gave much to the Cameroonian people because he was at the fore-front of secession and reunification of Southern Cameroon and the Republic of Cameroon, thanks to this political figure for his input. Here, our question goes thus who was Augustin Ngom Jua and what role he played in the political development of Cameroon from 1961-1972? To answer this question, it will be interesting to examine the Biography of Augustin Ngom Jua, his political Development: the Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP), Jua's achievements in West Cameroon and

¹ Interview with Mr. Mvouma Tankoh at Mankon Bamenda Feb 2011.

finally, his failures and fall from power in Cameroon political arena.²

II. BACKGROUND HISTORY OF CAMEROON

As history predicts or proves, Cameroon that shall forever remain Cameroon desired no agitation from whosoever is reasonable, only organization like the United Nations can alter her verdicts to this situation. The state of Cameroon has undergone some metamorphosis, that is, it has pass from one stage to another. Therefore, to identify Cameroon, one can actually start when the Portuguese visited the coastline purposely for exploration and trade. But before the said mentioned, the Egyptians and Carthaginians had visited the coastal regions of Cameroon under the auspices of Pharaoh Nacho II and Hano respectively.³ Other European countries later followed, that sprang the history of the scramble and annexation of Cameroon as a colony were, Britain, France, Spain, Dutch, Belgians and the Germans. Here, it should be noted that before 12 July 1884 when the German finally annexed Cameroon, the region that later became the German protectorate of Kamerun consisted and convened several independent indigenous polities varying in size and administrative system. These societies and their polities were highly jealous and each protected her independence.⁴ Considering the mad rush, the Germans became more interested and quickly, they colonised Cameroon and settle between 1884-1914. The First World War finally ousted the Germans out of Cameroon in 1916.⁵ The single administration or polity implemented to administer Cameroon thus led to the foundation for Kamerun identity and its citizens are claimed by some personality or people. As event continued to unfold Cameroon identity was later modified because at the end of the First World War, France and Britain conquered Cameroon under the Germans which permitted them to jointly govern. The areas under Germans still had their identity. On the Cameroon scene, these areas occupied by the allied powers and joint administration under the Anglo-French condominium were announced andenforced or implemented. Under General Dubell and Agmerich declaration, the division of the territory was effectuated on the 17th of March 1916.⁶ The two spheres of influence by

Britain and France became League of Nations mandatory territories in 1922 where the British gained 1/5 of the territory. After the Second World War these territories were transformed to United Nations Trusteeship because of the collapse of the League of Nations in 1939 by Hitler attack on Poland. The league was incapable to stop Hitler`s intentions. The British area of occupation was divided into two; Northern and Southern Cameroons.

Northern Cameroon was administered as an integral part of the Northern Regions of Nigeria while Southern Cameroons was administered as an integral part of the Eastern Region of Nigeria. The French sphere of Cameroon was administered in association with the French Equatorial African colonies. In 1953, Southern Cameroon witnessed political, economic and Social crisis in the Eastern region of Nigeria. In 1959 this region became of Nigeria which was transformed into a full region of the Federation of Nigeria in 1959. Hence, the French and British spheres had two different political administrations. Definitely, the three sections; British Northern Cameroon and French Cameroon had nothing to do with one another administratively from its inception under foreign influence.⁷ But after, in 1954 Dr. Emmanuel Mbela Lifafe Endeley, a medical officer, who became a political figure in the 1930s advocated for succession. Augustin Ngom Jua with John Ngu Foncha championed Evolutionary Reunification. Furthermore, Ndeh Ntumazah and supporters desired immediate Reunification. The greater population of the indigenous inhabitants of Mamfe, Bamenda, Wum, Kom, and Nkambe wanted succession, they supported A N Jua and Foncha who campaign and are the leaders of the Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP).⁸ In October 1959, leaders of the KNDP and CPNC were pressured to hold a plebiscite not later than March 1961 in which Southern Cameroonians shall decide if to integrate with Nigeria or vote for secession from Nigeria. In a confidential latter from Durand, delegate to the French High Commission in French Cameroon, to his British counterpart, E. Haworth, dated May 1959. It was revealed that Ahidjo was exceedingly concerned with putting a new country on its feet and his intension to preserve a properly independent state of the Cameroons outside any Union or Federation and the question of

² Interview with Mr. Mvouma Tankoh at Mankon Bamenda Feb 2011.

³ <http://crawfurd.dkHomepage> March 1st, 2010

⁴ V.G Fanso; *Cameroon History for Secondary Schools and Colleges. Vol 2, The colonial and post-colonial periods.* Macmillan, Cameroon. 1989. P.14

⁵ Ibid p 54-56

⁶ Lovett Z. Elango; "The Anglo-French condominium in Cameroon, 1914-1916; The myth and the Reality" International Journal of African Historical studies. 1985, p.659 and Louis Paul

Ngongo; *Histoire des Forces Religieuses au Cameroun: de la Premiers Guerre Mondiale à l'Independence 1916-1955.* Karthala, Paris, 1982 p, 15

⁷ Bongfen chem.-langhee, "The Road to the unitary state of Cameroon 1959-1972." In *Annals of the Faculty of Arts, Letters and Social Sciences, Series Science Humaines*, volume VI, N° 1 et 2. Janvier –Juillet 1990, p.6.

⁸ Francis I.W. Nkwain; *Cameroon: High Grounds for National Unity and peace*, Maryland Printers, Bamenda, 2008 p,33.

reunification was not of urgency. Ahidjo and Foncha received invitation to attend the Pan-Cameroonian Students Congress that was to take place in Yaounde on 22 of August 1959, Foncha, did not attend because he was aware of the opposition as an objective in UPC manifesto to be applied in the conference against the French High Commissioner to Cameroon, Xarie Torre. Foncha's message, he tenders in to the conference expressed his position for secession from Nigeria, which stated that anybody who makes reunification a condition for secession is an enemy working in favour of integration in the Nigerian federation. Later the atmosphere was set for a plebiscite of 10-11 of February 1961, that it will prove or show a better side for Southern Cameroonians. Jua played a glaring role to ensure that reunification is attained by all means.⁹

Under the chairmanship of Sir Sidney Phillipson, the participants failed to agree on either the alternatives question for voting.¹⁰ The KNDP under Foncha and Jua and the KNC-KPP delegates, once more, returned to the UN (United Nations) and after heated debates, they finally agreed in October 1959 on the Plebiscite questions and an eleventh hour meeting in London in November 1960 failed to alter the plebiscite questions.¹¹ They campaign widespread by requisitioning alignment with the one Kamerun angle CPNC in re-unification circles. Jua forge ahead with John Ngu Foncha and eradicate blackmail and slander intended to destroy the chances of the KNDP victory. Finally, the result in British Southern Cameroons shared a landslide victory for the KNDP, with 233, 571 vote as against 97, 741 for the CPNC. The result of Southern Cameroons faced togetherness again with their brothers of la Republique du Cameroun. A federal system was put in place as confirmed by the Foumban Conference of 1961 after French Cameroon and British Cameroon were already independent in January 1st 1960 and October 1st 1961 respectively.¹²

III. BRIEF BIOGRAPHY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF AUGUSTIN NGOM JUA 1961-1972

A- Brief Biography

Augustin Ngom Jua was born in 1924 at Kom. After his primary and secondary education, he took up a teaching job and became very active in politics as from 1952. His

⁹ Ibid. p.29-30.

¹⁰Victor Julius Ngoh,*History of Cameroon since 1800*. Press print, Limbe 1996, p, 214.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Claude Welch Jr; *Dream of unity: Pan Africanism and political Unification in West Africa* (New York, Cornell Universitypress, 1960) p. 231.

political career actually started when he joined the Kamerun National Congress KNC that was founded by Endeley in 1953. In 1954, Jua and Foncha withdrew from the KNC due to the fact that Endeley, its leader, was trying to deviate from the original aims of the party.¹³ In June 1955, Jua and Foncha created the KNDP with the aim of withdrawing the Southern Cameroons from Nigeria and reunifying the territory with the French Cameroon. During the 1959 elections, Jua contributed greatly in manipulating the Kom Traditional women's society, "Anloo" to unseat the KNC in the Kom area. In 1961, he was appointed Secretary of state for finance in the government of west Cameroon and in May 1965 he succeeded Foncha appointed by President Ahmadou Ahidjo as Prime Minister of West Cameroon. Jua's government was however short-lived as in 1968 he was dismissed by Ahidjo,¹⁴

B- Jua's Political Development from 1961 to 1972

From 1961-1965, Augustin Ngom Jua worked hardly, but before 1961 Augustin Ngom Jua work alongside with John Ngu Foncha to attain collaboration with Ahidjo to make Cameroon a better place for all Cameroonian to leave in unity. They both struggle and lead the KNDP that advocated for secession and reunification. The brain behind all these was under the full hearted support of A N Jua and finally, Southern Cameroon gain his independent by reuniting with East Cameroon. In their campaign A N Jua was also at the forefront. In 1962 Jua was popular under the KNDP and the entire Cameroon. Generally, he was appointed secretary of state for finance in west Cameroon. In 1962 Jua and Foncha as some historians like Eyongetah and Brain, has made it clear that after Foncha was A N Jua, were Cameroonian Nationalist in west Cameroon.¹⁵ Behind the success of the KNDP was Augustin Ngom Jua. The first political event in west Cameroon after reunification was the general election into the state legislative Assembly on 7th January 1962.¹⁶ The Kamerun National Democratic Party captured or gain 25 of the 37 seats winning an absolute majority, while the CPNC won 10 and the lone Kamerun and independent candidates won one seat each.¹⁷ One Kamerun declared support for the KNDP when the new Assembly was convened. The UC and KNDP became a "Unity Group", a true national party in the type of a federal Assembly, was

¹³Victor Julius Ngoh, *History of Cameroon ...* p, 215.

¹⁴ Franckils Enow Botala Enow, *The advanced level History pathfinder*. Comprehensive college press, Buea, 2008.p, 205.

¹⁵ Ibid and T. Eyongelah and Brian, *A History of Cameroon*, Longman, London 1974. P.137. Foncha died on April 10th, 1999. Nouvel Expression N° 1501.s

¹⁶V.G Fanso, *Cameroon History ...* p, 163

¹⁷ Ibid.

actually the model.¹⁸ Under Jua's close auspices, the CPNC wanted the KNDP to merged with the "Unity Group", the UC as the future unified national party. The existed some disagreement and these arguments prevented the togetherness of the two parties in west Cameroon House of assembly.¹⁹In 1963, with prospect in view, the post of prime minister of west Cameroon who to actually succeeded Foncha became a bond of contention, clashes confronted some personalities of the KNDP, men of ambition precipitated a rift within the governing KNDP. The competition scramble and search for the position of John Ngu Foncha is prime Minister began in mid-August 1963 during the ninth KNDP convention at Bamenda with the predicting assumption that whoever was elected first vice-President, the second position in the party's hierarchy, would be prime Minister whenever the post became vacant. This post was to be contested by the west Cameroon secretary of state for finance and federal minister of Transport, posts and Telecommunications, in the person of A N Jua and ST Muna respectively, viewed with, by one another for selection. The race was by A N Jua while S T Muna became the loser.²⁰ Muna supporter, E.T Egbe, who wanted to become secretary general lost the party post to Nzo Ekah-Nghaky.²¹ Actually, Jua defeated Muna in the election after a vote of 175 to 75. Jua's victory was partly due to the fact that he was a founding member of the KNDP. Many KNDP members preferred him to Muna who only joined the KNDP in 1958. But Muna

refused to acknowledge defeat and argued that no article in the KNDP constitution stipulated that Jua has to stand automatically nominee of the party for the post of prime minister in west Cameroon. Muna went further to argue that it was the President of the Federation who has to appoint the prime minister and not the KNDP. The tug of war or rift between A.N Jua and S.T Muna actually threatened the unity of the KNDP and speeded its breakup. These crises stemmed up to 1964 as Jua's government faced much opposition from Muna's colleagues.

By 1965, the KNDP responded to Muna and Egbe disturbances by colliding or had coalition government with the CPNC. In 1965, the state of west Cameroon had got three political parties which finally merged with the UC of Ahidjo from the East, a national level that became unique. Finally, the UC, KNDP, CUC on the first of September 1966, the four parties became one called C N U, the one elections scheduled at the end of 1966. It was only at the end of December 1967 CNU nominated 37 contestants and prescribed them as single state. After the election of 1968 in the month of January everyone had a sudden shock as decision arrived at by Cameroonian when he named S.T Muna to succeed Jua as the prime minister of west Cameroon. As event continued to evolve in 1970 west Cameroon received a sudden shuck when Ahidjo appointed S.T Muna as vice president to replace Foncha in the single state federal presidential elections. Putting away Jua and Foncha, Ahidjo invincibly gain authority and greater grounds in the CNU (Cameroon National Union). But later as event continued to unfold, the four parties held conventions which all surrendered their assets to the new autonomous party of Ahidjo. Finally, in 1969 the CNU held its first congress in Garoua, during which it celebrated a new political Bureau of 35 to replace the provisional Executive named in 1966.²²

Event from 1969-1972 went evolving with some successes and obstacles. The federal structures became complex and cumbersome due to the fact that the system was very expensive and meagre as indicated by Ahidjo. If Cameroon could attain National integration bilingualism could be enforced by 1972. Considering the fact that, the state of West Cameroon faced difficulties to balance its budget totalling more than two thousand million (francs) which was equal to an estimate of three quarters of the

¹⁸V.G Fanso, *Cameroon History* ... p, 163

¹⁹ Jua could be considered as the strongman behind the KNDP due to the fact that, Jua's position was representative of the KNDP as a whole, was that Southern Cameroons first sever its links with Nigeria and became an independent by opening negotiations for Reunification on a federal basis.

²⁰ Jua's and his closer collaborators considered replacing Foncha as leader of the KNDP, rallying support in the territory, and then presuming the UN into making secession versus integration the issues at the plebiscite. Failing that, he and his group would then decide to support integration as the lesser of two evils. When Jua made these views public, a powerful phalame of some KNDP leaders staunch supporters of Foncha, surrounded him for days and convinced him that Foncha would be able to secure Reunification on the basis of loose association similar to that of the present-day commonwealth or, at worst, on a confederal basis. With that assurance, Jua abandoned his new plans and returned to the fold. Bongfen-Chem –langhee, "The Road to the Unitary state of Cameroon, 1959-1972 ..." p.9.

²¹ The post of vice president of the KNDP became vacant. The struggle to occupy this post divided the leading members' of the KNDP like A.N Jua, IM. Bokwe, P.M Kemcha, I.N. Lafon and S.T Muna who all vined for it. After a lot of haggling and lobbying, Bokwe, Kemcha and Lefon were eliminated from the race leaving S.T Muna and A.N Jua as the main contenders. The post was strategic because who ever held it was automatically to succeed Foncha as Prime Minister of west Cameroon S.T Muna and A.N Jua hotly contested the post of vice president of the KNDP during ... convention of the party held at Bamenda in 1963... Botela, p.203.

²² The post president of CNU and president was accorded and handled by Ahidjo, Foncha and Prime Minister Tchougui of East Cameroon became respectively first and second vice-presidents, Samuel Kame became secretary General and Moussa Yaya, Ekah Nghaky and Egbe became Assistant General-Secretary. Prime Minister Jua of west Cameroon, Dr. Endeley, Dr Benard N. Fonlon and Henry Elangue were included as general members... V J Fanso p.166.

total budget.²³ This is evidence on a confidential letter drafted by AN Jua to Ahidjo. Jua wrote requesting a loan of five hundred million (CFA) from the federal government for the development of the socio-economic sector of West Cameroon. Jua said, if this loan is granted to him favourable by allowing him to negotiate with Banque Central (Central Bank) the financial crisis of West Cameroon budget will be solve.²⁴ As Jua was waiting ST Muna was appointed in 1968 to the post of prime minister of West Cameroon.²⁵ ST Muna now requested for a loan from Ahidjo of one hundred and fifty million to correct the global crisis reiterated by Jua for the 1968/1969 and 1969/1970 financial years. This instead helped Ahidjo to strengthen Unitary State of Cameroon as required his speech of 1972 which he said the heritage after forty years of separation would not be ignored but emphasis will be laid on bilingualism in a pluri-cultural state. "the federal structures appear to be a handicap to the rapid development of the country... my profound conclusion that the time has come to go further than a federal organisation of the state."²⁶ Furthermore, according to Ahidjo's speech as seen below

"It is a matter of providing the nation with institutional structures capable of giving the greatest possible effectiveness to its will for progress... starting from independent ... through reunification, must lead to the apotheosis of total National Unity".²⁷ Moreso, Ahidjo once said, there is neither Ewondo nor Douala, neither Bamileke nor Bulu, neither Foulbe nor Bassa; we are, one and all simple Cameroonians.

A N Jua's vigorous reaction of Ahidjo's vision gave a counter-offensive of Ahidjo to react also violently that Cameroonians voted for reunification and federalism in 1961.²⁸ Though Jua uncovered Ahidjo plans as he fore-see event, nothing changed the course as Ahidjo in May 1971 to 1972 made all well.²⁹

C-Augustin Ngom Jua and the Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP.)

The KNDP that came as a result of Endeley deviating from the Kamerun National Council (KNC) objectives by integrating with Eastern Nigeria, from 1953 to 1954, in 1955 Jua alongside Foncha formed the KNDP that its main objective was secession with Eastern Nigeria.

While some historians said, Endeley was won by his Yoruba wife to support the Yoruba-dominated A G.³⁰ While Jua wanted to follow his ancestral origin the Tikars. The KNDP outlined what British Cameroons would gain by seceding which Jua was not excluded from these objectives.

- We shall avoid being under independent Nigeria.
- Opening the door for direct negotiations for foreign interpreters.
- Creating opportunities for Cameroonians to give their best to developing themselves and their country.
- It will make Cameroon an identified nation.
- It will enable Her Majesty's Government to shoulder her responsibilities.
- It will serve the Cameroons from being placed in the analogous position now experienced by Togoland.
- We shall maintain our culture without external interference.
- It will give us scope to work out a principle by which we shall unite all sections of our country arbitrarily torn off by foreign powers.
- It will help us to see into the financial structure of the Territory and make it possible for the Government to work out financial policies.
- It will enable us accelerate the Cameroonisation of public services in the country.
- It will psychologically inspire the people of the Cameroonian to increase productivity through self-sacrifice, building up the country and work speedily towards independence.
- The current political advancement of Nigeria has made imperative for Southern Cameroons to take a definite stand to secession.
- It is our cherished plan to secede from the federation of Nigeria.³¹

Jua political vision ties with Foncha dreams that was Evolutionary Reunification as an objective of the KNDP. They established and took this line to untie the Cameroonian people. Furthermore, that is why the KNDP was in line with those of the UPC in French Cameroon which were the independence and reunification of the two Cameroons that was why Jua and Foncha sheltered the UPC that was banned in French Cameroon in 1955 at Kumba which it was later banned in West Cameroon while in Southern Cameroon, the UPC also supported and

²³V.G Fanso, *Cameroon History* ... p, 165.

²⁴ Interview with John Ngu Foncha, 1994 at his residence at Foncha avenue.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ NAB. File N° 419/SI of 1967/2 a letter to the president, issues for discussion. December 2010.

²⁸ Francis IW. Nkwain, *Cameroon* ... p, 47.

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰VG Ngoh, *Cameroon 1884-1985: A Hundred years of History*, Navi-Group Publication, Limbe, 1987 p, 203.

³¹ Ibid. p, 204.

worked actively in Southern Cameroons to achieve the goals propounded by the KNDP.³² Citizens of Southern Cameroons and the Republic of Cameroon had a single nationality that is, that of Cameroons and another nationality of the Federal Republic of Cameroon. Jua actually propounded the constitutional modification on the proposals to Southern Cameroons delegation.

The Foumban Conference of 17-21 July 1961 delegate from southern Cameroons was led by the Prime Minister JN Foncha... A part of Foncha, the other Government representatives from Southern Cameroons was AN Jua, ST Muna and Kemcha.³³ During the Yaounde Tripartite Conference, August 2nd 1961, the Southern Cameroon delegation was led by Prime Minister JN Foncha and other members were ST Muna, minister of finance, commerce and industries and AN Jua, minister of social sciences. Jua was present, participated and accepted decisions that were advocated at the conference. Issues such as the army and Police force, customs, police, public works, ports meteorology, civil aviation, post and telecommunications, security, federal transport and stamp duties, civil servants and foreigners in the administration of Southern Cameroons was also discussed.³⁴

IV. EVENTS LEADING TO JUA'S APPOINTMENT AS THE PRIME MINISTER OF WEST CAMEROON

The appointment of most political figures usually stemmed from the individual dynamism in participating actively in a country's affairs for development. With this, Jua could not be exempted due to the fact that the federal constitution of Cameroon in 1965 stipulated the modification or amendment that no single individual should jointly handle the post of Prime Minister and Vice President of west Cameroon from 1961 to 1965 as did Foncha. Since Foncha was to abandon one of the post greatly created the room or space for Jua to assume the post of Prime Minister.³⁵ Furthermore, it should be noted that in 1963 in the KNDP Jua and Muna vied for the post of vice president of the party at which Jua campaign drew the interest of the people close to him. Finally, Jua won with a score of 175 against 75. He was a founding father of the party while ST Muna only joined the party in 1958 when he withdrew from the KNC. More so, at the 1964 convention in Kumba many members of the KNDP

preferred Jua to succeed Foncha as prime minister of West Cameroon. Jua gained wide support from West Cameroonians which he automatically handled the vacant post left by Foncha.³⁶ In the presidential elections of 1965, Ahidjo and Foncha won. And Ahidjo visited West Cameroon and their opinions especially from political personalities in Buea like members of the House of Assembly, House of Chiefs and members of government. Finally, Ahidjo confirm Jua as prime minister of the state of West Cameroon which Jua was appointed in 1965 as the second prime minister of West Cameroon.³⁷

A-Jua's Achievements in West Cameroon

Jua's appointment was greeted with joy by many west Cameroonians due to the fact that he was a pure federalist who advocated more rights for the state of west Cameroon. Jua was an honest outspoken political figure and frank in all his activities which won him some merits from 1965 to 1968 in the socio-economic and political domain in west Cameroon. Jua with the assistance of Foncha raise money for the salaries of the workers of west Cameroon and increased liquor license fees. He tackled embezzlement by executing embezzlers by sending them to prison.³⁸ In 1966, at the peak of the crisis Jua instituted a commission of inquiry to probe into the management of the bank with money for the payment of workers' salaries.³⁹ Hence, Jua move further and promoted small scale industries like Emens Textile, Britain industry, road maintenance under the public works Department (PWD) other means of transport like sea transport was opened at the Tiko wharves, Bota and Victoria: this actually enhanced trade links with other counties from far and near, thus improved on the welfare of west Cameroonians. Jua did not only end here, he went ahead with social amenities promotion; education, hydroelectricity power, planification of streets and roads, sanitary and health care inspections was dotted all over the territory that led to cleanliness or hygiene of the people.⁴⁰

Jua successfully integrated the people of West Cameroon in the event of building the nation politically. Jua's government worked in close collaboration with the

³⁶ Foncha as vice president had no specific duties of competence. He was weaker as vice president than primer before independence.

³⁷ Bessong Stephen Takang, *An illustrated History of Cameroon since 1800*. The Book House, Yaounde, 2008 p, 227.

³⁸ Jua also promoted the Cameroon marketing Board that was created in 1953, Cameroon Development Cooperation (CDC). Joseph B. Etienne.

³⁹ NAB, The growth of political parties in Southern Cameroon 1916-1960. Francis I W Nkwain, *Cameroon...* p, 47-48.

⁴⁰ Interview with Mr. MVouma Tankoh at Mankon Bamenda, February 2013.

³² Ibid. Daniel Abwas, Cameroon Tribune. Wednesday, October 8, 2003 p, 4 Interview granted by Essomba Essama/Raymond N. schoume p, 230.

³³ VG Ngoh, *History of Cameroon ...* p, 230.

³⁴ Ibid. p, 232.

³⁵ Bessong Stephen Takang; *An illustrated History of Cameroon since 1800*. The Book House, Yaounde, 2008 p, 198.

CPNC and promoted unity, peace cooperation and development in West Cameroon, after the Fouban Conference. He formed a coalition government; KNDP-CPNC as he appointed leading members of the CPNC as ministers or secretaries of state in his government. Politicians such as NN Mbile and S.N Tamfu, EML Endeley were made leaders of House of Assembly in West Cameroon. Not the least, Jua work seriously, hand in hand with the West Cameroon Mobile force and the self Defence group to protect the Bakossi people from attacks from the UPC for national peace and integrity in 1966 during the antagonism between the Bakossi-Bamileke wars. Jua actually restored order and checked terrorism in West Cameroon.⁴¹ Fighting against assimilation from Yaounde, Jua was offensive and defended the English educational system and legal system. He resisted the desire to transfer most state function from Yaounde and the closer of the international airport to the advantage of the airport in Douala and the ambition to close the Tiko, Bota and Victoria, the coastal outlet as to boast the port in Douala.⁴²

B-Failures and fall of A N Jua in Cameroon

Augustin Ngom Jua was dismissed because of the below reasons. Politically, Jua promoted regionalism against the wishes of Ahidjo. Actually in 1968 Jua was dismissed from office, because he opposed Ahidjo's attempt to transform Cameroon from a federal to a unitary state. He preferred the federal system from unitary system. Jua went further as far as walking against the affairs and activities of inspector Jean Claude Ngoh an administrator appointed by Ahidjo to West Cameroon, for special duties such as control the army, gendarmerie, radio and federal departments. This was the first ground to sack Jua by Ahidjo.

Additionally, in the economic domain, Jua was accused for mismanagement of government thus a financial scandal in the former Cameroon Bank that was created in July 1961 with a 250.000.000 as capital.⁴³

Moreso, Jua was caught in favouritism only to the KNDP members and exempted or gave very limited chances to others to lucrative post in the government as they were not awarded contracts. Jua mismanaged the

West Cameroon Development Agency for the construction of Presidency in Kom. Hence, the government of Jua was also a victim of nepotism due to his harassment of non-supporters among the civil servants. Ahidjo, in the December 1967 legislative elections experience a victory of CNU list of 37 candidates a sign of unpopular nature of Jua, at this time. Ten members decline in which two came from Jua and eight from Ahidjo while the list consists of all those that have been dismissed from the KNDP in 1965. More so, Jua was a radical as he tried to reject Ahidjo's inspector from Yaounde to west Cameroon and it was so because the discovery of petroleum was confirmed in West Cameroon.⁴⁴ Accurately, Jua was incapable to handle the Bakossi-Bamileke crisis or war as such Ahidjo preferred ST Muna, who was more loyal to him.

V. DISMISSAL OF A N JUA AS PRIME MINISTER OF WEST CAMEROON

The immediate fall of Jua came as a result of regional interest implemented by Jua in West Cameroon. The removal was seen upon as a hard blow, but it was only the beginning that waited the regime of Jua. Towards the regime reappointment of Jua much talk went on within the KNDP and the population at Buea. It was certain to all and Jua that he will still emerge as prime minister. On the day of announcement Mr. Jua had his acceptance speech in his coat pocket. On Thursday January 11th 1968, in a colourful ceremony in Buea; "House of Assembly" that marked the opening of the occasion to install Jua as Prime Minister, precisely before 10.am the parliamentarians, the ministers of Jua's government including Jua himself were presented in the hall following established protocol. Unfortunately, things began to work the other way round. The house speaker at the time W.N.H Effiom arrived the assembly ground at 10.am, shortly an Escort Rider arrived and stop, dispatched a note from the Presidency send by the President of the Republic due in Buea to appoint the New Prime Minister. The envelop was quickly unfolded read which the latter said;

"Honourable members, I have a message from His Excellency, the President of the Republic, which I wish to convey to the House; I Amadou Ahidjo, President of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, by virtue of ... do name Solomon Tandeng Muna, the Prime Minister of the Federal State of West Cameroon".⁴⁵

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² This matter surface when in 1966 depositors were refused withdrawals in several instances in the different branches of the bank because Jua has been tribalistic when authorizing granting of loans.

⁴³ Jua also dispersed a huge crowd of over two thousand people during the Referendum campaign in 1972 at his village at Kom thus Jua was a radical as he asks the population to go and on later day at Njinikom, Mbingo, Belo and Fundong Jua held his campaign.

⁴⁴ Enow Botela Enow, *The Advanced Level History ...* p, 208.

⁴⁵ Enow Botela Enow, *The Advanced Level History Pathfinder* Frankils Comprehensive College Press, Buea, 2008, p, 209.

On the assembly ground, many became perplex and still due to the appointment of ST. Muna. Muna presented his short speech to the members of the House for confirming the appointment. His new policy under the banner of CNU. At the end of the appointment ceremony, the Prime Ministers Mercedes car was waiting outside for Muna.⁴⁶

Jua learn a better lesson on that day. It was sad, gloomy and humiliating. Jua dismissal was too abrupt and the handing over was done immediately. He was dismissed during a ceremony that was organized in honour of Ahidjos visit to West Cameroon. Jua came as the Prime Minister of West Cameroon inside a Mercedes car that was official including a driver and Bodyguard. Hewas abandoned because of the New Prime Minister ST. Muna, and only his close friend gave him a lift back to his own private house. His dismissal was a blow to his political career and statesmanship. From 1968 to 1977 Jua experience a crucial moment in his life until his death. He died in 1977 from a coup plotted, he was poisoned. Before Jua died, his relationship with Muna was stained as well as Ahidjo.⁴⁷ Ahidjo made conditions for a united states after a tour of West Cameroon with his prime intension or goal to get the political temperature of the West Cameroonians.

At this moment, Ahidjo had gain the political bureau of the Cameroon National Union and the National Assembly that linked his objectives. On May 20th 1972, according to Decree N° 72/DF/236 of May 8, 1972, made necessary formalities for the referendum campaign. Jua and Foncha who did not have important posts of government join others and campaign in West Cameroon. "Jua explained the unitary draft constitution, identified the different polling stations in each area, emphasised on the method of voting and ended by appealing for a massive "yes" vote. Jua did all these in his own village at Mbingo, Belo, Njinikom and Fundong, usually on market days. Finally, west Cameroon, in their vast majority, approved Ahidjo's call for a unitary system in 1972. The Mezam Division got 136, 715 yes votes and zero No votes and void ballots zero. When combined with other divisions, yes votes were in total 730, 739, No votes 113, and void ballots 24. Cameroon was now united and trusted each other. At this period Jua and Foncha still aspire high.⁴⁸ Jua was only a politician among English-speaking personalities in the field of politics whose constitutional authority has acted accordingly. In 1972, they advocated for the establishment of a unitary system. Though he was

sacked in 1968 and Foncha in 1970, in 1972 they campaigned for the unitary system, they stage a comeback in the political arena during the referendum thus in a sort a solution to all the ills confronted their political, economic, social and constitutional amendment procedure.⁴⁹ Hence, due to Jua's present as an active political candidate who participated, a sound political Administrative framework was establish, Jua was the cornerstone of the federal administrative system.

VI. CONCLUSION

The political actor in West Cameroon from the grassfield Bamenda. Augustin Ngom Jua and his political development from 1961 to 1972 was characterised with achievements as he supported secession and integration with the Republic of Cameroon. Under the banner of KNDP Jua fought alongside with Foncha to unite Cameroonian people that became a platform of the party "Evolutionary Revolution". But before this, a brief history of Cameroon has been elaborated. As event continued to unfold, Jua became Minister of Finance in West Cameroon and later the Prime Minister. Jua recorded much popularity. But due to enormous conflicts with ST Muna and supporters, Jua and Ahidjo, Jua and IC Ngoh delegate from Yaounde to West Cameroon Jua's popularity started facing regression remorse. In 1968 Jua was dismissed in West Cameroon and was replaced by ST Muna.⁵⁰ In 1970, Foncha was replaced by ST Muna. The two became member of government with no power, thus the reunification did not result in a wide degree of decentralisation as KNDP had hoped. One of the reasons was that the government of Southern Cameroons had not received independence before negotiation with the Ahidjo government and hence was in a weak position to demand retention of power by the states.⁵¹ One of the obstacles that could not permit West Cameroon from standing was their population, the population of west Cameroon was only eight hundred thousand inhabitants while that of East Cameroon was four million inhabitants thus west Cameroon could not stand alone as a single entity. Due to

⁴⁹ Francis IwNkwain, *Cameroon ...* p, 55.

⁵⁰ Muna was born in 1912 and was a schoolmaster between 1932 and 1951. In 1951, he was elected to the Eastern Nigeria House of Assembly and he became Minister of Public Works in the KNC government. In 1958, when it became clear that the KNC was losing in popularity, he turned his political coat and joined the KNDP and, between 1959 and 1961, he held several cabinet posts in the KNDP Government. In 1961, he was appointed Federal Minister of Transport in the First Federal Government of Cameroon. In January 1968, he became Prime Minister

⁵¹ VG Fanso, *Cameroon History ...* p, 156-157 and Eyongetah and Brain, *A History of the Cameroon ...* p, 160.

⁴⁶ Ibid. These are words from the Mbile, an eye-witness to the event.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ NAB. N° 0586/RNSNW/CP/TS, conduction of the 20th May Referendum in West Cameroon. December 2010.

the political development in west Cameroon that occurred in subsequent fold could not allow the smooth functioning of this part of the country hence created a lot of issues with no solution hence with no or less successes or achievements. But, due to its enormous perpetrating entanglement Jua was dismissed and the ousting of Jua from power was scandalous and humiliating. The subject of reflection could be seen after the death of Jua in 1977. What successes were recorded after Jua's death by his political successor or how was the political atmosphere of West Cameroon after him, a post S T Muna occupied simultaneously with that of vice-president of the Republic which he obtained in 1970. What was current, two years later, when S T Muna became Member and speaker of the National Assembly; a post he occupied until 1988 when he retired from public life? How was it administered by others?

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