



**CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF BUEA**

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The Growth Mindset Entrepreneurial University

Your Ref: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

Our Ref: 23/20/OP/CUIB

**Date: March 20, 2020**

**To all Parents, Guardians, Sponsors, students and all stakeholders of CUIB**

### **THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS AND THE WAY FORWARD FOR CUIB**

We all are aware that since 2016 till date CUIB has been operating under crisis because of the “Anglophone problem”. Despite the crisis, we have not shut down because of our determination to succeed and our Growth Mindset Entrepreneurial Philosophy that calls us to be “solution finders” versus “problem seekers”. You the students have been very determined and hardworking. You the parents, guardians, sponsors and stakeholders have been very supportive to CUIB’s vision as a Catholic University that is apolitical and non-partisan. With all your support we have been able to graduate our 2017, 2018 and 2019 batches of our students with great attendance at their commencement ceremonies. The truth is that we have so far succeeded because of our determination to figure out things together coupled with faith and hope in God’s providence. Indeed, God has been good to us as an Institution in this journey. And we remain grateful for his Divine support and protection. We are also proud as an institution for having been blessed by selfless and committed Board of Trustee Members, faculty, staff, students, Parents, Guardians, Sponsors and all our stakeholders. We cannot fail to acknowledge the exceptional role that the Ministry of Higher Education, under the Leadership of the Minister of State *Cum* Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques Fame Ndongo and our Main mentor University, the University of Buea, have played in achieving our vision that “in CUIB teaching and learning never ends”. May I use this opportunity also to thank the Government of Cameroon for the Laptops that were provided for all our students to assist them to be digital savvy. What a blessing to have such support!

Currently another crisis has set in – the Coronavirus which has led to the closure of all institutions in the Republic of Cameroon. The government has taken measures and the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Buea, Bishop Michael Bibi, our Chancellor, has issued a Communique reinforcing the government's measures. You can make references to these measures in various media platforms.

What then is the way forward for CUIB? Do we of CUIB totally wind up as an institution? Are you students ready to support the measures we shall put in place to ensure that your learning goes uninterrupted as we did in November 2016? Are you parents, guardians, sponsors and all CUIB stakeholders ready to continue to support our vision since 2016, as a Growth Mindset Entrepreneurial University that *in CUIB Teaching and learning never ends*? Eighteen months ago, CUIB management took the decision to lead the way in institutionalizing "Ubiquitous Teaching and Learning" in Higher Education in Cameroon. Our students were introduced to a new hybrid way of learning which involved learning anytime, anywhere with the use of their laptops and smart devices (smartphones and tablets). This culminated in the creation of the Directorate of the Ubiquitous Teaching and Learning Platform, now coordinated by one of our best minds' Dr Felicitas Mokom, a visionary lady, expert and go getter when it comes to communication technologies and artificial intelligence. After visiting some Catholic Universities around the world who are members of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), of which CUIB is a member institution, she took charge with setting up and managing a customized learning management system for the entire student body. All faculty have been required to implement this hybrid model with frequent eLearning trainings conducted. Some of our parents and students in the beginning were resistant to the change, but as we are all now aware, it is that very decision that has now ensured that we are well prepared for our students to continue their studies uninterrupted, no matter how long it takes for onsite studies to resume.

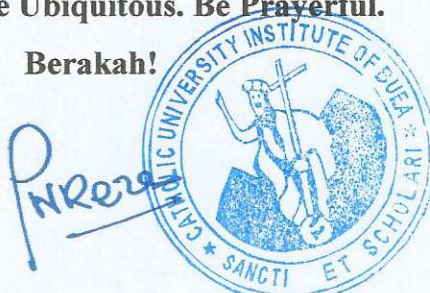
It is within this background that I am calling on our dearly beloved Parents, guardians, Sponsors and other stakeholders to continue to support us and your children by ensuring that they have the basic facilities to continue their studies from home – a laptop or smart

device and internet data credit. The Calendar of Activities for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester will go on as planned and you will continue to study from home because of the prevailing situation while ensuring that you take the measures prescribed by the Government of Cameroon and the World Health Organization to reduce the spread of this virus. On our part as a University, we can assure you that we are well poised in these difficult times to continue support your children in the pursuit of their academic goals and to realize our Growth Mindset Entrepreneurial vision that in CUIB “learning never ends”.

It is important at this time to *Be Healthy, Be Ubiquitous and Be Prayerful* while thinking about ways that we can each prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. We live in a generation where information is at our fingertips; there are many sources of information that may not be accurate and may lead to increased fear. The university will keep you informed of important developments and equip you with critical information. Let us remember that we are united in Christ through prayer and a common spirit of economy of communion and trust in Him.

**Be Healthy. Be Ubiquitous. Be Prayerful.**

**Berakah!**



**Rev. Fr. George Nkeze Jingwa (Ed.D.)**

**President & Pro-Chancellor, CUIB.**

**VP International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU)**

**IFCU Regional President for Africa.**

*Done on this day, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020, Feast of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*