

BRAIN signs Partnership Agreement with MINJEC



*The Minister of Youth Affairs & Civic Education, **H.E. MOUNOUNA FOUTSOU** (Left) and The Executive Director, Brain Research Africa Initiative, **Prof. Alfred K. NJAMNSHI** (Right)*

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC)** signed a **partnership agreement** on **Wednesday, 21st August 2019** with **Brain Research Africa Initiative (BRAIN)**. This ceremony held at the conference hall of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education with H.E. Mounouna Foutsou, the Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education representing the Cameroon Government ministerial department, MINJEC and Prof. Alfred Kongnyu NJAMNSHI, the Executive Director of Brain Research Africa

Initiative, representing BRAIN in the presence of the Ministerial and BRAIN staff.



Background

Brain health is a very wide and transversal concept that incorporates all aspects of mental health. Optimum brain health is essential to a human being's individual and collective thinking, interaction and gross economic productivity and development. However, neurologic, psychiatric and neuropsychological disorders and drug abuse are some of the factors that usually disrupt brain health.

The brain is undisputedly the capital intellectual reserve for human development in all its forms. Thus, the preservation of brain health is of paramount importance to countries and governments aiming for sustainable development.



Presentation of the signed BRAIN - MINJEC Partnership Agreement

Youths have been rightly described as the backbone of national development and are a key resource to the whole development aspiration of any nation. Cameroon, through her Head of State, has expressed the need to grow a blossoming, creative and dynamic youth, committed to the achievement of the country's development goals. Furthermore, an integral part of this

growth process amongst youths, is the preservation and promotion of brain health. It is within this framework, following the Prime Minister, Head of Government's high recommendation to BRAIN to continue raising awareness on brain health, including mental health among all ministerial departments that, MINJEC signed a **partnership agreement** with BRAIN.

Scope

In Cameroon today, there is a dire need for the young Cameroonian brains to be preserved and promoted in a bid to foster community development and national integration. Apart from brain diseases, many societal ills pose a great threat to brain health among young Cameroonians. The most alarming and overwhelming of these ills is substance/drug abuse which serves as a catalyst to fuel up poverty, crime, and deviant behaviours.

The purpose of this partnership agreement is to provide common ground for defining the scope and modalities of collaboration between MINJEC and BRAIN for the promotion of brain health, including mental health of young people in particular and the population at large.

This agreement will enable BRAIN support the Government of Cameroon by enlightening young people through education on awareness of neurological and mental illnesses and drug addiction. This new knowledge to be acquired by youths will enable them become active leaders in the promotion of their brain health.

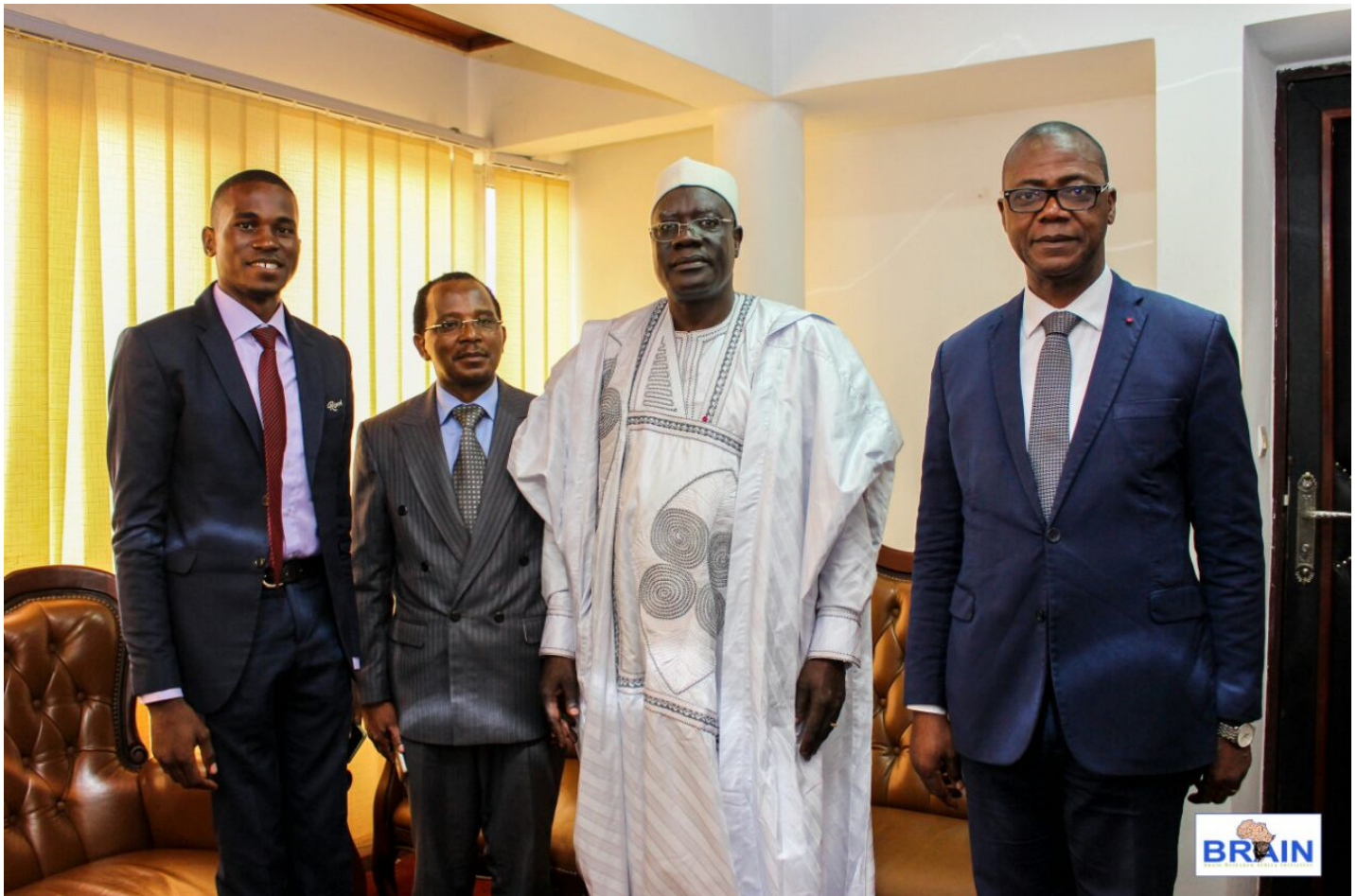
Moreover, the creation of focus groups for youths with neurological and psychiatric disorders and/or drug addiction will receive support and care within this framework. This will go a long way to fighting against stigma tagged on brain disorders such as epilepsy.

The action of this partnership will be targeted to a great extent towards the Multipurpose Youth Empowerment Centres where capacity will be enhanced for supervisors and youth leaders on the promotion of brain health, including mental health and the fight against the use of toxic or addictive substances.

Furthermore, this framework will provide support for youths and youth leaders living with epilepsy or some other brain disease.

Conclusion

This partnership agreement is in line with BRAIN's Mission which is "Promoting Health for development in Africa through Brain Health" as it directly focuses on investing in the youth as a precursor to real and sustainable development.



From Left to Right: Dr. Wepnyu YEMBE (BRAIN), Prof. Alfred K. NJAMNSHI (BRAIN), H.E. MOUNOUNA FOUTSOU (MINJEC), Prof. FOU DA Joseph (Central Hospital Yaoundé)



Group picture after signing ceremony



Press Conference after signing ceremony