Julius Suh Ambe (JSA) is a Texas based self-defence pundit from the Southern Cameroons. He recently presented a critically acclaimed appraisal of the Southern Cameroons self-defence situation during a Southern Cameroons leadership Webinar.

SCCOP Communications had a chat with him to share insights with our audience. In this no holds barred interview, Julius Suh Ambe evaluates the path we have taken, analyses our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. He ends by providing a call to action for each stakeholder group in the Southern Cameroons. We invite you to read, share and, above all, act for the defence of our country.

SCCOP TV: You recently presented a SCCOP webinar on the theme “Amba Self-defence and the Art of War”. Can you tell the SCCOP News audience what this was all about?

JSA: Essentially, the workshop was an appraisal of the Ambazonia self-defence project in perspective, the current state of affairs, and the challenges versus prospects for the future. We looked at the factors that compelled the erstwhile peace-loving people of the Southern Cameroons to resort to an armed liberation struggle in 2017, notably the unabated slaughtering of our people by LRC. The reasons for bringing in the teachings of Sun Tzu were to enable the participants (and our people as a whole) to compare our approach to self-defence against a gold standard. Sun Tzu’s teachings, as outlined in his book “The Art of War” can arguably be described as a gold standard. His teachings have proven useful for over a thousand years, in both conventional and guerrilla warfare. If the Southern Cameroons has to win this war, then it will be helpful for our people know, understand and appreciate the simple but effective teachings of this ancient Chinese military strategist. By our people here, I am referring to both the Ambaboy and civilians.

Editorial Comment

Self-defence is a fundamental right which we have already summoned when we fired the first shot against LRC in 2017. Every right comes with a responsibility. Having promised our people to defend them, it is our duty to get it right or else face defeat and its consequences. It is not something we use when we are winning and then resort to moral arguments when we are losing. This must be the mindset of every competent Southern Cameroonian leader. So, while we call on the international community to play its role and stop funding Biya because of his genocidal acts and criminal annexation, we must defend our people better by an orchestrated command, proper training, equipment and discipline. It therefore is the responsibility of all who have a claim to leadership of our country to collaborate as recommended by JSA.

SCCOP TV: The war against LRC is a war of attrition. Like this woman, we need to prepare for the long haul by arming ourselves with the right equipment and attitude for victory against LRC and its allies.
SCCOP TV: Yes, but is war an art or a science?

JSA: War, in my opinion, is both an art and a science. When you use your creative skill or imagination to conceive a war plan, the beauty of that plan gives you the image of a work of ART, at least in your mind. Systematically developing the various phases of that plan and the methodical implementation of the plan involves SCIENCE.

SCCOP TV: You say we can win if we follow Sun Tzu's advice. Do you not think the enemy too reads his book and follows his advice? If so, how can we make the difference?

JSA: Yes, I still believe the Southern Cameroons can win this war declared on us if we get our strategy right. And getting the strategy right is incontrovertibly going to involve following Sun Tzu's teachings, either knowingly or unknowingly. Of course, diplomacy and a correct funding model are also necessary for success. From a military standpoint, however, it is important to get the strategy right. And getting the strategy right will involve these teachings.

Permit me illustrate this point with the explanations here below. In 2017, our self-defence project started so well, even though we only resorted to an armed struggle after LRC had been slaughtering and killing our people for several months. Yet, just a few months into the armed struggle (that is, late 2017 and early 2018), we shocked, embarrassed and humiliated LRC forces, using very basic weapons then. In their state of humiliation and desperation, they resorted to committing war crimes such as scorched-earth policy against civilian populations. But that did not deter the resolve of the Amba boys to fight on.

Then a few things went terribly wrong on our side. Most noticeable amongst these was the social media frenzy. Our plans, strategies and achievements were constantly posted on social media. Groups made themselves more visible to, and better known by, the enemy. Some of these groups then became easily infiltrated by LRC. You name the rest! Now you look at what Sun Tzu says in relation to this: Avoiding predictability and ensuring concealment and deception are important for success, continually adjust tactics, your forces must see eye to eye if you have to succeed. Looking at the points above, you will probably agree with me that our social media frenzy and internal wrangling are achieving just the opposite of what we intend to achieve in this struggle.

Now, as to whether LRC is not also applying the teachings of Sun Tzu, they are a conventional army and are thus expected to apply these lessons. However, LRC is an occupying army and would want to be seen as being present and in control of Ambazonia. Hence, that makes them physically more visible and thus very vulnerable in a guerrilla warfare like ours.

SCCOP TV: Some Southern Cameroonian have argued that the self-defence front is full and there is no more room for new actors. How will you respond to them?

JSA: Those who say the self-defence front is full may not be wrong. However, as someone with a military background, what matters to me most is not the number of self-defence groups you have but the efficiency of the military strategy being pursued, irrespective of whether this strategy is effectively pursued by one or many of these groups. As I have stated to you guys in the past, the current strategy has many flaws. This makes it such that, even in areas (like Bafut, Munyenge, Manyu, Momo, Boyo etc) where the Amba groups have had good results in the past, the groups may feel strained before long because their successes are disjointed and not part of a co-ordinated global Amba strategy. That means LRC troops are able to move freely through neighbouring counties and get to these Amba strongholds unabated.

SCCOP TV: As a self-defence expert, what would you say are the advantages of a unified command in guerrilla and how do you think this can be achieved?

Maybe if I answer your question by simply listing the benefits of a unified command, it might not be well appreciated. However, if we look at some of the merits and demerits of the current County by County system, the benefits of a unified Central Command might be more obvious. The main benefit of the current system, adherents have said, is that it stretches LRC across thirteen counties and makes it weaker because its forces (at least, in theory) have to fight on thirteen fronts simultaneously. In practice, however, that has not quite been the case as LRC seems to focus on one Amba stronghold at a time. Now, look at some of the demerits of County by County. They include a lack of proper coordination across counties due to an inefficient or inexist-
THINK LIKE A SCCOPPER  26 JUNE 2020

a time and weaken the Amba strongholds, a lack of coherence in the level and efficiency of military training across counties, waste of money as several tasks are duplicated, impossibility of benefiting from economies of scale, and power tussles and infighting because of multiple amateurish initiatives and self-starters. With a Central Command that has the right calibre of personnel and appropriate funding, the shortcomings here above shall be largely overcome or reduced.

In my humble but firm opinion, the DoD model of 2017 and early 2018 was the entity that responded most to this structural need. Obviously, being run by servicemen and ex-servicemen, they knew too well that the battlefield and NOT the social media was the place for them to get the desired results. As a serviceman myself, I perfectly understand them, as I don’t use social media at all, though my decision is not only for professional but also for personal reasons (here in Texas, friends often complain that they cannot find me on social media but I simply advise them to respect my privacy).

Most Southern Cameroonians (including some frontline leaders involved in self-defence), on the contrary, were more attracted to the grandstanding (and, at times, the mud-slinging) that the social media offered. That meant professional advice from individuals or from a body like the DoD was easily undermined. I am not saying that we simply copy and paste in 2020 what obtained in 2017. Rather, I am saying that the groups currently involved in self-defence can inspire themselves from the DoD model of 2017 and use it to forge a unified Central Command. Anyway, after we restore our independence, the Armed Forces shall operate under a Central Command. So, if we start the good practice now, that in my opinion, is a step in the right direction.

SCCOP TV: What advice would you give to the Southern Cameroons public, the armed fighters and the various faction leaders?

JSA: To all Southern Cameroonians/Ambazonians: we are fighting a noble cause against a ruthless, monstrous and blood-thirsty regime and its army of occupation, backed by an international crime syndicate. Ours is a genuine cause and I agree with those who say that our struggle is God-ordained. However, I feel that for God to fully give his blessings to a people, the people need to find common grounds and aim to speak with one voice.

To the our civilians on GZ: please do NOT betray any Amba boy to an LRC official. If you have any grievances, report to other Amba leaders and justice shall be done.

To the Amba boys: please do NOT kidnap for ransom. This may turn our people against you. Just let the Atanga Nji boys continue with this dirty habit. The population knows ‘who is who’. Also, I must say a mighty ‘Congratulations’ to you all. You have done a great job so far. You have humiliated LRC so far. As such, Christine Lagarde, the French boss of IMF, has to keep lending them money so as to keep their moribund economy going. Please don’t be discouraged on bit. By the time this drama is over and the LRC colonial administration is driven out of Ambaland, you the Amba boys shall have re-written the military history of the World and brought down one of the most evil empires of our time.

To leaders of factions: please deflate your individual egos and work towards the common good of our people. This may involve surrendering some of your privileges and rights so as to help establish a more genuine collaborative platform.
The Southern Cameroons Congress of the People (SCCOP) is committed to the complete decolonization of the Southern Cameroons and to molding a new crop of pan-African leaders to complete the liberation and development of Africa. To this effect, we believe in the argument of force and the force of argument, and work by the principles of discipline, loyalty and sacrifice. THINK LIKE A SCCOPPER is the voice of the Southern Cameroons Congress of the People. We are dedicated to sourcing and publishing politically educating content to raise awareness and organize the grassroots population to be active and conscious agents of our own liberation. Join us at www.sccop.org/join and let us achieve together. Ubuntu.