

PRE-PRODUCTION

Inspired by an event that happened in Bamenda by the end of 2014.

At that time, Burri-Taka was visiting his place of birth and was shaken by the incident, as were most of the residents. It was not until the beginning of 2016 that he started writing some ideas for a new project and decided to fall back on that particular tragedy.

He felt it was such a common scenario in communities around the world in which guys would fall in love and give a lot to support the girl of their dreams only to be dumped later for someone more promising. A co-writer was invited into the project after Burri-Taka had his ideas and plot written down. The first three drafts of the screenplay passed from co-writer to director.

Burri-Taka then finalized the fourth draft, and by August 2016, the screenplay was ready for printing.

He then went on to cast some key actors for the project from the city of Buea, known as the center of the Cameroon Movie Industry. The project was intended to be funded entirely from his savings. He had done a short film in Cameroon years back, so he called up most of the crew members he had worked with, and the shooting was scheduled for January 2017.

SHOOTING INFO

By January 2017, the “ANGLOPHONE CRISIS,” a revolution movement had escalated, one that started months earlier in the English-speaking western regions of Cameroon, where most of the movie was filmed. There had been many crackdowns on protesters by the military, leaving many injured and dead. The director, who had already been in the city of Bamenda to start shooting, was under pressure to postpone the production entirely, especially because some key actors and crew members didn’t feel safe to work under the circumstances and pulled out of the project. One of the reasons the director claims to have driven his decision to keep to the production schedule on track was the fact that a huge part of the production budget had already been spent.

Within days, he had to make a lot of changes in order to keep to the schedule, like recasting all the actors who had pulled out and making some arrangements so the production could be entirely diverted to another city in case of any further escalation of protest.

The filming went smoothly for the first week and, by the end of the second week, on a Saturday while filming at an open market, the set was stormed by military policemen. The director, producer, and production assistant were arrested on suspicion of being foreign journalist trying to film a report about the ongoing protests.

They were later released on bail after being held in custody for 12 hours, but some key filming equipment was confiscated, making it impossible to continue filming.

After proper investigation and assessment of the shooting permission issued by local authorities in charge, the footage that had been recorded was also verified, and later the equipment was released with an apology. All these events had made it impossible to continue production. It was only reasonable to postpone at this time.

By the beginning of August 2017, “the ANGLOPHONE CRISIS” had become a civil war. Public filming in the city of Bamenda was strictly forbidden, so the production was moved to Buea for a week. The director was once more forced to make screenplay changes in order to escape continuity issues. Moving and rescheduling the production also resulted in budget issues, so the production was as delayed due to lack of funds.

The rest of the production was done in the city of Bafousam and Douala in different scheduled periods between the beginning of 2018 and the end of 2019. Burri-Taka did the post-production work in Switzerland where he lives. He was constantly working on the filmed material after every filming segment. At the beginning of 2020, Burri-Taka had a publicity shoot with the key cast and crew in the city of Douala, where interviews and promotion photographs were taken, and the crew also had a sneak peek to the nearly completed product. The post-production officially ended in February 2020 and, shortly after that, a trailer was released.

CUTLASS SHOOTING SCHEDULE

Segment 1: 09.01.2017 – 04.02.2017

Segment 2: 29.08.2017 – 02.09.2017

Segment 3: 20.12.2017 – 13.01.2018

Segment 4: 24.07.2018 – 04.08.2018

Segment 5: 09.01.2019 – 20.01.2019

Publicity Shooting: 03.01.2020 – 14.01.2020

Post Production throughout from 05.2017 to 02.2020

GENERAL PRODUCTION BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	SEGMENT 1 14 DAYS	SEGMENT 2 7 DAYS	SEGMENT 3 14 DAYS	SEGMENT 4 15 DAYS	SEGMENT 5 9 DAYS
STORY / SCRIPT & PRINTING	200'000 CFA	10,000 CFA	10,000 CFA	10,000 CFA	10,000 CFA
TRAVEL / LIVING	250'000 CFA	100'000 CFA	250'000 CFA	250'000 CFA	150'000 CFA
CAST & CREW	100'000 CFA	130'000 CFA	100'000 CFA	150'000 CFA	480'000 CFA
DIRECTOR	30'000 CFA	30'000 CFA	30'000 CFA	30'000 CFA	30'000 CFA
PRODUCER	20'000 CFA	20'000 CFA	20'000 CFA	20'000 CFA	20'000 CFA
RENTALS / REPAIRS	80'000 CFA	60'000 CFA	100'000 CFA	50'000 CFA	60'000 CFA
COSTUMES & WARDROPE	200'000 CFA	150'000 CFA	100'000 CFA	50'000 CFA	40'000 CFA
SHOOTING PERMITS	20'000 CFA	20'000 CFA	15'000 CFA	25'000 CFA	15'000 CFA
LOCATIONS	60'000 CFA	30'000 CFA	110'000 CFA	150'000 CFA	50'000 CFA
FILMING EQUIPMENT	800'000 CFA	400'000 CFA	700'000 CFA	750'000 CFA	500'000 CFA
SET DESIGN /PROPS	60'000 CFA	30'000 CFA	80'000 CFA	100'000 CFA	50'000 CFA
TRANSPORTATION/ CAR /FUEL	120'000 CFA	100'000 CFA	150'000 CFA	150'000 CFA	100'000 CFA
TOTAL	1'920'000 CFA	1'080'000 CFA	1'635'000 CFA	1'735'000 CFA	1'505'000 CFA
POST PRODUCTION					
EDITING	-	-	-	-	-
MUSIC / SCORE	-	-	-	-	1'000'000 CFA
SOUND RERECORDINGS	-	-	-	-	400'000 CFA
SOUND MIXXING	-	-	-	-	1'000'000 CFA
DRONE SHOTS/ OTHER FOOTAGES	-	-	-	-	700'000 CFA
TOTAL					3'100'000 CFA

PUBLICITY	Cast & Crew 200'000 CFA	Equipment 550'000 CFA	Location 100'000 CFA	Promotion 1'000'000 CFA	
TOTAL					1'850'000 CFA
GRAND TOTAL					12'825'000 CFA

12'825'000 CFA = approx. 21'200 US-Dollar

INFO:

Excluded are Traveling cost of the director Burri-Taka Bolalima from Switzerland to Cameroon during each segment and also the editing cost are not included because the editing was done by the director as well.