



The Guardian Post

DAILY

Cherished by many, haunted by some, read by them all

CPDM reorganisation:

Do - or- die election in Meme 1A as consensus rejected

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As blood continues to spill in NW, SW:

Shouldn't gov't 're-engage' talks with jailed Ambazonia leaders?

● *Pundits are unanimous that such a move, if fruitful, would be one of the key solutions to the crisis*

By Doh Bertrand Nua

Recent twists of developments resulting to killings, bloodshed and other untold atrocities in the armed conflict, which has been

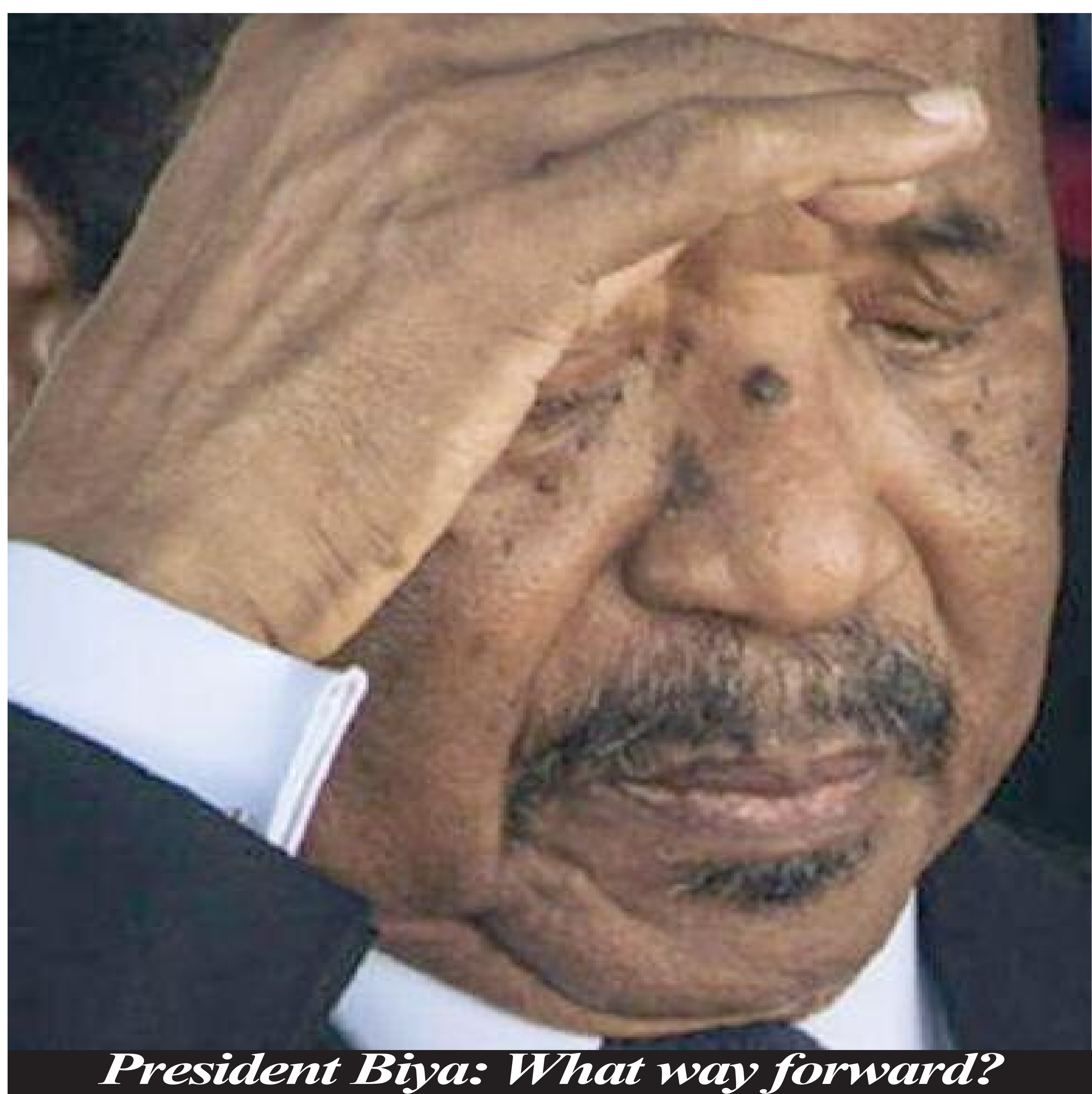
raging in the North West and South West regions for over five years, has rekindled fear of the unknown.

In this atmosphere, analysts are now positing that this could just be the time for the Biya regime to 're-

engage' talks with jailed Ambazonia leaders. Such an action, they say, remains top among key actions needed to end the deadlock in the two restive regions.

As the gridlock continues over ini-

tial behind-the-scene peace talks between government and jailed separatist leaders, which Communication Minister, Rene Emmanuel Sadi later debunked, many continue to ask questions one year on. *Cont'd on page 3*



President Biya: What way forward?

MINFI updates diplomatic missions on innovative fiscal, customs reforms

By Cyprian Obi Ntui

The Ministry of Finance, MINFI has begun updating officials of diplomatic missions accredited to Cameroon on

customs and fiscal reforms to the functioning of foreign missions in the country.

This is the focus of a training gathering that rumbled off at the Customs Training School in Mbamkomo in the

Mefou and Akono division of the Centre region yesterday. Finance Minister, Louis Paul Motaze opened the training. The training will end today. *Cont'd on page 2*

Mbalam - Kribi railway line to create 20,000 jobs

By Mua Patrick Mughe

The 540 km railway line project which will connect Mbalam and Kribi in the South region of Cameroon near

the southern border with the Republic of the Congo will create over 20,000 job opportunities at completion, authorities have announced. *Cont'd on page 3*



Alexandre Mbiam: Bestway Finance GM

Heads may roll in UB over alleged trading of marks

● *VC seeks legal authorisation to further investigate suspected lecturers, students*

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CAMTEL engages WHO in fight against COVID-19

By Mua Patrick Mughe

The Cameroon Telecommunications, CAMTEL has engaged the World Health Organisation, WHO in a partnership which seeks to ensure that staff of the corporation stay safe from the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic.

Authorities of both institutions met Wednesday in Yaounde during a sensitization get-together chaired by CAMTEL's General Manager, Judith Yah Sunday Epse Achidi.

The meeting unfolded in the presence of World Health Organisation's country representative, Dr Phanuel Habimana.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, CAMTEL GM, Judith Yah Sunday said the partnership between her institution and the World Health Organisation, WHO "comes at the right time, as it will enable CAMTEL employees to benefit from a tailored-made care protocol, approved by the authorities in charge of our health..."

While saluting the initiative which she described as timely, CAMTEL General Manager told the visiting WHO representative that her institution has not been spared by the biting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She said faced with the very first cases of infection "followed unfortunately by a few cases of death recorded of staff at the beginning of the pandemic, a series of measures totally aligned



CAMTELGM (left) and WHO representative in an exchange with newsmen



with those decreed by the Government have been rigorously instituted, even reinforced in all our branches, including the most remote".

Amongst the various measures engaged by CAMTEL, the GM cited temperature control of all personnel at the various access points of the compa-

ny, systematic wearing of facemasks in CAMTEL premises; Disinfection of hands at various access points, equipped with appropriate devices and the respect of distancing by the personnel within the company.

She also named the reinforcement of hygiene and cleanliness in CAMTEL premises; the Continuous education of staff on the need to respect barrier measures, training of CAMTEL's medical teams in anti-Covid-19 care and the gradual equipping of their health centres with appropriate kits.

The CAMTEL GM meanwhile rejoiced that thanks to the measures put in place, significant results have been obtained, resulting in the cessation of deaths and the reduction of declared infections.

"I am particularly thankful to the Resident Representative of World Health Organisation for this initiative that should enable us not only to preserve lives, but also to enjoy family life and our working environment almost like before" she said of the recent partnership with WHO.

"Let me use this opportunity to congratulate all CAMTEL staff who have been diligent so far in observing the barrier measures. Our desire and firm determination is to provide CAMTEL workers with the best means of protection during this period of uncertainty" she concluded.

MINFI updates diplomatic missions on innovative fiscal, customs reforms

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Dr Konneh Gasper Niba, who spoke on behalf of the Director General of Customs, Edwin Fongod Novaga, situated the context of the training being staged under the theme: "The modernisation of customs administration."

After praising the Minister of Finance for the elaborate innovative reforms he is carrying out in the Customs and other revenue yielding sectors, Niba stressed the need for all those doing business with the government, especially in matters of export and imports to stay abreast with these reforms.

The representatives of the Customs boss added that diplomatic missions need to acquaint themselves with what is required in terms of application for diplomatic and consular privileges in tax and customs matters.

The customs official assured participants that the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, CEMAC, had adopted all international laws as they apply to the treatment of members of diplomatic missions.

Therefore, the government of Cameroon and its agencies work in strict respect of international norms binding the treatment of Diplomats and



Louis Paul Motaze: Innovative finance Minister



MINFI boss pose with diplomat at opening of yesterday's training

operations which he said requires that everyone transacting business with the Cameroon customs must constantly be updated in order to remain in tune with everyday changes at the department.

Enter minister Motaze

According to Minister Motaze, President Paul Biya remains committed to innovations that meet world standards. He recalled the assistance given by the World Bank Group for the creation of a training school for customs officers.

Specifically on the seminar, Minister Motaze said it is meant to educate members of the diplomatic services accredited to Yaounde, so that they know what is expected of them when it comes to financial transactions with government services and matters of import and export.

The Finance Minister noted that there are some export and import goods for which diplomatic missions are entitled to exemptions and or subsidies.

Diplomatic officials, he noted, must therefore be able to know which is which, noting that, in the past, disagreements over these matters caused misunderstandings between some diplomatic missions and the government.

Niba announced that the customs department is proceeding steadily but cautiously with its computerisation of

Shouldn't gov't 're-engage' talks?

Cont'd from page 1

Sadi had denied such initial talks, saying reports of contacts between the belligerents were "not consistent with reality". This was in July 2020.

As many continue to hope for a solution to the crisis, others have been wondering what could be blocking the said peace talks. Government had reportedly launched secret talks with jailed separatist leader, Ayuk Tabe, and nine others at the beginning of July last year. This was one of many options to end the bloodletting in the restive regions.

Reported power tussle among regime hardliners and moderates, jockeying for influence over the peace talks, is said to have contributed to the stalemate. Civil society groups had mounted pressure on national and international actors to take into account the human suffering that the conflict has, and continues to cause, to seek for a way out.

Gov't holds first peace talks with jailed separatist insurgents

Ayuk Tabe, self-styled president of the putative republic of Ambazonia, currently serving a life sentence for charges including terrorism, had, in a statement then, said his team held talks with regime representatives on Thursday July 2, 2020.

The Amba leader said discussions touched on the possibility of a ceasefire. Tabe had said the nine members of his 'cabinet', also jailed, participated in the meeting.

Gov't dispels 'phantom' talks with Amba leaders

Government, in a quick twist of events, on July 6 of last year, following viral national and international media reports on the said talks, fired that there were no talks with separatist leaders.

Communication Minister, Rene Emmanuel Sadi, said the reports "were

not consistent with reality." He added that all efforts were being taken by the government to end the crisis in the two English-speaking regions, but that all such measures were aimed at preserving Cameroon's unity and territorial integrity.

Conflict of interest within Biya regime?

Conflict of interest among regime stalwarts, some analysts continue to aver, is what might have ruined the reported talks till date. Some analysts are saying persons whom they describe as hardliners within the system, have been blocking any widow of dialogue with the jailed separatist kingpins. Such persons, the same analysts are averring, rightly or wrongly, want every move to pass through their table.

Such persons hindering discussions within the system are said to be among those who advised government to publicly deny having been in talks with the jailed separatist leaders.

Diplomatic missions angered?

The reported talks, which many believed actually took place, are said to have kept some members of the diplomatic community happy, that at least, a path to peace was about seeing the light of day.

But since authorities disowned the development with nothing happening so far, some members of the diplomatic community are said to be lamenting in silence.

Atmosphere of desolation

Many Cameroonians have remained downcast each time the dream of parties in the conflict negotiating a path to peace, but wake up to news of killings and destruction.

Such citizens hold the view that if infighting within the government and the separatist camp, is what is stalling talks,



President Paul Biya: Isn't it time to 're-engage' talks?

then such is "sheer wickedness" as thousands remain in distress, hoping for a turnaround in the conflict.

Hopes on PM Dion Ngute

Conflict pundits continue to infer that the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute, who has helped calm the situation, still has a lot to do to deliver on his assignment. They say he carries the composure and shrewdness needed to change things in such challenging times.

Demands of Anglophone detainees

When news of the pre-talks went viral, some 42 detainees of the Anglophone crisis in Kondengui issued a release giving their consent for the talks for proper mediated dialogue.

They then, however, made demands which they said their leaders must consider and ensure government heeds before the talks proceed. The demands, among other things, included: the withdrawal of the military from the North West and South West regions; unconditional release and general amnesty to all those arrested in connection to the crisis; grant-

ing of general amnesty to Ambazonia political refugees; setting up of a time-frame for negotiations in the presence of third party, among others.

Renewed atrocities

There has been a renewed wave of violence and bloodbath across the two Anglophone regions. Last week, a Christian was shot in a church in Bali, Mezam division of the North West region, while a pastor was left with injured arms.

Few days ago, a 62-year-old Canadian humanitarian worker with the International Committee of the Red Cross was shot dead in Bamenda.

Last weekend, a seven-year-old pupil in Kumbo was killed in crossfire. Meanwhile, two children were severely wounded in Ekombe, Meme division, South West region. They were caught in a crossfire between the military and Amabazonia fighters.

Major road networks across the two regions have repeatedly been blocked by separatists. Atrocities have increased as resumption for the 2021/2022 academic year draws near. Separatist fighters have also reactivated their school boycott campaign.

Mbalam-Kribi railway line to create over 20,000 jobs

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The project consists of the construction of a long railway line of approximately 540 km to connect the mining sites of Avima located not far from the city of Pointe Noire in the Republic of Congo to the port area of Kribi in Cameroon, and a multimodal ore terminal with a capacity of at least 100 million tonnes per year.

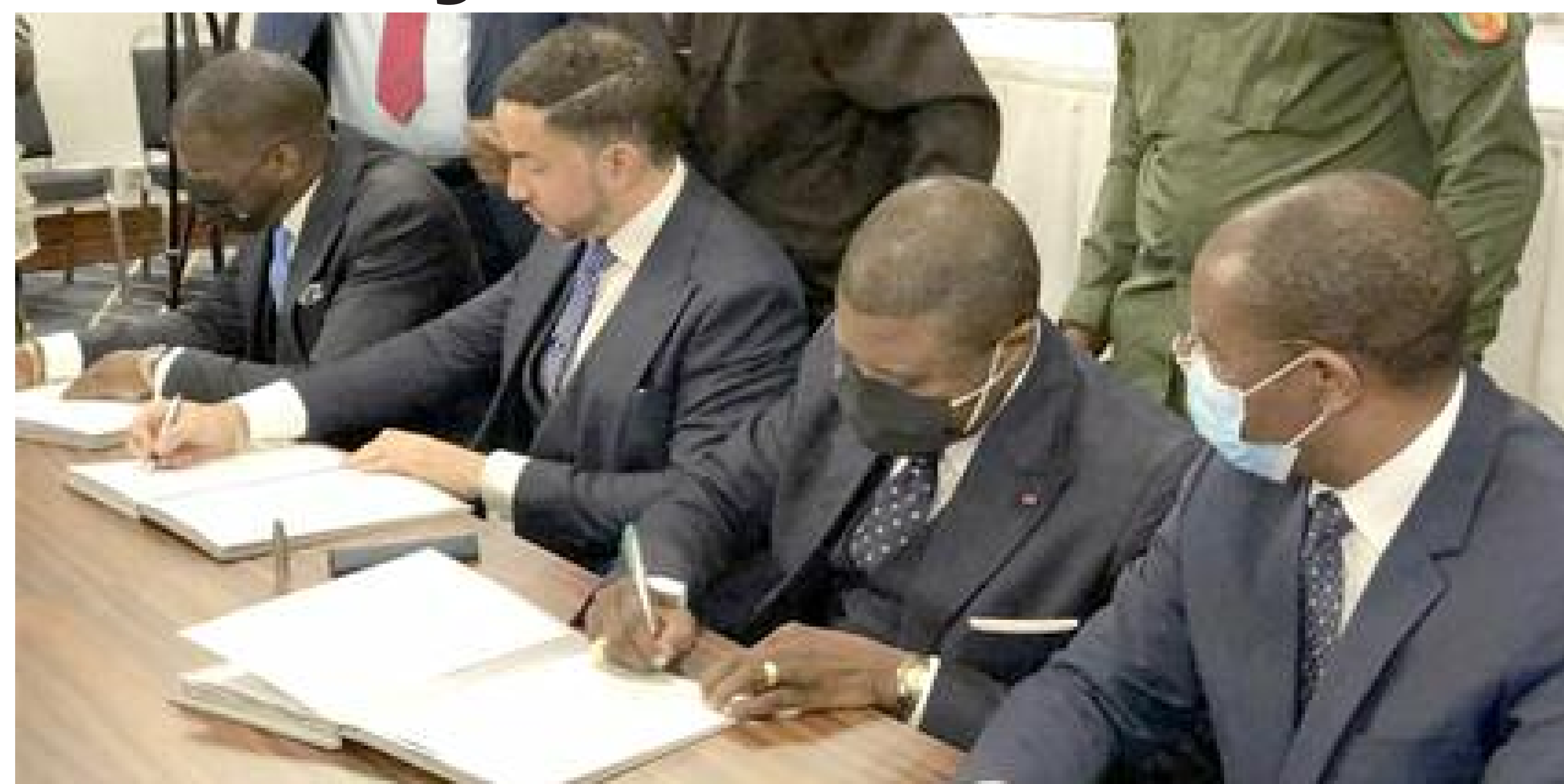
The railway project also entails the construction of another 71 km line connecting the Nabeba deposit in Congo to Mbalam.

The project is fully financed by the partner institutions including Chinese Austino Resources Group Ltd and its Hong Kong partner, Bestway Finance Ltd.

Speaking recently on the specificities of the project which will boost trade between Cameroon and Congo, the General Manager of Bestway Finance Limited, Cameroonian-born Alexandre Jean-Hyppolite Mbiam said over 20,000 jobs will be created during the operational phase of the project.

He said during the construction phase, more than 5,000 jobs will be available. The United States-based Cameroonian businessman said: "It is estimated from the point of view of economic and social spin-offs that from the moment that operation begins, there will be 20,000 jobs created".

The youthful entrepreneur insisted that "we are talking about jobs at all levels of



Alexandre Mbiam (2nd from left) with Transport Minister (2nd from right) during the signing of an MoU in Yaounde

the hierarchy relating to mining, the operation of the railway and the management of the mineral port. This is a very important point to which the Chinese consortium has given its full consent and which is included in the Mining Conventions that we have signed".

"It is important to know that all the jobs, including the most qualified ones, will be occupied by locals in order to allow a transfer of knowledge and as exploitation proceeds, most of the jobs will be nationalised on the Congolese side as well as the Cameroonian side. So we are talking about skilled jobs, and jobs in all areas with technology transfers and knowledge transfers that will allow our national human resources, whether

Congolese or Cameroonian, to shine to their full value" Alexandre Mbiam added.

Asked of the specific roles to be played by his organisation, Bestway Finance Ltd and partner AustSino Resources Group Ltd, Alexandre Mbiam explained that "AustSino is a partner of Bestway Finance Ltd. Indeed, that's why we signed the MoU together. AustSino has helped to set up the consortium that will enable the project to be implemented. AustSino will be Bestway Finance Ltd's partner throughout the implementation of this project as part of this great adventure".

On the cost of the entire project, Mbiam said "We are roughly at 5,400 billion CFA francs. Of course, this cost is an estimate that may vary upwards or down-

wards: it depends on the cost of the various materials and inflation among our main suppliers".

He said "I would also like to say that even though this project is entirely financed by a Chinese consortium, its realisation will also benefit our values, our local companies... a good part of this envelope will be allocated to local companies that will be able to use their great talents to benefit from this sub-regional project".

Alexandre Mbiam's rich experience

Armed with a Master of Finance from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT and an extensive experience as both a Financial Consultant for Deloitte's New York office and a Chief Executive Officer for several fast growing mining companies headquartered in both Hong-Kong and Cameroon, Alexandre Mbiam brings with him a wealth of knowledge when it comes to lightning fast development of mining opportunities within emerging markets.

Co-Founder and Vice-President of the Mining Federation of Cameroon, he is developing Africa's largest, transnational, iron ore mining project, as the Chief Executive Officer of Bestway Finance, after successfully gathering three 25-year Mining Licenses and Conventions with an overall DSO potential of 100 Mtpa.

Editorial

When separatists sneeze, Cameroonian, Nigerian security catch fever!

A controversial alliance between a faction of the Ambazonia separatists of Cameroon and the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, of Nigeria was at the heart of the 8th session of the Cameroon- Nigeria Trans-Border Security Committee meeting in Abuja on Tuesday.

Opening the top security meeting, the Nigerian National Security Adviser, retired Major General Babagana Monguno, alerted that: "An emerging concern is the attempt by secessionist groups in Nigeria to form alliances with secessionist groups in Cameroon in order to destabilise both countries".

Early last year the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, a pro-independence movement in Nigeria, announced the formation of an alliance with the 'Ambazonia Governing Council' led by Ayaba Cho.

The Ambazonia Interim Government of Dr. Ikome Sako disassociated itself from it.

The alliance between the separatist groups, Ayaba Cho's Ambazonia Governing Council said, was to make them exchange weapons and personnel to facilitate their dream agenda for independence.

IPOB is seeking to break the South-East away from Nigeria to form an independent country called Biafra, first muted by General Ojukwu in the seventies but was crushed in a no-victor-no-vanquished dialogue.

The new group founded by Nnamdi Kanu, now standing trial after being extradited from Kenya in a similar style the Cameroonian separatist leader, Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, and co. were sent from Abuja to Yaounde, has been attacking the Nigerian government with claims that it marginalises the South-East dominated by the Igbos.

A publication by an American news platform, Foreign Policy, said: "The scope of the alliance will include joint operations and training bases. The groups will work to secure their shared border and ensure an open exchange of weapons and personnel, representatives of both the Ambazonia and IPOB movements said".

That alliance, perceived or real, is not the only problem confronting Nigeria and Cameroon countries and the two sub regions to which they belong, by extension.

"The most dominant transnational security issue remains the threat of terrorism perpetrated by the Islamic State in West Africa Province, ISWAP, and Boko Haram terrorists. These terrorist groups continue to exploit the porous border areas to disrupt the livelihoods of innocent citizens in their communities", the Nigerian security adviser said.

He, however, said he acknowledges "the close counter-terrorism collaboration between our two countries (which) has significantly curtailed the activities of these terrorists as well as other forms of criminality. In this regard, you have consistently demonstrated your courage, resilience, commitment, and steadfastness towards ensuring peace and stability along the border areas of Cameroon and Nigeria".

"It is, however, necessary to strongly reiterate that the work of securing our territorial borders is a collective responsibility and therefore we need to emphasise the importance of the sideline meetings of the Governors of contiguous border States/Regions. Their collaboration would no doubt assist in cross-border security and development initiatives," he added.

"It is equally imperative to engage the border communities and the traditional/local authorities at the grassroots levels in translating the decisions of the Governors' forum into concrete actions. This

can be done through the activation of the Local Bilateral Committees which can also serve as platforms for integration and revival of our historical and socio-cultural ties," the Nigeria security adviser noted.

He, nonetheless, gave the assurance that: "We will work closely together to ensure that any real or perceived attempts to form any alliances between secessionist groups in Nigeria and Cameroon are decisively dealt with. Furthermore, we will continue to support the efforts of the Cameroonian authorities by engaging all aggrieved parties to de-escalate the security concerns in the North West and southwest regions of the country".

Territorial Administration Minister and Permanent Secretary of the Security Council, Paul Atanga Nji, who led the Cameroon delegation, said the Cameroon government will continue to work with Nigeria to intensify trans-border security along the two countries' borders. He cited a resurgence of attacks by Boko Haram, ISWAP terrorist groups and Anglophone "secessionist" agitations as well as kidnapping and banditry as security threats.

"Trans-border security cooperation between our countries especially along our common borders should be a permanent feature. Due to the increasing crime wave, security chiefs from Nigeria and Cameroon should be meeting regularly because the effects of the cooperation are positive among our bilateral and trade relations," Atanga Nji said.

The Guardian Post appreciates the security cooperation between the two countries, which have much in common apart from their forms of government. While the security chiefs tackle issues of insecurity, the politicians, who traditionally declare war for troops to fight, must also ask themselves: why is there growing agitation for separation?

In both Nigeria and Cameroon, the aggrieved parties are complaining of "marginalisation". Without the politicians addressing the issues which swirl on justice and equity, chances of achieving peace will remain bleak, giving the security operatives sleepless nights even when terrorists just sneeze.

Yaounde:

Pressmen schooled on catalysing media for peace, justice in conflict

By Giyo Ndzi

Some 25 media persons in the Centre region are partaking in a workshop on using the media as a tool for peace and conflict-sensitive reporting. Dubbed catalysing media for peace and justice, the three-day initiative by the defyhatenow – an initiative of Rog Agency for Open Culture and Critical Transformation which seeks to support the voices and actions of citizens working against online induced conflict within and outside affected regions – kicked off yesterday and ends tomorrow.

Participants include reporters, editors and newspaper publishers serving English-speaking audiences. The essence of the training, defyhatenow Communication Manager, Nganlay Laure, told *The Guardian Post*, is "... to guide them on how to improve the quality of reporting and remain factual and concise in their reporting. As journalists, we are part of society and one way or the other, the conflict is affecting us."

"With the advent of social media we also see more online news platforms growing and they are more critical because the speed at which their information goes out is faster than that of conventional media," she explained.

The presence of media administra-



Some participants at workshop

tive staff such as editors, heads of services and publishers at the training, the defyhatenow official stated, stems from the power and control they wield over their reporters' outputs.

While they may not be the ones going to the field to report, "when the news comes, they have to edit, and proofread. With an understanding of this, they can also guide their journalists on ways to better report," she added.

To one of the key facilitators at the training, ace journalist, Eugene N Nforngwa, participants are made to understand the power they wield as the fourth estate, as well as the impacts their communication has on audiences.

"Our objective at the end of this training is to get to a point where journalists are able to harness this power to

generate positive change in the society, especially with respect to conflict," he explained.

The training too, he said, will "make journalists understand that whether they chose to or not when, they are reporting conflict they are affecting the conflict in one way or the other. The concept of conflict sensitive journalism we are proposing is one that seeks to maximise the positive impacts journalists can have on conflict mitigation and peacebuilding."

Role of justice in peace reporting

In addition to peace building and consolidation, journalists at the defyhatenow training are also being drilled on best practices in holding authorities to account and ensuring justice. This to

Nforngwa, hinges on the premise that there is no peace without justice.

"In designing the training we ensure that we incorporated elements that helped journalists and give them skills to promote justice and peace, so that we don't end up with 'coverup journalism'. We want journalists to be able to navigate those extremes carefully and know that when you cover up, you may make the conflict worse," he explained.

Media for peace

Defyhatenow's media for peace campaign is currently in its second year. Last year's sessions were marked by similar trainings with media professionals in the North West, South West and Centre regions. The ongoing session, counts as the third after another with journalists and then Bamenda in July.

"Conventional media has the role to educate and inform the population. In times of crisis like now, the role of the media becomes very critical in that the media can help influence the crisis positively or negatively," remarked Nganlay Laure, who added that the initiative "came as a result of the reporting we see in print, radio, TV and online."

"We have a blend of young and experienced journalists so that they all share their ideas," she told *The Guardian Post*.

Do-or-die election in Meme 1A as consensus rejected

By Daniela Itoe Ngum

The election of a new section president for the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, CPDM Meme 1A section in Kumba, Meme division, South West region is poised to be a do or die affair as frontline contenders have thrown a call for consensus to the dogs.

The President of the Section Electoral Committee for the renewal of the CPDM basic organs in Meme 1A, Rudolf Niaba Nganda, made known the information August 22 in a meeting at the Kumba I City Council Hall.

The meeting brought together all members of the Meme 1A section electoral committee, the outgoing presidents of CPDM, WCPDM, and YCPDM, all sub-section presidents of CPDM, WCPDM, and YCPDM and their secretaries, and members of the local organising committee for Meme 1A. The come-together had as lone agenda to seek ways to reorganise Meme 1A section hitch-free.

According to Rudolf Niaba Nganda, all efforts to bring the three persons eyeing the position of the Meme 1A Section President viz Hon. Lawson Tabot Bakai, Gregory Mewanu Ntemeyock and former Section



Hon. Tabot Lawson

President and Mayor of the Kumba I Council, Prince Ekale Mukete, in one accord have been futile.

He noted that the contenders, who are aware of their political weights, prefer to go in for the elections but for the incumbent Section President, Hon. Lawson Tabot Bakia, who had earlier opted for consensus due to insecurity.

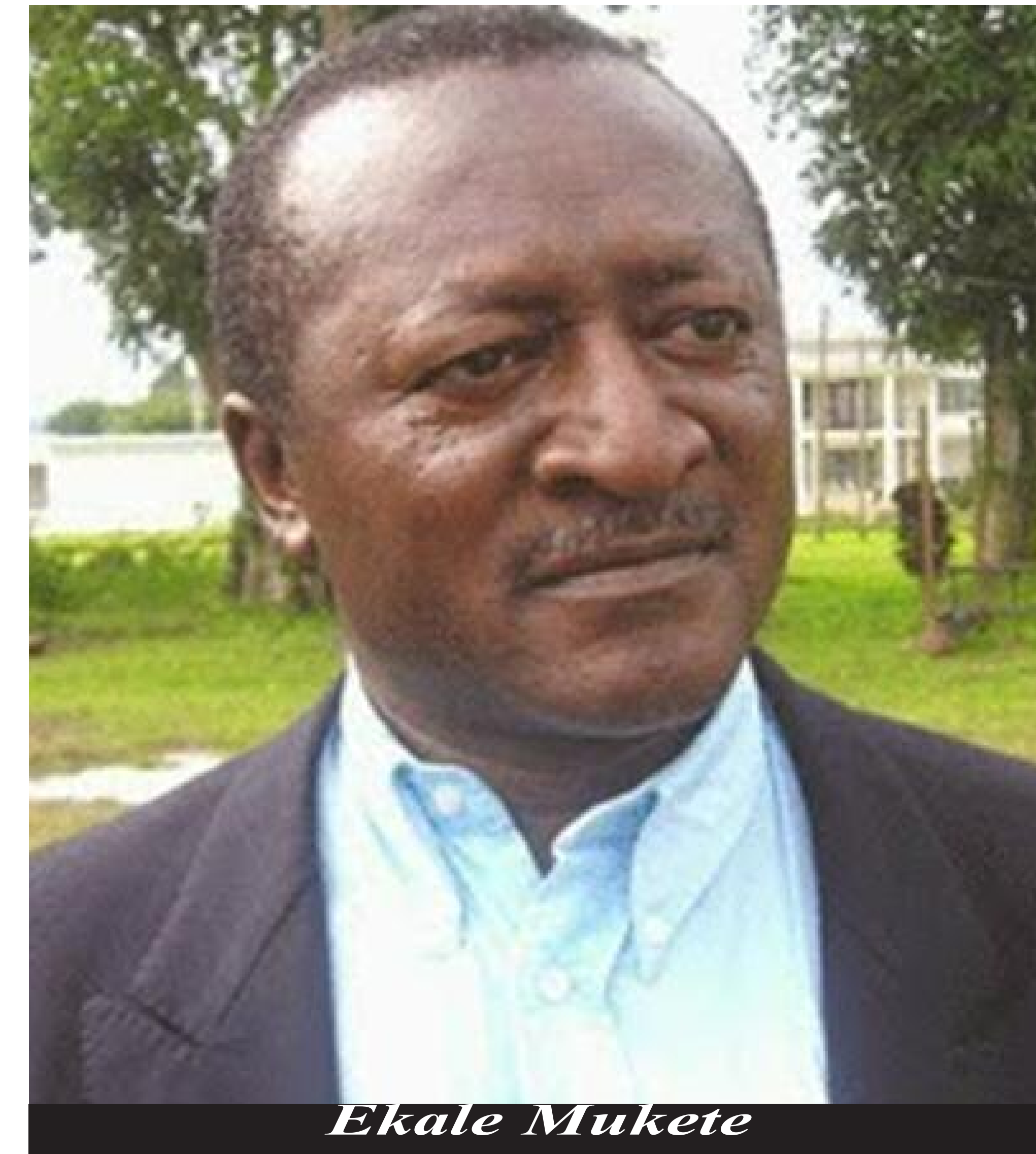
Nganda urged the contenders to file in their lists to the section electoral committee before the deadline elapses. This, he



Gregory Mewanu

said, is in order for them to properly scrutinise the candidatures and ensure that their list members are eligible for the positions they intend to hold.

It should be noted that the incumbent Section President of Meme 1A, Hon. Lawson Tabot Bakia, had in a meeting Tuesday August 17 in Kumba convened by the President of the Meme Divisional Central Committee Delegation, Chief Justice Benjamin Itoe Muntanga, proposed that a consensus list be drawn.



Ekale Mukete

Hon. Tabot had noted that the situation of insecurity of the division and Meme 1A in particular caused by the ongoing armed conflict, will in one way or the other affect the election process.

Hon. Tabot said supporters of Njuki, Difa, Kake and more will not have a say in the reorganisation process of the party if the election pushes through. This, he insisted, is because their rights to vote as party adherents will be thwarted because of insecurity.

Eyumojoek subdivision:

Elite urged to support peace initiatives, lure Amba fighters to surrender

By Doh Bertrand Nua

Elite of Eyumojoek subdivision in Manyu division in the conflict-hit South West region have been urged to think of their kith and kin back home and support peace initiatives spearheaded and piloted by administrative and municipal authorities.

The appeal was made by the Divisional Officer, DO, Besinga Ely Etone. He was speaking August 22, after receiving closed to a thousand inhabitants who gathered and marched for peace, unity and to demonstrate their resolve to embrace peace.

"The elite should take their responsibility and support us in the struggle for peace...external elite should come to our assistance so that we can help their brothers and sisters back home for there to be normalcy... they should join the peace caravan that we are trying to extend to those villages," Ely Etone stated.

The administrator revealed that the subdivision which had hitherto been under separatist gripped is returning to normalcy but for sporadic attacks which security fighters are adequately responding to.

"...they are activities of secessionists with some attacks here and there. But thank God we have

a brave military that responds to the attacks adequately," he said adding that if the villages that are still to embrace their peace initiatives are the ones still suffering separatist atrocities.

"...Eyumojoek has been the melting pot of this conflict. We are trying to work on it and the population has adhered to our principles. We have been multiplying proximity meetings," he added.

He said those who listened to their appeals have "...are reaping their fruits while those who didn't are unable to harvest their produce...the boys in the bushes either seize, damage or scare them to allow it rotten in the farms," he revealed.

"Let the elite lend in their support...they know those who are in the bushes. We are all from South West. They are our brothers and sisters. Let us tell them no, let's preach to them and plead with them to abandon the course," he appealed to the elite.

The administrator said he was happy with the fact that most parents were calling their children to order and asking them to embrace peace. He said there is relative degree of calmness and peace especially in Eyumojoek town and Ekok.



Besinga Ely Etone: Divisional Officer of Eyumojoek

At launch of African Education Fair:

Civic Education minister urges youth to be entrepreneurs



Minister Mounouna Foutsou cutting inaugural ribbon

By Morine Tanyi

The Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, Mounouna Foutsou has urged youth to work hard so as to be better entrepreneurs for the development of Cameroon.

He was speaking Tuesday August 24 at the Yaounde city hall during the official launching of the first edition of the African Education Fair known in its French abbreviation as SAED that held. Mounouna Foutsou in his remarks praised the organisers of the fair for a job well done and urged youth to be entrepreneurs that could help develop the country.

"By offering a holistic and complete reading to education for the growth of youth's entrepreneurship for peace and integrity, SAED is thus positioning itself as a new frame of reference, not only for the sharing of theoretical knowledge and experiences on the issues of education, but equally for the formulation of solutions

aimed to develop African youths and their stability," he noted.

SAED, it should be said, is an initiative of the Association Jeunesse Unie et Solidaire d'Afrique, JUSA, in collaboration with Ministries of Justice and Youth Affairs and Civic Education.

The President of JUSA, Brice Tchakounté noted that "JUSA is a not-for-profit organisation that is out to fight for the course of youths". Tchakounté stressed on the fact that "the association is there to stand out for its goal of instilling the values of entrepreneurship, patriotism, and dynamism for youths in all sectors of activities".

Regarding SAED, which is at its 1st edition, Tchakounté stressed that: "Youth Entrepreneurship, Peace and Integrity have always been topics of reflection and the fair is the best place of exchange with those involved in the sector and workshops are set up to promote learning techniques and methods to

help young people to diversify know-how and theoretical knowledge".

"In this first edition, we have focused on entrepreneurship, peace and integrity, with the aim of promoting the values of young entrepreneurship, with the aim of promoting integrity and peace, dear to our beautiful country. This initiative aims to mobilise all the actors in charge of this sector, for quality education of young people and populations in general," Brice Tchakounté stated.

Brice Tchakounté further disclosed that "the event is important as it aims at bringing out concrete proposals that we will partners be able to implement this for a better education of the youths".

"There are many young people who are going to be trained during this fair and permit me say most of them are graduates, but their degrees are of little use to them as they end up in at times in fields that don't even fit their skill level," he added.

Far North:

Public works minister assesses state of major road projects

By Doh Bertrand Nua

After close to a week in the South region, the Minister of Public Works, Emmanuel Nganou Djoumessi, has led a strong delegation to the Far North region to evaluate state of ongoing major road and other infrastructure projects.

In the visit which started Monday August 22, Nganou and his collaborators, in the company of administrative and municipal authorities, visited the construction site of the bridge over the Mayo-Limani River and the rehabilitation of the Mora-Waza section of the National Road No. 1. They also paid a visit to the aggregates production quarry in Waza.

The minister said the works on the bridge is well on course at slightly over 50% execution, but instructed the construction com-



Minister Nganou during start of inspection mission

pany to do all to respect deadline set for the project.

The bridge, which used to generate sum of 10 billion FCFA annually through customs duties as revealed by municipal authorities, was destroyed by Boko Haram terrorists in 2015. This, they said, led to a drastic fall in

revenue collection in the area.

The bridge is expected to upon completion help business to get closer to its heydays. The minister promised that the state will also tar the deplorable 35km road from Mora to Limani Bridge which gives access to the towns of Amchidé and Limani in the



Minister on the field in the Far North

Mayo Sava Division. The works started on last January 19.

Nganou and his delegation are also expected to visit the rehabilitation project of the Mora-Dabanga-Kousseri section (205 km) of the National Road No. 1. They are also expected to visit the site of the construction of two toll

stations, two weighing stations as well as the development of accompanying socio-economic infrastructure inclosing the multi-sport playgrounds, health centres, potable water wells, schools, slabs for drying agricultural products, storage facilities, opening of rural roads, etc.

Fire guts building, vehicle in Limbe

By Noela Ebob Bisong



Semi-permanent structure ravaged by fire

Wild fire, an unwanted guest showed up in the city of Limbe at the weekend, ravaging a semi-permanent structure as well as a vehicle, leaving the owners with nothing lesser than heartaches.

The two separate incidents happened in the Bakoko and Bonadikombo neighbourhoods, where efforts galvanised to redress the situations failed to yield fruits.

The Bakoko fire incident, not new in the area, completely razed the building said to belong to one Tanyi Ernest, in the afternoon of Sunday, August 22.

According to eyewitness accounts, the fire is believed to have resulted from an electric circuit which caused a spark that ended up consuming the entire six-room building.

"I just entered my house only to discover fire inside another room. I noticed there was a fault at the electric cable line and I immediately rushed to cut some of the cables and then rushed also to put off the metre. However, the fire was already spreading... most of us occupants were away and I was just reaching home to witness the incident," an occupant narrated.

The fire incident, reports say, has left at least 10 persons homeless, including partial destruction of home items.

Earlier, on Saturday, August 21, fire also engulfed a car around the Bonadikombo Chief Palace, destroying it beyond recognition. The incident reportedly occurred at about 11a.m. The cause of the incident is being linked to an electrical fault in the car.

The Limbe City Council now has a fire-fighting service which, observers say, is doing its best so far, however, fire incidents in the city persist.

Group plants trees to fight natural disasters in Far North

By Morine Tanyi

A Non-Governmental Organization, NGO dubbed AI-Hayat, in partnership with the Association Soleil d'Afrique, has mobilised dozens of young people to partake in a tree planning exercise in the Diamaré division of the Far North region.

The initiative dubbed "Operation Green Maroua", the organization noted, is part of measures to fight natural disasters like floods, and to combat global warming.

Alioum Mohamadou, the president of AI-Hayat told reporters we "recently received over 10,000 plants from the Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife of Diamare. This was an opportunity to kick-off Operation Green Maroua".

"This initiative," he revealed, "came about after we noticed that the region lacked trees and we thought of a way to have them planted so as to fight natural disasters."

The initiative, Alioum said was also an opportunity for them to set markers on limits beyond which residents can't go.

"We have noticed that the population is building on areas reserved for road infrastructure. To be able to preserve the land,



Stakeholders planting trees

we saw the need to replant trees," Alioum Mohamadou told reporters.

Officials of the Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife of Diamare on their part, revealed "the plants will be used for the reforestation of the Far North region which is facing numerous natural disasters including: floods, erosion and the advancing desert. This is a very laudable initiative and we want to encourage the initiator to maintain these plants and monitor them until they grow well".

To the Head of the operation, Souaibou Alassane, "Operation Green Maroua is an initiative which young people are proud to participate in."

Youth of the locality, Souaibou Alassane noted, had willingly "put in their energy to end floods and other natural disasters caused by the absence of trees."

This, to him, accounted for the huge turnout of youths during the tree planting exercise.

CBC Ndu seminary matriculates fresh batch of student pastors

By Meliva Tamju*

The Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, CBTS in Ndu sub-division, Donga Mantung division of the North West region has matriculated fresh batch of student pastors.

The matriculation ceremony took place recently.

In all, 73 student pastors were formally admitted for the training

They include 27 for the Bachelor degree programme, 36 for the diploma programme and 10 for the master's programme.

Speaking during the matriculation ceremony, the Director of Evangelism, Reverend Paul Mukake used the occasion to urge the students to be models.

With inspiration from Ephesians 4:1-2, the preacher challenged the students to live according to what they preach.

He also entreated them to work according to the worth of their calling.

The recent matriculation ceremony came after last year's graduation ceremony of students of same institution during which 73 of them were sent out to preach the gospel.



Some of the student pastors

The graduation ceremony took place Saturday June 6, 2020 at the courtyard of the Academic complex.

Men and women graduated from all the programs offered in the institution including Master of Arts (MA), Master of Divinity, Bachelor of Theology, Diploma of Theology, Certificate of Theology and certificate of Women's Ministry.

The 2020 commencement service was characterized by the graduation of the

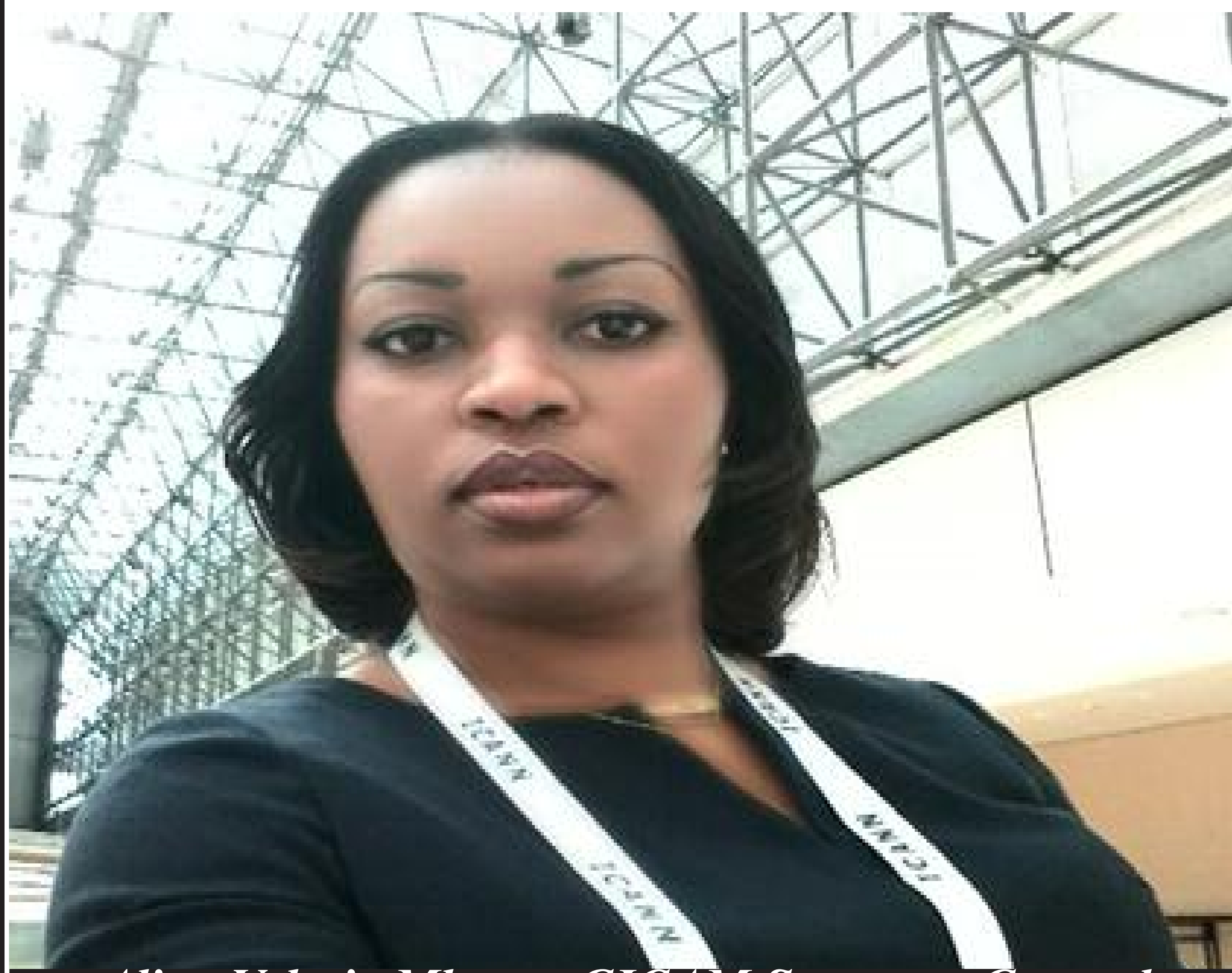
72nd batch named "Batch of Resilience" given that they studied in the context of the socio-political crises and the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The graduates were challenged by the Seminary Provost, Rev. Dr. Nseimboh Johnson, to be Christ-centered ministers and to depend on God to help them overcome the challenges they will face in ministry.

*student journalist on internship

GICAM cries out over lapses in data protection

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui



Aline Valerie Mbono: GICAM Secretary General

The Cameroon Businessmen and Employers Association, known by its French acronym GICAM, has cried out over what it describes as the absence of an appropriate personal data protection framework.

The group revealed that in a context marked by a boom in digitalisation, accelerated by the coronavirus pandemic since 2020, there is a legal vacuum concerning personal data protection law in Cameroon.

GICAM is thus calling for a specific personal data protection legal framework that takes care of the weaknesses found in the current legal framework.

They noted that Cameroon has not signed or ratified any international treaty addressing the protection of personal data. Also, the country has no legal framework specifically addressing the protection of personal data nor has it created an independent authority whose mission is to protect and ensure the respect of the laws relating to the collection, processing, and storage of personal data, GICAM officials added.

GICAM reckons that some texts address the issue but do not define what is meant by personal data, the appropriate framework for the collection, processing, transmission, storage, or any other use of such data, let alone the obligations of those responsible for their processing or the rights of persons whose data are collected and the steps they should take in case of unlawful processing.

Recounting risks

As a result of that vacuum, members of GICAM say the digitalisation boom exposes them and other citizens to many risks. To buttress its assertion, GICAM took the example of the e-tax registration process, the data processed by insurers, and COVID-19 tests processing.

In the case of the e-tax, GICAM points out that the registration data of all the Cameroonian taxpayers (including their data) are freely accessible on the tax administration's website.

For the grouping, the information (names, surnames, unique identification number) freely available on that platform exposes nearly two million Cameroonian taxpayers to identity theft since anyone anywhere in the world can access it.

As for the data processed by insurers, GICAM thinks the personal information (name, Identity Cards, medical records, etc.) clients entrust to insurers are exposed to hackers all over the world given that due to the lack of a legal framework, insurers take minimal safety precaution measures.

Talking of the management of COVID-19 PCR tests, GICAM thinks the personal data protection issue is crucial since it is a medical secrecy case. However, the sensitive data required (namely Identity Card or passport details as well as several personal details) are transmitted through WhatsApp or on mere sheets.

Recommendations

According to GICAM, the government should map all the data classified in the category of personal data. Also, Cameroon should create an anonymisation system for the collection of confidential personal data and expedite the elaboration of a specific data protection law that complies with international standards.

In addition, the Group recommends the creation of an independent body whose mission will be to oversee the application of the said law and the punishments required for those accused of violating personal data protection provisions. This body, the institution said, could be an existing institution whose competence base will be extended to the enforcement of personal data protection laws or even a new agency.

The Group's last suggestion is the establishment of regulatory cooperation frameworks between personal data protection authorities in the sub-region as well as a harmonisation of the legal data protection framework with those in other countries in the Central African sub-region.

Heads may roll in UB over alleged trading in marks

By Doh Bertrand Nua

The days ahead may be unfriendly for some lecturers and students in the University of Buea, UB, in the South West region. This follows a move by the university administration to get legal authorisation to open criminal investigations against some 30 persons accused of selling marks.

The development is contained in a request signed by the Vice Chancellor, VC, of UB, Prof Ngomo Horace Manga addressed to the state prosecutor for Buea. In the document which has leaked to the public space dated June 14, 2021, referred to as 2021/0844/UB/AdA/PD/AdD/CS/Ap/A, Prof Ngomo wants authorisation to get recordings of phone discussions and records of mobile money transactions among the accused.

"We have the honour to inform you that we are currently investigating allegations of trading of marks for money at the University of Buea involving staff and students," reads the first section of the letter.

The Vice Chancellor in the letter, informs the State Counsel that the information requested is needed to "...establish the depth of involvement or not of the individuals under investigation, and the spread of the practice..." in the institution.

In the letter, the VC is praying the state prosecutor to authorise a telecommunication company to provide phone calls and mobile money transactions between the period "...1st January 2018 – March 30th 2021 for the following persons..."

UB & battle against sexual harassment

UB which prides itself as a place to be, has also been battling to investigate



File photo: Entrance to the University of Buea where alleged marks trading rife? Yaounde I uncovered what they said was a network of lecturers and students specialised in trading marks.

The former Registrar of UB, Prof Ernest Molua in June 2020 signed a notice to staff and students of the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences calling on victims of sexual harassment to submit complaints alongside supporting evidence.

"You are by this notice called upon to submit a written complaint, complete with supporting evidence, if you opine you have been a victim of sexual harassment in the last five years. Submit these complaints in Room 118 in the Central Administrative Building, between 7.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. daily," Molua had said in the notice.

The action then, followed a correspondence from the International Federation of Women Lawyers in Cameroon to UB VC pressing for investigations on the issue.

Allegations of marks trading not new in varsities

Allegations about the sale of marks and other fraudulent activities within the higher education milieu are not new. In 2007, authorities of the University of

Yaounde I uncovered what they said was a network of lecturers and students specialised in trading marks.

Examinations in some state universities have been mired in allegations of fraud and other malpractices. Disciplinary committees in some universities have found students guilty of examination fraud. Such have often-times been sanctioned either by the cancellation results to two-year suspension among others.

In some cases, lecturers are said to use fellow students to contact their friends for the behind-the-scene deals. Some cases reported to be rampant in universities in French-speaking regions. Here, students from English-speaking regions, who do not care about attending French classes are alleged to have developed the habit of buying marks from lecturers during tests and examinations.

Insinuations have been rife over the years that the phenomenon is rampant among lectures who earn paltry sums as salary but must do all to survive. Some universities have over the years declared an all-out war against corruption in a bid to maintain standards.

Easing taxation process:

Gov't urged to reinforce fiscal reforms implementation

By Giyo Ndzi

Civil Society actors and other stakeholders in the tax sector have urged government to facilitate the implementation of its digitalisation of tax procedures.

This, coupled with enhanced collaboration from enterprise owners, they noted, will boost Cameroon's tax earnings as well as improve taxpayer loyalty.

The recommendations were among others raised during a debate on "the improvement of Cameroon's tax payment ranking lies in the digitalization of procedures".

The debate was hosted by the Denis and Lenora Foundation's Nkafu Policy Institute in Yaounde, Tuesday.

Held at the S.T Muna Fondation, the debate targeted professionals, traders, entrepreneurs, policy makers and members of civil society.

At the exchange moderated by Dr Steve Tametong, Governance and Democracy Fellow at the Nkafu Policy Institute, panelists dwelled on advantages and disadvantages of tax digitization for Cameroon's score and ranking on the World Bank's Doing Business index.

To economist, Olivier Dang Attough, who was one of the panelists at the debate, digitalization remains the future of taxation and life in general. Stakeholders including business operators, he opined, should leverage the changes it brings, and contribute their quota to nation building.

"There is need to educate entrepreneurs more. They have to know the errors they should not make, given that we are still at the introductory phase..." he recommended.



Participants after Nkafu debate

"With digitalization," Olivier Dang went on, "payment of taxes is no longer an individual aspect as human intermediaries will be shifted aside. As a businessperson, I would be glad my money is going to be used directly to finance the actions of the state."

To another panelist, Alain Florentin Zouga, associate Policy Researcher/Consultant, the drop in Cameroon's performance on the said World Bank index, is due to certain irregularities in the digitalization process. Double standards by some tax collection agents as well as digital security threats, he also noted, have not made the situation any better.

"I do believe digitization is an opportunity but there are many risks involved. Personal data of companies can be used by hackers who can pirate their accounts. The digitalization system and procedure put in place by the tax office is good but we need to go step by step and make sure that information of companies is kept secret," the researcher told The Guardian Post.

The country's internet problem, he added, "must be solved so that wherever business people find themselves, they can pay taxes without any problems."

Nkafu Public Debates – Edition 4

The basis of the 4th edition of the Nkafu Public Debates, was Cameroon's position on the World Bank's 2020 Doing Business Report. Going by the 'paying taxes' index, Cameroon in 2020 ranked 181st, a drop from 143rd place in 2007. Despite the 2016 introduction of the online declarations as part of the tax digitization process, the country's position on the index remains wanting.

According to the think tank, the debate was therefore meant to critically assess Cameroon's performance in the Paying Taxes indicator, examine the benefits of digitization in the tax filing and collection process, and establishing recommendations to improve the country's ranking as well as its business environment in general.

COVID-19 vaccination:**Y'de General Hospital orders staff to get jab or stay away***By Morine Tanyi*

Health workers of the Yaounde General Hospital have expressed dissatisfaction over management's decision to refuse access to the health facility all unvaccinated personnel.

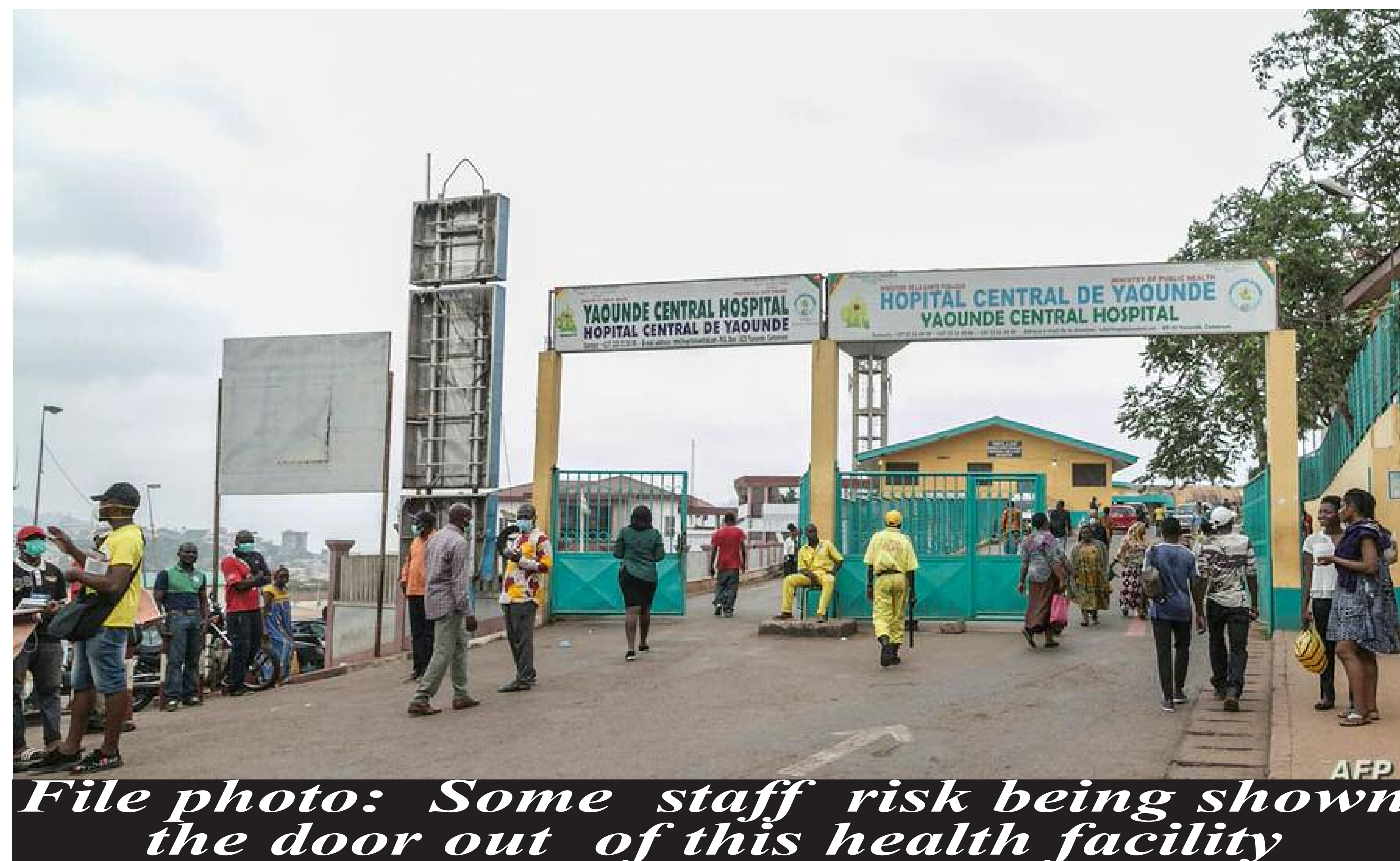
Their outing comes after the Director of the Yaounde General Hospital, Pr Vincent Paul Djientcheu, in a memo signed recently threatened to deny access to the health facility to all unvaccinated health staffs.

In the August 12, release attributed to the HGY Director, it is stated that: "Unvaccinated personnel without a workstation will no longer be admitted to the HGY but will continue to receive their salary without the supplements related to actual work (performance bonuses, transport, on-call duty and technicality, etc)".

Shortly after the decision which was outcome of a coordination meeting that held recently at the hospital, health workers expressed their indignation describing the decision as oppression and calling on the government to see into the case.

"We do not understand why the hierarchy imposes the vaccine against the COVID-19 on us. We all know vaccination is not compulsory in Cameroon, so I do not see any reason management will want to force that decision on us," a nurse is quoted as having said.

"If we go by government's deci-



File photo: Some staff risk being shown the door out of this health facility

sion, I will say management has no right to impose the vaccines on us and even though I know is for my good...I prefer to put in practice other measures to stay safe and protect my family from being infected by the COVID-19," another nurse said.

The workers said with the help of their staff representative they have tried to talk things out with management but they have remained categorical on their decision. Pr Djientcheu said the decision is part of an internal redeployment response strategy put in place to fight the third wave of COVID-19.

"The hospital specifies that following this redeployment, unvaccinated staff without workstations will no longer be admitted to the Yaounde General Hospital. Unvaccinated staff will no longer be able to serve in places where

patients are precarious, particularly in intensive care, hemodialysis, and oncology as well as emergency services" Pr Djientcheu stated.

According to the memo, "those concern will continue to receive their salary without any supplements related to the actual work, including: performance bonuses; transport; on-call and technical".

The Director of the Medical Services, Pr Alain Patrick Menanga, is said to have noted that "this decision to have all staff vaccinated can be explained by the fact that we want to protect our staff, patients and all visitors. We cannot take the risk of putting unvaccinated staff in contact with sick people as they can either be exposed, or be a vector of transmission of the virus. The good news here is their salary remains intact and the bonuses which cannot be justified will be suspended".

Douala:**Six children from same family die in fire incident***By Elizabeth Bany Tabi*

Some six children between the ages of three and 15 are reported to have perished following a fire outbreak in a family home at sunrise yesterday in the Brazzaville vicinity of Douala, Wouri division, Littoral region.

Locals told The Guardian Post that, the source of the fire which engulfed the plank house within minutes roasting the children to death remains unknown. The children are reported to have been burnt to death in their sleep.

The mother of the kids is said to have left the house at dawn to sell yams in the Non-glacée Market in the nation's economic capital. Accounts hold that, she was only contacted by neighbours to be in the know of the calamity that had befallen her family.

The children who died in the incident were identified as Merveille Mandino, 15; Ange Paloma, 12; Nine-year-old Prisca Mala, Seven-year-old Prince Netenang Maurice alongside Dieudonné Takoukam and Aimé

Takoukam both three-year-old.

Other accounts hold that, attempts by neighbours to contain the fire and rescue some of the kids yielded no results. Firefighters are also reported to have been called to the scene but they too also reportedly tried unsuccessfully to salvage the situation.

Many have attributed the rapidity with which the fire ravaged the entire house to its make up. Some neighbours said the structure was build using planks. Douala it should be said, is not new to tragedies like this which has claimed the lives of six kids.

It is a heavily populated metropolis known for haphazard construction and a difficult road network which experts say often make rescue efforts difficult.

On the night of March 22 this year, three children died from a similar fire incident in the same city. The children who perished following the incident that happened in the Double Ball neighbourhood were aged three, five and seven.

Dilemma of floods, landslides:**Locals boil as Limbe City Council's risk management project takes-off***By Noela Ebob Bisong*

Some inhabitants of Limbe, Fako division, South West region are boiling in anger as the city council of the municipality readies to implement its Integrated Natural Risk Management, GIRIN, project.

The project which seeks to tackle the issue of perennial flooding and landslides risks resulting in demolition in some neighbourhoods. As authorities of the Limbe City Council, LCC, remain firm on implementing the project, people with reservations have been lamenting.

In Mabeta New-lay-out where the GIRIN project is set to commence, the anger of locals has remained the major topic of discussion. An inhabitant of Mabeta New-lay-out who opted for anonymity said: "...What are they talking about? Since 2001, has there been any flood or landslide here in Mabeta?... How much compensation will make life better in these times of crisis, hardship and high cost of land".

Other affected areas

Other neighbourhoods involved in the project are located in New Town, New Town East and West, Middle Motowoh, Lower Mawoh, Mabeta and South East Community. In these areas, houses and livelihoods along hills and water ways have been mapped out for demolition. This, authorities said, is to make way for the successful realisation of the project.

The Limbe City Council which has the responsibility to provide land, technical expertise and casual labour for the scheme says it had since 202 been working with the affected population. The aim, the council insisted, was to sensitise the people on the project.

Indeed, what is at stake is the fact that, the affected people have to leave the mapped out areas to live somewhere safe.

Council unperturbed

Authorities of the LCC have remained focus on realising the project despite the reservation from certain persons. An official of the council told The Guardian Post that "...about 95% of these people are illegal occupants without building permits! LCC is not buying their lands or houses but it is negotiating to compensate them to leave the risk zones to live elsewhere because we feel for our population...normally without building permits, they are not entitled to any compensation".

The official maintained that: "the city has been suffering a great deal in terms of floods and landslides...individual (s) interest cannot surpass that of the state".

Project Components

Among other things, the over 500 MFCFA Integrated Natural Risk Management Project seeks to install equipment under bridges. The connection would be lined with the information systems of Cameroon Water Utilities Cooperation, CAMWATER, Energy of Cameroon, ENEO and the Cameroon Development Cooperation, CDC.

Water ways would also be expanded from Mabeta New-lay-out to Mbonjo by 15m on both sides. It also consist of increasing river depths, raising low bridges, planting of Vertiver plants around hills susceptible to landslides, building deposit range and the construction of at least 30 latrines in some households among others.

Integrated Natural risk Management Project takes-off

The Integrated Natural Risk Management, GIRIN, Project in the Womange Catchment Basin in Limbe is now seeing the light of day, after it was earmarked in 2001.



File photo: Limbe's yearly floods gives denizen hard times



File photo: Administration has been seeking necessary solution

It is the substance of a tripartite convention of the city of Limbe, the city of Colmar in France and the international Non-Governmental Organisation, NGO, SCOD. The French Development Agency-funded programme also aims to build a Geographic Information System, GIZ for the early detection of natural disasters in the city.

Flashback

The last major landslide in Limbe occurred in 2018. It claimed five lives in the Mbonjo neighbourhood, Limbe III Subdivision. It was preceded by that of 2001 which recorded over 20 deaths.

Since June 27, 2001 when the city of Limbe recorded its worst casualties following floods and landslides, authorities of LCC have been working hard to arrest the situation.

Anglophone crisis

Magazine focusing on humanitarian response hits newsstands nationwide

By Cassandra Murielle Kimaka* & Kuwan Chelsea Kernyuy*



The maiden edition of NewsWatch magazine, a product of NewsWatch Media Group, has been released into the market.

The 68-page publication, which focuses on the humanitarian response to the armed conflict rocking the North West and South West regions, hit the newsstands Monday August 23.

According to its Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, Ndi Eugene Ndi, the magazine was published as a way to celebrate the 100th edition of the "authoritative, imposing and fast-growing NewsWatch newspaper in a turbulent media landscape".

"...We gave ourselves a target that when we publish up to 100 editions of NewsWatch newspaper, we will innovate...the innovation is the magazine," Ndi Ndi stated.

Quizzed why the magazine focused on humanitarian response to the ongoing Anglophone crisis, the Ndi Eugene, explained that: "... the media mainly focuses on the atrocities, but the activities of humanitarian workers and organisations are sometimes underreported or not reported at all. We decided that we should bring this to the fore and let people know".

He added that it will also enable others to know the urgent need to support victims of the conflict.

Ndi Ndi added that: "In this, we are talking about the emergency humanitarian response plan that was put in place by the President of the Republic, Paul Biya, and is being spearheaded by the Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji, as well as the Presidential Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the North West and South West regions among many other issues".

The content-rich magazine also zooms into a plethora of issues that would catch the attention of readers, notably an exclusive interview with Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh, US-based Cameroonian cum Senior Associate and Regional Director for Central and West Africa at National Democratic Institute, NDI.

The first edition of the magazine, which henceforth will be published every quarter, according to the Ndi Eugene, equally focuses on health where government's response to the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic is reported and how it helped to save the country from catastrophe, the preparation towards a hitch-free hosting of the Total Energies African Cup of Nations, AFCON among others.

With contribution from some of the finest hands contemporary Cameroon can boast of in the print media landscape, the magazine also looks at the efforts made by government to reintegrate repentant Boko Haram and separatist fighters back into the society.

It also talks as about managers of state corporations who are excelling in their positions and politicians who are blazing the trail in spearheading peace initiatives in their various areas of origin. Religion is also brought to the fore where the activities of the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, PCC, and the Bishop of Buea diocese where zoomed into. It contains other trending social issues and much more. Media pundits have described the magazine and a must-read-and-keep publication.

*Journalism students on internship

Legal minds counsel media professionals to embrace best practices

By Noela Ebob Bisong

Two legal minds, who are friends of the media, have urged journalists to embrace best practices to better deliver in their profession. Barrister Felix Nkongho Agbor Balla and Hon. Fritz Ngeka Etoke, two household names especially in the South West region said media professionals must do away with the attitude of tips-news coverage/writing and wear the garment of professionalism.

They were speaking in Limbe, August 21, at the 16th Annual General Assembly of the Cameroon Association of Media Professionals, CAMP.

"As members of the fourth estate, if we are honest enough, we will agree to the fact that most people don't carry themselves in a way that deserves respect...from my perspective, a lot of journalists have failed to carry themselves in a way for people to respect them. When you complain that you are not respected, just try to look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself what the problem is!" Agbor Balla said.

"Those who do that do not really have respect in the eyes of the people.



Legal minds, Etoke, Balla tell journalists the bitter truth

I think personally that if you go to such workshops, make sure that you can be able to go back home. Prove to the organisers that you are a professional..." Balla advised.

When he took the rostrum, Hon. Fritz Ngeka Etoke, Former Member of Parliament, MP for the Fako East Constituency, also called on his media associates to shun 'brown envelope' a phenomenon, which, he said, not only causes them to lose respect but integrity as well.

"You have to avoid being misled in



your writings," the politician cum philanthropist advised.

The duo also urged the Media Professionals to avoid being used to destroy others and not to fight Hate Speech only when it affects them.

"...As journalists, you should make it your principle never to use hate phrases...not even for 'fun'! Remember that you are role models; remain exemplary, whether openly are privately," the media men and women were told.

On media tour in Bamenda:

NCC president urges journalists to embrace professionalism, responsibility

By Mboh Promise

The president of the National Communication Council, NCC, Joseph Chebongkeng Kalabubse, has called on journalists in the North West region to stick to professional ethics.

He made the call Tuesday August 24, as he met with over 25 women and men of the press in Bamenda. Chebongkeng and his team were in Bamenda as part of his nationwide tour. The tour was aimed at sensitising journalists and other media professionals on the mission of the communication council.

According to Chebongkeng, only professionalism and responsibility can make a journalist excel and stay out of trouble.

"We have come with the message of encouragement; to encourage journalists to remain as responsible as possible and to urge them to balance their stories. Fact-checking is very important especially for journalists in the North West region. So, our appeal is that they should remain as professional as possible," he said.

During over two hours of questions and answers session with the journalists, Chebongkeng answered to many worries of the women and men of the press. He also promised that his office will look into some of the proposals raised.

Chebongkeng also said there is rise of hate speech and defamation in the country, "... so we felt that it was necessary to take a regional tour to draw the attention of media practitioners to the rules," he said.

Questioned on the issue of many people who jumped into the profession without undergoing training and why the council only suspends without training journalists, the NCC president said the council's primary responsibility is to regulate and not to train.



NCC president, Joseph Chebongkeng, addressing NW journalists



Journalists NCC president, others

"We assume that those who are practicing are professionals or else they should not be where they are. You better stay quiet than to propagate fake information," Joseph Chebongkeng urged, calling on those who are practicing without the knowledge to undergo in-service trainings to better themselves.

He also urged journalists to federate and come under one association in order to be organised.

On the issue of low salaries of journalists in the private sector, the NCC president said council will look into the matter and see if it is necessary for the government to step in. But he stated that many media outlets are there to make money and so should be able to

pay their staff. "How will the government give money to people who are looking for money? If you shine, you will go even international," he said.

Chebongkeng congratulated journalists in the North West region for their outstanding practice, though faced with the current crisis. He enjoined them to remain professional because NCC will not spare anyone who violates the ethics. "The journalists are operating under a difficult situation because of the political unrest. Many of them were not trained as professionals to cover unrests. I think they are not doing badly, but have to continue working on improving their skills," he said.

Kumba:

PC Nkamlikum urges hierarchy to support growth, expansion

By Daniela Itoe Ngum

The Chairman of the Presbyterian Church, PC Nkamlikum in Kumba, Meme division, South West region, Peter Angembe, has appealed to the hierarchy of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, PCC, to assist in the development and expansion of their congregation.

He made this call Sunday August 22 at the end of the induction ceremony of the Parish Pastor of PC Nkamlikum, Rev. Susan Akwe.

According to the Congregational Chairman, PC Nkamlikum is a baby congregation that needs to be nurtured by the central church in order for it to emerge a strong and formidable congregation to reckon with in the Kumba Presbytery.

"We need a place of worship, we used to suffer going very far. If you give birth to a child and you do not monitor the child to grow, he or she can grow wayward. If members of the Synod office were in front of me, I will tell them that they have given birth to us and they should see us grow," he said.

The Presbyterian Secretary for Kumba Presbytery, Rev. Mary Wose, while inducting the Pastor of PC Nkamlikum during a divine service, her sermon titled 'Christ should be our friend' drew inspiration from 2Kings 20:1-11. She urged the Christians to embrace Christ and be torch-bearers of God's commandments.

On her part, the new Parish Pastor, Rev. Susan Akwe, thanked the Lord for what they have been able to achieve as far as their church project is concerned for the three-years she has been serving as Pastor of the congregation.

"This is the third year I have been serving as Pastor of PC Nkamlikum and I am fortunate that this third year I am being inducted. No matter the crisis and things being difficult,



Parish Pastor of PC Nkamlikum, Rev. Susan Akwe, being presented to congregation after induction

we have been able to erect this building," she said.

"Thank God that for my two years here we already have the roof of our church house, the rest of the aspects that we have to carry on like rectifying the wall which was bent, we know God will help us to do it. We are grateful to God because sometimes little beginnings result to something great. Though we are still crippling, by God's grace we shall also stand like a permanent congregation that will be reckon with," Rev. Akwe said.

Another Elder of PC Nkamlikum disclosed that this is the first induction ceremony the congregation has had since its creation.

"Today, we had the induction of our pastor. It is a great occasion for us since it is the first we are having since the congregation was created 10 years ago. This occasion is only an official recognition because we have been working with her for the past two years," he noted.

Gang of suspected fraudsters arrested in Douala

By Elizabeth Banyitabi

Members of a gang of suspected fraudsters have been arrested in Douala. They were nabbed Tuesday at a residence belonging to the gang leader in Logpom, Douala V municipality.

The arrest was carried out by the Anti-criminal Brigade and officers of the fourth district police station in Logpom, Douala. The gang said to have been specialised in fraudulent deals in fake Dollars is said to have fallen in the dragnet of forces of law and order following a complaint from one of their victims.

The leader of the gang, who is said to have left the country for Belgium prior to the arrest of his agents, had reportedly duped the victim of close to a hundred million FCFA within eight months.

Recounting her story, the victim, who is said to be a business woman, said she met her alleged fraudsters thanks to connection with friends.

"I met him and he already knew me. We had mutual friends, so he came into my life and proposed business investments here in Cameroon. For eight months I kept injecting my money into the supposed business deal. He used my credit cards to book hotels and other stuffs. It took me time to start posing myself some vital questions," she said.

The woman said, she alerted the police when she realised that the man's stories became unfounded and needed to be

checked

"After eight months, as a business person, I realised that the businesses he proposed were not real. I then asked myself how come someone who deals in dollars will be using my own money in Francs CFA for such a long time. When I asked he showed me boxes of supposed Dollars and told me I needed not to fear because my own currency has less value. In two days he took 1.8million FCFA from me and cut communication links...that's when I alerted the police," the woman is quoted to have said.

According to police officer, Henry Sama of the Anti-criminal Brigade, the gang members were found in possession of five trunks filled with fake dollars, 18 empty trunks ready to be filled and a sum of 1.4 million FCFA.

Sama said: "These are A4 papers which have been trimmed and covered with fake Dollars. If not vigilant, one can think they are real".

The two arrested agents, a young man and a lady, have been remanded in custody at the 4th District Police Station in Douala for investigations related to their network and possibly other cases involving them.

Meanwhile, the victim expressed the wish to recover her stolen money.

"All I wish is to recover my money... I'm a young business woman and I can't lose so much money," she stated.

South West:

Youth league rallies young people to promote peace, social cohesion

By Shing Timothy

Youth in the South West Region have been mobilised to embrace and promote peace as well as social cohesion for a return to normalcy in the restive administrative unit as they go about their daily activities.

The call was made by Kisito Mbong, President of the South West Youth League, SOWEYOL. This was during the launch of the maiden edition of the South West Youth League Inter-divisional sports and cultural jamboree Sunday August 22.

The goal of the sports and cultural show, according to Kisito Mbong, was for sensitisation of the youth to act and work for the return of peace to the South West region.

Addressing his compatriots before the launching football match, he challenged them to take up their responsibility as youth and let peace, love, social cohesion, dialogue and reconstruction be their watch words.

On his part, General Manager of National School of Local



NASLA General Manager, other key stakeholders during launching ceremony

Administration, NASLA, Tanyitiku Bayee, noted that peace in the South West will only be permanent if all the other regions have peace. In this light, he challenged SOWEYOL to reach out to other regions with their message of peace. According to Tanyitiku, football in particular and sports in general are unifying factors that should be promoted by all.

The first match of the competition, saw this year's host, Fako

Division, exchange footballing lessons with Kupe-Muaneguba division. The match ended one goal to nothing in favour of Fako division.

Speaking to the press after the match, the coach of Fako division, Molua George, said going home with all the points was a fulfilment as his team had made the fans proud.

"I will make them proud, I will make Fako proud again," he emphasised.



Teams Fako & Kupe-Muaneguba during first playing day at Survey School field, Buea

Meanwhile, the coach of Kupe-Muaneguba team, Enang Nzene, speaking to the press, said Fako had one chance and they scored a goal whereas Kupe-Muaneguba had so many chances but didn't score.

However, he praised his team, while promising fans to do better as the competition progresses

"...We lost the game, but we have another chance to come back to the competition again

on Tuesday. We think that by the grace of God everything will work for us on Tuesday," he said.

The president of SOWEYOL, in an interview, noted that he was very happy with the turnout and prayed that the nation, the South West region, youth of the region will rally behind them to change thoughts for people to understand that they have their futures to pursue in peace and harmony.

Cultural Dossier

Cameroonian designer, Imane Ayissi, knighted in France

By Morine Tanyi

One of Cameroon's famous designers, Imane Ayissi has been awarded the medal of the Knight of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture.

The announcement was made by the Artistic Director of the Fashion and Design Trades Forum in France.

Imane Ayissi has been at the forefront of several international designers' events and has been working more and more to be at the top. He was the first sub-Saharan to have been invited to Paris Fashion Week.

To Imane Ayissi, his successes are a dedication of more than thirty years of hard work in the field of sewing.

Imane is today considered one of the greatest African fashion designers with the most famous of his designs being that worn by Angélique Kidjo.

Born in Cameroon in 1969, he is the son of a family of artists and sportsmen. His father Jean-Baptiste Ayissi Ntsama, was a champion boxer while his mother Julienne Honorine Eyenga Ayissi, was elected Miss Cameroun in 1960 after the country gained its independence.

His brothers and sisters are dancers and singers.

He was a member of the Ballet National du Cameroun and subsequently toured with singers and choreographers, such as Patrick



Imane Ayissi: Cameroonian designer in France

Dupont, during this part of his career, he had to travel to the four corners of the world.

He equally worked as a model, presenting the men's collections of famous luxury and prêt-à-porter brands such as Cardin, Dior, Lanvin, Givenchy, Yves Saint-Laurent and Valentino.

He was also involved in the subject of fashion features, advertising campaigns and artistic projects in fashion shoots by famous photographers until he decided to dedicate his life to his work as a couturier and designer.

He moved to France in the 1990s and worked as a model for Dior, Givenchy, and Lanvin and founded his own label in 2004. His designs have been worn by Zendaya and Angela Bassett.

He is a guest member of the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture.

He is the first black African designer to have his designs shown on the Paris haute couture catwalk. Only two other African designers have shown at the Paris show: Alphadi from Nigeria in 2004 and Nouredine Amir from Morocco in 2018.

His designs are a combination of African traditions and western fashion. His collections are noted for their exotic evocative names: Voodoo Mood, Idoutt... which is a combination of craftsmanship, materials and traditional African art inspirations together with his use of innovative fabrics.

Imane Ayissi is equally involved in fashion training projects and the creation of a textile industry designed to help foster economic growth in Africa and Cameroon in particular.

Music Corporation dismisses two officials for alleged fraud

Music Corporation dismisses two officials for alleged fraud

By Morine Tanyi

The board of directors of the Cameroon National Music Arts Corporation known by the French acronym SONACAM has dismissed two of its team members on grounds of fraud.

In a press release signed August 20, the President of SONACAM Ateh Bazore made it known that the Board of Directors resolved to dismiss the General Manager as well as the Administrative and Financial Directors for an inconclusive trial.

The dismissed employees identified as Amougou Jacques Gabriel Serge and Eloumba Thérèse, respectively were immediately replaced on interim basis by Kabelock Aaron as managing director and Njiya Flaubert as administrative and financial director.

In a recent interview granted the Douala based television channel, Equinoxe TV, musician Yérima Afo Akom revealed



Ateh Bazore: President SONACAM

Amougou Jacques Gabriel Serge was dismissed on accusations of embezzling the sum of 50 million FCFA, money meant for musicians.

This new replacement comes to add to three after that of Ndedi Eyango months ago. The President of the Surveillance Committee of SONACAM,

Prince Ndedi Eyango resigned from his post, this barely five months after his election into this post.

Eyango penned his resignation recently in a post made public on his social media outlet. "...my new commitments require lot of time, concentration and stability and prevent me from being sufficiently available and efficient for SONACAM. Thank you very much for your trust. The road we traveled together with regard to the protection and defense of our rights is certainly eloquent, but in view of the many pitfalls and challenges to be met, much remains to be done".

Prince Ndedi Eyango it should be said was elected President of the Surveillance Committee during an election that held at the Yaounde Conference Center On December 21, 2020. Prince Ndedi Eyango and his team carried the day crushing the two other contestants with 340 votes, while the other groups recorded 191 and 65 voted respectively.

Ngoun festival to feature on List of World Cultural Heritage of Humanity

By Morine Tanyi



Dr Ndombi Christian: Head of the Cultural Sector, UNESCO Central African Regional Bureau

The Head of the Cultural Sector of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO, Central African Regional Bureau, Dr. Ndombi Christian has hinted that Cameroon's Ngoun festival could be added on the List of World Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Dr Ndombi Christian made this revelation during a press briefing that held recently at the UNESCO head office in Yaounde. Briefing reporters, Dr Ndombi Christian noted "by the month of December we pray and this without any fear, the Ngoun festival would be added to the List of World Cultural Heritage of Humanity".

"We are equally expecting the Congolese Rumba dance which will be added alongside with the Ngoun festival. This will be an opportunity for Central Africa to celebrate these two heritages as well as give other countries the opportunities to want to register their cultural heritages to the List of World Cultural Heritage of Humanity" the culture expert stated.

To Dr Ndombi, this is an opportunity to show and encourage other countries to register their heritage sites on the list of cultural heritage and also show that when a country register's its site, it helps develop, promote tourism and boast economic growth.

"Central Africa has this particularity of having one of the riches countries in the cultural domain but paradoxically it is least represented on the different lists of the World Cultural Heritage of Humanity. On 1123 heritages sites represented on the List of World Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Central Africa has just 10 and most of which are registered on the World Heritage endangered list..." Dr Ndombi explained further.

To him, these figures are not the best for Africa which is full of cultural heritages which need to be brought to the lamplight. "It is high time we begin to valorise our culture and tradition and this must first start from our dressing" Dr Ndombi noted.

He explained further that "in each of the conventions, there are funds and international aids that accompany them but given these conventions are not known many countries don't make use of them".

The second stake he noted "is the fact that most of our towns in Central Africa don't have heritage inventories...I was shock when we got to a small village and the people there got to know about their cultural heritage from us and this is just one of the many examples which you can get in so many countries in the Central African sector".

He underlined that another stake blocking people from valorising their culture even more is the fact that "we get to valorise other people's culture be it by the way we dress or eat. Let take the example of the case where you dress in a suit...do you know you are valorising someone else's culture...if you don't know this, then you have sinned by ignorance," Dr. Ndombi said adding "we need to work more to valorise our culture".

FIBA AfroBasket 2021:

COVID-19 threatening Cameroon's ambitions

By Deng Eric

Cameroon's ambitions of at least finishing on the podium at this year's AfroBasket tournament in Kigali, Rwanda now hangs on a balance, following COVID-19 cases that have hit the team even before they begin the competition proper.

The Basketball Lions lost their first group C game by forfeiture to South Sudan on a score of 0-20 on Wednesday August 25 after four players and one member of staff tested positive for coronavirus.

Few hours to the game scheduled for the Kigali Arena, the President of the Technical Committee of the competition, released a statement which said, Cameroon lost the fixture for failing to respect COVID-19 protocols imposed by the world basketball governing body, FIBA.

"The Technical Committee of the FIBA AfroBasket 2021 decides: the Game D2 between Cameroon and South Sudan scheduled on 25th August 2021 at 3pm at the Kigali Arena (Rwanda) will not be played" the release signed by Alphonse Bile partly reads.

"Cameroon team lost the game D2 per forfeit. The game is awarded to South Sudan and the score is 20 to 0. Cameroon team will receive 0 classification



Basketball Lions of Cameroon

point," it concluded.

Secretary General of the Cameroon Basketball Federation, Camille Njoh Ekitti said in a release later same day that two players presented asymptomatic signs to the disease following a test run on members of the Cameroon delegation who arrived Kigali on Sunday August 22 from Istanbul, Turkey where they had been camping.

"The next day[Monday]a second test was run on the two players as well as other members of the delegation who presented with disturbing signs and they were confirmed positive" Ekitti said in the release, adding that "apart from the first two cases, three others, including two more players as well as a member of the member of the technical staff tested positive for COVID-19" the release stated.

The federation said more COVID-19 tests will be carried out on members of the Cameroon delegation and the results will determine whether FIBA will judge Cameroon to continue in the tournament or not.

"Measures are being taken to proceed with a reinforcement of team where possible" the FECABASKET scribe said in the release.

Cameroon in its 10th AfroBasket participation is in Pool D of the competition alongside South Sudan, Uganda and five time holders, Senegal.

Wednesday's decision means Cameroon led by Coach Lazare Adie Ngono will need world class performances against the Silverbacks of Uganda and Senegal in their last two games in the event to stay in the competition beyond the group stages.

2021 World Volleyball Championship:

Cameroon, Nigeria...suffer defeats in first outings

By Deng Eric



Cameroon battle Thailand in their opening group C game

Africa's representatives at the 2021 U-19 Boys' World Volleyball Championship currently holding in Iran all suffered defeats in their first group games.

Cameroon, Nigeria and Egypt all failed to pick up victories in their respective opening games as the competition flagged off on Tuesday March 24.

The Cameroon selection coached by Jean Ndaki Mboulet lost their first group C encounter to Thailand on a 1-3 score yesterday.

The youngsters of Cameroon who are in their first ever participation in the final phase of the world championship in that category, impressed at the start of the game, winning the first set by 25-21 points.

They however couldn't withstand the pressure from the Thailand side that dominated the last three sets (25-13, 25-21 and 55-20).

The U-19 Volleyball Lions will next go up the net against Russia today before challenging Belgium tomorrow. They will conclude their group C battles against Bulgaria on Friday August 28.

Cameroon's defeat to Thailand Wednesday, came a day after African Champions, Nigeria suffered two consecutive defeats; 1-3 defeat to India and 0-3 to Poland. They however managed to secure a 3-0 win by forfeiture over Guatemala.

The third African team in the global tournament, Egypt also suffered a 0-3 to Argentina in their first group D fixture. The North Africans however bounced back in their second group game defeating Dominican Republic 3-0. They will next face Germany before concluding their group fixtures with Cuba.

The 20-nation tournament will run till the 2nd of September 2021.

Eyumojock Subdivision:

Mayor Ayamba rallies 66 villages for peace, unity sports jamboree

By Doh Bertrand Nua

The Mayor of Eyumojock council in Manyu division of the South West region has in efforts to bring back peace in the troubled border municipality, rallied the population of 66 villages that make the three clans through a unity football tournament.

The competition dubbed "Eyumojock Council Football and Cultural Jamboree Tournament for Peace" was launched August 22.

The completion which is unfolding simultaneously in the three clans in both the male and female categories will run till August 29.

Speaking on the sidelines of the launching which was preceded by a peace and unity march in Eyumojock, the Mayor, HRH Ntufam Ita Ayamba, said the initiative which has been embraced by the population speaks of the willingness of the locals to work towards the return of peace in the locality.

"This is not a political move...this is who we are...my promise and vision is always humanistic socialism. Everything I do, be it economic,



HRH Ntufam Ita Ayamba Jacques: Mayor of Eyumojock Council

social or political, is with the people in mind," Mayor Ayamba said.

He disclosed that his wish as Mayor is to see how to better the living conditions of his people, empower youth and improve on the economic aspects of the municipality to enable people survive and raise their families.

Mayor Ayamba added that through the tournament, disgruntled youth will be brought together, encouraged to embrace discipline so as to restore peace and relieve them of the stress they have had for the past years.

"I pray this really reinforces peace and prepares us for school

resumption," he expressed the wish.

The municipal magistrate regretted the adverse effect the ongoing armed conflict in the subdivision has caused to the municipality but remained positive for better days with the population embracing all their peace initiatives.

"The sociopolitical unrest has caused a lot of delays in the execution of projects and destroyed some of the things we had. For more than four years now, the municipality has not had electricity from ENEO because the poles have been destroyed," he revealed.



Eyumojock population marching peace, unity and return to peace

He called for a return to normalcy which he said will enable their partners to invest in the municipality and make it top in the division in terms of health infrastructure and other sectors.

"We are also doing installation of solar plants in the major areas of the municipality so that we can use it for peace to return for us to carry out other development projects like making roads accessible and opening farm-to-market roads as well as inter-village roads," he disclosed.

"...we have provided high-quality solar power to hospitals and they are on electricity 24/7...Last year with the help of our partners who assisted, we

were able to provide equipment for the maternity section and the theatre and we are continuing with the sourcing of funding so that our health centre is the first in the division," he expressed the desire.

The Divisional Officer, Besinga Ely Etone, saluted the initiative of the Mayor and all the other people who have been behind the idea. He seized the opportunity to call on all the youth still in the bushes to drop their arms and embrace all the peace initiatives.

The administrator challenged elite to join the peace caravan in the division for a perfect return to peace.