

# The Guardian Post

**DAILY**

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

## Central African Republic: Cameroonian couple, three kids perish in fire incident

By Morine Tanyi

A Cameroonian couple living in Bangui, Central African Republic, CAR, is reported to have died alongside their

three kids after fire ravaged their home.

The Cameroonian couple were said to be deep asleep when the incident occurred.

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## Announced return from Europe:

# Biya disappoints attention-seeking CPDM sycophants

● *Despite mobilising party supporters to welcome the Head of State yesterday, overzealous CPDM top brass were left with fallen jaws as the president did not show up as they had announced*

By Deng Eric

The Head of State, President Paul Biya, failed to return to the country yesterday as was widely-trumpeted by some ruling party bigwigs.

It should be recalled that the pres-

ident has been out of the country since June 11, 2021. It is believed that Biya and wife, Chantal, are in Geneva-Switzerland, for a "brief private visit".

In a move seen by political watchers as a desperate attempt to

seek attention from the president, some CPDM party top brass in the Centre region, had made public announcements in which they called on party supporters to come out massively, yesterday, to receive the Head of State back to the coun-

try.

In yet another move that fits the exact picture of wasted energy, time and money, they afforded the luxury of mobilising hundreds of supporters of the CPDM party to show the world Biya's popularity.

*Cont'd on page 3*



**File photo: The ambiance that usually welcomes President Biya back to the country, failed to take place yesterday**

**Nwa:**

## Head teachers protest as sub treasurer 'vamooses' with running budget

By Macwaller Njapteh

Head teachers of Primary Schools in Nwa subdivision, Donga Mantung division of the North West region, have staged a protest over the non-payment of the

running budgets of the schools under their management.

The protest Wednesday July 21, 2021, saw the teachers brandishing placards to vent their frustration.

They are accusing the sub treasurer,

Nasama Roger Njange, of withholding the budget meant to finance the activities of their schools.

The whereabouts of the sub-treasurer has remained unknown.

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## Opinion:

# Don't downplay anti-Biya protest in Geneva

By Haman Mana\*

Yes, for once, let's agree with the Vulgate disseminated by "state" media: What happened in Geneva last weekend is a non-event. Indeed, the fact that citizens of a country protest loudly not far from where was lodged the Head of State against whom they have some grievances is of the greatest banality. In settings where Heads of State are human beings, not demigods, we have seen worse; from the throwing of rotten tomatoes, to slaps ...

Cameroon's fate was therefore not played out in Geneva last Saturday. To dwell on

this event is to intentionally or stupidly derail focus from the stakes which are elsewhere. Like those idiots who roam about on television platforms and continue spreading on social media networks, pouring out nauseating, tribalist opinions on this subject: This is already heard of. It will be necessary for them to adopt a different approach: Find something else other than the old songs to defend the regime.

The fate of Cameroon is, however, being played out in the North West and South West regions.

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**Far North:**

## Boko Haram, military confrontation leaves at least 16 dead

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## Military strategises to end Amba fighters' incursions in West region

By Mua Patrick Mughe

Defence officials in the country charted a way out of

recurrent attacks orchestrated by Anglophone separatist fighters in parts of the West region

bordering the crisis-hit North West and South West regions.

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**Truth That  
Must Be Told**  
By Asong Ndi for

## It should be opposition protesting, not CPDM

One thing I observe about the ruling CPDM party is that it likes to demonstrate "peacefully" especially when the opposition steps on its sensitive toes by just announcing that it plans to protest.

Even when the opposition wants to march on the street to support its new sing-song of "living together" like the MRC did, they will be stopped even with another with the readymade reason of "threat to public peace". This time, coronavirus has been added as another reason.

I just read about the Minister of Public Health holding a public demonstration in his Maroua constituency to counter one held in Geneva, Switzerland. I wonder why he did not mobilise his supporters to the Swiss city.

I remember when President Biya was going out of the country, a small group was at the airport to wish him safe journey. Do not ask me if the gathering was not a coronavirus risk.

President Biya and his wife were expected back home yesterday. Though they didn't finally make the trip back home yesterday, the CPDM party had been mobilising its supporters to turn out and welcome the Head of State and his wife.

Francis Ngoumou, CPDM mayor of Mfou constituency, had sent out an invitation to mobilise party supporters.

"On the occasion of the return home of the Presidential Couple, Paul and Chantal Biya, scheduled for this Sunday, July 25, 2021, the mayor of the council of Mfou, invites all the populations of his municipality to come out en masse along the River 'Round Point Nsimalen/Odza Borne route 12, in order to give the Head of State Paul Biya and his wife a warm welcome," the invitation read in part.

The rally, which would have outclassed the small group of dancers that saw him off on departure two weeks ago, would have been seen as countering the violent anti-regime protest in Geneva.

It had aimed, as one of the apologists has said, to show support for the president and "total indignation against unacceptable outrages perpetrated against the Head of State in Geneva, Switzerland, by a handful of people, acting on behalf of the Cameroonian diaspora".

Did the mayor make a declaration at the Divisional Office? If he did, was it approved? Accepting the population would have marched peacefully, would it not have risked spreading the coronavirus which was a reason given to ban the MRC protest?

When peaceful protests by the opposition are prohibited, the danger is that they make violent demonstrations inevitable, which are not needed in a country that has so many challenges at hand. What the government should be concerned with should be to find out why citizens want to march on the streets not to encourage the ruling party to join in the fry.

I just read a research report at the weekend conducted in Britain giving reasons why protests are so important for democracy, People protest because "those in power are stuck in a certain mindset and cannot change their thinking. But then a new generation may come along, unencumbered by past thinking, and see that the views of the protesters were just common sense".

In an electoral democracy, protest provides an essential voice for minority groups. The classic theorists of representational government recognised that universal suffrage and majority voting threatened to impose the 'tyranny of the majority' and override the rights of minorities and protests are a vital corrective to majority rule which is why it should not be the party in power protesting but those in the opposition and civil society.

**Postscript:** A country, after all, is not something you build as the pharaohs built the pyramids, and then leave standing there to defy eternity. A country is something that is built every day out of certain basic shared values - **Pierre Trudeau**

# Cameroon, Chad hold talks to re-launch economy

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

On July 22, Alamine Ousmane Mey, the Minister of Economy Planning and Regional Development, MINEPAT, was received by the President of the Transitional Military Council, President of the Republic of Chad and General of the Chadian Military Corp, Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, during which reception the two personalities talked about how to re-launch economies of their two nations.

The talks were held on the high instructions of Cameroon's Head of State, President Paul Biya.

According to a statement sent to The Guardian Post in Yaounde by the communication unit of MINEPAT, Minister Alamine Mey was the bearer of a sealed envelope containing a message from President Paul Biya to the Chadian leader.

The statement clarified that the Cameroonian leader was acting in his capacity as the current President of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States, CEMAC, and therefore needed to talk with the new Chadian leader on how to re-launch economic activities of the two countries.

According to the eminent officials, the two countries are presently witnessing the full impact of economic



**Minister Ousmane Mey handing sealed message to President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno**

slowdown brought on the world economies by the coronavirus pandemic; as well as the adverse effects of the instability affecting the two countries due to the different security crises.

Minister Alamine Mey recalled that when economies of the sub region were hit by the drop in commodity prices some five years back, President Biya, in 2016, rallied other leaders in the sub region in Yaounde to chart a way forward.

By 2019, other challenges reared up their heads, beginning with the coronavirus outbreak and the security

challenges. This again prompted President Biya to rally other Heads of State of CEMAC member countries, again in Yaounde to brainstorm on how to face these new challenges and chart a way forward.

The Minister of Economy noted that there was clear evidence that these multiple challenges were threatening to erode the gains CEMAC countries had accumulated over the years.

Therefore, there is need for them to consort at both individual and community levels to overcome their common challenges.

## Buea:

# 21-year-old wins one million FCFA tech challenge prize

By Giyo Ndzi

A student of the University of Buea, Bryan Agbor, is winner of the Nervtek Community Challenge held in Buea, South West region.

The 21-year-old final year student of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology was one of ten young innovators to make it to the finals of the community challenge.

The competition came to an end after a three-day tech innovation workshop hosted at Mountain Hotel in Buea. At the workshop, the ten finalists, all creatives from across the country, pitched their ideas at the grand finale.

The event had as theme 'the role of young entrepreneurs in building sustainable tech-solutions for development'.

At the workshop, participants were drilled on business development and pitching projects to enable them boost their professional and performance capacities, by main speakers, Agah Bill Njoh, Chairman and Founder of the Cameroon Tech Innovation Clubs Challenge; Laye Mbunkar, management and marketing consultant, and Nzometiah Nervis, Founder and CEO of Nervtek, who himself, was winner of the ICT Innovation of the



**Bryan Agbor with 1 million FCFA prize board**

year presidential award.

The top ten finalist pitches for Nervtek Community Challenge included BackMarche, Concour Guide Cameroon, CNC Drawing and Writing Machine, Garbage Bin Tracker, MOBIDIK, Personal Health Companion, Smart Agrobot, Smart Agriculture using IoT, Smart Mailbox System, and Tour Cameroon.

At the end of the day, Bryan

Agbor's Computer Numerical Control, CNC, Drawing Machine carried the day, followed by the Personal Health Companion and Agrobot in second and third places respectively, also taking home a million FCFA each.

The winning CNC drawing machine, its creator noted, is a multipurpose device that facilitates drawing for students. He explained that "apart from printing portraits, the machine can also serve as an art tutor for Biology and Geography students and others who need drawing in their professions".

The ability to control the spec of the device, he stated, enhances the ability of students to learn from it as well as practice.

"It can also acts as a handwriting machine for those who are always required to submit handwritten applications," he added.

The Nervtek Community Challenge, in its second edition, provided a platform for young creatives to showcase their abilities and know-how. This second edition, organisers revealed, had participants from not only the South West region, but beyond.

Nervtek is the brainchild of young innovator and ICT Innovation of the year Presidential award winner, Nzometiah Nervis.



# Biya disappoints attention-seeking CPDM sycophants

*Cont'd from page 1*

News of the presidential couple's return to the country first emerged through a communiqué signed Saturday July 24 by the Head of the CPDM Permanent Divisional Delegation for Mfoundi division and Regional Council President for the Centre, Gilbert Tsimi Evouna.

Tsimi had in the release, informed the party's following as well as the population of Mfoundi division and its environs that President Paul Biya and wife, Chantal, were to return to Yaounde Sunday July 25.

"On this occasion, the Head of the Permanent Divisional Delegation invites CPDM, WCPDM and YCPDM section presidents in Mfoundi to reserve a triumphant welcome to the presidential couple through massive mobilisation of their supporters," Tsimi said in the communiqué.

A message attributed to the mayor of Mfou in the Mefou & Afamba division, in the Centre region, Francis Ngomou, had also urged party supporters to turn out massively and welcome the presidential couple.

There are reports that students in the nation's capital and others from Douala, were hurriedly mobilised to line the streets of Yaounde to cheer President Biya and wife.

The huge mobilisation seems to have gone on well until the early hours of yesterday when information circulated that the presidential couple was not on any flight bound for Yaounde.

Pundits have questioned if the CPDM officials who went ahead to announce and even mobilise party members were in the know of the presidential couple's return to Yaounde.

Some members of the public have interpreted the development to mean Biya in his usual unpredictable manner remains the master of his own program and agen-



File photo: Biya, wife leaving the country for Europe Sunday June 11, 2021

da.

Despite the outcome of yesterday mobilisation, there are reports that the Presidential couple may touch down on Yaounde on Wednesday.

## Support to counter Diaspora attacks on Biya

The huge mobilisation which the ruling party sycophants already planned for yesterday was reportedly intended to show support for Biya and wife.

This is after some members of the Cameroonian Diaspora under the aegis of Brigade Anti-Sadinard, BAS, tried to disturb the president's stay in Geneva Switzerland, on July 17.

Though Swiss authorities had banned the protest, some supporters of the BAS

movement defied such restrictions. They ended up being teargassed by Swiss security forces.

BAS has among other things been calling for the release of those they qualify as political prisoners in Cameroon. The movement is also calling for a regime change in Cameroon.

However, Biya's supporters continue to qualify their moves as plot to destabilise Cameroon.

President Biya jetted out of the country through the Nsimalen International Airport on Sunday July 11, ending his 21-month stay in the country without travelling abroad.

During such outings, there have been skirmishes but the president's diehard supporters have always fired back without

relenting.

His recent stays out of the country have been rocked by persistent protests with some Cameroonians considering them as an attack not only Biya as a person but on the institutions of the state.

As we took to press last night, the third deputy city mayor of Yaounde, Palalou Midjinyaoua, had issued a statement requesting party supporters to remain mobilised.

Palalou who is also the CPDM section president for Mfoundi II, however thanked those who were mobilised for the triumphant return of the Head of State that never was. He informed supporters to remain on the alert against those he described as internal and external enemies of the state.

## Far North:

# Boko Haram, military confrontation leaves at least 16 dead

*By Morine Tanyi*

A confrontation in the Far North region between Boko Haram militants and Cameroonian soldiers in the early hours of Saturday July 24, is reported to have left at least 16 persons dead with several others wounded.

The confrontation, which took place in Sagme, Fotokol in the Logone and Chari division of the Far North region, we gathered, led to the death of eight Cameroonian soldiers, while eight Boko Haram militants were also killed in the bloody confrontation.

According to reports, the members of the Boko Haram sect are said to have stormed one of the military camps in the locality, leading to gunfire exchanges between them and Cameroonian soldiers stationed in Sagme.

We gathered that the Boko Haram militants stormed the military base well-armed in a convoy of over six vehicles and several motorbikes. After several hours of fighting, at least eight soldiers were killed. At 14 others were wounded. Eight Boko Haram militants also fell in the confrontation.

Informed of the incident, the

Governor of the Far North region, Midjiyawa Bakari, rushed to the scene to have first-hand information.

"We received a call that the military base in Sagme was attacked. As such, we are here to evaluate the damages caused and take further security measures," Governor Midjiyawa Bakari told reporters, adding that: "We can say we have registered four wounded and we equally lost soldiers. Boko Haram has retaliated but it is not finished... we are here on behalf of the Head of State to address our condolences to

the bereaved families".

Governor Midjiyawa Bakari equally called on the population to remain vigilant and work in collaboration with security forces by providing them with information of any suspicious incident happening in their neighbourhoods.

"We have to double our efforts to help the forces of law and order with the exact information needed to go further in the fight against any attack planned by Boko Haram," Governor Midjiyawa stated.

Saturday's attack, according to reports, has been rated as one of the deadliest in the last 10 months.



When two elephants fight", the dictum is often quoted, "it is the grass that suffers". Separatist fighters in the North West and South West regions may not be an elephant pitted against the security and defence forces with their "professionalism" and sophisticated weapons. But into five years of an asymmetric warfare, they have been proving so, almost like goliath in some situations.

Over the weekend, videos went viral on the social media, where people were seen trekking from Bamenda to Bali, a distance of some 15 kilometres.

The reason is that in reaction to a ban placed on the movement of motorbikes in the sub division by the Mezam Senior Divisional Officer, Simon Emile Mooh, the separatist fights, in retaliation, also issued their own fiat, prohibiting movements of vehicles in the entire sub division.

In an audio, a man who calls himself spokesperson for Ambazonia Restoration Forces of Bali, under the instructions of Grandpa, self-styled Amba Commander of Bali, announced that the ban was to be for three months renewable, mockingly imitating the SDO for the prohibition on motorbikes in Bali.

Saying the order took effect from July 21, a day after that of the Mezam administrator, the announcer warned that persons who will try to violate the ban shall not be spared.

The Bamenda-Bali road is the major link to and from Ekok, border with Nigeria. It is a principal route that traders have been using to import goods from Nigeria into Cameroon. Before the conflict, Ekok entry point was said to be the third source of revenue collection after the Douala air and sea-ports.

The SDO of Mezam, in an announcement on July 20, had prohibited the movement of motorbikes in Bali following the brutal killing of five police officers by suspected separatist fighters on Sunday July 8 in Bali.

## Editorial

# When armed conflict in NW, SW takes new twist!

Such attacks on security and defence forces and vice versa have been persistent into five years of the crisis that degenerated into warfare. The innocent population caught in the bloody melee are taking the brunt. Innocent citizens have in the past been murdered, maimed, kidnapped and their entire villages burnt with accusing fingers pointing at both belligerent camps.

But the Bali sad comedy, would be the first time the Ambazonia fighters are going beyond prohibiting business activities on Mondays to retaliate the banning of motorbikes which the administration has frequently used as a security measure in several towns of the two regions.

When the Mezam administrator issued his order, it was explained as being in line with North West regional governor's 2020 instructions banning the circulation of motorbikes from 6p.m. to 5:30a.m in some divisions for public order exigencies.

The prefectural fiat warned that any person or group of persons that will contravene the decision shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of the regulations in force. Nobody violated it, just like the Amba 'decree' was also adhered to.

But stranded people in Bamenda had to take a blistering trek, compounded by speculations that they were harassed by people in uniform for taking the tedious journey. It is a new twist in the conflict. There are reports that because of the two bans, the sub division has been paralysed without the regular means of transportation.

It is a pointer to the evolving complexities and tactics being employed in the fighting. The reading of the deplorable situation is indicative of the escalation and flaring up of the fighting.

The government cannot afford to insist that decrees or administrative orders will succeed where military force has failed to bring peace and order in the two regions. Separatist fighters are upgrading their tactics and weaponry as the fighting prolongs. They also have some of the sophisticated guns used by security and defence forces including uniforms seized from some of those they have killed, like in the case of Bali.

With such complications, it may not be possible for the innocent population to know exactly who are those committing some of the atrocities. But in the final analysis, it is the government that should take the blame. It is the duty of the state to protect the lives and properties of the citizens.

As far as the North West and South West regions are concerned, that has not been the case given the atrocities. What has the government done to rescue the divisional delegates kidnapped in Ndiang division who were encouraged and even threatened to work in risky terrains or be sacked?

Have motorbikes not at one time or the other been proscribed in Fako, Meme, Bui et al, yet the fighting continues unabated?

The stand-up in Bali, with two rival prohibitions of the means of transportation, has further added more pains to the innocent population. The government officials cannot continue to propagate that the "situation is gradually returning to normal". It is aggravating and anything contrary is "fake" news.

At *The Guardian Post*, we trust President Biya's "short private visit" in Geneva, gave him the opportunity of deep reflection to stop the bloody escalation with a genuine dialogue of reconciliation and forgiveness. This, of course, would unite a country on the brink of disintegration.



## Outlook

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

# When desperation takes over

When a people are overtaken by desperation they start acting without taking a second thought. This applies to those who want new territories to conquer as well as those who want to hold firm to their conquered territories.

We hear some Cameroonians have been slammed prison sentences in Switzerland for trespassing and public provocation to crime or violence. They were arrested Friday July 16 after staging a protest in front of the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva, taken into custody and appeared before a judge the following day for hearing. Eleven of them were sentenced to day-fines and one to a 180-day suspended prison term.

Though they were later released, the BAS members were protesting against President Biya's visit to Geneva; manifestations that ended up in riots.

The situation in Geneva provoked counter reactions back home. Supporters of the regime mobilised the population for a show of solidarity with their President as he was expected back in the country, on Sunday July 25. To their greatest disappointment, the Presidential couple never showed up.

We hear the protesters in Switzerland defied a ban on an announced protest, went ahead and stormed the streets in Geneva, some at the Intercontinental Hotel where the President and wife were lodged and others at the United Nations Human Right office still in Geneva.

"They moved along with placards protesting against President Paul Biya's reign, urging him to leave Geneva and go back to his country and put an end to the close to five years-long crisis rocking the two English speaking regions."

Many Cameroonians strongly condemned, what they categorise as an unpatriotic act and called on those in the diaspora to respect the sacred office of President of the Republic of Cameroon incarnated by President Paul Biya.

This looks like the anticlimax of a drama that has over played; and since there is no dignified way of ending it, everything is left adrift, allowing fate to take its cause.

Like one reporter recalled, a bitter independence struggle by English-speaking separatists has been raging in Cameroon's North West and South West, NOSO regions since 2017.

Members of the anglophone minority have long complained of being marginalised by the French-speaking majority and Biya, in power for 38 years. From 2017, their protests devolved into a bloody conflict.

Saturday's demonstration in Geneva was initially authorised and then banned, with police fearing that that protest could spill over.

Road restrictions were imposed around the Intercontinental and the nearby square outside the United Nations headquarters in the city.

Demonstrators were faced with a line of police officers in riot gear blocking the road from the square to the hotel.

They held up home-made signs saying, "Switzerland supports dictator Biya", "Paul Biya: eternal dictator", "We don't want you in Switzerland anymore as long as NOSO is at war", and "Biya get out". One man wore a t-shirt reading "Stop genocide on Cameroonians".

Another man was pulled down by police after attempting to scale the gates of the UN office in Geneva.

Swiss news agency ATS reported that protesters later tried several times to force their way through the police cordon and threw eggs at officers.

The police then deployed water cannon, rubber bullets and tear gas to clear the demonstrators, forcing them to disperse into several parks.

Two people were lightly injured and taken to hospital for checks, while one person was arrested, ATS said.

Since Biya's visit began, several small groups of opponents have been broken up by the Swiss security authorities, reporters further told.

In Cameroon, UN and international aid groups say that since the unrest erupted in 2017, both army troops and anglophone rebels have committed abuses and crimes against civilians.

More than 3,500 people have been killed and over 700,000 have fled their homes to escape the conflict.

The reality Cameroonians are living through is an offshoot of the political, economic and social climate that has been deteriorating over the passing years. The political dimension in human and national development has always been downplayed in developing countries like Cameroon. Every developed nation in the world today has a trail of devoted statesmen along its history who infected their people with their dream of what they wanted their nation to be and together with the masses, translated that vision into reality.

The mass of citizens of every nation that had emerged is such that collectively, they are able to fathom and appreciate the depth of their problems at all levels; device appropriate strategies to tackle them collectively.

Our leaders never count on the capability of the citizens to be able to fashion the type of science and technology that would be used to transform the nation. Leaders forget that it is not the masses, but they who have the duty to create the enabling environment for science and technological know-how to prop up, grow and flourish. Leaders have to inspire and invest in the masses, give them a sense of purpose and chart the way for the latter to follow.

Without this, chaos as we find it in Cameroon today reigns supreme.



# Jakiri DO urges parents to mobilise kids for next school year

By Giyo Ndzi

The interim Divisional Officer of Jakiri sub-division, Bui Division of the North West region, Ekombo Roland, has urged parents not to hold back their kids from attending classes come September.

Highlighting the benefits of education to the young ones given their role as leaders of tomorrow, the Divisional Officer asked parents to commit to ensuring they send their kids to school during the next academic year.

Ekombo Roland made the appeal to hundreds of parents in Jakiri sub-division at the Jakiri town's main mosque. This was after he and other administrative and religious authorities communed with Muslim faithful at this year's Feast of Sacrifice.

"We are very happy with the message the Imam gave in his preaching, which was centred on peace, reconciliation and goodness," the administrator noted.

In addition to being a platform for enhancing peace, communing with each other in the religious realm like they do regularly, the DO told Muslim faithful to foster unity, harmony and living together.

"They have been doing a lot so far which we appreciate and call upon them to continue in that spirit to do good, and ensure that peace returns to Jakiri. That is why I came to celebrate with them and



Ekombo Roland (C) communes with Jakiri Muslims

assure them that we are together in this crisis," Ekombo Roland said.

While at the mosque, the interim DO of Jakiri said he noticed the presence of multiple kids of school-going age. With many of them deprived of adequate education by the armed conflict in the region, Ekombo Roland told locals that it was time to beat the odds and send them to school.

"I noticed that we have a great number of kids around the mosque to pray. These are kids of school-going age and we know that school was not effective in Jakiri last academic year," the administrator noted.

Remarking that the situation in some instances remains fragile, Ekombo Roland said the parents have the moral obligation to get the best for their children.

"All that has a beginning has an end. This crisis will definitely end someday... at the end of it all, what will the Jakiri son and daughter brandish in terms of academic qualification? They should take the commitment to educate their children," he pressed.

## Our kids' future will judge us - official

Jakiri, like many other parts of the North West and South West regions, has been characterised by a number of armed exchanges between security forces and non-state armed groups.

Last month, North West Regional Delegate of Secondary Education, Ngwang Roland, revealed that the number of secondary school students attending classes in the North West region had



Interim Jakiri DO

dropped to 24,350 in 2019 from 220,000 recorded in 2016.

Addressing Regional Councillors, the official noted that the close to 90% drop in three years was a direct result of the raging armed conflict in the Anglophone regions, characterised by violence and targeted attacks on educational institutions and personnel.

Ngwang Roland told them that it was essential to enforce initiatives aimed at sending kids back to school, as "we will be judged not by what we are but what our children will become..."

"It baffles me that the kids we said are not good in school are the ones who fix our cars, who make our beds, who transport us ... We must ensure that we take care of their educational wellbeing," he added.

# Lawyer accuses Kamto of working for Biya regime

By Maxcel Fokwen

Paris-based Cameroonian lawyer, Christian Ntimbane Bono, has accused Prof Maurice Kamto, leader of the opposition Cameroon Renaissance Movement, MRC, of being a collaborator of the Biya regime.

Ntimbane, who was once a staunch admirer of Kamto, published a write-up Friday castigating the MRC leader of passing for an opposition leader. According to Ntimbane, Kamto is rather working to maintain the regime in place but is putting up the appearance of someone battling for change.

The man who went negative on Kamto's actions since the controversy surrounding the Survie Cameroun Survival Initiative, SCSi, of the MRC leader, indicted the former minister of not being consistent in his political options. Ntimbane was one of those Kamto appointed to follow up the SCSi initiative.

"This gentleman is a fake opposition politician. I take full responsibility for this... We want to free our country from dictatorship. Maurice Kamto puts us asleep. He is afraid to face this regime and rather decided to collaborate," the lawyer, who said he is now part of the Civil Society Reconcilers, said Friday.

## Unable to defend detained party supporters

Buttressing his opinion about Kamto, Ntimbane stated that, the MRC leader, who is a well-known lawyer, has maintained a sit-tight posture instead of going to court to defend detained MRC supporters. This, he argued, is one of the ways Kamto should be showing the world his determination to bring about change.

"Maurice Kamto is a lawyer who has not gone to court to defend his collaborators; even if it is to show his determination to obtain their release," he said, questioning if "this is the one you want to impose on everyone?"

The real opposition, Ntimbane stated, is rather



Ntimbane Bono

the anti-Biya diaspora movement, Brigade Anti-Sadinard, BAS. It is the same BAS government has been accusing the MRC of being part of, but Kamto continues to deny any such links.

Going by the man of law, "... frankly speaking, we must end this story of Maurice Kamto" and look for the emergence of other forces of change.

## Legitimising military court

Another area that has seen Ntimbane criticise Kamto is the legal action engaged against an individual who threatened the MRC leader's life. Kamto is reported to have taken legal action against the said person before the competent military court.

Ntimbane rather sees this action from the MRC leader as giving legitimacy to a court he had once declared not qualified to handle civilian matters.

"Someone who says a military tribunal is incompetent to judge civilians, and at the time files a complaint against a civilian before this dictatorship court. This, is in effect legitimising this court... these raises a lot of questions," Ntimbane stated.

# University of Buea to release exam results tomorrow

By Giyo Ndzi

Undergraduate students of the University of Buea will have their results available tomorrow, authorities have promised.

This follows the validation of the Second Semester results of the just ended 2020/2021 school year.

The results were examined and approved by the institution's highest internal body, the Senate, at its 84th session held on Friday, July 23, 2021, at the Dorothy Limunga Njeuma Amphitheatre.

Held under the stewardship of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ngomo Horace Manga, the senate session examined the conditions under which the second semester was written, as well as the nature of results and students' performance.

Addressing those present, the Vice-Chancellor hailed staff of the institution, through the heads of establishments, for what he termed a job well done, and urged them to keep up the good work. He further expressed his desire that the University of Buea continues to grow in leaps and bounds, taking knowledge closer to the community by creating impactful services.

The results, it was revealed, will be published by the Vice-Chancellor tomorrow Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

In addition to the presentation and adoption of second semester results, a review of the Dissertation/Thesis guide of the University of Buea was also presented to Senate. The said instrument, it was assessed, would remarkably improve on the database of all theses/dissertations defended in the university.

Its high points included quality assurance; the role of the supervisor, terminology adopted for UB, the duration, issues of ownership and plagiarism and the designation of internal and external examiners.

In response, Senate appreciated the Taskforce that put up the presentation, describing its inputs as innovative.

The just-ended academic year at the University of Buea, like in many institutions of learning, provided several challenges. In addition to the already existing security challenged posed by the armed conflict in the North West and South West regions, they also had to deal with the coronavirus.



UB officials at Senate meeting



# Four arrested for suspected human bones trafficking

By Morine Tanyi

**G**endarmerie officers of the Bonambappe Gendarmerie Brigade of the Territorial Gendarmerie in Bonaberi in the Douala IV subdivision of the Littoral are reported to have nabbed four individuals alleged to be members of a gang specialised in exhuming and trafficking human bones.

The suspects are said to have been arrested Wednesday July 21 in Douala in the Littoral region in possession of human bones worth over 21 million FCFA which they were at the point of selling to a client.

According to a report published by the National Gendarmerie, the suspects were arrested red-handed with the bones which they are believed to have exhumed in the South West region.

Questioned, the suspects are said to have revealed that they came with the bones from Kupe



**Suspects, loot presented to the population of Douala**

Muanenguba in the South West region, where the bones were exhumed.

The suspects, the report further

noted are said to have been arrested red-handed as they were on the verge of selling their loot composed of three full skeletons

which they had to sell to one of their client at an estimated sum of 21 Million FCFA.

“Questioned the suspects revealed they were on a mission to sell the bones to a client which they were to meet before they were apprehended by the gendarmerie officers,” the report said.

The Gendarmerie Squadron Leader, Yves Awoumou Owona is quoted to have said the arrest of the gang was facilitated after their gang leader identified as Arrey was and questioned he disclosed the where about of the rest of his member and they were immediately arrested.

The suspected traffickers, the reports further noted have been detained and their loot confiscated as investigations are said to have been opened to bring down the gang said to be behind the trafficking of human bones in the town.

Similarly, four suspects whose names *The Guardian Post* got as

Biya Arouna aged 48, Alim Ibrahim aged 27, Ousman Issa 38, and Ibrahim Dewah aged 38 are reported to have been arrested recently at the camp oignon neighbourhood in Bafoussam in the West region.

They were arrested in possession of two human skeletons as they were about delivering to a client.

In an interview granted National Radio, the Company Commander of the Bafoussam Gendarmerie Post, Lieutenant Moukoko Doumbe revealed “there has been an increase in the profanation of tombs and they are doing all to put an end to the practice and they will leave no stone unturned to bring cuprites to face the law”.

The suspects are said to have been sent to prison pending investigations that are said to have been opened to bring the others accomplices to face the charges leveled against them.

## One dies, another injured in Douala traffic accident

By Morine Tanyi

**O**ne person is reported to have died and another severely injured in a road-side accident in Douala.

The accident occurred after a heavy duty truck lost control before crushing one and injuring another person.

The truck matriculated LT 941 FI is said to have crushed the man to death as he was about crossing the road at the Deido roundabout neighbourhood in Douala, Littoral region on Friday July 23.

The injured victim is said to have been rushed to the Deido District Hospital for medical attention while the lifeless body of the other man was kept at the mortuary.

According to eyewitness account, the man who was about crossing the road was immediately crushed and another person severely injured by the heavy duty

truck transporting sand on high speed.

“It just occurred within the twinkle of an eye...the man I would say did not see the truck coming and immediately he entered the road, the truck coming from an entrance immediately crushed him and equally knocked another man standing by the road probably to get a taxi,” an eyewitness is quoted as having said.

The witness further stated “the man died on the spot while the other victim who was seriously injured was rushed to the Deido District Hospital...this is just one of the many accidents that occur here each day...”

Informed of the situation, police officers of the 9th District Police Station of Douala are said to have stormed the accident scene to bring order and restore circulation.

The driver is said to have been arrested and his truck impounded pending investigations.



**Population watch helplessly at victim after accident**

## Teen arrested in Yaounde for faking own abduction

By Morine Tanyi

**A** teenage girl whose only name we got as Lawrence is reported to have been arrested alongside her boyfriend in Yaounde.

The teenager was nabbed after faking her kidnap.

The duo are said to have been arrested over the weekend after news of the girl's alleged kidnapping went viral on social media.

According to information gathered, the teen is said to have gone out of their home on July 22 and later called her parents to inform them of her involvement in an accident.

Minutes later, we gathered that she called back to inform her parents she had been kidnapped by unknown individuals insisting that the accident was a ploy to kidnap her.

Worried about the situation, her parents are said to have posted pictures of their daughter on social media and equally contacted forces of law and order.

Investigations are said to have been launched immediately to ascertain the whereabouts of the young girl.

According to information made known by the National Gendarmerie Brigade, “we received a complaint from the parents of the girl declaring that she was abducted and



**L-R: Lawrence, lover arrested by gendarme officers**

immediately an investigation was launched to bring the culprits to face the law”.

“Officers of the Central Post Office Gendarmerie with the help of the phone she used to contact her parents came up with the intelligent detector and this led to the apprehension a 33-year-old student of a professional school in Yaounde at the Cradat neighbourhood. During his arrest he was caught hand-in-hand with the alleged kidnapped lady,” the report added.

The report went to disclosed that “questioned, the duo confessed the girl's kidnapping was nothing but a scheme cooked up by the both of them in order to live freely with their love relationship, this without the suspicion of the young girl's parents...”.

The duo, the report added has been arrested and detained pending investigations that are said to have been opened at the Gendarmerie Post to ascertain the matter.



# Military strategises to end separatist fighters' incursions in West region

*Cont'd from page 1*

The new strategy was adopted during a lengthy crisis meeting organized Friday July 23 in the town of Mbouda, Bamboutos division of the West region.

It was Defence Minister, Joseph Beti Assomo who chaired the in-camera security meeting in the presence of West region governor, Awa Fonka Augustine and the commander of the 5th Joint Military Region, General Nka Valère.

The meeting was also attended by the Senior Divisional Officers, SDOs of the Bamboutos, Mifi, Menoua and Noun divisions of the West region.

The security meeting in Mbouda took place less than a month following a deadly attack carried out by separatist fighters in the locality of Babadjou in the West region in which two gendarmerie officers were killed.

Meanwhile speaking at the start of the security meeting in Mbouda, Minister Beti Assomo said he was in the West region on the instructions of the Head of State, Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces to take stock of operations to maintain and restore order as well as protect people and their property in the area.

He recounted that "for some months now, we have been witnessing incursions carried out by armed terrorists from the neighboring region of the North West, a region which as you all know, alongside the South West have been observing a socio-political crisis for some years now"

The attacks by the Ambazonia terrorists have been carried out in the Bamboutos, Noun and Menoua divisions which border the Anglophone regions.

While the Noun and Bamboutos divisions share borders with the North West region, Menoua division is gateway to crisis-hit Lebialem division of the South West region.

The Bamboutos has witnessed the bloodiest attacks orchestrated by Ambazonia fighters.

The first attack in the Bamboutos was carried out in January 2018, according Minister Assomo.

In a rare press briefing shortly after



**Minister Assomo chairing security meeting in Mbouda**



**Mayor of Mbouda welcoming Minister Assomo as West region governor looks on**

Friday's security meeting, Minister Assomo said a new strategy had been adopted to fight the separatist fighters but did not say what the new strategy entails.

He said during the meeting "we examined the situation and we have taken a series of measures to prevent such attacks in the West region. We can't give details of what we discussed for security reasons".

The Guardian Post however gathered that government plans to set up vigilante groups in communities in the West region bordering the North West and South West regions as well as beef up intelligence.

In an exchange with newsmen after Friday's meeting, Noun Senior Divisional Officer, Donatien Um said he was leaving the meeting a satisfied man.

"...I think I am satisfied because the Minister of defence came right here to see

for himself what has been happening".

The SDO said the Minister "has reassured us that the safety of the population is priority to the state. We know that the task is not easy but the fact that he has come himself, is reassuring".

## Disturbing attacks by armed separatists

The Noun division just like the Bamboutos are amongst the hardest hit by Ambazonia fighters' incursions in the West region.

The latest of such attacks by Amba fighters was in July this year.

During the attack, two gendarmes were reportedly murdered at a control post in Zavion, a locality in Babadjou of the Bamboutos division.

According to the Governor of the West

region, Awa Fonka Augustine, the attack took place in the morning of Wednesday July 14.

The separatist fighters are said to have left Santa in the North West region to commit the atrocity in West region, according to the governor.

We gathered that the gunmen wearing regular military uniforms were seen descending the hills on a bike from Magha towards the Checkpoint at Zavion.

As they approached, the Gendarmes on duty thought they were their colleagues.

The two gunmen then opened fire, killing two on the spot while one escaped with bullet wounds on him.

"It is terrible and regrettable that despite all appeals for dialogue and reconciliation, people continue to spill blood of fellow Cameroonians..." the governor regretted before appealing "...to the population of this region to collaborate with the forces of law and order to be able to put an end to this waste of human lives as well as work with the forces of law and order to bring peace to this region and elsewhere in Cameroon".

Earlier in March 2020, a video circulated on social media in which separatist fighters were seen celebrating the confiscation of weapons belonging to security forces carted away during an attack in Galim of the West region.

In the video, the armed men had identified themselves as members of a separatist militia group in Ndop, Ngoketunjia Division of the North West region.

The weapons they brandished included over thirty guns of different categories, dresses and bags of Police and military men, and motorcycle belonging to the police force.

In a release issued then by Communication Minister, Emmanuel Rene Sadi following the attack, the government spokesperson had disclosed that separatist fighters had attacked a police station and a gendarmerie brigade in Galim, Bamboutos Division of the West region.

According the release, during the attack, eight people were killed, including four civilians and four soldiers and several others wounded.

# Cameroonian couple, three kids perish in fire incident

*Cont'd from page 1*

The family head whose name we got as Albert Djilogue, his wife alongside three of their four children are said to have been burnt to death in the wild flame that is said to have engulfed their home.

Local sources are quoted as having revealed that the flames took the neighbourhood by surprise while all had gone to bed.

An eyewitness is quoted as disclosing that "...the fire broke out at the wee hours of that ill-fated morning when the entire neighbourhood was sleeping. We heard a loud noise like an explosion and before we could come out of our homes, the flames had already surrounded their home. All attempts to rescue them failed. The man, his wife and three of their four



**The late Albert Djilogue & wife**

children were burnt to death".

"It took the intervention of the fire-

fighting brigade and the population for the flames not to spread to other houses in the building where the family was living...I have never seen flame spread in a home that fast like what I saw in this house..." the witness further stated.

"The little girl who survived the incident was safed by the grace of God but she received first degree burns and was rushed to the hospital. We pray she recovers from the injuries," another neighbour is said to have narrated.

Sources linked the cause of the flame to a poor manipulation of the gas cylinder which they might have left open before retiring to bed.

Informed of the situation, the forces of law and order are said to have stormed the scene to have firsthand information.



# Head teachers protest as sub treasurer 'vamooses' with running budget

Cont'd from page 1

Meanwhile the protesting teachers, according to sources, defied insecurity scare to march through the streets of Nwa with placards.

Going by the head teachers, since the start of the 2019/2020 academic year, they are yet to receive a dime as running budgets for their schools.

They said despite the fact that the budgets had been disbursed at the divisional level, the sub treasurer has refused handing them the money.

"...the head teachers are supposed to be receiving the second semester but he has not given the first semester and the second semester is running out. Meaning that money meant for the running of schools in Nwa subdivision for 2020, 2021 has not been paid out. We are tired of his several fake promises," one of the angry teachers is quoted as having said.

"The said sub treasury nowhere to be found. He doesn't even take his phone calls or reply text messages sent to him," another head teacher added.

A senior official working in one of the offices related to the matter, who elected anonymity, confirmed the grievances stating that: "With the decentralisation process which is in view and ongoing, head teachers are no longer expected to receive their money (budget) at the divisional level but rather at the sub divisional level. The money was sent to the various sub treasurers in the subdivisions... but the management budgets for the head teachers in Nwa were not given to them".

The official explained that: "What is clear is that, the money that was sent, the



Some head teachers protesting at Nwa Sub Treasury

sub treasurer for Nwa, cashed it but until the academic year ran out, he still didn't give the head teachers... The head teachers went to the streets yesterday because they are angry. They have the right to this money to get schools functional".

According to an undertaken signed by the accused on June 28, 2021, copy of which The Guardian Post stumbled on, he had pledged to settle the head teachers for the two semesters of 2021 on July 15.

However, over a week after the supposed date for payment, his whereabouts remains unknown.

## Accused speaks from 'hideout'

After several attempts to reach the accused by phone, we succeeded getting his reaction on the issue over the weekend.

When we finally got him on phone, he

claimed he is in Yaounde to sit an exam. He added that the exam was taking place same day he was due to meet the disgruntled teachers.

"Yes, I was to meet those people on that date, but it was same day I was writing exams in Yaounde".

When he was first asked if the claims of unpaid budget for two years was founded, he refused commenting. He claimed that the said schools claiming unpaid budgets have not been functioning.

"It has come to my notice that so many schools are not functioning but put fake names to collect money," the accused said.

Quizzed on why he signed an undertaking to pay the head teachers, when their schools were not functioning, the seemingly confused sub treasurer confessed that he recognises having taken

such an engagement.

Added he: "I plan to pay their money in the first week of August 2021".

## 'Action discourages schools attendance'

When contacted to get his reaction on the happenstances in his constituency, the Member of Parliament for Nwa, Hon Adamu Edward, expressed regrets.

He said such an action only comes to water down efforts they have been making to ensure effective school resumption in the area.

If nothing is done to salvage the situation, he insisted, it will help to kill the functioning of schools in Nwa sub division.

"For all the other sub divisions, the management budget for the Primary Schools have been disbursed to the head teachers except for Nwa sub division. Letting this go would just be helping to kill the functioning of schools in Nwa sub division," Hon Adamu told The Guardian Post.

"Few weeks ago, the SDO for Donga Mantung and the Regional Treasurer gave the run-away sub treasurer two weeks to pay the money but since then, they can't trace where he is," the MP further explained, adding that "he has not paid the money and has gone into hiding. Something needs to be done if we must rescue the next academic year that will soon start".

"It is true that not all the schools in Nwa are functioning but the majority of schools around Nwa town are functional. Why won't he hand over the budget to the teachers", he concluded.

# US offers Cameroon over 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines

By Mua Patrick Mughe

The United States of America has assisted Cameroon with 303,050 Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine as part of efforts to combat the spread of the virus.

The single-shot doses arrived at the Yaoundé Nsimalen International Airport on the evening of July 21, the US embassy said in a statement forwarded to The Guardian Post.

The donation to Cameroon, the statement said was made possible by the United States Government as part of the US government's global efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

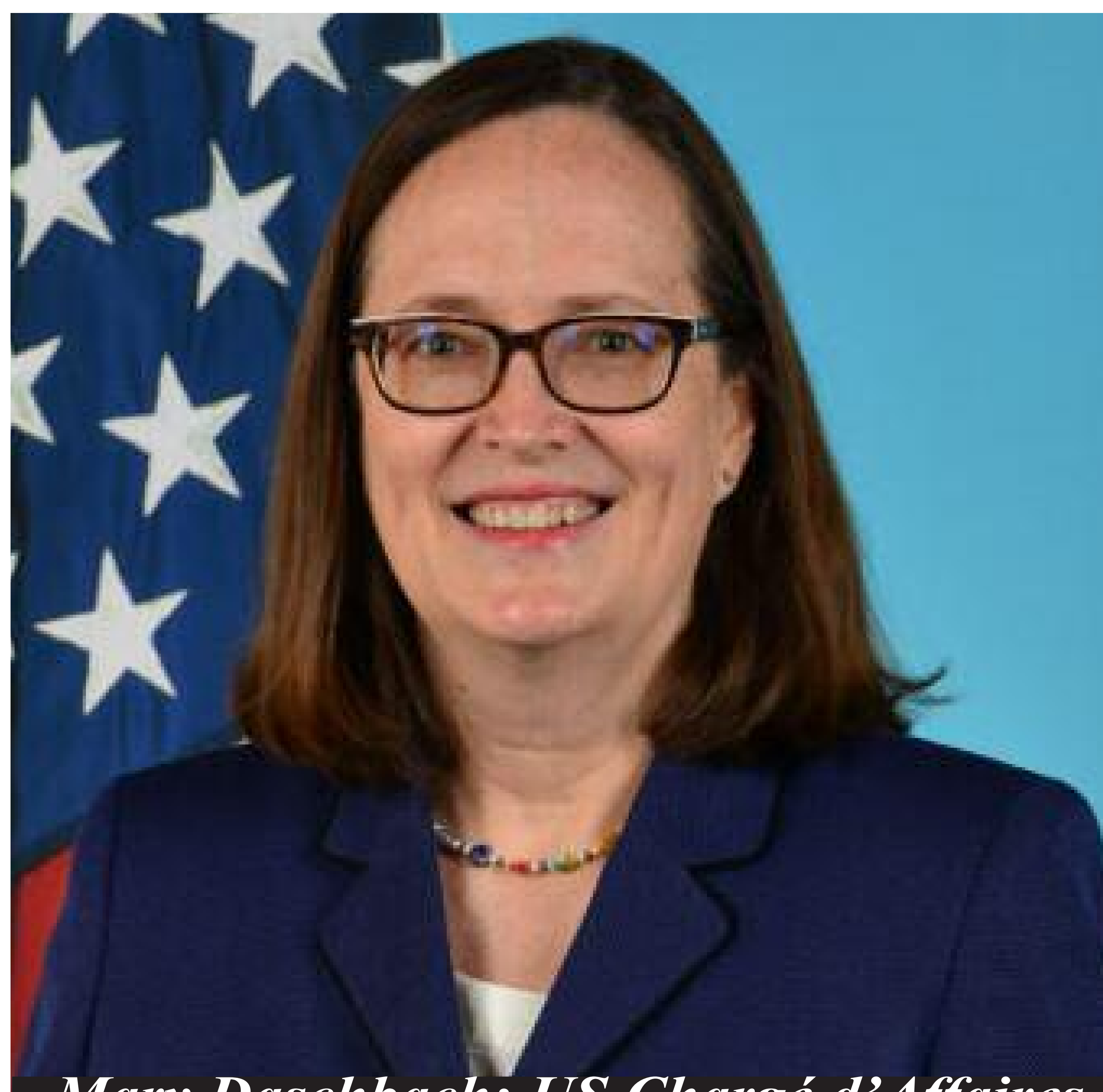
Because the vaccine confers immunity in a single dose, this shipment will provide immunity to over 300,000 Cameroonians, added the statement.

"Vaccines save lives. We are proud to help Cameroon, our friend and partner, with this donation," said US Chargé d'Affaires, Mary Daschbach.

"Health of Cameroonians is one of the top priorities for US foreign assistance in Cameroon. US public health experts have worked hand-in-hand with Cameroonian officials since the start of the pandemic to protect public health and strengthen the response to COVID-19" she added.

Since the outbreak, US Government agencies have contributed over \$21 million, a circa FCFA 12 billion to help Cameroon combat COVID-19 and its impact.

The US contributions to COVAX, through the US Agency for International Development, USAID has been supporting the purchase and delivery of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for the world's most vulnerable and at-risk populations in 92 low



Mary Daschbach: US Chargé d'Affaires

and middle-income countries. The said support is in addition to public health expertise provided through the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC for global COVID-19 response efforts and is critical to controlling the pandemic, slowing the emergence of new variants, and helping to restart the global economy.

The new 303,050 doses which arrived Yaounde last week are part of Washington's commitment to share US vaccine supplies with the world.

The donated vaccines are part of the US pledge to initially provide at least 25 million of 80 million doses globally with Africa.

The US government coordinated closely with the African Union, Africa CDC, and COVAX on the

country allocations.

"As we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic at home and work to end the pandemic worldwide, President Biden has promised that the United States will be an arsenal of vaccines for the world" said the statement issued last week.

In April this year, the United States had congratulated Cameroon following the arrival of 391,200 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine on April 17, 2021.

The shipment, the US said was made possible through the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, a global initiative to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

"Health of Cameroonians is one of the top priorities for U.S. foreign assistance in Cameroon. We have worked side by side with Government of Cameroon health officials for years and have invested over half a billion dollars to strengthen the health system and fight HIV, TB, malaria and other diseases, including COVID-19," said the US Embassy.

The United States has worked closely with Cameroon since the start of the pandemic to protect public health and strengthen the response to COVID-19.

Since the outbreak, U.S. government agencies have contributed over \$21 million to help Cameroon combat COVID-19 and manage its impact.

The said resources have helped Cameroon implement activities in risk communication and community engagement, infection prevention and control, and laboratory strengthening, to control the spread of the virus.





## Don't downplay anti-Biya protest in Geneva

Cont'd from page 1

This part of the country has been witnessing armed-rebellion for the past four years; a situation, as experts say, is in its stage of "radicalisation": Harshly repressed sociopolitical protests metamorphosed into an armed-rebellion which has gradually become a nuisance. The military walkover envisaged

by the authorities has not taken place. Even if it does take place (which is more and more difficult), it would not be marked by a political victory: Things would never be the same again. And each day that passes, weakens our economically, and then strategically the power of Yaounde. It is glaring: The war-like pride of the early days has given way to doubt, and more and more to fear. We know how a war begins. But no one knows how it ends...

Cameroon's future also depends

on its economic situation. An economy which has remained in a kind of unstable equilibrium. This economy was saved thanks to the dynamism and industriousness of Cameroonians, whom on a daily basis leave their homes to "get something doing". From companies, large and small, to the smallest informal operators, Cameroonians work and create value, without the support they should deserve: In other countries where states care about their citizens, huge financial and material support are given to them to

cushion the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. What is the situation in Cameroon? Instead, the system ruthlessly punctures and confiscates everything that comes its way. For how long will we live under the regime of exploitation, puncture and confiscation for the interest of the system and to maintain the ostentatious lifestyle of its Prince? Here too, a part of Cameroon's future is still being played out. Until when, will these two Cameroons still coexist: The one that works and the one which

lives on sweat of others?

Taking this into context, the big man's escapades on the shores of Lake Geneva, is now more concerned with his old bones than the heavy load in front of him. It is no longer really of any importance, for Cameroonians are rather thinking of building a country where one would live in peace, work and live on the fruits of his/her labour.

*\*Haman Mana is publisher of the French language daily newspaper, Le Jour*

## Cameroonian African Fact-checking Fellows commit to preach, live peace



Fellows with trainers, coordinators

By Giyo Ndzi

Ten journalists and digital rights activists drawn from five regions of the national territory have taken the engagement to demonstrate responsible reporting for peace, thanks to skills gathered from the African Fact-checking Fellowship.

The journalists, drawn from different media organs in the Adamawa, North West, South West, Littoral and Centre regions, came to the close of the third and final session of the fourth cohort of the fellowship on Saturday.

Meeting in the seaside town of Limbe, they were drilled on digital security by Silicon Mountain's Churchill Nanje and operating fact-checking units by journalist and activist, Annie Payep-Nlepe. Dania Ebongue, Blogger and head of the Association of Cameroonian Bloggers, also drilled the journalists on primary steps to blogging as well as identifying and combatting the spread of fake news.

The session also featured presentations and interactive sessions from participants who presented ideas for their fact-checking and Social Media Health Reports as well as community meetups, all requirements for their active engagements in the initiative.

Saturday's session was the third and final of the AFF

Cameroon cohort 4 fellows, coordinated by the #defyhatenow team. Initiated in May, the fellows were given practical lessons at every session, and each required to carry out a series of projects and tasks including meetups, social media health reports and fact-checking reports.

The experience, the #defyhatenow team notes, is yet to come to an end. Following the last physical session, more activities by the fellows, Ngala Desmond, #defyhatenow country leader, explained, will be coordinated virtually.

To him, the training was oriented towards "... more social responsibility and transparency in the content they produce and publish. This is not only for stories on Facebook but also in their newsrooms".

What is now expected of the cohorts, Ngala Desmond explained, is that they set an example in their reporting and more generally, in their newsrooms.

"We are also hoping that we have tickled them enough and we are ushering them out of their comfort zone to fact-check stories and give a better appraisal of these stories to the public," he explained.

### Effective follow-up

In addition to the African Fact-checking Fellowship Cameroon

cohort sessions, Ngala Desmond hinted that plans are in gestation for a gathering to bring together fact-checking fellows from across the country. The move, he noted, will introduce them to the national community, boosting their scope and reach.

"We hope that by the end of this year we will be able to establish a national network of Fact-checkers, those people who are interested in getting information out there rightly and correctly. By so doing we would have reduced misinformation and disinforma-

tion evidently," he pledged.

The same platform, he explained further, will enable them operate at the continental level and beyond, given that it puts the fact-checking fellows in the spotlight of combatting fake news and hate speech online.

In this regard, he stated that the team was doing all it could, "... to expose all of the fellows to better opportunities for fact-checking and trainings they can have... We are here to follow the up and make sure they get within these networks and at the end of the day we want them to get right information out there, reduce misinformation as well as correct stories and put out accurate information".

"They [the fellows] are within a network which means we are reaching out to them online and we remain together to make sure we follow them up. This was a physical session which lasted three months and then the virtual session lasts until we are very satisfied that the work we are doing is accurate," he noted further.

## Three teenagers kidnapped near Edea

By Macwalter Njapteh

The whereabouts of some three teenagers in Dizangue, a locality situated about ten kilometres from Edéa of the Littoral region has remained unknown days after they were kidnapped by unidentified individuals.

According to reports, the children whose names The Guardian Post got as Junior Eyong, Achille Ngwé and Brillant Essombé, aged 13, 11, and 10 respectively, were last seen Monday July 19.

In the company of their mother, named Elise Bikek, they are said to have gone to the farm to collect foodstuff early morning that day.

After dropping off her children to gather the foodstuff,

she then decided to visit another farm nearby.

It is on her return that she noticed the absence of the kids, according to sources close to the incident.

After raising an alert, a search operation was immediately launched in the surrounding bushes but to no avail.

The mother is said to have reported the incident to the Dizangue Gendarmerie Brigade after receiving calls from the alleged kidnappers.

"Elise Bikek told officers of the Dizangue gendarmerie brigade that she had received phone calls from two people allegedly living in the town of Mbongo, not far from Dizangue" a source said.

The alleged kidnappers are said to have demanded a ran-

som of 30 million FCFA for their release.

An investigation has been opened while a search for the kidnapped children is underway.

It should be noted that the phenomenon of kidnappings for ransoms has become recurrent in recent times.

Some weeks ago, a gang of three alleged kidnappers were arrested by security forces in Douala.

The thugs were said to have been involved in the kidnap of a young lady last June in Yaoundé.

After kidnapping the woman, they are said to have proceeded in demanding the sum of 3 million FCFA from her family in exchange of her freedom.



Yaounde:

# NCC boss challenges journalists to respect professional ethics

By Macwalter Njapteh

The President of the National Communication Council, NCC, Joseph Chebongkeng has challenged journalists and other media practitioners to strictly respect the ethics of the profession.

He made the call during his two-day maiden tour to media houses in the nation's political capital, Yaounde.

The sensitisation and fact-finding visit ended Friday July 23, 2021.

At each stop of the tour, the boss of the media regulatory body took stock of the working conditions of journalists but also challenged them to respect the laws guiding the profession.

Appraising the two-day outing, the pious NCC president said: "It has been quite an interesting outing by the Communication Council. We have seen the working conditions, we have met several media organs".

He added that: "...with the new approach we are taking and with the sensitization we have undertaken many of them are becoming aware of the fact that we have a much more important role than what they think they were doing".

According to the NCC head, given the inexperience, financial instability and relatively young age of those exerting the profession, they are vulnerable to dance to the tune of politicians or business gurus to the detriment of ethics of the fourth estate.

## Caution against sensationalism

The Chebongkeng -led delegation went on to caution the staff at the different media organs to shun any form of sensationalism especially in the present context of the country.

"You can go to the social media to know what is happening but you must investigate the story, that's the challenge for professional journalists today. And do not be carried away by the sensation of the social media"



NCC president (R) speaking live on RTS radio during visit



NCC delegation, Mutation newspaper staff in group photo

he urged, before adding that "if the profession in Cameroon has to survive, it will be thanks to you and me, by making a difference to what is said on social media and on what is written on paper".

"As we strive for excellence we must not lose sight of the fact that we have to remain

professional" he added.

## Promised collaboration

The NCC delegation were equally enticed by the collaborative spirit of the different media houses visited.

Be they television houses, radio or newspapers, they promised to work together with the council.

"...most have taken the move we have undertaken to begin in a collaborative manner with the NCC," he said adding that "we are glad that CRTV has offered us 30 minutes of its airtime for us to carry out sensitization and education of the public and media owners".

"We were also glad that Le Jour newspaper has given us a full page for us each month. RIS radio has also offered to accompany the NCC. The Guardian Post as well and being a daily, I think we are starting on a very good footing with the media organs, given our sensitization and listen ears which they granted us" Chebongkeng added.

## Training of journalists

During the visit, it was noticed that the majority of those exercising the profession are mostly youths and lacked experience to meet squarely the contemporary challenges of the State.

To mitigate this, devoted presidents announce training programmes to upgrade the journalists especially the young ones.

"We will continue to sensitize, to educate and to organise workshops and seminar," he declared, but warning that "we will not hesitate to punish if need be".

"In Yaounde for instance, we were informed that there are several radio stations operating illegally and it is in those radio stations operating illegally that unprofessional attitude from reporters who are not trained in the first place," he advanced.

"We hope that in the months and years to come, we will be able to make media professionals understand that a good media organ is not the one that insult or goes for sensationalism but one that carries out its work professionally as the ethics of the profession dictates it," NCC patron hoped.

# Banks urged to facilitate credit access to boost economic growth

By Macwalter Njapteh

Banking institutions have been urged to facilitate credit accession to boost economic growth of the country.

Economic experts made the appeal during the third Nkafu Public Debates organised by the Nkafu Policy Institute of the Dennis & Lenora Foretia Foundation.

It held Thursday July 22 in Yaounde.

Holding under the theme "Obtaining credit in Cameroon: Credit bureaus are essential to facilitate the process," it brought together government officials, entrepreneurs, renowned academics, researchers and civil society actors.

According to Dr Jean Cedric Kouam, deputy director of Economic Affairs at the Nkafu Policy Institute, banking institutions have indispensable role to play in boosting the economic environment of the country. This, he assert, by facilitating access to credit for entrepreneurs who are the lifeline of any economy.

"Over 90% are employed in the informal sector but the majority of it are entrepreneurs. These people need access to finances and so banks have to play an indispensable role to ensure that they can access very cheap finance and create more economic activities, generate employment and support sustainable development," the economist said.

Citing challenges faced by the entrepreneurs in accessing loans, he enlisted lack of bank accounts and collateral among others.

Some of the difficulties these entrepreneurs have is that they don't have a bank



Panellists, moderator during public debate



Organisers, panellists, participants in group photo

accounts and therefore they cannot access credits. If you don't ...so financial exclusion is the first challenge. They also have the problem of collateral.

"...Without collateral, they cannot borrow to finance their businesses and dreams successfully. It is very important that the banks come up with ways to find entrepreneurs

with prosperous ideas and actually fund them because these entrepreneurs might be in informal networks like 'njangis' and other and might not be able to access the loans directly from the banks but it's up to the banks to come up with clever strategies to be able to identify them base spending, how they travel, and base on what they buy. These are solutions the banking sector can actually leverage to unleash Cameroon and Africa's potential," Dr Kouam added.

During the debate, some experts argued that credit bureaus are essential in surmounting hindrances to credit accession. Meanwhile, other experts opined that the existing credit system remains efficient, granted that procedures put in place to obtain credit are strictly followed by those concerned.

Ways of improving Cameroon's Doing Business Index performance, benefits and challenges of introducing credit bureaus, and equitable access to credit for women were examined and recommendations made.

## Challenge for women

During the debate, it was revealed that despite the fact that they represent 76% of total borrowers from micro-finance institutions in the world, women's access to credit in Cameroon still remains large low due to the lack of guarantees, discriminatory regulations, and insecure employment. According to the experts, credit bureaus that collect and share micro-finance data are more likely to benefit female entrepreneurship by building credit histories for women.



# CSO advocates good governance, transparency in PTA funds management

By Brenda Kiven

The Centre for the Promotion of African Values, CEPROVA, a civil society organisation, is currently organising conferences and workshops on the promotion of good governance and transparency in the management of Parent/Teacher Associations, PTA, funds in public secondary schools across the Wouri and Littoral regions.

In a debate organised by CEPROVA over the weekend in Douala, the panelists talked extensively on the need for these PTAs to be accountable in all budgetary transactions while following the necessary legal procedures.

According to the National Coordinator of CEPROVA, Victor Youmbi, the current health crisis has added the challenges of poor families who go miles to sponsor their children in schools, hence these parents should be made to understand why PTA levies are increased, with schools insisting that all should be paid at once.

"CEPROVA thought it wise to assist poor families by proposing the amelioration of governance of PTAs, for parents to know why yearly PTA fees increase. They should be ok with the fee and it should be something that was agreed upon by them," he stated.

In 2005, the Ministry of Social Affairs,



PTA representatives, CSOs, media men and women after debate in Douala

during a national solidarity forum, defined new norms of vulnerability.

Youngmi said its time the State makes use of this, especially during this trying moments of COVID-19, to favour the sponsorship of vulnerable children.

"We asked ourselves the question why PTA fees kept increasing every year and are sometimes high for persons who have little and are many. And why these PTA fees should be paid at once and not in installments. We are helping vulnerable children and once there was this child who didn't receive his report card because he

didn't pay PTA levy in public secondary school in Douala. Those are some of the things those of us in the Civil Society are interested in," he noted.

One of the jurists during the debate, Kenne Tiwa Patrick, said it was an opportunity to draw the attention of PTAs and the Civil Society in general on the management of PTA funds and remind them that those are public. As such, he said, these funds have to be accounted for accordingly.

Kenne said they have to follow up legal texts on the subject and follow a procedure

which is required because "we have noticed PTAs sometimes take these funds as their private business, meanwhile they are running into some risks. These risks involve embezzlement, corruption and mismanagement," he insisted.

Parents were called upon to effectively participate in the voting, management and control of these funds.

Given the fact that public secondary schools in Cameroon officially depend on PTA levies to survive since it was made compulsory in Article 46(2) Decree No. 2001/041 of February 10, 2001, CEPROVA has been gathering PTAs in Wouri along with Civil Society Organisations and the media to expatiate on the need to check and accounts of PTA levies which are sometimes managed like private businesses.

Although these PTAs are supposed to publish reports on all their budgetary activities, publish annual calendar for dissemination of information on public finances, amongst others, some PTA presidents run offices in their suit cases and deal only with the school administrators.

Under a programme of the United States Embassy, CEPROVA aims at protecting the rights of children, and good governance of PTA funds at public secondary schools in Wouri.

## Fundong council commits to champion inclusion of persons with disabilities

By Wanchia Cynthia

The Fundong council, Boyo division of the North West region, through its mayor, has committed to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all actions of the municipality.

Mayor Denis Awoh Ndong made took the commitment while speaking recently during a workshop organised by the Council for leaders of Associations of Persons with Disabilities selected within Fundong. He stated that Community-Based Inclusive Development, CBID, is the best strategy for achieving inclusion.

In his opening remarks, the Mayor noted that the workshop holding at the Council Hall was thanks to the partnership between the Fundong Council and the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Programme, SEEPD, of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, CBC, Health Services.

"I can testify that as a result of the strategic workshops and continuous capacity-building of the council staff by the SEEPD Programme on CBID, the Council is poised to implement its CBID strategy developed in 2020 with a view to ensure the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in all aspects of community development. The identification of persons with disabilities within the municipality is a priority for the Council given that the exercise will give a picture of the number of persons with disabilities in the municipality," Mayor Awoh explained.

He added that: "The council is glad to announce that in its collaboration with the SEEPD, there are many projects that the Council will be carrying out which are aimed at empowering Persons with Disabilities with capaci-



ties that will enable them to actively participate in actions within the municipalities".

During the workshop, participants who were drilled on the concept of CBID, and they expressed some challenges that they are face as persons living with disabilities. These challenges include access to information, infrastructures, and discrimination, amongst others.

With these challenges, they recommended that the participation of Persons with Disabilities in political, social, and economic life should be facilitated and increased and the database for persons with disabilities within the Council should be established.

Mayor Ndong, in response, gave instructions for the immediate establishment of a database of Persons with Disabilities which will inform and guide the Council in its efforts to empower people with disabilities.

This move sets the pace in the race to win the prestigious CBID Award announced by the SEEPD Programme for best councils promoting inclusive development in the North West

region.

Persons with Disabilities in the municipality appreciated the Mayor and Fundong Council for the strategies put in place to ensure their inclusion.

The initiative is part of the 4th phase of the SEEPD Programme on strengthening systems to promote CBID.

The Fundong Council and the SEEPD Programme of the CBC Health Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, which marked another term of continuous collaboration in mainstreaming disability in municipal development. The Fundong Council, which is one of the councils in the North West region with a strong stand on ensuring inclusion, is on a fast lane to implement its actions as specified on the MoU with the SEEPD Programme.

The workshop, organised by the Council to develop a strategy within the municipality to mainstream inclusion, was just one of many actions put in place to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## Wild fire leaves IDPs homeless in Limbe

By Noela Ebob Bisong

A wild fire from an unknown source, on Friday, July 23 wiped out a three-roomed building in Limbe, leaving homeless some Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, who were seeking refuge in the Town of Friendship.

The incident took place at the Amba Bay vicinity in the heart of the city.

The semi-permanent structure hosted a lot of people displaced by the war in the North West and South West regions.

Though the exact source of the fire is still unknown, reports suggest it could have sparked off from a gas cooker, as others have not relent attributing it to mysticism.

A source disclosed: "This was the third time fire came out from that particular room within two weeks! The first two incidents were quickly addressed but today the case is different."

According to the source, who opted for anonymity, the past fires were said to have emanated beneath the bed of the occupant of the room. This last fire flared out while the said occupant was away, and brave folks had to break in to put out the fire. Their efforts were reinforced by the city's Fire-Fighting Unit, which paid off to contain the flames from spreading to nearby buildings.

Though a huge property loss was incurred, many rejoiced that the incident recorded no deaths.

Thoughts remain with the IDPs who are now beckoning for assistance from kind-hearted individuals to help in their plight.

Fire incidents in the city of Limbe are not new, their sources usually unknown!



Another Limbe fire incident incurs much material damage



# Cameroon still in search of first medal at Tokyo Olympics

By Deng Eric

Cameroonian athletes to the delayed 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan which opened Friday July 23 have begun the race to grab medals at the planetary event.

Boxer, Albert Ayissi Mengue was the first Cameroonian at the games to pick up a win in the 69kilogram division, defeating Eswatini's Dlamini Thasibo at the 16th finals.

The referee had to stop the fight during the third round after Thasibo couldn't withstand punches from the Cameroonian who won the first two rounds.

Mengue will hope to reach the quarter finals when he challenges Walsh Aidan from Ireland early today July 26.

Cameroon's second boxer in the planetary event will get into the ring for his first fight against Tshama Dvaid of the Democratic Republic of Congo today.

The country's first defeat and subsequent elimination was in table tennis where Sara Hanffou Nana was eliminated by Polina Trifonova of Bulgaria.

The lawyer cum tennis player who is on her third participation at the final phase of the Olympic Games reached the second round of



Cameroonian boxer, Ayissi Mengue(centre) celebrate qualification for 8th finals

the competition in London in 2012.

The other Cameroonian athletes in weightlifting, swimming, judo, wrestling and athletics will get into action in the days.

## Tunisia offers Africa first medals

At press time, Tunisia was the only African country participating at the Tokyo games that had won at least a medal. The North African country as at Sunday had won two medals (gold and silver medals) in swimming and taekwondo.

Tunisia's first medal(silver) at the Games and also the first for the continent was won by Mohammed Khali Jendoubi who lost the Under 58 kilograms fight to Italy's Vito Dell'Aquila.

18-year-Tunisian swimmer, Ahmed Hanaoui was the surprise athlete as he grabbed gold in 400 metres free style.

As at Sunday, 35 out of the 206 participating countries had won at least a medal with China topping the chart after haven grabbed 11 medals, six in gold.

## Limbe II:

# Mayor Woka Ngale revives inter-quarter football tourney after decade

By Noela Ebob Bisong

The Limbe II municipality in Fako division of the South West region Saturday, July 24 vibrated to the return of holidays football tournament dubbed New Generation Inter-quarter Football Tournament.

The football tourney which is an initiative of the youthful Mayor Ndivo Woka Ngale of Limbe II was returning to action after nearly a decade absence.

Ndivo Woka told the population at the tournament's launch that COVID-19 and other challenges cannot continue to hold back the activities of the municipality

The vision bearer of the project said "my people of Limbe II municipality, I understand that you have been left for a decade without such an opportunity offered for you to showcase your God-given talent which might have marketed you to your destiny... Football being the dream destiny for most of our youth was almost hijacked or taken away from you by some destiny killers but we thank God for a new generation and a new team."

He was hopeful that talents from the tourney shall in the nearest future, be playing with the National Team, Champions League etc.

The Mayor observed that the tournament should serve as a platform for reconciliation, forgiveness, tolerance and love etc, revealing that "we have also after a decade organised Holiday jobs for about 150 youths of our municipality and scholarship to some students."

Launching the maiden edition



Chief Mayor Ndivo Woka(far right) others during launching of holiday tourney



Mayor Ndivo Woka, Limbe II DO & other officials with one of the participating teams

of the tournament, the Divisional Officer for Limbe II, Serge Abel Meke, praised the engagement and determination of the Mayor of Limbe II, HRH Ndivo Woka Ngale Daniel, to put the youth at the centre of his mandate.

Meke used the occasion to call on the population of the subdivision to safeguard sporting facilities in the municipality, especially the Limbe Omnisport Stadium.

Describing the tournament as a competition of hope, the DO called for fair play, hoping for a beautiful piece to attract the attention of all and sundry.

The tournament with 10 teams

which cuts across the various villages of the municipality is being powered by a 1.5 million FCFA cash prize, attractive enough to get the best out of the young talents.

The opener saw an interesting though barren encounter between Venus Petrolex FC of Mokundange against Limbola FC.

Holding under the theme "Unity, Peace and Love - Key to our Development", the sub divisional soccer jamboree is programmed to run from July 24 to August 7, 2021, played in four locations in the Limbe II municipality, including the amazing Limbe Omnisport Stadium.

## Men Football at Tokyo Olympics: S. Africa's hopes of knock stage dashed, Cote D'Ivoire fights onout



South African U-23 players looking dejected after defeat to France

Andre-Pierre Gignac scored a second-half hat-trick as France came from behind three times to beat South Africa 4-3 and keep their Olympic hopes alive. Having lost their Group A opener, France looked to be heading out until former Marseille striker Gignac completed his treble from the penalty spot to level for a third time on 85 minutes, before Teji Savanier grabbed an injury-time winner.

Gignac, who currently plays for Tigres in Mexico, is now top scorer in Tokyo with four goals from two matches.

South Africa, whose hopes of qualifying have now been ended, led three times through second-half goals from Kobamelo Kodisang, Evidence Makgopa and Teboho Mokoena.

Hosts Japan made it two wins

from two later on Sunday, beating Mexico 2-1.

Defending champions Brazil were held to a goalless draw by Ivory Coast in Group D, after Aston Villa midfielder Douglas Luiz was sent off for a trip on former Leeds winger Max Gradel on just 13 minutes.

Luiz was initially booked, but the yellow card was upgraded to red by VAR, after he was deemed to deny a goalscoring opportunity.

Ivory Coast, who won their opener against Saudi Arabia, also had a player dismissed late on as Eboue Kouassi received a second yellow card.

Brazil, captained by former Barcelona defender Dani Alves, still top the group after thrashing Germany in their opening match.

Source:BBC

## African Super League will develop football in the continent -CAF

The chairman of the CAF inter-club competitions committee, Ahmed Yahya talked about how African football will benefit from the Super League project claiming that it's completely different from the European Super League.

During their last meeting in Rabat, CAF president Patrice Motsepe gave his permission for the new Super League project.

According to Yahya, the African Super League will be different from the European one that was rejected by UEFA and multiple top clubs. He claims it will bring more development and financial stability to African clubs.

"In Europe, the project was announced outside the football structure and in open conflict with Uefa," Yahya said.

"The African Super League will be created within soccer structures, respecting the soccer pyramid and seeks to help African soccer clubs grow or, in some cases, survive, providing the financial stability to continue their valuable work of developing young talents and take

them to a higher stage.

"This will be one of the advantages of the African Super League: the ability to establish good practices and requirements that will ultimately benefit football across the continent.

"The details of these requirements will also take shape in the coming months, but will relate to the need for teams to invest in stadiums, quarries, education, women's football.

"We want stronger clubs in Africa. We want fans to be able to enjoy watching their idols play for their clubs in Africa for longer.

"We want players to feel rewarded and attracted to playing this new competition. We want to create conditions for them to think twice or even say no to some offers from Europe if they are not really super interesting.

We know that we will not be able to close the gap between African clubs and clubs from other continents, but we definitely think that this competition can contribute to reducing that gap."

Source:kingfoot.com