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DAILY

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

Basic Education:

World Bank injects 54 billion FCFA to boost teacher recruitment, text book supply

By Doh Bertrand Nua

The World Bank has injected the sum of 54 billion FCFA into the Basic Education sector, to help boost the recruitment of teachers and distribution of textbooks in public schools in the country.

The donation falls within the 3rd phase of the Cameroon Education Reform Project. The said amount was announced by Basic Education Minister, Prof Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa, Friday August 27 during a sectoral meeting.

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Mamfe Diocese:

Amba fighters demand 20 MFCFA ransom for kidnapped Vicar General!

By Noela Ebob Bisong

Separatist fighters are currently demanding 20 MFCFA for the release of kidnapped Vicar General of the Mamfe Diocese, Mgr Julius Agbortoko.

The prelate was kidnapped Sunday in the town of Mamfe in the South West region under unclear circumstances.

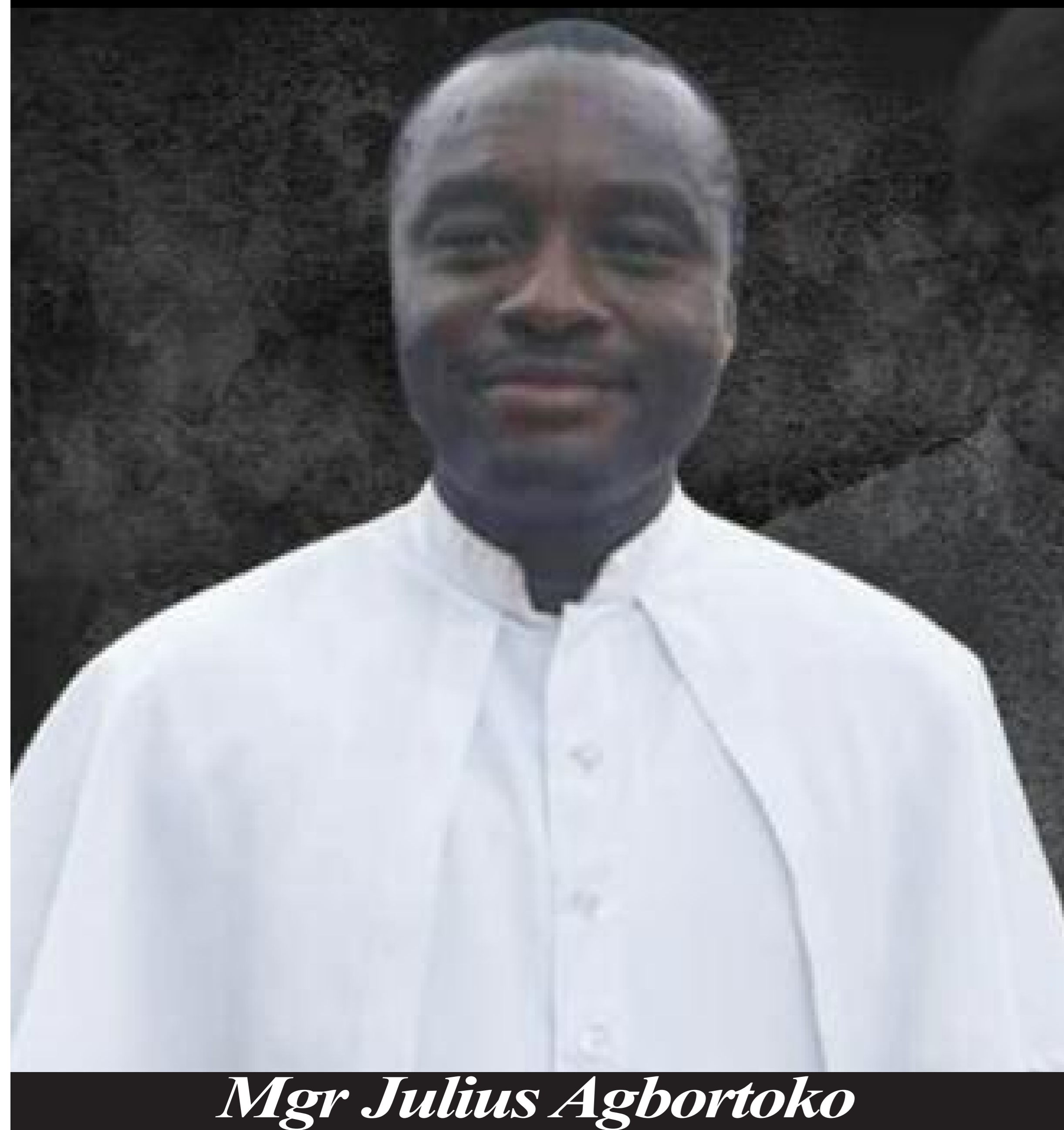
In a statement circulated Monday, the Mamfe Diocese said Mgr Julius Agbortoko was abducted at about

6:30pm Sunday after returning to Mamfe from a pastoral visit in Kokobuma in Meme division.

In the statement, the Chancellor of Mamfe Diocese, Fr Sebastine Sinju recounted that "...about 30 minutes

after his arrival, some young men who identified themselves as separatist fighters bumped into the Major Seminary compound and made their way straight to the residence of Bishop Emeritus Lysinge.

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Mgr Julius Agbortoko

Centre region:

Christians protest suspension of 'witchcraft-cleansing' priest

By Macwalter Njapteh

Hundreds of Christians of the Saints Philippe and Jacques Parish of Ndongko, Nyong and So'o division of the Centre region have staged a protest over the suspension of their priest.

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Police parades suspected fraudster impersonating ministers, ambassadors

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P & T minister takes cybersecurity campaign to Bertoua

Page 7



Minister Minette Libom Li Likeng personally affixing cybersecurity campaign poster in Bertoua

Kumbo:

Separatist fighters raid Shisong market, chase away traders

By Giyo Ndzi

A band of gunmen believed to be separatist fighters yesterday raided the Shisong Market in Kumbo, Bui Division of

the restive North West region, chasing traders away and destroying their goods.

The fighters are said to have stormed the market not far from the

St. Elizabeth Catholic General Hospital/Cardiac Center, in the early hours of the day, chasing away locals who had come to buy and sale.

Cont'd on page 3

Issues of the moment

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

As if national stigmatisation is not bad enough!

It shocks when we hear news of a person being kidnapped. It is even more shocking when the victim is a man of God. One virtually cannot sleep as one keeps imagining what horrors and torture the victim could be going through.

I remember how shocked and embarrassed I felt one Sunday morning in 2004 when we were in a Sunday school class in a church in the Carrefour Valley neighbourhood of Yaounde. A brother in Christ who expresses himself only in the other national language asked me whether I was a Nigerian since my surname sounded like a name answered by people from Nigeria. It is a question I have been answering over and over again since I became an adult; moved out of the village and kept trying to make my mark in a world where discrimination based on race, tribe and even nationality reign supreme.

I told my Christian brother that I come from a border community where we bear many names in common with people from the south eastern part of Nigeria, since we were of the same ethnic stock.

When I mentioned Eyumojock sub division, in Manyu division, South West region specifically, the brother in Christ dismissed me with a wave of the hand stating: "C'est vous les secessionists." That was long before the Ambazonia war broke out.

The Christian brother was throwing the punch a few years after late Chief Ayamba Otun, then leader of the Southern Cameroons National Council, SCNC and his team invaded radio Buea in December 1999 and announced Southern Cameroons independence; even though still upholding their slogan, "Force of Argument and not Argument of Force."

With Julius Ayuk Tabe emerging as one of the leaders of Ambazonia separatists, the notoriety of Eyumojock sub division and Manyu Divisional in general as a secessionist enclave took an added national dimension. Now, everyone with a good insight into the attricities going on in the South West and North West regions because of this war, who knows that you come from Eyumojock frowns at you at best. At worst he or she does not want to have anything to do with you, especially if you are out of government circles. You are a suspect.

And as if to further confirm the impression, atrocities keep recurring in that part of the country in spite of obvious simmering of flames in some parts of the war zone.

The kidnapping of another man of God, Rev, Fr Julius Agbortoko Agbor, the Vicar General of Mamfe diocese is a thing to be deplored and strogly condemned by all sons and daughters of Manyu division; and why not Anglophones and Christian community at large. Our stigmatisation is not only an embarrassment to some of us, but it is subjecting many of us to untold suffering despite our innocence and goodwill, not only to other citizens but to the fatherland.

Even in war time, some basic rules of humanity are still respected. So when warriors desecrate holy places and violate the freedoms of all including men of God, even to the point of subjecting them to torture, it calls for national uproar.

We hear the kidnappers are demanding a whopping thirty million Francs CFA before they can release Rev Fr. Julius.

Whereas, the Anglophone Church in the country at least, has been unwavering in condemning the declaration of war on separatist fighters. For the fighters to turn their arsenal against Anglophone men of God and the masses is a development that minimises, belittles and makes nonsense of the Anglophone cause.

Bamenda I council, UNDP peace, solidarity festival wraps up in style

By Wanchia Cynthia & Chungom Emmanuel*

A solidarity festival for youth aimed at promoting social cohesion organised by the Bamenda I council in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, UNDP, has rounded up.

The festival which ran throughout the summer holiday ended over the weekend on the field of Presbyterian School Ntaafi, Up Station Bamenda. It served as an opportunity to boost intra-communal peace and solidarity, promote local culture and diversity as well as a preparatory ground for back to school.

Sporting activities that marked the festival consisted dodge ball, sack race, marathon, traditional dance competition, handball and football. It brought together youth from different quarters including the Mbororo Community within the Bamenda I municipality competing for cash and material prizes donated by UNDP through its Recovery programme.

Mayor Mbigha Felix expressed joy seeing the people of his municipality come together as one during the festival as well as expressed gratitude to the partners for ensuring the project a reality.

"I am grateful to our partners especially UNDP for partnering with us to support this first Peace and Solidarity Festival. I look forward to an effective school resumption after this celebration and for us to keep living as one within the Bamenda I subdivision. This municipality for the past four years hasn't had something of this nature and it adds to our efforts to see all our children in school come September 6, 2021," Mbigha said.

Fon Nforchesiri III of Mendakwe seized the opportunity to call for an effective school resumption classes in the municipality. "Let me add my voice by encouraging those who have received



UNDP official handing prize to winner



material support given by the council and its partner, UNDP, to ensure an effective school resumption," he said while calling for return to normalcy.

Participants were equally handed didactic materials including calculators, math sets, school bags, books, pens, rulers, soap and dictionaries. According to UNDP officials, the recovery programme comprises infrastructure and rehabilitation, economy and livelihood as well as social cohesion.

The closing ceremony unfolded under the watchful eyes of the Secretary General at the Northwest Governor's Office, Viang Mekala, whom saluted the partnership between the Council and UNDP.

"Organising a competition like this is a good move and I challenge all other municipalities not only in Bamenda to do same. This is going to be one of the ways in which we can gain back peace in this region that has untold suffering as a result of the Anglophone Crisis since 2016. I am encouraging parents to use this opportunity and be determined to send their children to school with the support given here today," Mekala.

The partnership between the council and UNDP is expected to build community resilience, support mental health and provide coping mechanisms for people of the community to deal with the challenges faced within the current context.

Christians protest suspension of 'witchcraft cleansing' priest

Cont'd from page 1

The Bishop of Mbalmayo Diocese, His Lordship Joseph-Marie Ndi-Okala had on August 27 signed an order suspending the Roman Catholic priest, Father Cyprien Amougui after he publicly flogged an old man who had been suspected of practicing witchcraft.

Carrying placards and peace plants, the faithful stormed the streets on Sunday August 29, to express their consternation over Father Amougui's suspension.

Abiding to the suspension, Father Amougui was said to be heading to a spiritual sanctuary when the Christians blocked the road and rejected the order of the Bishop.

Traffic flow along the road stretch was hindered during the protest which lasted for over an hour, leaving travelers stranded.

The Bishop's sanction

With the atrocious video making rounds on social media, the Bishop of Mbalmayo penned a letter announcing the suspension of the priest.

The August 27 letter from the Bishop, said the authority was shocked and disdained over an act that "brought shame upon the Christian community".

He stated that the priest's actions "created a scandal and confusion". He therefore stopped the priest from carrying out



Sts Philippe & Jacques Parish Christians staging the protest Sunday

all his priestly duties till further notice. Father Amougui was then asked to take out time to reflect and rebuild his spirituality.

The old man who was being tortured and filmed at the request of the priest, later explained he was brought by his son to the Catholic hospital in Ndongko because he was sick.

"After my consultation, I went to visit the parish. On my way back from the visit, the Parish priest asked me to follow him, and that was how he started flogging me," the old man recounted.

New twist to the 'cleansing act'

According to residents in the village, the act performed by the priest was a tra-

ditional rite and not violent as was aired on social media.

Further testimonies from the village have it that the two previous parish priests of Ndongko died mysteriously. They were allegedly killed by the wizards in the village.

It is said that the old man in question was flogged with cocoyam leaves. In the people's customs, flogging an individual with cocoyam leaves is a cultural practice to suppress the spirit of witchcraft in an 'enemy'.

This aged man, it was said, confessed to have gone to the priest's house to 'finish with him'.

While the old man was being flogged, the residents sympathise with the priest and rather lauded his courage.

Amba fighters demand 20MFCFA ransom

Cont'd from page 1

While there, they noticed the presence of the Vicar General whom they considered younger and stronger than the frail Bishop Emeritus...”

“The said boys who made off with Mgr Julius Agbortoko at about 6:45pm are asking for a ransom of over 20 million francs CFA,” he then disclosed.

Fr Sebastine Sinju then urged Catholics Christians “to invoke the One Family Spirit and pray unanimously for the Vicar General’s safety and his subsequent release”.

“I use this opportunity to decry the



Mgr Julius Agbortoko

seemingly incessant attacks on the church in general and that of Mamfe in particular”, he submitted while urging stakeholders of the ongoing armed conflict to hands off the Church.

The kidnap of the Vicar General of the Mamfe Diocese, it should be said, comes just over three months after another priest of the same Diocese, Fr Christopher Eboka, was abducted and later released after nine days.

Mamfe has been a hot bed for separatist agitations since the crisis in the North West and South West

regions morphed into an armed conflict in 2017.

In 2018, the then-Bishop of Mamfe, now Apostolic Administrator of Mamfe and Archbishop of Bamenda, Mgr Andrew Nkea Fuanya, citing eyewitness accounts, had blamed the military for killing Rev Father Cosmos Oboto Ondari, a Mill Hill Missionary from Kenya.

The priest who was serving at the Saint Martin Parish in Kembong, was caught by a bullet as soldiers chased down separatist fighters around the parish on November 21, 2018, sources said.

Separatist fighters raid Shisong market

Cont'd from page 1

Traders had just displayed their wares for the day, and were going about their daily business when the armed men stormed the market, forcing traders and their customers out. The fighters, are said to have in the course of the raid, destroyed destroying bags containing foodstuff such as garri, flour and rice.

Amateur videos shot after the incident show pineapples, water melons, pears, paw-paw, tomatoes, bunches of plantain and other products on sale at the market, thrown to the ground and smashed. Before taking their leave, the separatist fighters are said to have also stormed shops, emptying the contents and destroying everything on their way.

They are said to have also destroyed bags containing maize, groundnuts, vegetables and clothes for sale.

It is reported that the act was carried out after gunshots rocked some parts of the town, leaving residents in fear. While the separatist fighters are yet to make any comment on the incident, it is speculated the Shisong Market attack was another tactic employed by separatists to enforce the Monday ghost town.

Separatist fighters imposed the ghost towns four years back to enforce their anti-school agenda. In several instances, separatist fighters have attacked, maimed and abducted locals in the English-speaking regions of the country, for failing to respect their imposed ghost towns and lockdowns.

Yesterday’s attack followed a similar act by separatist fighters in Oku, still in Bui divi-

sion, last Monday. Over 80 fighters led by self-styled ‘General’ No pity, reports said, stormed the village, setting ablaze the council building, the mayor’s residence and market sheds and vehicles. They took the village hostage for over two hours.

In a video that surfaced later on social media, No Pity said the attack was part of his strides to maintain ghost towns on Mondays in Oku, “where the people have decided that there will be no lockdown or ghost town in their locality...”

More damages, casualties

The recent attacks in Kumbo, has raised the damage recorded in a series of violent attacks on the population of the North West and South West regions. On Sunday August 22nd, a Christian and pastor were shot in a church in Ntofoang, Bali. While the pastor was fortunate to sustain an injury on the arm, his fellow Christian did not survive the hit.

Two days later, on August 24, an employee of the Red Cross died after sustaining injuries received after being shot the previous day. “Diomedee Nzobambona, a 62-year-old Canadian, was a delegate working in the fields of water and sanitation,” read a statement made by the humanitarian institution.

The recent incidents come just days to the 2021/2022 academic year. Authorities have urged parents in the crisis-hit regions to continue to brave the odds and send their kids to school, to secure a brighter future for them.



Locals assess damage done by separatist fighters

Police parades suspected fraudster impersonating ministers, ambassadors

By Deng Eric

The Police in Yaounde, yesterday, paraded a high profile suspected fraudster whom they said had been usurping the titles and identities of some top members of government and Ambassadors of certain countries accredited to Cameroon.

The suspect, Ebo’o Zuomo George Alain, police officials said, had created fake Facebook accounts with the pictures of the Minister, Director of Civil Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic, Samuel Mvondo Ayolo, Minister Delegate at the Presidency in Charge of Defence, Joseph Beti Assomo, Cameroon’s Ambassador to France, Andre Ekoumou Magnus and the Special Adviser to the President, Contre Admiral Joseph Fouda which he used to defraud his victims.

Presenting the suspect to the public and details about how the suspect was arrested, Superintendent of Police, Vincent de Paul MeVa in charge of investigation at the General Delegation of National Security, said the Cameroon’s Ambassador to France had lodged a complaint on July 17 against an individual with phone number (656 253 696). The ambassador is said to have indicated that, the owner of the number was usurping his identity.

“While we were still working on his complaint, we received another complaint from a Cameroonian lawyer, based in France saying the same phone number and another (695 413 926) had also contacted him claiming to be Samuel Mvondo Ayolo,” Meva recounted.

The suspect, Meva further told reporters, had told the Paris-based lawyer, Mboutou Ze Jean Briand, that the Head of State who was on holiday at that time in Europe had to grant him audience in Geneva.

“What is even more curious in this case is that the fake Director of Civil Cabinet told the lawyer that he had to pre-finance his flight to Geneva and lodging. He suspected foul game and decided to table a complaint at the General Delegation for National Security”.

Meva said the exploitation of exchanges between the suspect and his victims, permitted the police to localise



Suspect: Ebo’o Zuomo George Alain the incriminated phone numbers in Douala.

“Through geolocalisation, the suspect was arrested at Mboppi, Douala I subdivision on August 20, 2021, in possession of four cell phones. The exploitation of the phones which are his instruments of work, permitted the police to get more details about his operation” the Police Superintendent said.

The police official further said “each time the suspect contacted his victims through the fake Facebook accounts he created, he asked them to reach out to his Secretary or Personal Assistant for more details whereas all the phone numbers belonged to him. Once he scams his victims financially, he blocks them”.

The suspect, according to the police, had succeeded in defrauding his victims of over 4 million FCFA between April 28 and July 28, 2021, going by his two orange mobile money accounts which were exploited.

One of the victims of the 38-year-old high profile suspected fraudster, Fouda Albert Anicet, Regional Pedagogic Inspector in the South region, told reporters that he had been defrauded of the sum of 100,000 FCFA by the said Ebo’o Zuomo.

The suspect, Superintendent of Police Meva, told reporters, will be presented before the State Prosecutor at the Ndokoti Magistrate Court, which falls within the jurisdiction where the crime is alleged to have been committed.

Editorial

When Cameroonian lawyers go to equity with dirty hands!

One of the maxims often cited by lawyers is that "he who comes to equity must come with clean hands". As defined by refined legal minds, the dictum is not an organised code or enacted by legislatures, but has been "handed down through generations of judges.

As a result, the wording of a maxim may vary from case to case. For example, it is a general rule that equity does not aid a party at fault.

A group of members of the Cameroon Bar Association recently cried out to the press that the management of their association is in illegality. It mandate has expired, they said.

In a petition led by two Douala-based lawyers, Tristel Richard Tamfu and Victor Siewe, they said by the text of the Bar, the General Assembly is convened either by the president of the General Assembly, who currently is Barrister Evaristus Morfaw based in Yaounde, or by the majority of the council or an absolute majority of lawyers.

That has not been done almost a year after an expired mandate.

They in their petition, called for the holding of an Extraordinary General Assembly, to elect a new bureau. This is given the fact that the mandate of the interim president, Barrister Atangana Bikouna Claire, following the death of former Bar President, Barrister Tchakounte Patie Charles, in October 2020, has expired.

The petition pointed out that a by-election should have been organised at the time of the late Bar President's death to find his successor. But this was somehow ignored for reasons unclear.

Barrister Atangana, as the eldest member of the Bar Council, was, nonetheless, appointed as an interim president at an Extraordinary Session, to complete the mandate of the deceased.

The Bar General Assembly president was

expected to conduct an election, one month from the expiration of the late President's mandate, but has failed to do so.

Accordingly, the executive has been operating in illegality since November last year when an election should have been conducted as stipulated by their own regulations.

In reaction to criticisms for the vacuum created by the absence of the election of new leaders, Barrister Morfaw, who, as current General Assembly president should have convened the meeting, is on record to have explained that he was conducting consultations to hold elections that should have been done some eight months ago when their two-year term had expired.

But some of his colleagues are not impressed. It is to operate with clean hands that on August 19 they launched a petition which received a hundred signatures within a week for an elective General Assembly to be held in November. They are expected to get some 2,000 signatures to convene the belated elective General Assembly.

The Bar President is charged with diligently running the affairs of the Council. He or she is also the spokesperson of the lawyers, defending public opinion and ensuring the respect of ethics and deontology. How can that be done success-

fully without intellectual and legal contortions with an outdated mandate? How will lawyers have the clean hands to argue that the mandate of some elected members, for instance, has expired and any election they conduct could be subject to legal contentions?

The Cameroon Bar Association, like all others around the world where the rule of law prevails, has the responsibility to deal with issues affecting the legal profession. In general, Bar Associations are concerned with furthering the best interests of lawyers, their clients and the advocacy of reforms in the legal system, the sponsoring of research projects, or the actual regulation of professional standards.

The association has disciplinary powers over its members who go astray or indulge in indiscipline to enhance their own breed bereft of "the learned profession".

Cameroon lawyers, during the tenure of Ntumfor Barrister Nico Halle as General Assembly president, played a critical role in protecting the rights of suspects in custody, defendants in court, and protecting human rights in the context of the current conflict in North West and South West regions.

Ntumfor Barrister Nico Halle was also involved in settling disputes within lawyers and maintaining neutrality in their elections. That critical role has seen a yawning vacuum within the current executive, which should have had the audacity to call an election as and when due last November.

There is no logic in the lame excuses that have compelled justice-oriented lawyers to take the tedious route of obtaining signatures to right a wrong that sullies their commitment of going "to equity with clean hands".

Back-to-school:

CAMASEJ Douala donates to Anglophone crisis IDPs

By Elizabeth Banyitabi

Some twenty three internally displaced school-going children from the North West and South West region residing in Douala, have received didactic material donated by the Cameroon Association of English-speaking journalists, CAMASEJ, DOUALA branch.

The donation exercise took place Saturday in Kuwait city neighborhood in the Douala II municipality of the Littoral region.

The outreach program dubbed "CAMASEJ D education promotion drive" is a humanitarian touch of the Douala based journalists to cater for the less privileged.

According to Maureen Ndi, current president of the Douala based association, the move is a means to extend a helping hand to the less privileged and put smiles on their faces "I wish we could do more for these children, but we have come with the little we have to give a helping hand and put smiles" she said.

"...the association plans to extend similar help not only to distress internally displaced children in Douala but also to families who cannot meet up financially with the needs of their children, and also



CAMASEJ president and Members with IDPs in Kuwait-Douala

assist the orphans of a deceased colleague Jack Ekwe Kingue who died following an illness" she continued

During the outreach, Maureen Ndi on behalf of the association educated teenage IDPs on sex with focus on early pregnancy and on how to desist from becoming a delinquent or drug addict in society.

The CAMASEJ Douala initiative towards the IDPs had supports from former Member of Parliament and founder of the United Action for the Underprivileged Foundation, Hon Fritz Etoke.

In his remarks, Hon Etoke hailed

the move and promised to continue supporting CAMASEJ Douala's future humanitarian actions.

The 23 beneficiaries selected in Kuwait neighborhood, their place of residence since their migration from their regions of origin to the economic capital, expressed difficulties in integrating into the French dominated region.

Nesla Ngong, an IDP from Wum in the Menchum division of the North West region said the most challenging part of learning in Douala has been the language barrier.

"The schools I attended since I

came here, most of the teachers teach in French, and it's hard for me to understand" she said.

To Ngong, the help she has received from the association will go a long way to lighten the burden she had to withstand due to back school preparations.

"I thank CAMASEJ for their support. The money I had to use to buy books, I will use it to purchase other school needs like sandals" Ngong said.

On her part, Ngah Angeline, an internally displaced high school student from Muyuka, Fako division of the South West region, expressed gratitude for the didactic items she received.

"I thank CAMASEJ-D for their gift, it will help me as I prepare for schools to resume".

Aside school needs, IDPs in Douala are faced with the inability to afford basic daily needs and the high cost of accommodation in the economic capital city.

Nyoh Juliet came from Bali says she has been a focal point for IDPs in Kuwait for some years now.

In a chat with journalists, she said "one of the most challenging problem we have here is housing. Houses are very expensive. we can barely afford food, it is not easy".

Molyko: New quarter heads, traditional council members charged to promote peace

By Shing Timothy

New quarter heads and members of the Molyko Traditional Council, in Buea, Fako division, South West region have been charged to be agents of peace and development.

The call was made Saturday August, 28 by Chief Esuka Mathias of Molyko Village. This was during the installation of Vefonge Tobias Tonga as the pioneer quarter head of Molyko New layout II.

Chief Esuka stated that "...my first message is for them to bring peace and order in the quarter, to maintain the development that is, the developers should respect their building permits and plots".

To handle security challenges, the traditional ruler advised those installed to constitute quarter vigilante groups. This, Chief Esuka, noted is needed while the population continues to wait for other government dispositions.

Situating the creation of new quarters, the Chief said: "The motivating factor is that first, the surface area is too big for one person to control so we needed to split it into different quarters so as to ease or to draw the administration closer to the people".

Talking to reporters, Tobias Tonga, promised to do his best to make his people happy. He said, "...there are so many things when you look at the population, and you see that they are happy. They are very happy with it so I think I will work hard to keep them happy as a father to them. Always bring them together make peace so that everybody will live happy".

Tobias said priority will be "to lighten the street. Put some street lights and I think we need more because the quarter is so big. I think people can testify. So we have many things to do not me alone but with my people".



Chief Esuka Mathias and members of the Molyko Traditional Council

World Bank injects 54 BFCFA

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Etoundi Ngoa revealed that the amount adds to other considerable contributions made by the World Bank which reinforces the indicators for improving the quality of education nationwide. He added that part of the money will go as bonuses to teachers in areas considered priority zones, like the three northern regions.

The session was also used to assess the state of activities as well as chart an action plan based on directives and guidelines for improving their execution, as prescribed by Order No. 134 / PM of 10 December 2018 establishing, organising and

operating the Support Program for the Education Reform in Cameroon, in its Article 9.

The session, among other things, deliberated on implementation of the activities of the program over the period January-August 2021. Difficulties encountered as well as measures to better the realisation in order to achieve the expected results were also looked into.

The Education Reform Support Project seeks to improve equitable access to quality Basic Education. The project also seeks to improve school effectiveness through performance-based financing among others.



File photo: Pupils taking lessons in a classroom

Tribute to a legend: Nso community says late Prof Lantum was a hero, mobiliser

By Doh Bertrand Nua

Sons and daughters of Nso tribe resident in Yaounde have described late Prof Daniel Noni Lantum as a hero, icon, peace architect and community mobilizer. They were speaking during a ceremony organised by the Yaounde branch of Nso' Cultural and Development Association, NSO'BATI.

The event, according to NSO'BATI Yaounde branch president, Wirngo Abel was to celebrate the life of the renowned varsity don and researcher in African traditional medicine. The deceased was fondly referred to in the traditional setting as 'Shufai Bastos'.

The event held at the Nso Community Hall (Ngay Nso') at Montee des Soeurs neighbourhood, Simbock-Yaounde. It had in attendance past and present members of government alongside elite other Nso elite.

The event started with a holy mass which was celebrated by Rev Fr Zephyrinus Mbuh. The priest prayed for the peaceful repose of the deceased. Traditional rites befitting of Prof Lantum's standing followed next.

Speaking at the event, Wirngo Abel, disclosed that the death of Prof Lantum shocked the entire Nso' community. "Shufai Bastos was a registered, active, and committed member of NSO'BATI Yaounde. He contributed a lot towards the construction of this community hall...he fought tooth and nail to ensure that the Nso' community should have a hall in Yaounde," Wirngo disclosed.

He added: "...Prof Lantum was a great promoter of Nso culture, developmental projects and activities. He was like our own Koffi Anan in the settlement of



Rev Fr Zephyrinus praying for the soul of late Prof Lantum



Wirngo Abel: Nso' Bati Yaounde branch president

conflicts in the community...he did a lot to our unemployed youth, educated many, gave them scholarships that permitted them to go abroad and study

"We thought it necessary that we must celebrate his life. Some body of this nature in our community we needed to celebrate because when we look at it we have not been able to get somebody yet who will really be up the task of what Prof Lantum did to the community. We are praying God for another Prof. Lantum who will take from where he stopped to continue so that all his good works will continue to remain," the NSO'BATI Yaounde branch president stated.

To the national president of NSO'BATI, Nformi Ndzerem Stephen, late Prof Lantum was among the other aspects said about him, a traditional leader having been among the first

enlightened Nso people nationwide.

The daughter of the deceased Dr Marjorie Lantum expressed gratitude to the entire NSO'BATI Yaounde branch for celebrating the legacy left behind by her father. She added that her father deserved the celebration accorded him having done much for his community and the nation at large.

Born in Kumbo on September 13, 1934, Prof Lantum was a widely acclaimed public health expert. He championed community health initiatives during his time as head of the CDC Tiko Hospital and in other communities where he worked. He worked tirelessly with several African and Cameroonian researchers on various pathologies and collaborated closely with colleagues in seeking a cure for HIV/AIDS.

To combat avian influenza: Huge quantity of smuggled eggs destroyed in Douala

By Morine Tanyi

Agents of the Wouri Divisional Delegation of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industry are reported to have destroyed a huge quantity of eggs smuggled into the country from Benin through the Douala International Airport. The eggs were initially seized by authorities before getting into circulation. The eggs were destroyed August 27 by administrative officials.

"The eggs of chickens and geese which had been in Cameroon for days now, did not follow the sanitary protocol put in place by government to prevent importation of the avian influenza. We therefore had no other choice but to destroy them," an agent of the delegation is quoted to have said.

The importer of the eggs, it was reported, had importation authorisation and failed to present other required documents 72 hours before importation at the



Field photo: chicken eggs

appropriate offices, to have the process vetted.

"When an importer fails to respect the various steps put in place and we make them out, the products are simply destroyed to protect consumers from consuming a possibly low quality product," a veterinary official is quoted to have said.

It should be recalled that the Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industry, Dr Taiga had recently prohibited the importation of day-old chicks and eggs.

In his release, the minister urged operators in the poultry sector to temporarily suspend importation of eggs, day-old chicks and other poultry products following fresh threats of the bird flu virus.

Dr Taiga's decision came as a result of a fresh outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Russia and Israel, countries from which Cameroon imports most of its poultry products.

Muyuka:**Suspected separatist fighters set ablaze chief's palace***By Shing Timothy*

Suspected separatist fighters have reportedly set ablaze a palace and a secondary school in Muyuka Subdivision of the South West region.

The incident has since left residents of the area in shock.

The incident which took place on the night of Saturday 28 August left the entire palace consumed by the flames.

According to eyewitness accounts, the flames could have been dazed if there was a swift intervention.

"On Saturday at about 9:30-10:00 at night, neighbors and persons who were still up in the town saw fire coming from the chief's palace. Immediately an alert was sounded and neighbours came out, but unfortunately because of the level of insecurity, most people were really afraid to intervene to help put out the fire given that no one was living in the palace. It was locked as most of the palace occupants had left due to insecurity", a source recounted.

According to another source, the incident was carried out by separatist fighters as one of them was identified by the population.

"...I saw some two guys...one of them was recognized, one of them is an amba

boy by name 'Delapena'. But the other person was not identified. The person identified is a close collaborator of the amba head in the Balong area, who is called 'White'", said another source.

The palace of Muyuka like most palaces in the North West and South West Regions have been abandoned since Amba boys began targeting traditional rulers and their palaces.

After targeting and destroying the palace, the reported separatist fighters in the early hours of Sunday 30 August 2021 targeted Government Primary School Muyuka-Balong, where they unsuccessfully tried setting ablaze.

The school according to residents was spared thanks to the intervention of the defense and security forces in collaboration with the population.

Since the start of the Anglophone crisis in 2016, schools, churches, palaces, health facilities and civilian homes have become targets.

This has forced many civilians, teachers, and traditional rulers to seek refuge in the other parts of the country as well as out of the country.

According to UN agencies, thousands of Cameroonians have been displaced out of the two regions due to the crisis.

*Remains of the Muyuka Palace in ruins***Three perish in Mamfe road accident***By Daniela Itoe Ngum*

At least three persons are reportedly to have lost their lives following an accident which occurred in Mamfe of the South West region.

The incident occurred Saturday August 28, 2021.

The accident is said to have occurred following a head-on collision between two commercial motorbikes in Mamfe along the stretch leading to Besong-Abang on the Mamfe-Ekok highway.

Two bikers and a female passenger are reported to have died in the incident which occurred during the afternoon hours of the day.

Residents of the area have blamed the ghastly road accident on reckless riding and over speeding between the two bikers.

Numerous accidents have occurred recently along the country's highways snatching the lives of many and others in critical conditions.

Report holds that several road accidents occurred on Friday August 20, in different towns in the country as four persons reportedly lost their lives in a road accident which occurred at the Awae neighbourhood in Yaounde.

Three persons are said have died in another road accident in Bangoua, in the Nde division, West Region.

Meanwhile, at least one person is said to have died, several injured still on Friday August 20 in Edea following an accident.

A truck belonging to the Rapid Intervention Battalion, BIR is reported to have crush a lady on a bike to death in Kumba on August 5, 2021.

The Director of Road Transport in the Ministry of Transport, Divine Mbamome Nkendon in a recent outing on CRTV's Cameroon Calling program noted that two-third of road accidents recorded on Cameroon's highways involving youths can be attributed to the use of mobile phones while riding or driving as well as excessive speeding.

Mbamome stated that the government has sought advanced solution and would in the near future, employ use of technology to reduce road accidents.

The system in question, Mbamome explained, makes use of cameras and sensors that monitor a range of aspects including vehicle speed, driver's behaviours, sending feedback to a control panel.

Observers and road users have greatly lauded the move. They are of the opinion that the introduction of the system will go a long way to curb the numerous road accidents on our highways and make the road safely again.

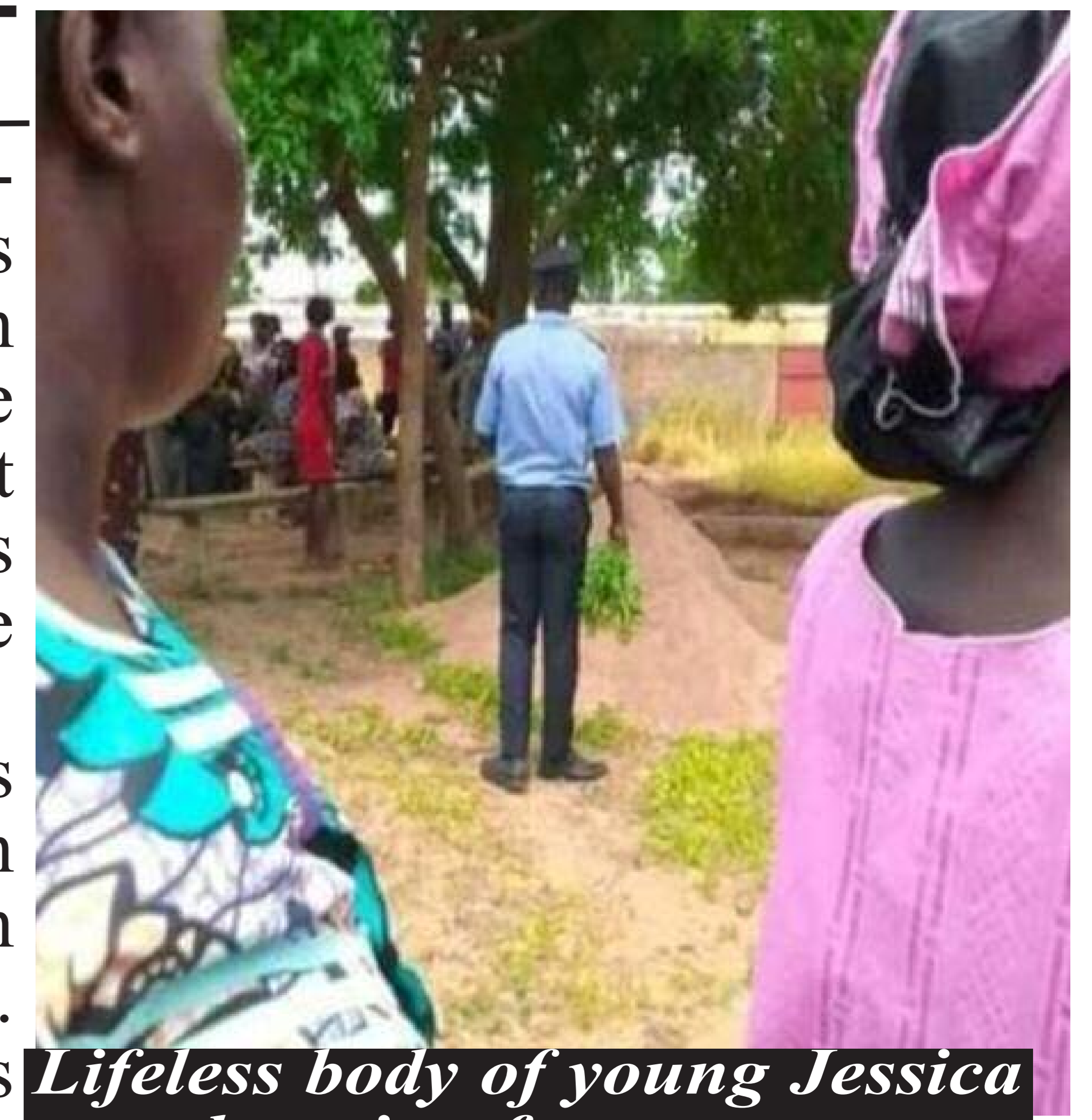
Garoua:**Lifeless body of 12-year-old found hung to tree in church premises***By Morine Tanyi*

The lifeless body of a 12-year-old girl, Jessica is reported to have been discovered hanging from a tree at the courtyard of the Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Cathedral of Garoua in the North region on August 27.

Inhabitants are quoted as having revealed that the teen prior to her death, had been very close to her mother. Jessica, they said, was always with her mother with whom she did everything and accompanied everywhere. The mother of the girl on that fateful day however is said to have lost track of her daughter for a moment, and only discovered her dead later.

"She was always with her mother and they did everything together. They even passed in front of me to go to the market and hours later, the mother started looking for her. We later found her lifeless body hanging from a tree," a neighbour told reporters.

To another "...this is not happening...what will push such a little girl to take her own life...her dead is still not clear to me...an investigation has been

*Lifeless body of young Jessica hanging from a tree*

opened and it is from the result of the search that I will really understand what truly went wrong".

"...Did she kill herself or was she killed, I have many unanswered questions which will be clarified after the investigation said to have been opened. A medical examiner told us Jessica's neck had been twisted. Who could have planned to kill her? She was too small to have enemies," a relative cried out to reporters, adding she hopes "the results of the investigation will determine whether or not this was a suicide or murder."

The lifeless body of the teen is said to have been handed to family as investigation ensues.

Ndian:**Two soldiers reportedly killed in Amba attack***By Macwalter Njapteh*

Two soldiers are reported to have died in an attack launched by gun-toting individuals in the South West region.

The separatist attack Saturday, August 28, which occurred in Ekondo-Titi, Ndian Division, also left others injured.

According to a local source, the attack was launched in one of the military posts in the area.

A local authority who opted not to be named, said "an armed group of the secessionist movement attacked on Saturday, the advanced post of the army in Ekondo-Titi. In the course of the attack, two soldiers were killed and two others injured".

The attack on the security post and the death toll was confirmed by the Ndian Senior Divisional Officer, Forwang Lawrence.

"An army captain who was at the post at the time of the attack is missing," the civil administrator is quoted as having said.

"There are also two other soldiers who were injured. The

military also neutralised some of the assailants," he added, without indicating the number.

The locality of Ekondo-Titi, which is a coastal area near the border with Nigeria, has regularly been targeted by separatist fighters who take refuge in the mangroves after their attack.

Last May, two other soldiers were reportedly killed in the same area by armed secessionists.

The two soldiers were said to be conducting routine patrol along the Cameroon-Nigeria border in search of separatist combatants when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device, IED. Following the explosion, the assailants later opened fire on the soldiers.

It should be recalled that, it was also in Ekondo-Titi that Tunisian engineer, Khaled Tinsa was killed on March 15, 2018 by separatist fighters.

This was after they had kidnapped the Tunisian alongside Cameroonian engineers engaged in construction work on the road linking Ekondo-Titi to Kumba in the South West region.

P&T minister takes cybersecurity sensitisation campaign to Bertoua

By Doh Bertrand Nua

The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, MINPOSTEL, Minette Libom Li Likeng, on August 27, took her nationwide cybersecurity campaign to Bertoua, in the East region.

While launching the exercise to sensitise administrative and municipal authorities of the challenges and dangers of irresponsible use of social networks, the minister called for collective action.

The campaign falls within the national campaign to promote the culture of cybersecurity which was launched last August 2020 under the theme: "Let's all mobilise for Cybersecurity in Cameroon". The minister said the campaign is on the instructions of the Head of State, Paul Biya.

Addressing participants at the start of the campaign, Libom Li Likeng challenged all and sundry to adopt a responsible behaviour while on the social media in order to steer clear of cybercrimes.

"...irresponsible behaviour on social networks is detrimental to the whole community and therefore to the whole country," she warned while calling on all and sundry to federate forces to curb the rising phenomenon.

"...everyone is expected to combat cybercrime. No one is spared. Any user of ICT tools must adopt a responsible behaviour to avoid becoming a victim of a cyber-attack," the MINPOSTEL boss who has remained committed and tireless in the fight against cybercrime said.

She cautioned users on the dangers of irresponsible use of the social media; notably addiction, exposure of privacy and loss of ownership of data exchanged, the use of false profiles, identity theft, harassment and cyber intimidation, disinformation among others.

She added that: "...if you love your country, use your common sense. Beware of what you click when using the social media, they constitute your digital print".

As a proof of her commitment to combat cyber-attacks and promote cybersecurity and the responsible use of social media, Libom Li Likeng, announced the

extension of the Cameroon Digital innovation center and an ICT Telecommunications Centre in Bertoua.

Seven Goodwill Ambassadors were designated to carry the sensitisation campaign to the periphery. Four of the Ambassadors seized the opportunity to call on the population to build a good social media presence, respect the privacy of others while other youth pledged to join in the campaign as well as play the role of Ambassadors within their communities.

The workshop in the East region marks the continuation of the second phase of the national campaign. The second phase was launched in Buea in June 2021 with key sensitisation messages presented by experts from the National Agency of Information and Communication Technologies, ANTIC.

Ten recommendations were made to ensure responsible social media use. The population was also offered a rare privilege of having an annex in the nearest future of the Cameroon Digital Innovation Center installed within the campus of the Advance School of Posts and Telecommunications in Buea in a bid to encourage and create a conducive environment for tech lovers and startups while Silicon Mountain Community in Buea was equally offered a one-year free Internet connection, a way of boosting startups for quality digital development.

It was followed by a seminar with administrative authorities, enterprises and the civil society actors among others. The first phase of the nationwide sensitisation was in the Littoral Region in December 2020 which brought together local authorities, pupils and students. The Centre region then welcomed the delegation in January 2021 with messages to kick out cyber-attacks and secure a clean cyberspace.

The initiative was brought up following years of cyber-attacks on websites, networks, applications, servers and smartphones. Privacy has also repeatedly been tempered with coupled with acts of propaganda since the sociopolitical crisis in the North West



**North West:
Regional Assembly,
stakeholders synergise efforts
for effective school resumption**

By Mboh Promise



Participants during meetings



Regional Assembly officials, education stakeholders in group picture

Members of the North West Regional Assembly and education stakeholders have combined efforts to ensure effective school in the region for the 2021/2022 academic year. They have made a call for all in the region to contribute towards ensuring a hitch-free school year.

They made the call Friday August 27 in Bamenda during a one-day meeting that brought together members of the Regional Assembly, education stakeholders as well as Parents Teachers Association, PTA, presidents across the region.

Addressing the gathering, the president of the North West Regional Assembly, Prof Fru Angwefor III, said they all have to chart a way forward as far as education in the region is concerned.

"The Regional Assembly seeks to engage our important pillars as partners so that together we can chart the way forward for the North West. We are delighted that you are already fulfilling professional responsibilities in nurturing our children," he said.

Prof Angwefor III stated that their aim is to listen to the education stakeholders, and engage them within the context of the back-to-school campaign.

"We are here to chart our best practices and strategies to make sure that we have a massive school reopening and attendance in the 2021/2022 academic year. We are expecting that with members of the Regional Assembly and education stakeholders, our communities will mobilise for school reopening," Prof Angwefor noted.

On his part, the North West Regional Delegate of Secondary Education, Roland Yuven, said they have been having different approaches for school resumption in the past years.

"In the recent years, within the context of the crisis, we always have strategies and specific approaches we use to mobilise students for effective back-to-school. This year, the approach we have is working with key actors, partners and stakeholders in the region," he said.

He added that they have already started working with key actors for the past week, identifying the achievements and the difficulties to see what can be done as the school year approaches.

The stakeholders and parents' representatives were also informed that the Regional Assembly has undertaken to sponsor students in special needs centres.

"I wish to let know that the regional assembly has accepted to support us in sponsoring the special needs centre that is located in GBHS Bamenda," Yuven said.

Worries galore

Numerous worries were raised by the PTA presidents and other stakeholders. Some decried the fact that many teachers have been denied transfers, many institutions have been destroyed and no rehabilitation carried. Stakeholders in the private sector complained about insecurity challenges which have led to a drastic drop in education activities in the region.

The PTA presidents also complained of non-payment of PTA fees by some students. They also lamented the kidnapping and torture of students and other education stakeholders.

The 1st deputy mayor of Bamenda II council, Louis Angwafor, called on all stakeholders to be conscious, honest and communicate effectively for the development of the region.

"Let us avoid self-interest and work for the positive interest of everyone," he said.

Gov't urged to improve access to HIV/AIDS services for girls, women

By Macwalter Njapteh

Government has been urged to improve on the access of adolescent girls and women to HIV/AIDS services in the country.

The call was made by some adolescent girls and young women during a press conference and advocacy workshop organised by the NGO, Hope for Vulnerable Children Association, HOVUCA, over the weekend.

This was within the framework of the HIV Epidemic Response, HER, Voice project which aims at addressing limitations and barriers faced by adolescent girls and young women in accessing HIV/AIDS services. The project is being funded by Global Fund with support from other international women's organisations.

The HOVUCA Executive Director, Lum Evelyne, explained that "we organised this so that the voices of adolescent girls can be heard by the powers that be, about the challenges they face in accessing the HIV/AIDS health services".

"We believe that they have to speak out for their voices to be heard especially as they are the ones experiencing these barriers to accessing these health structures," the Executive Director further stated.

She added that: "HIV/AIDS should be reduced in this country because Cameroon is one of the 13 countries in Africa where the prevalence is very high amongst adolescent girls and young women".

According to the adolescent girls, some of the challenges they face in having access to HIV/AIDS-related health services, include but not limited to discrimination, stigmatisation, unruly behaviours of service providers, low income and violence.

"Some of the problems that we face are stigmatisation and discrimination,



Organisers, officials, adolescent girls in group photo after press conference

poor attitude of HIV/AIDS service providers, and poverty," one of the female participants posited.

She added that: "We have noticed that most of the organisations in our community, when they notice the status of somebody, they won't want to employ him or her. So, this reduces their income generating power and impacts their access to these services. Also, we talked about the absence of the medical facilities in some places, while those with physical disabilities are even neglected in ensuring access to the HIV/AIDS services".

Meanwhile, an essay competition was also launched to amplify the voices of the adolescent girls and young women on HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health policy.

Context

According to The Global Fund, over 1,000 young women and girls are infected with HIV everyday globally. Three out of five HIV infections in people aged 15-24, occur among girls. Fifty-one percent of new HIV infections occur among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW).

Thirteen African countries includ-

ing Cameroon account for more than half of new infections among AGYW, according to The Global Fund.

In Cameroon, 24 females against nine male are infected with HIV every day. Going by the findings of the Demographic and Health Surveys, DHS, carried out in Cameroon in 2018, HIV prevalence among women (3.4%) is nearly twice that of men (1.9%).

The HER Voice Fund project seeks to address limitations and barriers faced by AGYW to engage in policy and decision-making spaces. These limitations range from school obligations to more structural barriers, such as discrimination, violence, limited education, intimidation and lack of self-confidence and poor knowledge of their rights.

Created in 2012, HOVUCA is a non-profit making organisation that promotes children's rights and equality for girls. It uses research, education, advocacy and community partnerships to enhance child protection systems and facilitate vulnerable children's access to basic facilities while breaking barriers for girls to enable them have equal rights.

**Special triennial plan:
Minister salutes success story of Noun youth**

By Morine Tanyi

The Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, Mounouna Foutsou, has hailed the efforts put in place by the youth in Noun division of the West region for a complete success of the Special Youths Triennial Plan.

Minister Mounouna Foutsou expressed his satisfaction over the weekend during a visit to some production clusters of the beneficiaries of the three-year youth plan.

Tata Bakary, promoter of an original initiative to introduce former street children in his plantation, noted that there are up to 10 varieties of avocado available in their farm. These include, among others, plants that would produce their first fruits from the seventh month.

Regarding maize production, for the recent farming season, a Common Initiative Group dubbed "The Land Does Not Deceive" had in its warehouse; several tonnes of maize which, they noted, will soon be sold.

While at the site Minister Mounouna Foutsou saluted the efforts put in place by the youth and instructed that they put in place a transformation and marketing link of the said groups.

The minister is said to have further instructed Noun Divisional Delegate of Youth Affairs and Civic Education to ensure that the rest of the proce-



Minister Mounouna Foutsou, collaborators during visit in pear farm

dures can continue peacefully.

The minister and his delegation equally visited the facility of the second generation pioneer village created especially for the reintegration and socialisation of street children and internally displaced persons.

While at the village, Minister Mounouna Foutsou took out time to congratulate Tata Bakary, the leader of the group. A former street child, he is at the head of about twenty street children whom he has succeeded to reintegrate thanks to agriculture since 2015. The support of the Special Triennial Plan for young people has enabled this group to go from cultivating one hectare to 20 today.

It should be said that before embarking on the visit to the various activities put in place by youth who have benefited from the Special

Triennial Plan, the minister chaired the closing ceremony of the 5th edition of the "Citizen and Patriotic Holidays without COVID-19" that held in Bangangte, Nde division.

During the ceremony, he handed over didactic materials to pupils and students to encourage resumption for the 2121/2022 academic year.

The activity was aimed at supporting the government response strategy against COVID-19 through the mobilisation and mass sensitisation of the entire education community, in order to ensure a peaceful holiday. It also aims at encouraging young people in particular to scrupulously respect the prescribed health and safety measures, in particular regular hand washing, physical distancing, and the compulsory wearing of a protective masks.

Cab drivers decry multiple security checkpoints along Bamenda-Bambili road

*Chungom Fuhbingum**

Some tax drivers playing the Bamenda-Bambili road in Mezam division, North West region have decried the multiple security checkpoints along the stretch. They say, most of the security officers who mount the checkpoints are out to extort money from drivers and travelers.

The stretch, drivers told The Guardian Post has five mixed control checkpoints. Some drivers accused the gendarmes and police officers serving along this stretch of using the pretexts of incomplete documents, overloading and other stories to collect money from members of the public.

According to some of the drivers interviewed, the security forces collect money from them daily even during



Taxis waiting for passengers to ply stretch

the summer holidays when passengers are not many. The checkpoints are found at City Chemist, Mile II Nkwen, Mile 4, Mile 5, Mile 6 Nkwen and at Bambui 4 Corners.

According to a taxi owner, Thomas Ndong, under such conditions, it is difficult to make ends meet. "My usual

routine at the close of day is to get fuel, car maintenance, and car wash, coupled with an added expenditure of giving money to security forces at every police check point. We are unable to make profit on this road, we put a lot of work but at the end we find out that we cannot even feed our fam-

ilies. The checkpoints are many. Whether you have all car documents or not, you must settle all of them. It is exaggerated," Ndong stated.

Another driver, Suh Che Matias said they go through trauma every day battling with low fares student pay plus the challenge of settling

the multiple security checkpoints. "We are happy that the police are there to ensure our security, but having to pay this amount of money daily at the different control points isn't helping us," Che said.

For passengers, it is tiring experiencing of stepping down the taxi at the multiple checkpoints to present their identity cards. Some recounted that in the end, a lot of time is wasted on stretch that should not take more than 25 minutes travelling along.

A staff of the University of Bamenda who opted for anonymity recounted that, "for the past days I have been unable to reach the campus early due to numerous police checkpoints. It could take you fifteen minutes to go through the checkpoints that need you to present an ID card. It is so painful and stressful. This has to stop".

Four arrested over alleged homosexuality in Yaounde

By Morine Tanyi

Four individuals, whose names The Guardian Post could not immediately get are reported to have been arrested in Yaounde over alleged practice of homosexuality.

They are reported to have fallen into police dragnet over the weekend in the Nkolndongo neighbourhood in Yaounde IV subdivision, in Mfoundi division of the Centre region.

Inhabitants of the neighbourhood are quoted as having alleged that the suspects may not have been committing the act for the first time as they had been constantly going to a house after consuming a lot alcohol and drugs to purportedly engage in the practice. The same neighbourhood sources are

quoted to have disclosed that fed up with the suspicions, they decided to alert the forces of law and order.

"They always come here, and after drinking and smoking, they start their insane practice. And they don't always go about their acts in silence...they make a lot of noise. Fed up, we decided to alert the forces of law and order who arrested them," a neighbour is quoted as having said.

As to what drew their attention to what was going on in the apartment where these boys where, a neighbour is said to have revealed that: "We heard persistent noise and cries coming from the room. We tried to ignore it, but the more we kept quiet the more the sounds became violent. At a point

we couldn't take it and had to call in the police".

The same source is said to have claimed that: "...they have sex with each other and they are a danger to our children and every other children in the neighbourhood. It was time we reported them and get them arrested...enough is enough... where are our children heading to...what a generation".

"They need to pray and ask for forgiveness from God...where is the world going to...what is society turning into...they need to be severely punished such that they won't want to dare into such an unclean practice in their lives again..." another is said to have declared.

Ngaoundere:

Gendarmes dismantle illegal vinegar factory, arrest owner

By Morine Tanyi

Officers of the Adama wa Gendarmerie Legion are reported to have dismantled an illegal factory specialised in the production of fake vinegar and arrested a suspect said to be the main producer.

This was in an operation said to have been carried out recently in a home in Ngaoundere during which a huge quantity of bottles of vinegar were seized.

According to gendarmerie sources, the vinegar of doubtful origin has been circulating in markets in the region and its environs for over a year and after an operation, they were able to dismantle the factory that was behind its production.

The factory, the source noted, carried out its activities in a makeshift house under doubtful hygienic circumstances.

Some of the ingredients used to produce the vinegar like acid, different colors of paint, sea salt and a liquid substance of doubtful origin, were seized from the suspects at the production scene.

Speaking to the press, Chief Warrant Officer, Sylvain kambok, said "it took us time and so much work to carry out this search. In the process, we were able to dismantle a mini factory

specialised in manufacturing fake vinegar in a private home".

"...Not only is the environment under which they are producing the fake vinegar dirty, but the products used are of doubtful quality making it a health problem to those consuming it. We seized a huge quantity of the already-bottled vinegar parked in cartons with the stamp Momi and ready for distribution," he added.

The suspect is said to have been detained pending his appearance before a judge.

Similarly officers of the Ngaoundere Gendarmerie Brigade are said to have intercepted a truck transporting contraband products along the Ngaoundere-Garoua motorway.

During the check, over 2000 litres of contraband fuel, 108 cartons of cigarette as well as 18 motorbikes were seized from the truck and three individuals arrested.

"Similar actions are being carried out every day and we will do all in our power to bring an end to smuggled products in the country. We are even more determined to bring to order the sector," Captain Anima Lamba of the Ngaoundere Gendarmerie Brigade is quoted to have said.



Population boos as suspect forced into police van

To curb recurrent floods:**Advocacy group demands effective, rapid response from government***By Mua Patrick Mughe*

Renowned global Advocacy group, Greenpeace Africa has called on government to put in place an effective disaster risk management plan which is likely to help curb recurrent flooding in parts of the country.

The return of rain in August this year has caused floods in three regions of the country including the Littoral, Far North and Adamawa.

Faced with the situation, which seems to be getting worse over the years, Greenpeace Africa says government's responses "do not seem to be able to stem the tide. And it is the people who are suffering".

On Monday night, a heavy rainfall in the town of Ngaoundere in the Adamawa region caused flooding, with several material damages recorded.

The Far North region is not left out, since the beginning of August 2021 with cases of flooding recorded in several divisions of the region.

The case of the city of Douala is symptomatic of the said ongoing situation.

The consequences are sometimes very



File photo: commuters trapped as heavy rains causes flood in Douala

heavy, even leading to loss of life.

These recurrent floods in Cameroon, as in many other countries of the world, are one of the strong signs that climate change is a reality and requires urgent action from leaders, said Greenpeace.

"We need to tackle the problem at its roots. The floods we are experiencing today are the result of little or no foresight

on the part of government" said Ranece Jovial Ndjedja, Campaigner at Greenpeace Africa.

In 2020 alone, nearly 160,000 people were affected by floods in the Far North of the country, a region already heavily affected by the abuses of the Boko Haram sect.

A large part of the city of Douala had

been affected, including the city centre.

Greenpeace Africa has since been calling on government to take its responsibilities and reconsider its international commitments in terms of risk management and natural disasters, protection of people and the fight against climate change.

"We note that, for cities like Douala and Yaoundé, the outflow of rivers is partly linked to the clogging of drains by plastic bottles. Where are we with the ban on the use of non-biodegradable plastic packaging decided in 2014? It is clear that its implementation was limited to the first few weeks of the signing of the decree," wondered Ranece Jovial Ndjedja.

The group says it is more than urgent for Cameroon to ensure that the measures foreseen in its contingency plan are implemented.

"It is also important to put in place adaptation measures in order to prevent disasters linked to the changing climate, but also to protect the population and their property, and thus remain consistent with its international commitments in the fight against climate change" urged Greenpeace.

Ntem Valley division:**Close to 100 localities to be electrified by December ending***By Doh Bertrand Nua*

At least 100 localities in Ntem Valley division in the South region are expected to be electrified by the end of 2021. The revelation was made recently by the Director General of the Electricity Development Corporation, EDC, Theodore Nsangou.

He was speaking in Ambam during an event to celebrate the electrification of Ambam with power from the Memve'ele hydroelectric dam. The ceremony to celebrate the milestone unfolded under the watchful eyes of the governor of the South region, Felix Nguete Nguete, and the president of the South Regional Council, Emmanuel Mve.

Nsangou used the event to announce that about 100 localities will be connected in the Ntem Valley before the end of the year. He described the move as that which ensures the steady supply of quality energy at a reduced cost.

"ENEO will economise more than 1 billion FCFA from fuel a year and secondly, the local economy of this frontier town will be boosted," he said, adding that the border town of Kye-Ossi will also be connected.

Governor Nguete Nguete, though regretting delays in the



Memve'ele hydroelectric dam

electrification of the area, said the constant supply of energy would serve as a springboard for socio-economic development in not just the border locality but the region as a whole.

"They are at the border areas with Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. It was a shame for us to see that across the border there was electricity in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, but there was no electricity for Ambam," the administrator said.

The Mayor of Ambam, Ovono Samson, said the electrification of the area would lure more investors who are already looking at their door to install wood transformation firms.

Traditional rulers of Ambam invoked the spirits of their

ancestors to bear witness as the Ambam thermal plant has been switched off to pass the relay baton to electricity produced at the Memve'ele hydroelectric dam.

The population has expressed gratitude more so, for the 50 streets lights installed all over the town. At least 20 other localities have been electrified with about 4,000 households connected free of charge.

The supply of energy in the area is the fruit of consistent efforts made by government to endow the country with energy that is vital for the development needs. Boosting electricity supply in the country has remained a top priority in the government's strategic development plan.

Nwa Council to provide electricity, rehabilitate roads*By Macwalter Njapteh*

The Nwa Council in the Donga Mantung division of the North West region has revealed a development plan for the council area.

The plan, it has been said will see the electrification of the subdivision by the end of this year.

Nwa is one of the subdivisions in the North West region that has never had electricity supply since its creation.

Meanwhile mayor of Nwa, Menyong Lawrence disclosed the development plan during a recent council session.

The Nwa municipal magistrate said the council had embarked on a gradual process of illuminating and disenclaving the municipality.

The project which consists of installing solar energy panels and the gradual rehabilitation of major roads in the council area is evaluated to cost a whopping 85 million FCFA.

"We have street lamps being installed. The project is ongoing and by the end of this, our people will come out of darkness," the mayor hoped.

He added that: "The major problem of Nwa has always been our roads. So we have decided to tackle one of the major access roads into Nwa from Sabongarri and we are handling the critical points using concretes".

As education stakeholders prepare to commence the 2021/2022 Academic Year scheduled for September 6 for primary and secondary schools, the mayor equally outlined plans to ensure schools resumes effectively.

The council, he said, will make available didactic materials and school kits to succour the efforts of parents in the municipality to send their children to school despite the present security challenges.

Meanwhile, the councilors of Nwa were called upon to work towards guaranteeing the smooth start of the academic year in the subdivision that has had its own fair share of the crisis.

Following the announcement to illuminate the municipality, the denizens in Nwa have greeted the news with euphoria and optimism. The population of Nwa has never had electricity supply and travelling to and fro Nwa has been nightmarish for the populace. Created in 1963, Nwa subdivision shares boundary with the Adamawa region and borders with Nigeria.



Menyong Lawrence, Mayor of Nwa Council

Graduating HIPTEx students urged to be exemplary professionals

By Mua Patrick Mughe

Over 200 graduating students of the Yaounde-based Higher Institute for Professionalism and Excellence, HIPTEx have been entreated to be exemplary professionals capable of utilizing opportunities in their various professions.

The call was made Saturday August 28 in Yaounde during a graduation ceremony of the said institution which took place under the watchful eyes of administrative and local authorities.

In an academic discourse delivered on the occasion, the Registrar of the University of Bamenda, UBa, Professor Kongnyuy Patrick while reminding the students on the to be professionals as they get into the job market also challenged the now erstwhile trainees to take up the challenge and adopt the best practices in the knowledge base society.

The seasoned educationist, who was guest speaker in his discourse equally urged the graduating students to hold on to their professional ethics, exhibit integrity in their personal life and onto their professional lives.

He said Cameroon needs professionals who uphold faithfully the ethics they carry on their shoulders.

Focusing his discourse on "professionalism, professionalism and thriving for professionals in

the post professional world: what lies ahead?, the University don explained that the choice of the topic was not by accident.

"It was carefully chosen by the institution and carefully chosen in line with the expectations of the institution" he explained.

The erudite professor said the "greatest misconception about professionalism is the understanding that it is all about money..."

He said "many highly trained, highly paid workers don't qualify as professionals because of different reasons like money. Many people believe that credentials such as diplomas, degrees, certificates contribute to professionalism".

The UBa registrar however insisted that even though credentials are important "it doesn't mean a lot if the worker doesn't know how to act, in other words without a certain attitude"

"Therefore, professionalism, means different things to different people. Professionalism is something you learn to do. You don't just become a professional overnight" he emphasized.

Meanwhile for his part, the Managing director HIPTEx, Kebuya Nathaniel said the institution is unique both in teaching and practice.

He said "At HIPTEx, we train students not only in theory but the practical aspect of it. That is why out of eight students in the whole



Graduating HIPTEx students during Saturday's ceremony



of Cameroon who got distinctions, five of them are from HIPTEx".

"For the Bakery and Food Processing field, we had about three distinctions in the whole of Cameroon with one from HIPTEx" he said further before stat-

ing that "... the difference with us is clear. We have laboratories for medical laboratory, Nursing, Bakery and Food Processing, Fashion Clothing and Textile and so on".

He said HIPTEx trains professionals not only in theory but in

practice "that is what distinguishes us".

Administrator salutes HIPTEx

Meanwhile in an address delivered during Saturday's graduation, the representative of the Divisional Officer of the Yaounde VI sub division, Roger Bruce Ntomba had saluted the quality of training at HIPTEx.

The representative of the Administration had thanked HIPTEx for contributing to the growth of the education sector in Cameroon and beyond.

He said "without well trained and qualified citizens, we can't build a developed country".

"I want to congratulate all the lecturers, staff and others who have been contributing in order to train these graduates today. The nation is grateful to you", he said.

Turning to the graduating students, the administrator said "... this is a major step in the journey of your life. It is an act of personal commitment...you have all worked hard to get to this level but graduation is not an end by itself but it is just part of the larger journey".

"Be at your best wherever you are employed..." he urged.

HIPTEx is an academic institution which began in 2017 as a vocational institution and was authorized by government to run a good number of Higher National Diploma, HND fields.

Douala City Council's revenue from adverts doubles

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

The Douala City Council in the Littoral region is reported to have recently presented a revenue balance-sheet showing revenue from advertisements alone increased by 207%.

According to reports, as at 30 July, 2021 the city council posted invoices worth 959.2 million FCFA as advertising fees. This is said to have been paid by some 18 advertising networks active in the city.

Reports quote the council's financial department as stating that the amount has increased by 207.6% compared to 461.6 million FCFA recorded during the same period in 2019. The current amount is also up by 213.2% compared to the 449.9 million FCFA posted to the credit of advertisers in the 2020 business year.

Officials of the council are quoted as saying the increase is facilitated by the regulatory changes in the advertising sector in the city of Douala. The council is reported to have as at the second quarter of 2020, recruited Quantum A&A, a consulting firm founded by Brice Meilo, to collect advertising revenues for the Council.

To restore the soundness of the advertising industry in Douala, officials are also said to have disclosed that the said consulting firm implemented several strategies including geo-localizing all the advertising panels around the economic capital, as well as dematerializing the control and monitoring of advertising operations. In January 2021, a local advertising law became effective in Douala, which thus became the first Francophone Sub-Saharan African city to take such initiative.



Roger Mbassa Ndine: City mayor of Douala

The consulting firm is said to be increasingly preventing advertisers from indulging in unlawful practices like not paying various advertising fees to the city council, hiding the revenues collected from advertisers, dumping prices, or overstepping the exclusive advertising spaces dedicated to them.

They are said to have stated for instance, that thanks to the transparency and visibility offered by the new measures initiated by Quantum A&A, the City Council was able to identify and suspend six advertising networks owing over 240 million FCFA in various fees.

The same sources said Douala City Council mayor, Roger Mbassa Ndine recently indicated that advertising revenues would contribute to a rise in the City Council's internal revenue earnings this year. On August 12, 2021, during a meeting organized by the city council to review its mid-term budget execution, the mayor revealed that during the current year, the Douala City Council's revenue could rise by 11 billion FCFA (+18.8%) to 70 billion FCFA.

Business in Africa:

Francophonie entrepreneurs fine-tune strategies to dominate

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

Entrepreneurs of member countries of the La Francophonie, entre are fine-tuning strategies to take dominate the African business scene.

This was the focus of a gathering of leaders of enterprises owned by France and French-speaking associates and heads of business associations staged in Paris August 24 and 25.

Louise Mushikiwabo, the Secretary General of the International Organisation of the Francophonie, OIF presented a plan to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between economic actors.

Though economic issues are not the primary inclination of the Francophonie, Louise Mushikiwabo of Rwandan nationality, sees it "as a catalyst and actor alongside (its) partners," it must play an "important role" in the economic dynamics of its member States. She talked about the need to put in place an economic strategy for the period 2021-2025.

The strategy will be presented to Heads of state of La Francophonie when they meet on November 20 and 21 this year in Djerba, Tunisia for their 18th summit. The package includes a comprehensive post COVID-19 recovery plan.

Equally important is the need to strategize and reap the benefits of economic diversification, expand opportunities for member states for more trade exchanges among other pertinent economic dominance issues.

According to the La Francophonie scribe: "The discussions in the French capital aim to open up shared horizons within the Francophone space at a time of



File photo: Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General of the International Organization of the Francophonie, OIF

post-Covid economic recovery and to illustrate in a concrete manner, the opportunities offered on the ground..."

Meanwhile, Ivorian Prime Minister, Patrick Achi expressed his country's willingness to host the next Meeting of Francophone Entrepreneurs (REF) in 2022.

"I would like to suggest that this meeting, which will inevitably be followed by others, can now be held alternately on both sides of our French-speaking world," he said.

This area includes African countries like Algeria, Cameroon, DR Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Madagascar, Morocco, Mauritius, Congo Brazzaville, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia among others. The Group of five, G-5 Sahel employers' association, that is made up of many countries in the Sahel zone of Africa also attended the conference.

Qatar 2022 World Cup:

Lions camp in Yaounde ahead of Flames clash

By Deng Eric

Cameroon's senior men football selection, the Indomitable Lions have opened camp in Yaounde ahead of their two group D fixtures against the Flames of Malawi and Elephants of Cote d'Ivoire in the first round of qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Cameroon clashes against Malawi on Friday September 3 at the newly constructed Olembe stadium in Yaounde and faces Cote d'Ivoire three days later in Abidjan for the first round of qualification matches.

As of the early hours of Monday August 30, 17 of the 28 players invited by the team's lead trainer had arrived the Mundi complex at the outskirts of Yaounde where they are expected to hold their training sessions.

All four goalkeepers including Omosola Simon, Efala Komguep, Epassy Devis and Narcisse Nlend who were invited by coach Conceicao answered present in camp.

Three defenders, Samuel Junior Kotto, Moukoudi Harold, Fai Collins and four midfielders, Samuel Oum Gouet, Neyou Yvan, Kunde Malong, Martin Hongla arrived Yaounde as of yesterday to begin training for Friday's fixture.



Some Lions' players upon arrival in camp yesterday
Christian Bassogog was the only attacker in camp as at

yesterday morning. Saint Etienne's defender Jean Charles Castelletto and Appolon Limassol midfielder, Arnaud Djoum have been ruled out of the game after sustaining injuries while on club duty.

The five-time African champions and seven-time World Cup participants who are in search of a ticket for the FIFA-organised global football event must emerge top of their group to get a place in the next round of qualifiers.

Coach António who extended his contract with the Lions last week said they will approach the qualifiers matches with the intention of picking maximum points as reaching the World Cup whose previous edition they missed is a priority.

"It is every player's dream to be at the World Cup. Personally it is my motivation especially as we missed the previous edition. I want to be there" winger, Christian Bassogog told the media before they entered camp.

The China-based footballer who won the 2017 AFCON with the Lions has been out of the team since Cameroon defeated Mozambique 2-0 in the AFCON qualifiers.

The winner of the Cameroon, Malawi, Cote d'Ivoire and Mozambique group will head into the final knockout series in March 2022.

Cameroon professional league:

PWD sinks Union Sportive Douala to Elite Two Championship

By Mboh Promise

Cameroon League One defending champions, PWD Bamenda Sunday August 28, sealed the fate of one of the country's most historic clubs, Union of Douala, sending them to the second tier for the first time in more than half a century.

Union travelled to Bamenda on the final match-day in pool A of the 21-team league this campaign, knowing that a defeat was going to end their stay in the topflight going into the next season.

The fate of the coach Richard Towaled outfit was finally confirmed after PWD's Ze Abessolo stroke at the 77th minute to hand the Bamenda club a 1-0 win at the Yong Sport Center.

The defeat thus left the six-time Cup of Cameroon winners with 18 points after 22 games, slightly below the mark needed to display either Dragon or Eding Sport.

The team finished 10th on the 11-club Pool A of the top tier championship, ending the season 1 point



Union Douala: relegated for first time in over half a century

below fellow relegation fighting side, Dragon of Yaounde who finished 9th.

Dragon are expected to play relegation play-off with Tonnerre of Yaounde from Pool B.

Sunday afternoon's match outcomes means the Littoral regional side will be descending to the second division for the first time in 63 years after the outfit made its entry to the top flight in 1958.

The 1979 CAF Champions League winners whose last silverware came in

2012 becomes the fourth team to be sent to the second team this season after the likes of New Stars of Douala, Yaounde II FC and Panthere of Nde.

It equally becomes the first biggest casualty going to the second tier this decade.

The team's relegation comes barely years after the likes of Canon, TKC, PWD both of Yaounde got relegated to the second division in the last decade.

World Volleyball Championship:

Cameroon U-19 boys register five consecutive defeats

By Deng Eric



Cameroon U-19 boys volleyball Lions

Cameroon U-19 boys national volleyball selection that travelled to Iran for the 2021 U-19 Boys' World Volleyball Championship are set to return home without winning a single match in the global event.

The squad coached by Jean Patrice Ndaki Mboulet was participating in the world championship for the first time and failed to impress in all of their five games played in the competitions.

Lodged in pool C alongside Thailand, Belgium, Bulgaria and Russia, Cameroon, the boys of coach Ndaki Mboulet seemed to have been more on a safari trip.

They lost successively; 1-3 to Thailand, 0-3 to Russia, 0-3 to Belgium and 0-3 to Bulgaria in the group stage.

The volleyball youngsters finished 18th on the general classification table after losing their 17th place classification match on a 0-3 score to Belarus yesterday August 30.

Coach Ndaki Mboulet told the state broadcaster that besides stress which affected his players, the food in Iran was also a major problem.

"The food we have here is not the same like in Cameroon; we noticed that most of our players gained weight; 2kg, 3kg and so on. That is not the only thing but we need to learn how to manage such situations. We know that in every competition, we will pay attention on the food the kids are eating" coach Ndaki said.

"Stress also affected the players; a player can be very good during training but in the game proper he is like 50% of his potential, that's what we noticed with some of our players" the volleyball trainer added.

The two other Africa's representative in the championship, Nigeria and Egypt who had progressed to the knock out stage were eliminated yesterday.

Nigeria bowed to Italy 0-3 while Bulgaria thrashed Egypt on a similar 3-0 score.

The 20-team tournament which opened on August 24 will end with the final on Thursday September 2.

Italy are defending champions of the tournament.

Buea:

Lions of Wotutu lifts trophy of Edwin Eselem's holiday football tourney

By Mua Patrick Mughe

Lions of Wotutu are winners of the maiden edition of the Edwin Eselem's holiday tournament. The tournament staged in Wotutu, a locality in Buea subdivision of the South West region was initiated by renowned communication strategist, Edwin Eselem.

The competition came to a close Sunday with Lions of Wotutu emerging champions.

The final unfolded in the presence of hundreds of spectators, sponsors, donors and football lovers who converged on the Catholic School Field in Wotutu Sunday August 29 to witness the thrilling encounter.

The objective of the month-long tournament which saw the participation of eight teams, was to bring a new lease of life to the Wotutu community of the Bonjongo Court Area, according to the organisers.

The final encounter opposing Lions of Wotutu and Sunshine FC ended 1-1 but the winner was decided after post-match penalties as the exploit of Lions of Wotutu shot-stopper and goalkeeper permitted his team to triumph 4-1.

The heavy rains of Saturday had given way to a beautiful weather and blue skies, setting the stage for a beautiful soccer jamboree.



Cup donor, Edwin Eselem hands trophy to Lions of Wotutu team captain

The rains of the previous day were a sign of benediction for the village and the community.

When the Limbe trumpet choir with their brass bands and trumpets hit the high notes at about 3pm, the village was in total frenzy.

Both teams put up a beautiful display of soccer with swift passes, clinical tackles and robust defending characteristic of "champagne football".

The event was also graced with high level guests from across the country including Professor Julius Che Tita of the University of Buea, Dr. Ebob Eta Nkame, Humphrey Ngando of Ecobank, Dr. Kenneth NguFoncha, MbuaEneme, Prince ImohElangwe, Bello Maya, Senior Pastor Comedian, MC Dibenja,

KwohElonge, Prince Enobi, FranclineFonderson, Jacky Manga, Barrister Arnold Bato, Nkengasong Martin, GrehamModen amongst others.

For the first time in the history of the tournament, Lions of Wotutu received winner's medals in addition to their cash prize.

Prizes were also handed out to the Best Player of the tournament, the highest goal scorer and the finalists Sunshine FC.

In a statement during the award ceremony, the promoter Edwin Eselem, noted that "the biggest winner of the tournament is the Wotutu community".

For having stood the test of the trying times and the ravaging socio-political crisis, the tournament offered a glimmer of hope that better days were ahead for the community.

One of the VIP spectators, Senior Pastor Comedian, thanked the promoter for putting a smile on the faces of the people of Wotutu and pledged his support for subsequent editions of the tournament.

With the support of the entire Wotutu community, the promoter promised to make the tournament a permanent one and guests also promised to lend their support to the community.