

The Guardian Post

DAILY

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

Rose Acheck Foundation donates modern toilets to Guzang Fon's Palace

By Wanchia Cynthia

US-based organisation, The Rose Acheck Foundation, has constructed and donated modern pit toilets to Guzang Fon's Palace in Batibo Subdivision, Momo Division of the North West Region. *Cont'd on page 10*



Mafor Mbanyamsig Beatrice: Founder of Rose Acheck Foundation

37 years after: Lake Nyos disaster survivors still in tears!

- *President of survivors association says living another disaster due to Anglophone crisis as resettlement camps burnt down*
- *Advocates 'special status' in reconstruction plan as UN's 24 billion FCFA-worth project stalled*

By Mua Patrick

Victims of the deadly Lake Nyos Disaster of 1986 have continued to express anguish over government's

insensitivity to their plights.

Thirty-seven years after the catastrophe broke out, survivors of the disaster, which killed over 1,700 persons, including thousands of animals, say they feel

abandoned.

They have since been groaning and grumbling in silence. The Anglophone crisis, which since 2017 morphed into an armed conflict, seems to have made

matters worse for the survivors of the disaster, who are spread across seven settlement camps in Menchum and Boyo Divisions of the restive North West Region.

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Cameroon in search of new opportunities at BRICS Summit

- *Biya's envoy, PM Dion Ngute, leading high-powered delegation to South Africa*

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PM Dion Ngute being welcomed by Cameroon's High Commissioner to South Africa, H.E Azoh-Mbi Solomon, upon arrival yesterday

King Edwards inter-quarter football finals:
Chief Edward Molingé urges subjects to promote unity, peace, togetherness

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For giving Kupe-Muanenguba rare media visibility:
Communication Delegate, Dr Olive Ejang, gets prestigious distinction

By Doh Bertrand Nua

The Divisional Delegate of Communication for Kupe-Muanenguba, in the South West Region, Dr Olive Ejang Tebug épse Ndumea, has been awarded for her unparalleled role in giving the administrative unit rare media visibility.

The celebrated delegate, ace journalist and communication consultant, was awarded for Excellence in Institutional Communication over the weekend.

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Dr Olive Ejang Tebug épse Ndumea brandishing award

Misaje Subdivision:

Ndansi Elvis respects tradition, makes available 2.5 million FCFA for Shaa Festival



By Mua Patrick

United States-based Cameroonian health expert and community development promoter, Ndansi Elvis Nukam, has once again stayed true to his commitment of boosting the local economy of Misaje Subdivision in Donga Mantung Division. This he is doing through the organisation of the annual Shaa Festival. *Cont'd on page 9*

Issues of the moment

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

Faith of our ancestors

I stumbled over a social media post in which a person who claimed to be seeking for exoteric wisdom was asking a heavenly being about occupants of heaven.

He asked whether there were Christians there, but the angel said no. He asked whether heaven is filled by Muslims, the angel still said no. The man mentioned all the religious denominations and sects he knew but the angel said no.

Finally, the man asked, "who then are those in heaven"? The angel told him that heaven is full of people with faith.

This brings us to the recent book authored by Rev Father Tatab Mbuy, on the significance of African Traditional religion, launched on August 12, in Yaounde.

The question whether existence has any eternal purpose requires many manmade religions and occult groups to explore the unknown. Leaders try to raise the consciousness of their adherents to appreciate themselves as creatures who harbour something more than what they see and perceive with their physical senses.

They train adherents to see beyond mortal life; appreciate and imagine what life in the hereafter could look like.

Without this consciousness and without striving to see life beyond the physical, the average human being could end up not being better than a brute; nothing higher than the beast of the field.

Faith as embodiment of belief systems

Faith is increasingly emerging as believe in something greater than man; that is responsible, ordering existing creation and its future evolution. Monotheists have come to give it a name, depending on the language they speak.

In English, the Great Monotheists is called God. In all religions, a belief is a subjective attitude of individual adherents agreeing that the existence of an all-knowing and all-powerful creator is true.

In his book, Father Tatab wants Africans to treat and study African traditional religion as a religion in its own right, equating it with Christianity and other popular religions. This could shock those who think that practitioners of African traditional belief systems have no place in the Christian heaven.

Even more, the author asserts that the concept of one God actually originates from African traditional religion, and not from Christianity as members of the latter group were taught in the Catholic catechism.

For demystifying African traditional religion through his publication, Father Tatab, a Catholic faithful stand in a class of his own.

He encourages other Africans to reconsider what religion is and embrace their traditional practices of worship and veneration of God and His Creation.

Social significance of belief systems

The social significance we attribute to belief systems has made some religions more appealing than others. While we regard some religions as backward, we further stigmatise them as works of the devil that lead adherents to eternal damnation or hell fire.

Publications like Father Tatab's, could help to extricate African traditional religions from this negative image. The book could also help those who are fixated in their religious belief to take another look at religious practices that are different from theirs.

Researchers on religious practices state that the social significance of any belief system is reinforced by practitioners and adherents of the specific religion.

That a connection exists between belief systems and human society. And as wide and diverse as human society is, we should not be surprised that humanity cannot adopt a single religion through which to practice their beliefs.

More so, as collections of belief systems do not generally have neat boundaries. And in a context where the life span of a belief system is potentially longer than the life span of believers, they often include representations of alternative worlds.

Beginning typically with the world as it is and the world as it should be. Thus, the calls for this world to be changed in order to achieve the ideal.

Helen Keller Int'l-Cameroon gets new Country Director, Prof Robert Mba

By Macwalter Njapteh Refor

The American humanitarian organisation, Helen Keller International-Cameroon, now has a new Country Director in the person of Prof Robert Mba.

The Associate Professor, with a rich career experience in academic research and international development, was appointed recently.

He replaces Dr Ismael Teta, now Chief of Nutrition at UN International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF-Kenya.

Before joining Helen Keller Int'l-Cameroon, Prof Robert Mba, served as a Researcher at the German University of Tübingen and as a Research Assistant at Johannes Kepler University in Austria.

The Cameroonian equally worked as Research Assistant and Health Systems Project Manager in the Health Department of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, IFRC, in Geneva, Switzerland. From there, he went on to join the German development bank known as Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, KfW, in Frankfurt.

After serving the German bank with diligence and dedication, he was later made the Chargé de Mission in Cameroon for KfW. Prof Robert Mba also holds a higher academic teaching rank of Associate Professor in the University of Yaoundé I.

Prof Mba takes charge of the Helen Keller Intl office, established in Cameroon since 1992, with a dedication to supporting and building the capacity of the government, civil society and private sector in promoting the development of large scale preventive and curative programmes centred on food and health systems.

Operating in the 10 regions of Cameroon with staff present in eight regions, Helen Keller International is



Prof Robert Mba: Helen Keller Int'l-Cameroon new Country Director

working to ensure everyone reaches their true potential by reducing infant and maternal mortality through vitamin A supplementation, providing inclusive eye care services in schools, fighting against neglected tropical diseases, and fostering local governance of health promotion and nutrition.

It is worth noting that the American philanthropic organisation was co-founded in 1915 by two extraordinary individuals, Helen Keller and George Kessler, to assist soldiers blinded during their service in World War I.

Guided by Helen Keller's fierce optimism, the international organisation has been working on the front lines of health for more than 100 years in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the US.

Meyomessala:

Foreign physicians screen population as new health scheme in view

By Ngwanwi Nengeh Banda

The population of Meyomessala municipality, in the Dja and Lobo Division of the South Region has benefited free screening from foreign physicians.

The recent campaign was done within the context of a move by a Cameroonian based abroad to introduce a new health scheme known as 'SleepDoctor Clinic' in the area.

The recent health campaign lasted three days. Residents of the area benefitted free medical check-ups from doctors who came in from Germany, Italy and other medics in Cameroon.

They provided consultations, prescribed medicines, and gave advice to the population on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle with the of a digital consultation device built by the team of health experts.

Reacting to the screening, the Mayor of Meyomessala municipality, Christian Mebiame, told reporters that the population can only be productive if they are healthy.

"What can the population do if they are not in good health? What can they do for their country with sick bodies? We are so delighted to have the medics in our municipality," Mayor Mebiame sated.

In addition to the free general health campaign, the local council also laid the foundation stone for the innovative healthcare complex, SleepDoctor Clinic.

According to officials, the 'SleepDoctor Clinic' is a joint project between the local council and the team of physicians from Europe. The clinic will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and staffed by highly trained medical professionals.

The healthcare facility is expected to bring much-needed healthcare closer to the people of Meyomessala. The residents said during the screening that, with the new health system in view, they are hoping to stop travelling long distances to access specialised medical services. The clinic, those behind it said, will provide affordable and accessible healthcare to all.

The promoter of the SleepDoctor Clinic, Dr Guy Kouemou, underscored that "the technology I'm offering the people of Meyomessala, the south Region and Cameroon in General will through the Sleep Doctor, enjoy the services of the Doctor of the future will



Mayor of Meyomessala, Christian Mebiame, addressing the media



Visiting physicians demonstrating how to use digital healthcare device always be with us".

Lake Nyos disaster survivors still in tears!

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The survivors now appear to be facing a second disaster amidst the ongoing armed conflict in the two English-speaking Regions of the country.

Government has been accused of looking away while several survivors have been forced to flee resettlement camps, due to sporadic gunshots and killings.

Most of the promises made by Yaounde, when the calamity befell the area, are yet to be fulfilled.

Survivors who spoke to The Guardian Post yesterday, say they lack basic amenities for survival.

Most of the survivors in Bua Bua and Kimbi resettlement camps, confessed to be living in abject misery and under life-threatening conditions.

Speaking to The Guardian Post yesterday, which coincided with the 37th anniversary of the disaster, the National President of the Kimbi-Buabua Lake Nyos Survivors Development Association, BUKILSDA, Mary Kimbi Yuabang, was categorical that government has done very little to assist victims of the gas disaster that struck the villages of Chah, Nyos and Su-bum, 37 years ago.

Mary Kimbi said the situation of the survivors at the moment remains very "horrible and deplorable due to the ongoing armed conflict in the North West and South West Regions".

Kimbi said survivors in most of the resettlement camps "are like facing another disaster".

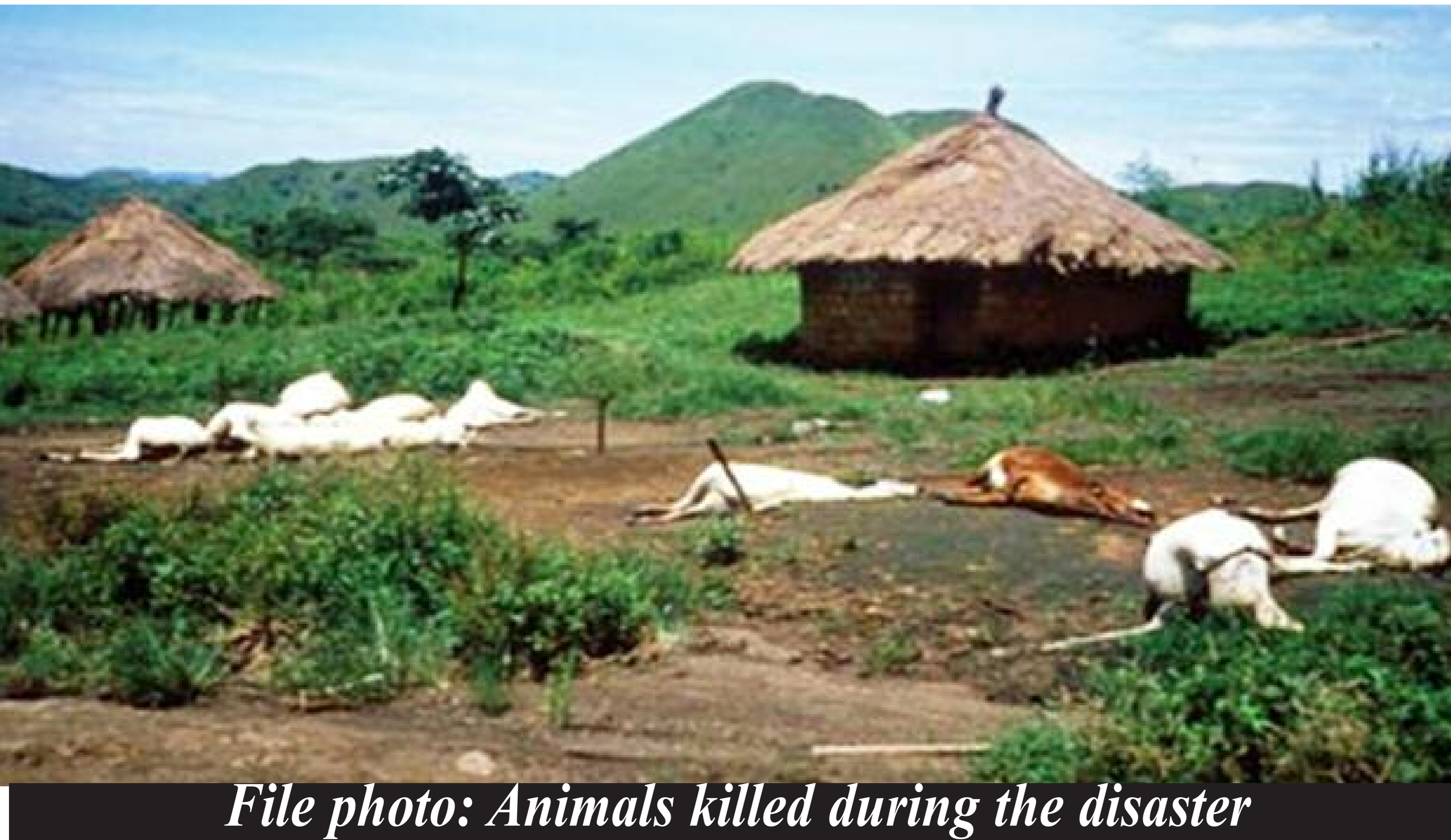
"The settlement camps in Bua Bua and Kimbi, were burnt down by Fulanis, so the people are in dire need of shelter and many other things," she said.

"The people need urgent rehabilitation because there are no homes. They lack houses and schools. The lone Secondary School that was in Bua Bua, wind came and blew off the roof," Kimbi tear-provokingly disclosed.

She continued that: "Before the Anglophone crisis began, we were expecting a giant project from the



A view of life around one of the resettlement camps in Menchum Division



File photo: Animals killed during the disaster

United Nations. It is a 24 billion FCFA project. Through the project, the UN was to reconstruct houses and many other facilities. But because of the Anglophone crisis, the project has been abandoned".

"...we are now only waiting for the reconstruction project of the North West and South West Regions so the survivors can benefit. We are hoping that they will pay special attention to the situation of Lake Nyos disaster survivors...though the process is very slow," she added.

Kimbi told The Guardian Post that the situation of the more than 40 families in Bua Bua is uniquely preoccupu-

pying.

"The families now live in clusters, in small houses that were not destroyed by fire. Most of them fled the village to Fundong (in Boyo Division), some went as far as Douala and Yaounde. However, because of the standard of living in those cities, they have all come back home. There are now struggling to put up huts and small tents for themselves to get shelter," she concluded.

Failed promises, little hope

Besides asking for basic amenities in the various settlement camps, survivors of the Lake Nyos gas explosion

have also been requesting government to facilitate return to their ancestral land.

Over 12,000 people are said to be currently living in camps in Menchum, following the August 1986 disaster, during which carbon dioxide spewed out of the nearby volcanic lake, engulfing villages and killing over 1,746 people.

In 2013, North West Governor, Adolphe Lele Lafrique, who doubles as head of the Lake Nyos Disaster Management Committee, announced that survivors would be relocated to the Nyos area. He did not however say when and how they would be repatriated. The survivors have since been in a long wait for government's intervention.

While still in the resettlement camps, the survivors are begging for basic health, education and other necessities, which are said to be several kilometres away from them.

Deadliest disaster in Cameroon...

It should be recalled that on August 21, 1986, one of the strangest and most mysterious natural disasters in history took place in Lake Nyos, Menchum Division of the North West Region.

Without warning, the lake released hundreds of thousands of tonnes of toxic carbon dioxide, suffocating an estimated 1,746 people and more than 3,500 livestock within minutes.

The effect was as devastating as it was swift, and with the severity of a Biblical plague, it felled locals and wildlife alike by starving the air of oxygen within a 25-km radius of the lake.

Many people from the villages of Cha, Nyos and Subum, were silently killed in their sleep. Some were found with blood around their noses and mouths.

When the few remaining survivors woke up, they found no disturbances, no violence, just corpses. Even the flies had dropped dead.

China donates foodstuff, didactics to Chantal Biya Foundation

By Morine Tanyi

The government of the People's Republic China has through its embassy in Cameroon donated foodstuff and didactics to the Chantal Biya Foundation. The gifts were handed over by Chinese Ambassador to Cameroon, His Excellency Wang Yingwu.

It was the Secretary General of the Chantal Biya Foundation, Habissou Bidoung, who received the donation. A ceremony to hand over the gift took place in Yaounde on August 18.

The consignment donated to the foundation comprised foodstuff, computers, cleaning kits among others. According to Ambassador Wang Yingwu, the consignment is to help the foundation in its daily healthcare and humanitarian activities.

The diplomat used the event to extend warm and fraternal greetings from the First Lady of the People's Republic of China, Pengs Liyuan, to the First lady of Cameroon, Chantal Biya.

Wang Yingwu also noted that the donation from the government of the People's Republic of China is equally a



L-R: CERAC scribe, Dr Habissou Bidoung and Chinese Ambassador, His Excellency, Wang Yingwu during donation ceremony



His Excellency Wang Yingwu flanked by other officials and CERAC delegation

way to boost ties between his country and Cameroon.

The diplomat equally reiterated the support of his country to Cameroon in the domains of health, infrastructure and education China, Wang Yingwu said, is always at the disposal of Cameroon to reinforce the friendly and brotherly collaboration that has been existing between both countries for several decades.

Through the donation, the diplomat said the Chantal Biya Foundation and the Chinese Embassy in Cameroon are

always renewing their engagement to pursue a common course.

On her part, Habissou Bidoung, thanked the diplomat for the donation and assured that the consignment will be put to good use in the interest of the population.

The gifts, she also said, will go a long way to assist the foundation to come to the assistance of vulnerable people who are being taken care of by the Foundation.

The relationship between China and Cameroon, worthy to be said, dates

back to March 26, 1971. Both countries have collaborated in the domains of infrastructure, agriculture and health especially in the fight against malaria.

When it comes to the domain of technology, road maintenance and construction, hydroelectricity, social housing, civil aeronautics, mines and telecommunication among others, China's influence in Cameroon is also very visible. Both countries have signed several accords to boost mutual development.

Editorial

ECOWAS should rethink Niger's plan to hand over power to civilians

On Saturday night, General Abdourahamane Tchiani, leader of the Niger junta, said in a televised broadcast that he will hand over power to a civilian government within the next three years.

But the next day, the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, rejected the power transition plan. ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Abdel-Fatau Musa, stated in an interview with the BBC that General Tchiani's proposal was just a smokescreen for dialogue and diplomacy.

Before the announcement of a transitional plan, there was a two-day meeting of the regional bloc's Defence Chiefs in Accra, Ghana. After the conclave that ended last Friday, Musa told newsmen that ECOWAS troops were poised to attack.

"We are ready to go any time the order is given. The D-day is also decided. We've already agreed and fine-tuned what will be required for intervention. As we speak, we are still readying a mediation mission into the country. We have not shut any door," he said.

If they use the military, it won't be a quick fix and cocktail repercussions would not be limited to Niger but escalate to the entire West and Central African Subregion, either in the form of terrorism, influx of refugees or sporadic attacks on neighbouring countries.

While ECOWAS military chiefs were meeting in Accra on Friday, the military leaders from Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger convened the same day in Niamey and decided on "concrete measures" in case ECOWAS chooses to "escalate a war".

Burkina Faso and Mali have deployed warplanes to Niger. In a joint statement, the governments of Burkina Faso and Mali said: "The disastrous consequences of a military intervention in Niger could destabilise the entire region".

The two countries, which, like Niger, are also members of ECOWAS, warned that any military intervention in Niger will be considered a declaration of war against them as well.

Russia's feared Wagner mercenary group is already active in the region and has expressed support for the new junta in Niamey, though Moscow has said dialogue should be the solution rather than war.

Diplomatic watchers feel that with the US and France having their military bases in Niger, and Russia posturing as the ally Africa so desperately needs, "Niger may become a theatre for the show of power between the West and the East".

Already, there are increasing fears that if ECOWAS is coerced into attacking Niger, it risks becoming a puppet in the hands of the West in the pursuit of Western geopolitical interest.

According to a report in Nigeria's Premium Times daily, "Western countries are actually encouraging Nigeria to get into this fight, not for our own sake but for their own sake...so, we may have a fight that is really a fight between Russia and America and we are simply pawns in that fight".

Nigerien population understands ECOWAS is just a proxy in the diatribe. That explains why at the weekend, the population in Niamey protested against France and its allies. Slogans hostile to the French and United States military presence with placards reading "Down with France", "No to sanctions", "Stop military intervention" were carried by thousands of demonstrators.

Other messages showed peaceful supporters in social media videos fondly waving the Russian, Chinese and Indian flags.

Though military regimes have become a necessary evil in addressing democratic shortcomings as it has been observed in four West African countries, all former French colonies, within the last two years, they have not been taken out of power by the bullet.

Their removal has been through dialogue and eventual democratic transitions where some of the putschists have returned to power as civilians.

After meeting with the ECOWAS delegation, led by former Nigerian Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd) at the weekend, the host announced a transition programme of "within three years". But he added that while Niger does not want to go to war and its door is open for discussions, the country shall defend itself if the need arises.

The delegation met with Niger's Prime Minister, Ali Lamine Zeine, who received them at the airport. It held talks with the head of the junta, General Abdourahamane Tchiani, for about 90 minutes and later with ousted President Bazoum.

Before the announcement of a transition plan, General Abdulsalami had told journalists their meeting with the junta went well and had opened a door for further talks.

"We will communicate this to ECOWAS leaders. Doors for talks are now open for a lasting solution," the ECOWAS delegation confided in the media.

The Guardian Post salutes the ECOWAS delegation for the peaceful initiative and urged it to accept the transition plan. A war, given the parties likely to be involved, could last for more than three years, cause devastating damages to humans and infrastructure not only in Niger but in other ECOWAS countries and the economy of the entire continent.

There is also no guarantee that a war will bring back the deposed Head of State, who could be killed during the conflict and ECOWAS, and by extension other Africa countries, will be ridiculed as just being robots of neo-colonialism.

Community Development, Peace & Social Transformer's Notebook

By Rosaline Obah*



Rising crisis:

Surge in killings takes a devastating toll on communities and families

In an increasingly interconnected world, a disturbing trend has emerged that threatens the very foundation of societies worldwide. A surge in killings, borne out of various complex factors, is exacting a devastating toll on communities and families.

The surge in killings has transcended geographical boundaries, leaving a trail of sorrow and despair in its wake. This crisis, often rooted in social, political, and economic factors, is driving a wedge through the heart of communities.

Trust, once a cornerstone of neighbourly relations, is eroding as fear permeates the air. Families, the bedrock of support and love, are now grappling with unimaginable loss and trauma, struggling to navigate the overwhelming grief that follows senseless acts of violence.

The consequences of this crisis extend beyond immediate loss. Communities are scarred, forever marked by the memory of the lives cut short.

Families are left grappling with the enduring trauma, and the emotional wounds may take generations to heal. The resilience of societies is being tested as they grapple with rebuilding fractured bonds and restoring a sense of security.

Analyzing the situation in Cameroon & the way forward

The surge in killings in Cameroon has plunged the country into a state of turmoil, posing complex challenges that demand a multifaceted approach for resolution.

The socio-political crisis is deeply rooted in a combination of historical, political, and socio-economic factors, making it crucial to understand the underlying dynamics in order to chart a viable path forward.

Decades of ethnic tensions, marginalisation, and political instability have created an environment where violence can fester, ultimately tearing at the fabric of Cameroonian society.

Additionally, the surge in killings is intertwined with economic hardships faced by many Cameroonians. Poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to basic services contribute to a sense of hopelessness, pushing some individuals towards crimi-

nal activities or extremist ideologies.

Economic development initiatives that prioritize job creation, education, and healthcare can play a pivotal role in mitigating the allure of violence as a means of escape from dire circumstances.

Violence and killings in Cameroon have left a particularly profound impact on some of the most vulnerable members of society – children and spouses who have been suddenly thrust into the harsh reality of becoming orphans and widows/widowers.

The psychological toll on children who lose their parents to violence is immeasurable. These young lives are abruptly stripped of the support, guidance, and emotional security that parents provide.

Many of these children are left traumatized, grappling with feelings of abandonment, grief, and confusion, which can have far-reaching effects on their psychological and emotional development. Without proper support systems in place, they are at risk of falling through the cracks of a fractured society.

Equally devastating are the widows and widowers left behind, grappling with the overwhelming loss of their partners while shouldering the responsibility of providing for their families alone.

These individuals not only face the emotional burden of grief but also the practical challenges of financial instability, as they often lose the primary breadwinners of their households.

As the nation seeks to address the surge in killings and its far-reaching consequences, it is imperative to prioritize the well-being of these vulnerable groups.

Comprehensive support systems must be established to provide counselling, education, and psychosocial services to children who have lost their parents.

Additionally, widowed spouses should be provided with avenues for economic empowerment, job training, and legal aid to help them regain their footing and rebuild their lives.

NGOs, community organisations, and governmental agencies have a crucial role to play in offering assistance, fostering resilience, and preventing the perpetuation of cycles of poverty

and trauma.

Ultimately, the impact of the killings on children and widows/widowers is a stark reminder of the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to address the crisis.

By ensuring that these vulnerable groups are given the necessary support to heal and rebuild, Cameroon can take significant strides toward not only restoring stability but also fostering a society that is compassionate, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of its most marginalized members.

The way forward for Cameroon necessitates a multi-pronged approach that involves not only domestic stakeholders but also international partners.

Engaging in sincere and inclusive dialogue with marginalized communities is paramount. This includes addressing grievances, ensuring equitable representation and social cohesion.

At the international level, diplomatic efforts should be focused on supporting Cameroon's domestic initiatives while also urging the government to uphold human rights and engage in peaceful conflict resolution.

Collaborative efforts can facilitate humanitarian assistance to affected communities and contribute to sustainable development projects that alleviate socio-economic disparities.

The surge in killings in Cameroon is a complex crisis that requires a comprehensive and holistic response. By addressing historical divides, socio-economic challenges, and political shortcomings, Cameroon can pave the way for a future that is marked by unity, stability, and prosperity.

The journey ahead is undoubtedly challenging, but the restoration of peace and security is not only a goal for Cameroon but a collective aspiration for the global community.

Rosaline Obah is a Peace and Community Development Specialist; National and International Consultant in Strategic Communication, Corporate Crisis Management, Peacebuilding, Public relations, and Gender/Rights issues. She is a Trainer of Peace journalism, Conflict Transformation, Do No Harm, and Digital Literacy/Rights

Communication Delegate, Dr Olive Ejang, gets prestigious distinction

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It was during a ceremony to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the authoritative English language weekly newspaper, NewsWatch.

The award is based on the assessment made by the jury of NewsWatch newspaper, on the exploits of the Communication Delegate for Kupe-Muanenguba, since assuming duty in 2021.

Dr Ejang's award was handed to her by Metuge Philip Ekaney, Inspector General at the Ministry of Communication, who represented the Minister of Communication, Rene Emmanuel Sadi.

Officials of NewsWatch said the award was in recognition of efforts made by some Cameroonians in their respective walks of life to contribute to nation building.

Justifying the choice of Dr Olive Ejang for the award, members of the award jury, comprising journalism heavyweights, explained that it was for her "unmatched dedication to public service and for giving Kupe-Muanenguba Division rare media visibility through the establishment of a divisional newspaper, radio and dedicated social media page".

Expresses gratitude to NewsWatch team

Speaking after receiving the award, Dr Olive Ejang, expressed gratitude to the entire NewsWatch team and the jury members for recognising her works.

"I am so happy and honoured that my work in Kupe-Muanenguba has been recognised. Somebody somewhere is seeing what I am doing...I am grateful," she said.

The shining institutional communicator said she was more motivated to give wide visibility to the Kupe-Muanenguba because she met a Division "that was abandoned as far as media activities were concerned".



Dr Olive Ejang receiving award from Minister Rene Sadi's representative



Colleagues celebrating with Dr Olive Ejang

"I met a Division without media exposure, no radio station, no newspaper, in fact no media organ," she disclosed, noting that this got her to swing immediately into action; cognisant of the fact that "where there is the media, development follows".

The PhD holder who had researched on media balance of urban and rural Cameroon, said she started off by creating the journey of giving her area of command exposure by creating a "Facebook page for the Divisional Delegation of Communication," to report on happenings of the administrative unit.

"From a page, we said it is time we create a newspaper where people can read and keep information. And from the newspaper which is somehow elitist, we wanted an organ where the common Bakossi man can listen to his or herself in the Bakossi dialect and also get news in pidgin to see themselves in the media," she recounted.

Hails hospitality of population

Dr Olive Ejang attributed the strides recorded in a relatively short period to the hospitality of the population of Kupe-

Muanenguba.

"It has been wonderful. The people are so receptive and happy that they have their own media organ in Bangem and it is reflecting on their traditions and cultures," she said.

"I just want to thank them for the support they are giving me to do this work. Because if I did not have the support of the population, I won't be able to achieve what I have today. I am thanking them for their collaboration and their support. I want to promise them that we are just starting. There is more in the package for Kupe-Muanenguba," she said.

She also expressed words of thanks to the moral and some financial support from elite of the Division. Accessing to information, Dr Olive Ejang said, remains challenging due to bad roads.

"...we have so many bad roads. It is so difficult to access the Division. We climb on bikes; at times we trek into the bush to gather news. That is our major challenge," she said.

The situation on the ground, she said, has further been compounded by the crisis rocking the two English-speaking Regions.

"...there are some areas that we cannot access because of the crisis. But we are struggling to get

into the hinterlands," she said.

About Dr Olive Ejang

Dr Olive Ejang is one of Cameroon's outstanding female media brands. She had made a name in the private sector and has continued to shine in public service.

She is a graduate of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, JMC of the University of Buea. She holds a Master's Degree in Journalism from the University of Buea and a Doctor of Philosophy, PhD, certificate in Sociology and Anthropology from the same university.

The Communication and development consultant worked for over a decade for the Buea-based authoritative Bi-weekly newspaper, The Post. She served as Kumba Bureau Chief of the media house.

Dr Ejang has served at the Central services of the Ministry of Communication. She also worked in the Meme Divisional Delegation of Communication.

The award-winning civil servant is also a former Divisional Delegate of Communication for Fako Division, from where she was posted to Kupe-Muanenguba in 2021.

Corpse of middle-aged woman found in Yaounde neighbourhood

*By Ashley Dissake**

The corpse of a middle-aged woman is said to have been discovered during the morning hours of Thursday August 17, 2023, at Chapel TKC neighbourhood in Yaounde VI Subdivision of the Centre Region.

This reporter arrived the scene when the body was still lying on the roadside, with some curious onlookers trying to get her identity. Others on the scene tried to inquire what must have caused her death. Security officers who arrived the scene also tried getting first-hand information on what must have happened.

No exact information filtered out as to the circumstances surrounding her death. However, information we gathered indicated that the lady reportedly had an argument with her husband which is suspected to have



Authorities assessing the situation

led to a fight.

At press time, it was not yet determined if it was the standoff she had allegedly had with her husband that

led to her death. The incident comes at a time there have been growing insecurity in the country's capital city, Yaounde, as well as increasing

levels of domestic violence, with women mostly being victims.

According to data from the United Nations, Cameroon has one of the highest rates of violence against women in the world. This includes physical assault, sexual harassment, and rape.

Women in Yaounde are particularly vulnerable, especially in public spaces such as markets, public transportation, and the workplace. Catcalling, groping, and other forms of sexual harassment are all too common, and women have reported physical assault, including sexual violence, while going about their daily lives.

Just some days ago, a body was found in the Belibi neighbourhood near Anguissa. This case once more throws light on the growing insecurity in the region.

**Journalism student on internship*

Cameroon in search of new opportunities at BRICS summit

By Maxcel Fokwen

Cameroon is on another international offensive to search for new opportunities on the global scene amid changing dynamics in international geopolitics.

In pursuance of this drive, the Head of State, President Paul Biya, has dispatched the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute, to the 15th Summit of BRICS member countries. BRICS is a grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The summit opens in Sandton-Johannesburg, South Africa, today. It will end on Thursday August 24. The Cameroonian delegation is part of representatives from at least forty countries across the globe invited to the summit.

Dion Ngute is head of a high-profile delegation, comprising the Minister of External Relations, Lejeune Mbella Mbella; the Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development in charge of Planning, Paul Njukang Tassong; the Director of Cabinet at the Prime Minister's Office, Balungeli Confiance Ebune and some technical advisers.

Dion Ngute and his delegation arrived the South African capital yesterday. He was received upon arrival by the country's Minister of Home Affairs, Aaron Motsoaledi and Cameroon's High Commissioner to South Africa, Solomon Azoh-Mbi.

This year's BRICS summit is holding under the theme: "BRICS and Africa, partnership for mutually accelerated growth, sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism".

It is being staged amid an international context cloaked in sever-



PM Dion Ngute shaking hands with Cameroon's High Commissioner to South Africa

al challenges. The constraints range from multi-polarisation, the emergence of new powers, challenges linked to the Russia-Ukraine war, COVID-19 pandemic recovery drive and the institution of the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA.

With President Paul Biya having adopted an approach of maintaining neutrality on key issues, advocating the respect of the sovereignty of countries and a multilateral diplomatic policy, Cameroon's invitation to the summit is no surprise.

The PM Dion Ngute-led delegation is expected to make gains from the several opportunities and schemes that BRICS member countries have put in place to drive economic development.

Cameroon is expected to thus enter new partnerships and strike deals that would help her attain goals outlined in the National Development Strategy, SND, 2020-2030 agenda.

Holding at a time when the BRICS is also pushing to expand its influence across the globe, with a keen eye on developing nations, the participation of the

Prime Minister and other members of his delegation brings to the limelight Cameroon's quest for fresh opportunities.

It is highly expected that Cameroon could find some common grounds of interest in BRICS members pushing for a reform of the international system, especially international organisations like the United Nations, UN, to give developing countries a voice.

The crusade falls in line with the observation of many African leaders at the Paris Conference on a New Global Financing Pact.

During the Paris summit, African leaders did not mince words in calling for reforms within the International Monetary Fund, IMF, and the World Bank among others.

Quest for new membership, stakes

BRICS leaders, alongside invitees to the summit, are expected to also review a call from China for the grouping to open to other emerging powers and developing countries.

Nations like Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco, are said to



PM Dion Ngute being welcome by Cameroon's High Commissioner to South Africa upon arrival yesterday

have long expressed the wish to join the grouping.

China has since 2017 initiated the idea of BRICS Plus, which will absorb other countries that have increased ties with the grouping, since it came into being in 2010.

The New Development Bank, NDB, the financial institution of BRICS, has not also had a smooth ride. With the growing push within the formation to de-dollarise the international financial system, especially trade, the South Africa Summit is expected to come up with new resolutions. A payment system in a common currency is expected to be announced at the end of the Summit.

South Africa's President says world increasingly fractured, complex

In an address to the nation on Sunday August 20, the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, underscored the need for the putting in place of a rules-based system in the face of multiple global challenges.

He said the 15th "BRICS Summit is particularly important

as it is being held as the world is confronted by fundamental challenges that are bound to determine the course of international events for years to come".

The world, he said, has become "increasingly complex and fractured as it is increasingly polarised into competing camps. Multilateralism is being replaced by the actions of different power blocs, all of which we trade with, invest with, and whose technology we use".

South Africa, Ramaphosa said, is pushing for "an open and rules-based global governance, trade, financial and investment system. It must be a system that does not depend on the exercise of power or unilateralism, but by the advancement of the interests of the peoples of the world".

A rules-based system, he maintained, will guarantee prosperity and industrialisation, noting that: "We seek to change the rules to be fairer but ultimately we want to promote an open system of economic and political relations".

It makes sense to note that a majority of invitees to the Summit are from African countries.

COTCO:

Chad, Cameroon settle on new revenue sharing terms

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

New terms on revenue sharing from the Cameroon Oil Transportation Company, COTCO, have led to a substantial increase in the amount of money Yaounde earns from the project, a report has revealed.

According to a release issued by a team of officials who visited pumping station 3, in Belabo, in the East Region, the new arrangement resulted in the Republic of Chad releasing part of its shareholding to Cameroon.

In which case, Cameroon's shares at COTCO increased to 25.17% after Chad transferred 20% of its shares to Cameroon, giving the company a new shareholder structure.

All concerned shareholders were at Belabo, including SHT Overseas Petroleum, SOP; Tchad Petroleum Company, TPC; the Republic of Chad, and Cameroon's National Hydrocarbons Corporation, SNH.

The General Manager of COTCO, Harouna Bako, told reporters at pumping station 3 that these are now the new shareholders of the company he manages.

It is worth noting that before this development, SNH that represents Cameroon held barely 5.17% shares at COTCO.



Operators on field inspection along pipeline

The new arrangement means that Chad now controls 74.83% of COTCO which manages the 903-Kilometer-long Cameroonian side of the pipeline.

The General Manager explained that the new shareholding structure stems from the fact that Chad considers Savannah Energy as no longer a shareholder in COTCO.

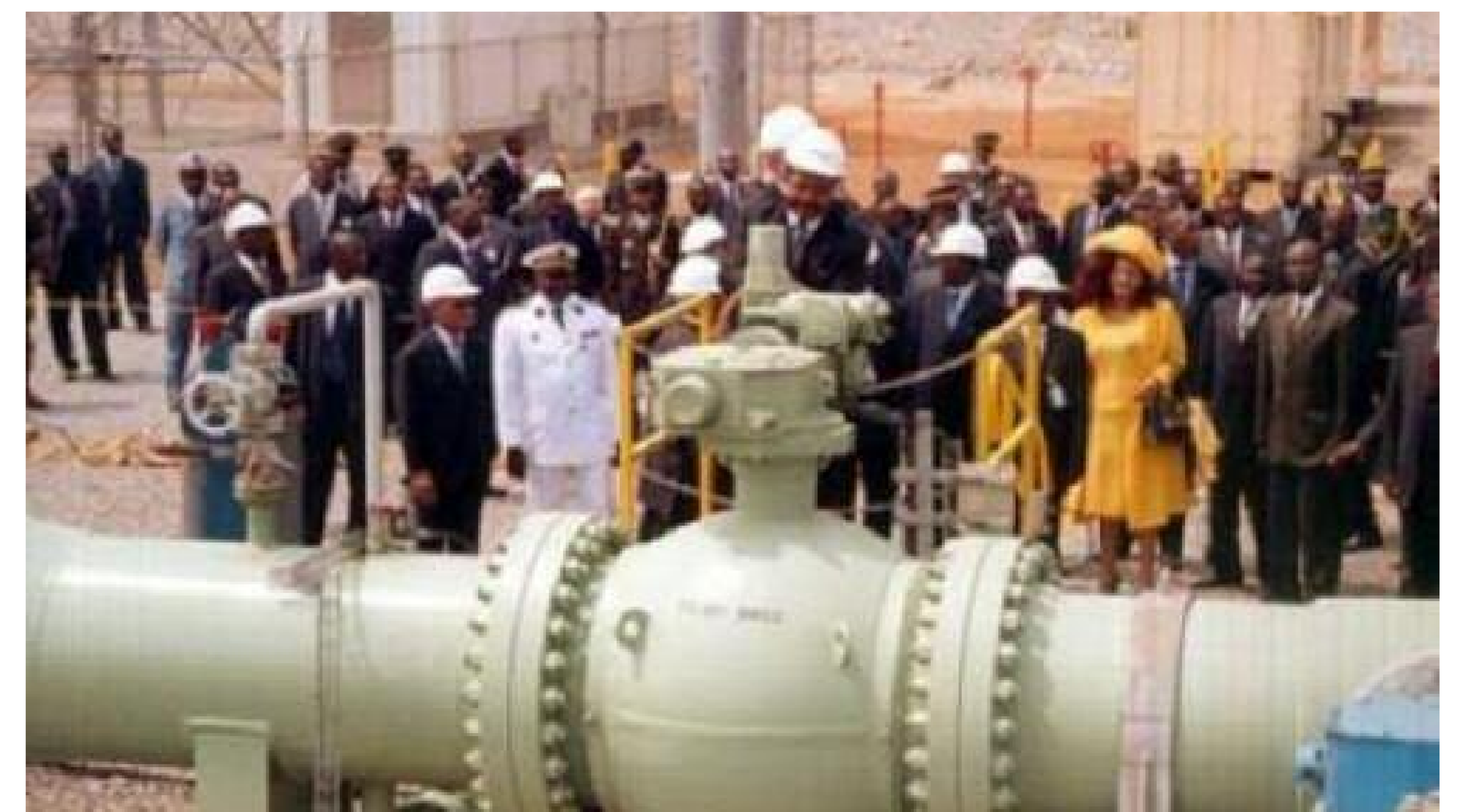
Revealing further that in an earlier press release issued on June 2, 2023, the Chadian Ministry of Hydrocarbons states that all the directors appointed by Savannah Energy to head COTCO were dismissed during a general meeting held in Paris, France, on May 24, 2023.

The reason given for that dismissal is that Savannah Energy is no longer a member of the consortium of companies operating the Doba oil field in Chad, following the nationalisation of ExxonMobil's Chadian assets on March 31, 2023.

Therefore, the release states, per COTCO's articles of association, that Savannah Energy is no longer entitled to hold any shares at COTCO.

This development initially led to a diplomatic row between N'Djamena and Yaounde but Chad succeeded in convincing Cameroon to support the position taken by N'Djamena.

Analysts say the support cer-



Officials from both countries inspect one of the pipeline's on-off terminals

tainly came with the promise to transfer 20% of COTCO's shares to Cameroon and the country given the privilege to suggest a managing director to take charge of managing the pipeline.

External intervention

Savannah Energy did not take its fate lying down. Rather it took the matter to the International Chamber of Commerce, for hearing. However, the International Chamber of Commerce's ruling went in favour of Chad and Cameroon.

This paved the way for the holding of the Board of Directors meeting initiated by Chad and held in Douala on July 4, during

which the Cameroonian, magistrate Harouna Bako, was proposed by Cameroon to the position of General Manager of COTCO.

The proposal was eventually ratified and Harouna Bako was appointed by Chad to the position. Chad's Djerassem Le Bemadjiel and Haoua Daoussa were appointed Chairman of the Board and Deputy General Manager respectively.

It was also decided to transfer the shares previously held by Savannah Energy in COTCO to Cameroon and Tchad Petroleum Company, which inherited the nationalized ExxonMobil's Chadian assets.

At end of Holiday Tech Camp: P&T Minister salutes youth's desire to bridge digital divide, foster dev't

By Shing Timothy

The Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Minette Libom Li Likeng, has lauded the desire of young Cameroonians to bridge the digital divide in Cameroon, therefore contributing their share in fostering the development of the country.

She was addressing some 42 pupils and students via zoom in Buea. This was during the closing ceremony of a seven-week tech camp in Buea, organised by the goodwill ambassador for cyber security, Nervis Nzometiah.

The tech camp, which ran from July 4 to August 19, brought together children from different regions of the country to familiarise them with various ICT-related technologies, while raising awareness on cyber security and cybercrimes.

For seven weeks, the children learned complex technological issues such as; artificial intelligence, coding, trying to create solutions for the modern age, website development, robotics, drone technology among others.

The children, according to Minister Libom, did not only develop skills "but also team spirit and ability to tackle complex challenges, exploring coding, robotics and the basics of artificial intelligence, which will shape our future."

Beyond learning, it was a true transformative experience. The skills learnt will help to build an innovations focused economy".



Minister Libom addressing young people via video conference

Tech-based solutions to daily problems displayed

The participants, who were children within the age range of 7-12, displayed exclusive tech-based solutions to daily problems around them.

Some of the works produced and displayed by the children to the cheering audience included; a T-shirt Folding Machine, Solar Powered House, Automatic Toll Gate, Intruder Alert System, Robotic Arm, Humanoid Robot, Fingerprint Security system, Pill Dispenser, 3D Modeling, Webpage, Plant Welfare Monitoring System, AI Assistant, Weather Station, and Smart House Turbine.

Addressing participants, the Technical Adviser No 2 at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Dr Mfuh Winfred, appreciated the parents and trainers for giving their children such an opportunity to learn and become successful. "...Children are those

who build the nation tomorrow, I have no doubt that amongst these children who are seated here today we will have billionaires who will have impact in Buea and the world. You must keep supporting them all through to make sure that what they learn here does not disappear somewhere," he told parents.

To the children, he encouraged them to share lessons learnt with their peers who were not chanced to attend the camp in 2023.

The desire to immerse children in technology at an early age, according to Nervis Nzometiah, the CEO of Nervtek, was because, "technology is taking over every space and anyone who is not apt digitally may be left behind. And that is why we have the need to engage and inspire children right from the young age. For the past seven weeks we have trained our future engineers, entrepreneurs, change makers and tech champions".

Speaking to the press, he



Teenagers displaying some of their creations



Participants after the tech camp in Buea

said he was satisfied with the training based on the response of the children in not only gaining tech skills, but other soft personal development skills.

"...The children have learnt so many things because apart from the digital skills they have also learned problem solving, critical thinking and they have also learned how to be resilient. That is the amazing thing about the African child and I believe these children can go back to school and

parents will see positive changes at home," Nzometiah added.

The children and their parents were also educated on the laws against the distribution of pornographic materials, radicalisation of children, bullying, internet fraud and other cybercrimes.

The cyberspace, according to Dr Mfuh, was 50% helpful and 50% dangerous. In this light, he urged parents to monitor their children's use of social media and the internet.

North West:

IVFCam advocates youth participation in decentralisation, local governance

By Mboh Promise

Youth in the North West Region have been urged to encourage and promote government's efforts to increase citizens' participation in the decentralisation process and local governance.

This was during a one-day advocacy conference held at the North West Regional Assembly on Friday August 18. It was organised by InterFaith Vision Foundation Cameroon, IVFCam.

The initiative, funded by US-based National Endowment for Democracy, NED, and supervised by the US Embassy Yaounde, is within the framework of a project dubbed "the promotion of youth inclusion in local Governance, in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon".

In attendance were Ndzomo Zingui, Head of Division for Regional Development at the Governor's office, representing of the North West Governor; Dr. Anjoh Frii-Manyi Rose, representing the Regional Assembly president, the North West Regional Delegate of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, Odilia Fri, and other per-



NW Youth Affairs Delegate, Odilia Fri, with IVFCam Programme Manager, Nigel Mbaya

sonalities.

Amongst the participants were representatives from councils in Mezam Division, youth leaders and CSOs.

According to Nigel Mbaya, Programme Manager of IVFCam, the conference was also aimed at training and equipping youth on how to monitor and report council projects within their respective municipalities at the level of implementation, so as to promote civic participation in local development.

"We have taken interest in fostering youth inclusion and participation in local governance in Cameroon. We are

stepping in to support the government towards increasing citizens' participation in the management of local development," Nigel Mbaya said.

Mbaya also added that these youth leaders, including those of the regional and municipal youth councils, will contribute in budget executions, supervision and monitoring of public and councils investment budgets.

According to the North West Regional Delegate of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, Odilia Fri, the Anglophone crisis has been a barrier to youth empowerment in the region.

"Things are going to be better. Youth empowerment is very important in every community. Presently, we have a very strong team of youth leaders in the North West Region and I am very convinced that youth municipal councillors are going to function well unlike before," Odilia Fri said.

The participants were partitioned into groups as they brainstormed on strategies to engage youth in decision-making, strategies that young people can be involved in monitoring and evaluation in council development projects.



Group picture of participants during conference

Restoring circulation on Fundong-B'da road:

Boyo SDO salutes population for clearing landslide debris

By Deng Eric

The Senior Divisional Officer, SDO, for Boyo Division in the restive North West Region, Tegni Fidele, has saluted the commitment of the population of Fundong to ensure that circulation resumes on the stretch of road which links the divisional capital to Njinikom and Belo Subdivisions as well as the North West regional capital, Bamenda.

Two separate landslide incidents on August 13, 2023, in a locality known as Nkoyni, separating Fundong and Njinikom Subdivisions had blocked the movement of vehicles and motorbikes.

The landslide occurred just a day after the Fundong-Bamenda road was reopened after movement on this stretch had been restricted for over two months by separatist gunmen who are fighting to create a breakaway state in the English-speaking North West and South West regions of the country.

The joy which came with the reopening of the road months after, was cut short just hours after following the natural disaster.



Boyo SDO (in suit), Fundong Mayor (middle), Fundong DO (second from right) at landslide scene

With a heavy duty machine which could be used to clear the debris, the Fundong Council under the leadership of Mayor Denis Awoh Ndong launched a distress call to the population of the municipality to mobilise and get to work to make sure the road is passable again.

The mayor's call got a positive response, as over a thousand persons with hoes, spades and other working materials answered

present at the scene where the landslide occurred.

After several hours of work, the first vehicle move pass the stretch where road was blocked for close to three days.

As the population danced and rejoiced for having successfully restored circulation on that stretch of road, they were joined by the SDO of the division.

Tegni Fidele accompanied by the Divisional Officer for Fundong was thankful to the



Assistant SDO dancing with population after circulation restored on Fundong-B'da road

Mayor of Fundong and those who volunteered to clear the debris.

The administrator also stressed the need to keep the flame of that community spirit burning at all times. It should be recalled that shortly after the landslide, the SDO had visited the area to get firsthand appraisal of the situation.

While prescribing urgent measures to ensure that circulation is restored, he had also challenged the municipal authorities

to work towards putting in place long term preventive measures.

Maintenance works which used to be carried out by the Fundong Council on this road have been abandoned due to the raging armed conflict brought about by the Anglophone crisis.

The state of the road is said to be getting worse by the day and the heavy rains this season is said to be at the origin of the recent landslide incident.

Floods reportedly wash away 16-year-old girl in Douala



File photo: Denizens of Douala struggling with flood

By Ann Mokito*

A 16-year-old girl whose name The Guardian Post could not immediately get has reportedly been washed away by floods in Douala, in the Littoral Region of the country.

The incident is reported to have occurred at the Bonaloka neighbourhood last Wednesday, August 16.

According to reports from popular news site, Actu Cameroun, the said floods was caused by heavy rain fall in the city.

"This is not the first time heavy rain has claimed lives and caused destruction of property in the city of Douala," a man whose name was not mentioned is quoted as having said.

Worth recalling is the fact, another flood incident in Douala had led to the death of a one and half year old baby and a 45-year-old man.

The said incident had

occurred at the Mambanda neighbourhood. The incident had also caused enormous material damage in households in several quarters of the city.

The Senior Divisional Officer, SDO of Wouri, Benjamin Mbutou, had warned inhabitants of Douala of imminent floods.

He had warned those living in risk zones to be cautious.

Like in some parts of the country, floods are rampant in Douala.

Several persons have lost their lives and property destroyed in many towns as a result of floods.

Earlier this month, the National Observatory on Climate Change, NOCC, in their monthly bulletin on weather forecast, issued a warning of floods and mudslides in some parts of the country.

*Journalism student on internship

North West Region:

Drivers, travelers lament deplorable state of Sabga-Ndop road

By Ndula Willet*

Drivers and travelers using the road linking the North West regional capital, Bamenda and Ndop, the divisional capital of Ngoketunja Division have lamented the deplorable state of the stretch on the Sabga hill.

This road which also links two other divisions of the regions, including Bui and Donga Mantung continues to degrade each passing day. The Bamenda-Ndop road which had been blocked by Amba fighters for over a month was recently reopened to movement of vehicles.

Though the road is once more opened for use, its state is getting worse each passing day as a result of heavy rain. The 40km Bamenda-Ndop stretch which is normally supposed to take less than an hour for cars is today taking more than 2 hours.

According to one of the drivers who identified himself as Mangah Terance "the road condition has been terrible since the beginning of this crisis in 2016. It gets really bad during the rainy season as mud and potholes on the tar prevents the vehicle from moving".

Doh Sandra, a vegetables and tomatoes trader who regularly uses this road says she has registered so many losses. "I find it difficult to trade due to the nature of the road. My goods get bad on the way because there are perishable goods and the many potholes will leave the driver no choice".

She also added: "Though I doubt the reconstruction of this road due the socio-political crises all

hope is not lost still, as I believe that something can be done about it as I still hope that the crises will one day come to an end" She cries.

Tah Angy Alphonse, a heavy duty truck driver using this stretch of road told this reporter that "traveling using this road is frustrating. I encounter a lot of car breakdown when transportation stones and sand. At times I am forced to sleep at the road during breakdowns and the car is beyond repair by my power for that moment. This causes a slowdown in business because the car might not be functional for weeks".

He continued: "Repairing my car cost a lot of money and at times I discover that I might spent half of what I work in a day to repair the car. My only wish is that something should be done about the road condition".

Another driver who opted to remain anonymous said "the bad road conditions causes a lot of breakdown and it slows transportation of passengers and goods which now as a result of the crises is not safe because you never know what can happen to you if you stand by the road".

He also added there are a lot of travelers who turn to lose their appointments because of the nature of the road which slows driving. With the deplorable state of the road, transport fare is said to have been increased, with the prices of some goods coming from that side of the region are said to have increased.

*Journalism student on internship



Stretch of road between Sabga hill and Ndop

Ndansi Elvis respects tradition, makes available 2.5 million FCFA for Shaa Festival

Cont'd from page

The Shaa Festival, which is in its 6th edition, is aimed at promoting hygiene and sanitation in the brewing and sale of Shaa, a local liquor made from fermented corn.

Through the annual festival, Ndansi Elvis, who is also founder of Unite for Health Foundation International, has been encouraging vendors of the local liquor to apply good hygienic conditions in the brewing and sale of Shaa in Misaje Subdivision.

The key objective, he says, is to eradicate contagious diseases like cough, tuberculosis or typhoid. Vendors are thus, through the festival and sensitised on the need to wash cups using running water from stand bucket taps.

The 6th edition of the Shaa Festival, which was flagged Thursday August 17, will end September 2. The first stage of the competition is taking place in all 12 villages that make up Misaje Subdivision.

Each village will produce one winner to participate at the grand finale to be staged in the town of Misaje on September 2. This year, the cash prizes will be awarded only at the grand finale.

The vision bearer of the festival, Ndansi Elvis, has made available 2.5 million FCFA for the jamboree.

It was revealed at the launch last



Ndansi Elvis: Initiator of the annual festival

week that the winner of the 1st Prize will bag home FCFA 300,000 plus an aluminum pot and 20 cups.

The 1st runner up will pocket FCFA 150,000 plus an aluminum pot and 20 cups. Meanwhile, the 3rd winner will get a prize of FCFA 100,000 plus an aluminum pot and 20 cups.

All contestants of the Shaa competition will return home with a participation prize of FCFA 30,000 each plus a bucket with faucet and 20 cups.

It was gathered that compared to last year, the prizes this year have tripled.

Last year, the winner of the 1st prize



Members of organising committee display prizes during 2022 edition

took home FCFA 100,000, a bucket with running tap, and 20 cups. The second winner grabbed FCFA 75,000, a bucket with a running tap and 20 cups.

The third bagged home FCFA 50,000, a bucket with running tap and 20 cups.

The goal of the Shaa Festival, which began in 2012 and sponsored by Unite for Health Foundation, is to promote hygiene and healthy consumption of Shaa.

According to the President of the Organising Committee, Ignatius Nji, the timing also helps the women par-

ticipating in the contest, to send their children to school without stress.

Besides the Shaa contest, other activities will include a dance competition, among the three clans of the Misaje Subdivision, a tug of war between park boys and butchers and 100% scholarship offered to underprivileged children in the area.

The beneficiary learners will be selected from the four Primary Schools in the town of Misaje.

The grand finale in Misaje will be presided at by the Divisional Delegate of Arts and Culture for Donga Mantung.

King Edwards inter-quarter football finals:

Chief Edward Molingé urges subjects to promote unity, peace, togetherness

By Shing Timothy

The population of Upper Muea Chiefdom in Buea, Fako Division of the South West Region, have been urged to espouse the values of peace, unity and togetherness in their community.

The call was made by the traditional ruler of Upper Muea, Chief Edward Nganje Molingé, to the hundreds of his subjects who turned up to savour the final of the 2023 edition of the King Edward Inter-quarter finals. It took place Saturday August 20, at the Catholic School Field, Muea.

"...continue in this spirit of unity, peace and togetherness. Like I always say, promoting peaceful coexistence is something that I really want, not only for Upper Muea, but for Buea Subdivision, South West Region and Cameroon as a whole," Chief Molingé said.

He also appreciated the players, coaches, fans and match officials for demonstrating such values throughout the competition as it started and ended without any incident.

"The tournament has been played in good faith with love, unity, peace, no fighting, the promotion of peace and unity among the teams, among the coaches, among the people who are the Organising Committee members, my friends, family; all of them have been wonderful," he added.

The finals of the King Edwards Inter-quarter competition for the 2023 edition, was played in three folds with the junior, female and senior male categories respectively. In the final of the junior category, played on Friday August 18, Quarter Nine lost to

Quarter Five in post-match penalties after a virgin draw in regular time.

Meanwhile, on Saturday August 19, Quarter Eight defeated Quarter Three in the female category, to clinch the trophy in the first match of the day. The final game of the competition, watched by the Chief and his entourage, as well as his guests, in the Male Senior Category, Lava Shooters of Meta were the victors in post-match penalties after a zero all tie with Quarter Seven.

The winners and runners-up in both categories took home a whopping 2 million FCFA in cash. The winners in the junior category pocketed 150,000 FCFA, while the runners-up had 100,000 FCFA.

In the female category, the winner had 150,000 FCFA and the runners-up 100,000 FCFA. In the senior category, the winners went home with 1 million FCFA and the runners-up had 500,000 FCFA.

Chief appreciates winners

While handing over the trophy and cash prize to the winners, Chief Edward Nganje appreciated the winners, while challenging the other teams to build stronger for the next year.

"I wish to say congratulations to Lava Shooters Meta FC, for having emerged champions. Equally, I want to say courage to the losers, Njonji FC (Quarter Seven)," he said.

Speaking to the press after the prize award, the vision-bearer of the King Edward Inter-quarter football competition, Chief Edward Nganje, said his motivation remains promoting peace



Chief Edward handing trophy to captain of winning team



Chief Edward kicking-off the final game

and unity within his community to foster development.

"My motivation is to foster peace and development in my community because I know football is one of the main catalysts to do so. When you bring youth together and they are happy, then it can guarantee community growth. So, my motivation was

to see to it that youths live together happily, peacefully doing the holidays," he said.

For his part, Kum Brian, the captain of Lava Shooters Meta FC, said their victory and the fact that they defended well during regular time was God's doing.

Rose Acheck Foundation donates modern toilets to Guzang Fon's Palace

Cont'd from page 1

The modern toilets, comprising four squatting holes and two urinals, were received by the traditional authorities of Guzang, on Thursday, August 17.

During the official handing over ceremony, the founder of The Rose Acheck Foundation, Mafor Mbanyamsig Beatrice, expressed satisfaction with the initiative.

Mafor Mbanyamsig said she is happy that henceforth, the population of Guzang and her visitors will no longer need to move long distances into the inner core of the Fon's Palace for toilet facilities.

She added that the readily access and newly constructed toilets will go a long way to serve the community.

"The toilets will serve the Guzang population and visitors during socio-cultural events at the Guzang Fon's palace," she said.

During the inauguration, Bah Efit, the representative of the Fon of Guzang, showered praises on Mafor Mbanyamsig Beatrice, for the tireless efforts of her Foundation towards improving the living standards of the Guzang people. Bah Efit also poured traditional libations to sanctify the Foundation.

The Coordinator of The Rose Acheck Foundation, Bahtoh Sama Eugene Agwo, thanked Fon Gwan Mbanyamsig III of Guzang, for his



Mafor Mbanyamsig Beatrice: Founder of Rose Acheck Foundation

patronage and promised that the Foundation will not only provide more, but engage in projects that will benefit not only Guzang village, but the entire Batibo Subdivision.

It should be noted that The Rose Acheck Foundation is not at its first philanthropic project. In 2021, the foundation constructed and provided two stand taps to the Guzang Market, which stands as one of the biggest in the North West Region.

The taps are said to be of great help to the population and also solves the problem of insufficient potable water to buyers and sellers during market days.



Front few of donated toilets

Weeks to new school year: Over 1.5 million children enrolled in last school year without birth certificates!

*By Ngang Nadege**

At least 1.5 million school children in the country are said to have been enrolled into schools across the country in the last academic year without birth certificates.

The information was made public by Ndzerem Walter Yuyun, the South West Regional Chief of the National Civil Status Registration Office, better known by its French acronym, BUNEC.

He was speaking during commemorative activities marking the 12th edition of the African Day of Decentralisation and Local Development and the 6th edition of African Civil Status and Vital Statistics Day.

The commemoration took place at the National Advanced School of Local Administration, NASLA, Buea.

The 6th edition of African Civil Status and Vital Statistics Day took place under the theme: "The potential to increase coverage improve quality and timeliness of data through digitalisation of civil registration systems".

Addressing the participants, Ndzerem encouraged them to register their civil status as it "allows you to ensure non-discriminatory and inclusive governance through the exploitation of statistics that contribute to the development of planning policies and even the structural transformation of the society".

Digitalising civil status registration process, he added, would ensure interoperability of the sectors, which will in turn will solve a lot of lapses in the system.

The African Day of Decentralisation and Local Development is celebrated annually on August 12. Cameroon has been actively participating in this celebration for 12 years since 2014.

This year's edition is celebrated under the theme: "The contribution of African subnational and local governments in the making of the African continental free trade area".

It is an opportunity for the 54 African countries that signed the agreements relating to the African Continental Free Trade Area in June 2019, to benefit from the agreement, whose objective is to eventually integrate all 55 states of the African Union into the free trade area.

During the commemoration, participants highlight-



Participants at the commemorative event



Group picture of Participants after the event

ed the role played by local, regional, and state governments in different African countries in consolidating and promoting the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The African Continental Free Trade Area, according to the South West Regional Delegate for Decentralisation and Local Development, Agbor Teddy, has as goal to integrate all 55 states of the African Union members into the free trade area.

Addressing participants from local and regional authorities, the Senior Inspector of Prices, Weight and Measures at the South West Regional Delegation of

Trade, Ayuk Tambe, urged them to exploit their resources to generate sustainable wealth for themselves and their population, so as to benefit from the opportunities created by the new agreement.

Decentralisation in Cameroon dates back to the 1996 constitution, in which the law of January 18, 1996, adopted it as the basic principle of the organisation of state governance, where local and regional authorities appear as a fundamental links in the implementation of public policies at the local level.

**Journalism student on internship*

2023 Mbol Festival ends in Yaounde in style

By Eboule Hermine*

The 2023 edition of the Mbol festival has wrapped up in Yaounde. The event which seeks to promote the Mbol and other traditional dishes, of the people from the East Region of the country, ended last weekend.

It was staged at the National Museum in Yaounde. The event ran from August 10-12. This year's crowd pulling festival was held under the theme: "Feed the world heritage for life".

The third edition of the Mbol festival brought together lovers of the East Region's rich culinary dishes as well as a cross section of the population.

Several persons trooped into the National Museum to have

a taste of the meal. A plate of the delicacy was sold at 1,000 FCFA.

According to the promoter of the festival, Roland Agong Miessao, the aim of the carnival which was created in 2021 by the Soleil Levant Events association, is to promote living together.

Agong also noted that the festival aims to market the culinary riches of the East Region especially the Mbol.

He added that the idea came from the fact that the said dish does not appear in the gastronomic part of Cameroon despite its different virtue.

There were also several activities that took place during the festival. This year, economic conferences were organised as well as trainings and workshops.



Mbol Festival logo



Visitors getting plates of Mbol during festival

Visitors who attended the Mbol Festival have been expressing their contentment.

"Many of them came from different areas of Cameroon to participate in the third edition of Mbol festival. Children and adults stormed the National Museum. It aimed to promote

the cooking arts of the Eastern Region," Bertine Monea, a visitor said in an interview.

The Mbol, the promoter disclosed during the festival, has several benefits especially for pregnant women. The Mbol, it was said, is good for breast-feeding women to further

stimulate milk production.

It is also valuable for men. Experts say the dish acts like a remedy to libido problems and also solves sexual weaknesses and many others.

**Journalism student on internship*

29-year-old lady dies after alleged unsuccessful liposuction

By Jessica Ndah*

A lady whose name The Guardian Post got as Prestige Victoire Kamdem, is said to have died in Foubot, Noun Division of the West Region after an alleged unsuccessful liposuction.

Liposuction, it should be said, is a cosmetic procedure used to remove unwanted body fat. It involves sucking out small areas of fat that are hard to lose through exercise and a healthy diet.

With the growing tendency of ladies wanting to carry out changes on their bodies, Kamdem is reported to have indulged in the act.

According to reports, Kamdem had always felt uncomfortable with her body size but never disclosed her intentions of getting a liposuction to any of her relatives.

Reports suggest she had opted to undergo liposuction which unfortunately turned out to be unsuccessful. Kamdem's corpse is said to have been discovered in a man's room in Foubot last August 19. Her corpse is reported to have been discovered with stitches on her abdomen.

Kamdem's mother is said to have burst into tears after learning of her daughter's demise. She is quoted as having said Kamdem had tricked her into believing she was going to meet a doctor to cleanse the acne on her face.

"Some weeks ago, my daughter told me she had seen a friend who told her she was

seeing a doctor to help cleanse acne from her face. Kamdem followed that friend because she too had acne...I didn't know it will get this far," the mother is quoted as having recounted.

Another relative is equally quoted as having testified that they had seen stitches on Kamdem's abdomen but she had lied about how they came about.

"I had seen her with stitches and in poor shape and when I asked what happened to her, she said she was knocked down by a motorcycle. I had no idea she had a liposuction procedure done," the relative is quoted as having said.

A certain Daniel Chamba Nyahke, identified as a surgeon, is said to be the prime suspect of Kamdem's death. "When we met in Baham, she told me she wasn't comfortable with her body and to reduce fat to get a better silhouette," Nyahke, the supposed surgeon said.

Kamdem and the supposed surgeon then traveled to Foubot for the surgery which turned out to be unsuccessful. Reports we further gathered indicates investigations carried out by officers of the Foubot Gendarmerie Brigade holds the supposed surgeon has no medical license.

We further gleaned that the said surgeon is presently under detention pending further investigations while the corpse of Kamdem has been deposited at the Bafoussam Regional Hospital Morgue.

**Journalism student on internship*

Graduation ceremony:

CENAJES Kribi graduates tasked to promote living together, shun hate speech

By Elodie Abe*

The Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, Mounouna Foutsou, has tasked the fresh batch of graduates from the National Centre for Youth and Sports, CENAJES, Kribi, to shun hate speech and promote living together.

Minister Mounouna Foutsou gave the advice on August 17. This was during the 17th graduation ceremony of the institution in Kribi, Ocean Division of the South Region.

The minister said the graduates' impact can only be felt positively in communities if they shun hate speech and promote peace and living together among Cameroonians.

The member of government also advised them to be tolerant and serve as role models in the respective communities where they will be posted to serve.

Peace and social cohesion, the youth affairs boss said, are vital ingredients in the promotion of peace and development

Going by the minister, the fresh graduates in their role as youth and action instructors



Graduates wearing robes on graduation day to mark start of new life

have the power to influence and shape the attitude and behaviour of the younger generation.

Cameroon's unity and diversity, the minister re-echoed, is nonnegotiable and so must be promoted at all times.

The focus on tackling hate speech and promoting national unity comes at a time when government is battling to curb the rise in hate speech that has resulted in violence in some administrative units of the country.

The National Centre for Youth and Sports, CENAJES,

Kribi, is a vocational training school created by decree No. 810/270 of October 10, 1981. It was modified and supplemented by decree No. 82/158 of May 19, 1982.

The school specialises in training Youth and Animation Executives who are civil servants of categories C, B1, and B2.

Since its creation, CENAJES in Kribi has had fourteen directors with the current being Nchia Victorine Sih Epse Kelly.

**Journalism student on internship*

Minister sounds alarm over possible spread of Anthrax virus in Cameroon

By Blessing Fonguazi*

The Minister of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries, MINEPIA, Dr Taiga, has sounded an alarm over the possible spread of Anthrax virus in five out of ten regions of the country.

The regions at risk include the North, North West, Far North, Adamawa and South West regions. The minister has called on authorities put up strict measures to prevent the virus from creeping into Cameroon.

The outbreak of the virus was first observed in neighbouring Nigeria. It

is now reported to be threatening the lives of cattle in Cameroon.

If active in Cameroon, authorities say the beef production industry could be disrupted. Authorities are now controlling the activities of cattle rearers and breeders along the Nigerian borders.

The Governors of the regions at risk have been asked to take urgent actions. According to medical personnel, Anthrax virus is a fatal disease that kills up to about 90 percent of its cases.

"Blood may be present around the nose, mouth, just before death ani-

mals may show signs of high fever," said experts.

According to World Health Organisation, "any animal that is sick and has died from anthrax, all parts should be disposed immediately".

According to statistics from government in 2021, local production of beef had gone up to about 110,000 tonnes of meat, with an estimated demand of about 300,000 tonnes per year.

**Journalism student on internship*



Cattle in Maroua

African Women's Volleyball Championship: Cameroon face Morocco in quarterfinals today

By Dewah Fabrice Teh

Cameroon women's national volleyball team is set to face Morocco in one of four quarterfinal matches of the ongoing African Women's Volleyball Championship taking place in Yaounde.

The match is scheduled to kick off at 6pm at the Multipurpose Sports Complex in Yaounde.

The Volleyball Lionesses, who are defending champions of the tournament finished second in Group A of the 12-nation tournament behind Egypt.

In five group matches, Cameroon won four and suffered one defeat. After successive wins against Burundi and Nigeria in their first two matches in the championship, the Central African nations couldn't withstand a high firepower from the women's volleyball team of Egypt.

The match day three fixture ended 3 sets to 1 in favour of Egypt.

The Lionesses however returned to winning ways during the last two group matches, defeating Algeria and Mali on identical scores of 3 sets to 0.

Cameroon will be facing a Moroccan team that finished third in Group B behind Kenya and Uganda.



Cameroon Volleyball Lionesses

The bronze medalist of the 2021 edition of the competition in Rwanda won three of their five group matches and suffered two defeats.

It will thus be a clash of two Volleyball Lionesses who have the ultimate goal of picking up the trophy of the tournament.

Lionesses coach, captain optimistic

The lead trainer and captain of Cameroon women's volleyball team, Peter Nonnenbroich and Bikatal who spoke to reporters on Sunday after their last group match against Mali, reaffirmed the Volleyball Lionesses' determination in the competition.

"The tournament has been very challenging. We have very technical opponents like Egypt, Algeria and Morocco which makes the event difficult. "So, we have to remain focused if we want to attain our objective of winning the tournament," Nonnenbroich who led the Volleyball Lions to gold at the 2011 All-African Games, noted.

On her part, Bikatal said: "It has not been an easy tournament for us as a team. That is the reason why we remain very focused on our mission here which is that of coming out as overall winners."

She went on: "We are not taking any opponents for granted. We



Morocco is looking to better its bronze medal record in 2021

respect every opponent and treat them as such."

Cameroon won the last three editions of the CAVB Women's Volleyball Championship and is looking to extend the record this time around.

Besides the trophy, the Volleyball Lionesses are also eyeing qualification for the 2024 Summer Games in Paris.

Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria line up in other fixture

Three other quarterfinal matches will be played this afternoon. The first match scheduled for 12pm will pit Egypt against Uganda.

The North Africans finished the group stage unbeaten with 15

points while Uganda was ranked fourth in Group B.

The 2021 host, Rwanda that finished second in Group B behind Kenya will be up against Algeria at 2pm.

Record nine-time winners, Kenya that also emerge from the group stage unbeaten will face in Nigeria in the third quarterfinal fixture at 4 pm.

Pundits regard the Malkia Strikers as the most powerful team in the ongoing championship.

Apart from the quarterfinal matches this Tuesday, bottom classification matches are also on schedule. Lesotho will be up against Mali at 11 am while Burundi face Burkina Faso.

CAF Champions League: Coton Sport secures valuable draw against AS Real

By Beng Emmanuel Kum

Cameroon Elite One champions, Coton Sport of Garoua, secured a valuable draw against Association Sportive Real of Bamako in the first round preliminary of the CAF Champions League.

The representative of the Central African nation shared the spoils with their host in the first leg of the qualifiers of the CAF inter-club competition.

The encounter took place on Saturday August 19 at the Stade de 26 Mars in Bamako, Mali.

In their first game in this season's CAF Champions League campaign, the boys of Coach Christophe Ousmanou were determined to impress although they were playing on hostile territory.

Despite their resolve to snatch a vital win and take control of the tie, Coton Sport met stiff resistance from AS Real of Bamako.

The reigning champions of Mali, who are making a return to the competition, did not make it easy for the visitors. They even threatened and had an avalanche of chances to open scores but spurned them.

Coton Sport owes their favourable first leg result to the goalkeeper Merlin Lako Wendeu Emile.

The emblematic shot stopper, who is among the club's new recruits this season, showed a glimpse of his goalkeeping qualities on his debut.

Coton Sport would have been on a losing start if not for the heroics of the goalkeeper.

Wendeu saved Scheickna Diakite's second half penalty to keep Coton Sport's qualification chances alive.

The record extending 18-time Cameroon domestic league winners are now poised to win their return leg fixture. They are already back in the country to prepare for the reverse fixture.

The encounter is scheduled to take place on Sunday August 27 at the Roumde Adjia Stadium in Garoua.

It is worth mentioning that the winner of the clash pitting Coton Sport and AS Real of Bamako shall face either FC Nouadhibou or Al Ahli SC of Libya in the second round of the CAF Champions League qualifiers.

The winner of the two-legged second round clash shall seal a spot in the group stages.

Coton Sport of Garoua shall also be hoping to reach the group stage of the CAF Champions League for the second time in a row.

Last season, they disappointingly crashed out of the continent's foremost club competition after losing all six group matches. It was their joint worst performance in their history.



Coton Sport players, staff back in the country

Premier League: Mbeumo in top form as Brentford starts new season on high

By Deng Eric

Cameroonian international, Brian Mbeumo, has scored three goals for English Premier League club, Brentford in just two match days of the 2023/2024 which kicked off on Friday August 11.

The Indomitable Lions winger was on target as his club's 2-2 draw in their first match of the season against Nottingham Forest.

The player was again on target last weekend, this time around netting a brace as in Brentford 3-0 win over Fulham.

Yoane Wissa's had scored for the Bees at the stroke of half time in the Fulham game before the Cameroonian doubled the lead and subsequently added a third.

In the 64th minute, Wissa went through on goal only to be pushed over by Tim Ream in the box as he attempted to shoot.

The Fulham captain was given a second yellow card, with Mbeumo calmly netting the penalty in off the post.

And the Brentford winger added a third in the 92nd minute, tapping in Kristoffer Ajer's low cross.

Brentford's win was their fifth in eight games against Fulham and extended their unbeaten run in London derbies to 11, equalling a club record.

Mbeumo and Wissa have made

excellent starts to the season, having both also scored against Tottenham last Saturday.

The visitors are without last season's top scorer Ivan Toney, who is banned until January for breaking betting rules, but manager Thomas Frank will be relieved by the sparkling early form of his team-mates.

"I've been asked, 'what will we do when Ivan is not here?'" Frank told BBC Match of the Day after full-time.

"We have seen that we have scored goals. We are very confident. We have been cool and haven't rushed out to get another striker."

Brentford a third on the current Premier League standings with 4 points in two matches behind Manchester City and Brighton who top the table with 6 points each.

Mbeumo and his mates next face Crystal Palace on match day three.

Cameroonians have hailed Mbeumo's excellent form in his first two outings in the Premier League and are hoping he continues with such form ahead of the Indomitable Lions crucial African Cup of Nations, AFCON 2022 qualifying game against Burundi.

The match which will determine whether Cameroon qualifies for next January's AFCON in Cote d'Ivoire will be played at the Roumde Adjia Stadium in Garoua on September 12.

