

The Guardian Post

DAILY

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

Editorial

SDF Elective Convention will make or mar!

Make no mistake and do not allow yourself to be misled or misguided by anyone, no matter his station in life."

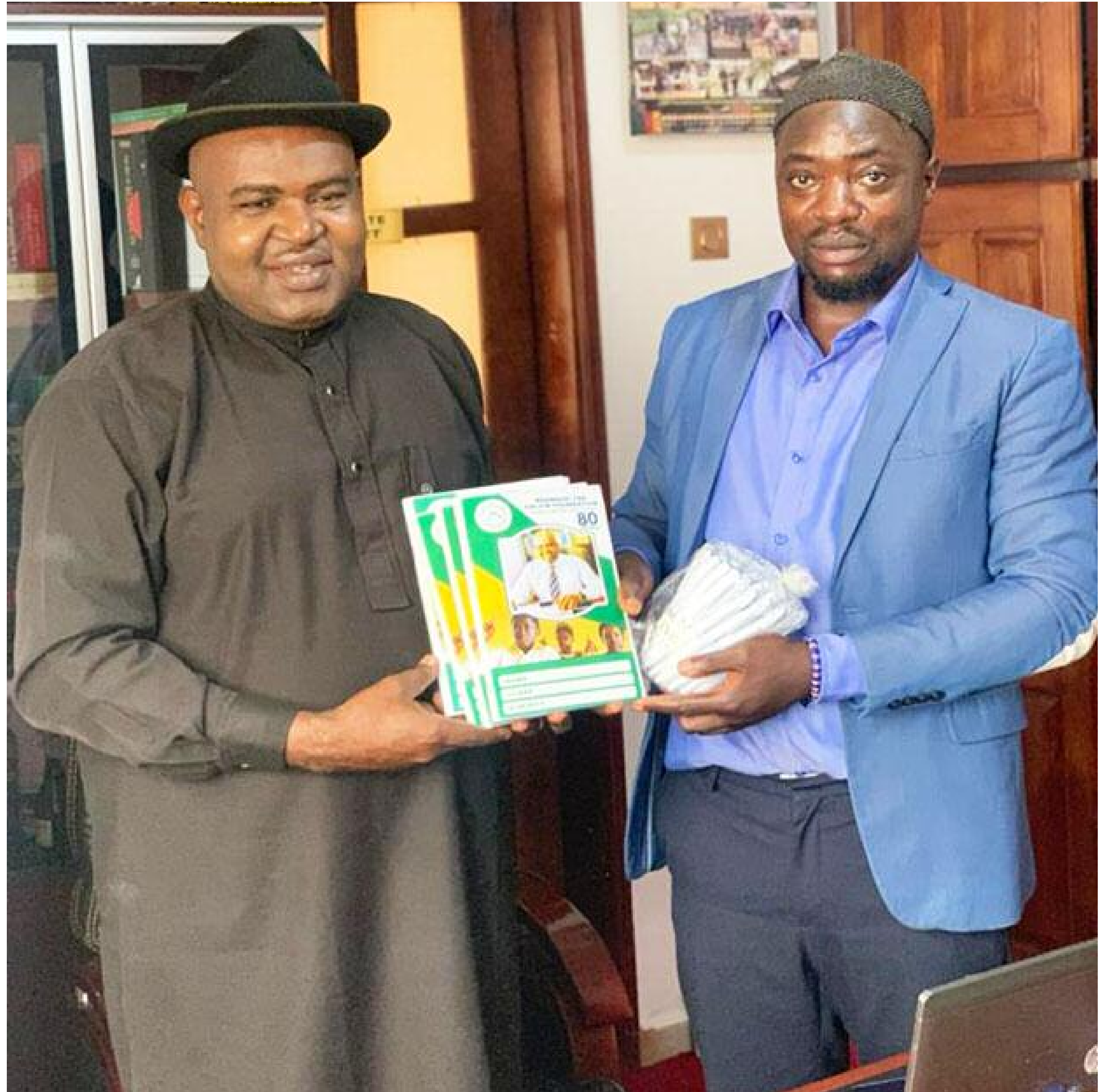
That is the quote from the late SDF National Chairman, John Fru Ndi, when he launched the party in Bamenda, in 1990.

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Beti, Bulu traditional rulers perform rituals to avert coup in Cameroon!

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To boost effective schooling in Mbengwi:
Ndangoh Tah Calvin Foundation puts smile on faces of needy learners, IDPs



Barrister Ndangoh Tah symbolically presenting books meant for beneficiaries to Mbengwi Fon, HRH Njokem Adino Awah

By Doh Bertrand Nua

Not-for-profit organisation, Ndangoh Tah Calvin Foundation, has put smiles on the faces of internally displaced school-going and destitute children in Mbengwi, Momo Division of the North West Region.

This is through the donation of didactics to boost learning. The school materials, comprising customised pens and exercise books with messages of peace, unity and love, were handed to pupils and students in Mbengwi recently.

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Boyo Division:
Akeh population hail Fundong mayor for transforming community



Mayor Ndang Denis: Dev't locomotive

By Mua Patrick

The excitement was eloquent, the celebration was loud, and the weather was clement, as the people of Akeh, a Fondom in Fundong Subdivision, Boyo Division of North West Region, rolled out drums to celebrate the construction of two bridges in the community.

Identified as one of the backward areas in terms of development and infrastructure in Fundong Subdivision, the people of Akeh have suffered from the pains of underdevelopment.

It was, therefore, not a surprise the way the people trooped out to celebrate the construction of two bridges in the area thanks to a gesture of the Fundong Council.

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Personality Of The Week
Prof Legah Simon Nketi:
Landmark Metropolitan University President

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Issues of the moment

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

Effective bilingualism requires investment

The National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism made a field trip to the various regions of the country this week.

In the South West Region where the bilingualism commission bigwigs made stopovers in Buea, Limbe, or Mutengene, issues were raised, many bordering on old habits. Others propped up that point to lack of adequate investment in promoting the endeavour.

Apart from condemning the way some Cameroonians provoke others in their midst and create contentions that endanger harmonious living together, the visit to the Buea Regional Hospital Annex, showed that for bilingualism to actually take root and make meaningful impact in improving relations across the French and English language divide, government needs to invest more in the strive to promote bilingualism among Cameroonians.

This will be both in building human capacity and the provision of adequate equipment, stationery and accompanying materials.

For instance, at the Buea Regional Hospital Annex, which the delegation to the South West Region made a tour round the wards and offices to see how workers put bilingualism in actual practice, the hospital director recounted strides the staff continue to make to give the facility a bilingual face.

Dr Martin Mokake, the Director of the hospital told members of the delegation that all the staff are obliged to speak to and even carry out consultation on each patient in the language the patient prefers and understands best.

This obligation alone presupposes that the medics have been exposed to medical bilingualism through pursuing a course, without which the street French and pidgin English the ordinary Cameroonian picks here and there in order to ease communication between Anglophones and Francophones will not suffice to carry out effective medical consultation, diagnosis and prescription of drugs in a second language.

"When a patient comes and the patient wants to be consulted in French, we are obliged to consult in French. The results are given out in French if so demanded by the requesting physician," Dr Mokake told members of the bilingualism commission.

For results of medical tests to be given in two languages, it also means that medical equipment have to come in the two official languages which requires extra investment to enable manufacturers design and programme such peculiar and multi-lingual offers.

Even more, the hospital director said all letterheads in the establishment are in English and French; just as certificates and other documents they issue to the public, like death certificates and medical recommendations; which are given out in the language of the service receiver's choice.

What the Medical Director presented at the Buea Regional Hospital Annex, is a progressive move towards making bilingualism a reality in the country.

But consider it if all public offices, including ministries and other establishments are to act like this exemplary hospital.

The costs and investments needed will certainly justify why the bilingualism process is going on at such a slow pace. And why the Commission itself cannot push the population too far.

Which means government needs to sit back and rethink its strategy so that commensurate investments could be made into the implementation process.

But as we wait...

As Cameroonians continue to wait for the government to show more practical interest in promoting bilingualism, officials of the bilingualism commission continue to cry out.

For the renowned peace crusader and legal luminary, Ntumfor Barrister Nico Halle, who led the bilingualism commission delegation to the South West Region, he expressed dismay and regretted that hate speech and xenophobia are taking the entire nation hostage.

He questioned why the two official languages – English and French – are not being treated as equal, when it comes to official matters. And made reference to many instances where one of the official languages is only scripted in tiny characters below boldly written characters of the other language.

The Ntumfor called for a stop to the marginalisation of any of the two official languages and urging state functionaries to remain vanguards in promoting bilingualism.

Barrister Ntumfor Nico Halle concluded by telling the crowd that every Cameroonian has a right to choose to settle wherever he or she likes in the country and there should be no reason to use obscene language against strangers, describing such acts as unspeakable, horrible and horrendous.

Trade minister bans retail of substandard vegetable oil

By Maxcel Fokwen

The Minister of Trade, Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, has reportedly banned the retail of substandard vegetable oil in local markets commonly referred to as 'bulk'.

The prohibition is said to be the content of a letter which the member of government addressed to actors in the sector on September 19.

According to the member of government, the category of vegetable oil prohibited possess enormous health risk to the population.

Minister Mbarga Atangana is quoted in media reports as having ordered actors who refine oil to get vegetable oil to strictly, "comply with food safety rules comprehensively, as well as the specific regulations applicable to each sector".

Those who fail to act in line with the new directives the minister is said to warned, will be sanctioned in line with the laws in force.

Mbarga Atangana is quoted as having written to actors in the industry that: "In the case of your sector, we are particularly concerned about the issue of bulk oils, the sale of which is prohibited because it poses serious health risks to consumers".

He asked them to comply with his ban given that, "sworn



Substandard vegetable oil authorities say possess health danger

officers from various ministries and interested organisations will soon be deployed," to undertake controls nationwide.

The substandard vegetable oil is said to be in some cases, the product unrecognised refineries that don't have the capacity to process vegetable oil that meets required benchmarks.

Others have also blamed well-known companies of pushing such vegetable oil into the market when their storage facilities are full.

For some, it is part of a complicated process of actors trying to escape from paying taxes and manipulating stage agents on the field.

It is also believed that the substandard vegetable oil under discourse is cheaper to produce.

With such an options, producers, some say, tend to focus on its processing to save cost and make more profit.

Meanwhile, in the local market, 1.5 litres of the substandard vegetable oil is said to be sold at 1,350 FCFA compared to the refined vegetable oil which goes for at least 1,500F CFA for 1.5 litres.

In the meantime, observers have blamed the practice of substandard vegetable oil flooding local markets on government's tolerance and the laissez-fair approach of quality control institutions.

Economic actors assess impact of tax policy on local companies

By Macwalter Njapteh Refor

Some economic actors have brainstormed on the taxation policy in the country and its impacts on local companies.

The stakeholders met online during a webinar held recently under the theme: "The effectiveness of taxes on Cameroonian companies".

The event organised by the Cameroon Economic Policy Institute, CEPI, was an opportunity for the key actors to analyse the nature of taxes, the rationale for the current taxation rate, how companies are being impacted as well as recommendations to improve the efficiency the tax policy.

Some entrepreneurs, business experts, analysts and other stakeholders of the economic ecosystem participated in the webinar.

Assessing the tax rates in the country, it was said that the total corporate tax rate stands at 33% for companies whose turnover are over 3 billion FCFA while companies with a turnover of less than 3 billion FCFA and meeting the additional criteria set by law, are expected to pay a tax rate set at 27.5%.



Stakeholders during webinar

ensure that it invest in vital infrastructure projects.

Encouraging businesses to pay their taxes to support government's economic development drive, Mazou equally praised current efforts to digitise tax and insisted more needs to be done to ensure that businesses can easily register, declare and pay their taxes.

He further outlined that formal businesses have a duty to contribute own quota to the country's development as the current tax rate should reflect the development needs.

On his part, the founder of CEPI, Henri Kouam, explained that there is a minimum tax of 2.2% or 5.5% based on company's turnover and following the taxpayer's tax regime.

"The deposit is 10% for any taxpayer not registered at a tax office. The rate of 10% is increased to 20% for forestry companies who do not possess a forestry permit duly issued by the competent authority," the CEPI founder added.

Despite the country's current high debt burden and

infrastructure needs requiring financing, Kouam intimated that the lowering of tax rate will help to support business investment that can create more jobs and broaden the tax base.

It was proposed that government should continue striving to fully digitise the tax system in order to encourage more businesses to register or get formalised.

Meanwhile, businesses should register and declare their taxes and can approach validated centers such as that at ACDC.

He recommended that civil society organisations should sensitise citizens on the need to pay taxes to support Cameroon's economic development.

It is worth noting that CEPI advocates the lowering taxes and economic freedom, to support Cameroonian entrepreneurs and businesses as the gains from lower taxes may be invested back into the economy, creating jobs and economic prosperity.

Beti, Bulu traditional rulers perform rituals to advert coup in Cameroon!

By Mua Patrick

Some traditional rulers of the Centre and South Regions have performed rituals in what is understood to be praying against a possible military takeover in Cameroon.

Though the monarchs who participated in the rituals performing ceremony did not directly mention coup in their supplications to the ancestors, they however prayed that “what is happening in neighbouring countries should not happen here”.

The meeting of the traditional rulers, mostly of Beti and Bulu extractions, came in the wake of rising coups in parts of West and Central Africa.

The highly restricted and spiritual gathering, as reported by Vision 4 TV, was organised in a remote village on the outskirts of Yaounde, in the Mefou and Akono Division of the Centre Region.

It was staged Friday September 22 and focused on invoking the gods to protect Cameroon and its leadership from the “forces of darkness”.

“We decided to embark on this ritual because we have observed that in some neighbouring countries, and even beyond, things aren’t going on fine there and there is tension,” one of the traditional rulers told reporters.

“We are sending back all the negative thoughts, ideas and energy that are intend-



ed to destabilise our country, and the leadership of our President of the Republic...,” another added.

Meanwhile, some women who answered present at the rituals performing ceremony had to undergo cleansing.

“The ritual you witnessed was to ensure that all these women are safe of any threats because we do not know how and where they slept. It is a way of reigniting our customs which are fast disappearing,” a traditional chief explained.

The rituals took place in a secret forest where the traditional rulers and senior notables, known as Zomloas, as well as representatives of several clans of the South, Centre and East Regions, had spent

10 days without bathing and having sex, in order to get in contact with their ancestors.

“What you have seen, shows that it was successful. I can reassure you that Cameroon has always been a peaceful country and shall remain a peaceful nation,” a Chief said shortly after the incantations.

During the incantations, the representatives of the various clans invited their ancestors to “open the doors separating the world of the living with that of the dead”.

Some rituals were carried out for peace to reign in Cameroon.

“We are sure and we can feel it deep within us. When we call upon our ancestors, we know and feel that they are with

us. There are certain things that we cannot explain and that you can’t equally testify. But a lot of things have been done to see that Cameroon remains peaceful,” the Chiefs said.

They added that: “The response from our ancestors was immediate. We think that our prayers have been answered”.

In concluding their prayers with the ancestors, the Zomloas and traditional rulers prayed their ancestors to intervene on their behalf.

They urged the ancestors to ensure that “anyone who thinks evil of Cameroon shouldn’t go scot free”.

“We told ourselves around the fire that anyone coming with weapons will meet us on his way,” the Chiefs said, insinuating the possibility of a coup.

They were blunt that: “If there is anyone who tries to destabilise this country, he should dare us. It is not a debate. We don’t have to make any further comment on the issue. You will see what will happen. We will all witness it”.

The traditional rulers, meanwhile also invited their peers from the other Regions of the country to do same to ensure that peace reigns in Cameroon.

“Every Region should mobilise its traditional rulers to do same thing like us so that our beloved country should be safe from any attacks from the enemy,” the monarchs concluded.

To ensure food security:

Stakeholders brainstorm adaptation mechanisms, climate change resilience ways

By Morine Tanyi

Some stakeholders involved in the cultivation of foodstuffs like cocoa, coffee, plantain, cassava among others, have exchanged notes on adaptation mechanisms and ways to remain resilient amidst threats of climate change.

This was during a one-day workshop that recently took place in Yaounde. It was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Gabriel Mbairrobe. Attended by several officials and partners, the gathering was organised by the Cocoa and Coffee Sub-sections Development Fund, CCODEF.

Also present were partners including heads of training structures and centres, leaders of civil society organisations, heads of advisory and extension support structures, representatives of associations and producers' representatives involved in rural development among others.

The ceremony was tagged: “Validation of the manual for operationalising the agroecological transition, AET desk, AET advice sheets and the manual for subsidy mechanisms for agricultural equipment, materials and development to climate change and climate-smart”.

According to Minister Mbairrobe, the European Union, EU, has signed a new 15 million Euro for the Sector Reform Contract, SRC, with the government of Cameroon within the framework of its emergency budget support for food security and resilience for 2023.

The main objective of this short-term contract, the member of government said, is to contribute to the sustainable improvement of the overall performance of food systems by strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable farming households, accelerating the agroecological transition of the main agricultural sub-sectors and implementing climate change.

This, he added, will help “to move forward with the modernisation of traditional agriculture, livestock farming and fishing, in order to increase the production and productivity of small farms and promote the emergence of second generation production



Panel at the opening of the workshop



Minister, officials after ceremony

units, i.e. medium and large-scale enterprises that respect the environment”.

The minister said this window is not only part of the diversification of agricultural production through the association of several sectors, but also of the protection of nature and the preservation of biodiversity.

This, he said, can be done towards controlling the effects of climate change; increasing producers' income as well as protecting the ecosystem.

He used the opportunity to enjoined participants to take ownership of the tools that will be presented to them to disseminate widely among players in the field.

This, he said, will enable them take advantage of all the opportunities offered to them, not only for their own personal benefit but also for the benefit of their community.

Enter CCODEF Administrator

The Administrator of CCODEF, Samuel Donatien Nengue, said they are plans to expand to other agricultural sectors but there is need to make the government involve in the process.

He said thanks to support from the government and partners like the EU, the organisation intends to move on to the imminent start of the Agroecological Transition win-

dow in the Mounjo Division of the Littoral Region.

This, he said, will help producers to set up environmental services which will help them to increase their production while respecting the environment and their health conditions.

“Increasing production can be done in Cameroon without necessarily increasing the cultivated area or encroaching on the forestry aspect,” Nengue said.

The Programme Manager for Agriculture, Environment, Food Security at EU Delegation to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, Philippe Le Clerc, said: “The European Union implements its institution strengthening activities through budgetary support and continuous dialogue with all partners of the sector”.

He disclosed that since 2017, the EU has supported reforms in the sector to the tune of 100 billion FCFA.

“It has supported the establishment of counters which provide access to subsidised fertilizers,” Le Clerc added.

Aspects on the agenda included the presentation of agroecological transition advice sheets, the presentation of the operationalization manual of the Agroecological Transition Window, the presentation of the manual of subsidy mechanisms for agricultural equipment, materials and arrangements for adaptation to climate change and climate-smart agriculture.

The Agroecological Transition in the country, it should be said, is defined as a process of sustainable agricultural intensification which makes it possible to increase and diversify production for the benefit of producers and consumers, while preserving agricultural ecosystems in a land-use planning approach.

The ecological transition sheet aims to provide advisory support staff and producers with a tool to enable them to produce sustainable cocoa, develop a multi-species crop system that integrates adaptation to climate change, and optimize the yields of cocoa trees and associated species and therefore increase the income of producers.

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As an astute politician, he understood that politics is often smeared by intrigues and manipulations for personal interest to the detriment of the common good. He therefore cautioned against falling into the nadir of errors.

Ironically, the SDF, even before he was called to glory, had made a lot of errors; which should be avoided at the crucial elective convention, coming up at the end of October.

As this daily newspaper reported exclusively yesterday, there are already credible speculations that the convention, which is intended to reinvigorate a dying SDF, could be marred by errors that will push the party into a depth of extinction, if not avoided.

One of the first errors, the SDF under Hon Joshua Osih, National First Vice President, made was to raise the deposit of those who want to contest for the position of the National Chairman, from the usual 50,000 to seven million FCFA non-refundable!

For Hon Osih, a parliamentarian and millionaire businessman, that amount is chicken feed, but not for the vast majority of members who might have loved to test their following.

The second error, in which Osih's fingers were spotted, was the expulsion of 27+ top members of the party. Their crime was that they held a meeting in Mbounda and resolved that the party's accounts be audited.

The Mbounda resolutions also accused the late Chairman and Osih of questionable management of the party and dictatorship.

Among the expelled members is the chair of the Littoral branch of the SDF, Hon Jean-Michel Nintcheu, whose popularity in the Region and outspoken criticism of the CPDM regime placed him among the potential successors to Fru Ndi.

That monumental error would no doubt annihilate the desire to win supporter in the Littoral Region, where Nintcheu resides and in the West Region where he hails from and wields significant influence.

In the North West and South West Regions, which used to be almost the exclusive fief of the SDF, separatist fighters are at variance with the four-state federation the party hypes as a solution to the ongoing armed conflict.

Those errors have compounded to the criticism of the party as belonging to "the presidential majority".

Editorial

SDF Elective convention will make or mar!

Hon Osih tested his popularity at the national level at the 2018 presidential election and had less than five percent of the votes cast.

An indigene of N'dian Division in the South West Region, but residing in Douala, Osih's popularity in the Littoral Region, where Hon Nintcheu calls the shots, has since been reduced to floor level.

Things have further been made worse for Osih, thanks to his alleged complicity in the controversial expulsion of G27+ members of the SDF.

To this day, Hon Nintcheu's supporters have continued to curse Osih for plotting the MP's expulsion from the SDF.

To them, Osih squarely fits the description of a man who kicks a ladder after using it to get to the top of a juicy plum tree.

They say so on account of widely held views that Osih rode on the back of Nintcheu's popularity in the Littoral Region to enter parliament. He had previously ran for parliament in his native N'dian but was heavily defeated.

Like all politicians, Osih would have read the ominous writing on the wall but does not appear to want to be a king-maker after Fru Ndi, but the swashbuckling king.

To Osih and Co.'s surprise, the exorbitant seven million deposit, has not deterred two of the party's officials.

Shewa David, Divisional Coordinator of the SDF in Donga Mantung Division of the North West Region, and Ndenge Godden Zama, Limbe I Electoral District Chairman in the South West Region, have effectively made the deposit and publicly declared their candidacy.

Zama, for instance, in a press conference last August,

said: "I want to lead from in front so that this great national party can take its rightful place in the Cameroonian nation and finally deliver on its huge promise. Like you, I have never given up. As leader of the party, we would build back better, we would inspire a new generation of supporters. We would fight for the dignity and honour of the Cameroonian youth".

Zama had also said his major task, if elected National Chairman of the SDF, will be to stop the war in the two Anglophone Regions that have caused devastating effects to its population.

When Osih was asked recently by reporters to confirm if he will run for the election at the October 28 and 29 convention, he said: "I think at the time I will be running for chairmanship position, my

Ward and my Electoral District will be the first to know. However, you will be informed appropriately".

There are however reports that he has paid his seven million FCFA deposit. But why the mystery to announce his intention?

As *The Guardian Post* reported yesterday, there are reports linking him to planning to tinker the party's constitution to introduce a list system, which is the trade mark of the ruling CPDM.

Party insiders anonymously told *The Guardian Post* that an Extra Ordinary Convention will be held before the elective convention, to introduce a list system in the party's elective architecture.

The list system is undemocratic because unpopular pseudo-politicians would ride on the wings of those who believe in "Power to the People and Equal Opportunities", as is the SDF slogan, to get undeserved victories.

If a list system is introduced at the elective convention, it shall be the biggest error the SDF, under Hon Joshua Osih would make on a party on life support machine.

The Guardian Post is not a prophet of doom, but suffice to say going by the already mounting tension within the SDF, ahead of its elective convention, any attempt by whosoever to rig the polls will make or mar the party.

For a party, whose launching in 1990, saw the slaughtering of six of its supporters in Bamenda, we at *The Guardian Post* can only but caution that the SDF is by far bigger than the interest of anyone who wishes to become its National Chairman only for self aggrandisement.

Minister launches commemorative activities for older persons' day

By Macwalter Njapteh Refor

The Minister of Social Affairs, Pauline Irene Nguene, has launched commemorative activities leading up to International Day of Older Person observed on Sunday October 1.

The International Day of Older Persons which will be in its 33rd edition this year, has been placed under the theme: "Fulfilling the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons across Generations".

The weeklong activities were launched in Yaounde yesterday in the presence of the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family, Prof Marie Therese Abena Ondoua.

In her keynote address, Minister Irene Nguene sounded the alarm against the social exclusions elderly in the contemporary society.

She underlined that older persons need to be given the opportunity to participate and position themselves as actors and beneficiaries in the face of the demands of human rights in a context of inclusive development.

According to the government official, it is time for the society to denounce all forms of human rights violation on the elderly, all attitudes of ageism and discrimination towards the elderly, as well as behaviors, individual and institutional decisions that negatively impact their quality of life and living conditions.

"The exclusion of seniors has a negative impact on them, and hinders the vision of the National Strategy," the minister said.

Gov't committed to alleviate situation

The government, she said, is committed

to alleviating the plights of the older persons and continue to seek out new strategies that are likely to produce better results in this direction.

"The government's commitment to achieving a positive trajectory for the ageing has resulted in a number of other actions in favour of senior citizens," the minister added.

The Social Affairs boss, outlined measures such as the creation of a digital platform for showcasing the skills, experience and talents of older people known as "Senior Skills File"; the drawing up a National Policy Document for the Protection and Promotion of the Elderly, together with a National Action Plan; amongst others.

In December 2021, she said the country ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Protection of the Rights of the Elderly, adopted in Addis Ababa.

This ratification, she elucidated, is in line with the policy of social inclusion advocated by the President of the Republic, which led to the drafting in 2012 of a National Policy Document for the Protection and Promotion of the Elderly.

Meanwhile, the theme of the 33rd edition of the international day of older persons is dedicated to promoting the human dignity of older people and their social inclusion.

According to the minister, government is resolve to implementing all measures aimed at eliminating discrimination of elderly, empowering and promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all regardless of age.

The event was mark by the donation of gift to some elderly persons by the social affairs minister.



Social affairs, women's empowerment ministers (centre) chairing event



Government ministers, some elderly persons in group photo

Personality of The Week:

Prof. Legah Simon: Landmark Metropolitan University President

One of the variables that have kept the world drifting on different fronts is giving. It either mars or makes a society. The myriad of problems across the globe are the outcome of what people gave or failed to give at a particular time.

When giving is done in good faith and for the right reasons, the multiplier effect has always been phenomenal.

At *The Guardian Post*, our readers in their millions have in the last couple of weeks been keen on great community movers and shakers, spotting out education as a key development ingredient which must be encouraged in the process.

Such gains have come on the shoulders and efforts of a few persons who have come to terms with the essence of their existence and the fact that it requires just a human being of their make-up to change things.

This week, our readers, who have continued to keep pace with development moves across Cameroon, have settled for Prof Simon Legah Nketi, President of the Buea-based Landmark Metropolitan University, LMU and President of the Landmark Group of Companies, as the most active voice and outstanding character of phenomenal national impact this week.

The attraction Prof Lega is enjoying this season is based on a historic 100 million FCFA-worth scholarships that he offered to 500 learners from across the country.

It is a package that reads: Two fully-funded scholarships of five million FCFA for two students to study in Canada, 34 fully funded scholarships for students to study at LMU, 250 partial scholarships to study at LMU, 106 scholarships to Secondary School students and another offer to a visually impaired student to study at any state university.

The details and potential impact of the offer that touch on the length and breadth of Cameroon, our readers say, is what has projected Prof Simon Legah to the undisputed podium of Cameroon's Personality of This Week.

Prof Legah, a young, dynamic, inspiring, intelligent scholar and entrepreneur, our readers say, has through this week's historic offer, barreled himself further into the skies of honour as a matchless human resource development agent.

Admirers of the work Prof Legah does, especially in promoting inclusive education and empowering the underprivileged, have not stopped putting our coordinates and mails on fire to push through the position of Your Personality of The Week, as the defining character of the moment.

Many say they are yet to come to terms with the reality that in present day Cameroon, there are still passionate philanthropists and educationists like Prof Legah, who still think about the wellbeing of others.

They have placed him for daring to be different and acting differently, on the dunes of excellence, reverence and the clouds of joy through this esteemed platform-*The Guardian Post*, the citadel of journalism wonder in the Economic Community of Central African States, ECCAS.

Our readers say they find in Prof Legah, a man sold out to raising not just young Cameroonians but building the country from a purely realistic perspective.

They say, Prof Legah, has through the 100 million FCFA scholarship scheme, moved from just being an educationist to a holistic education wonder man, who knows what is good for today and tomorrow's generation.

His foresight to invest in people and unstoppable propensity to put others on the path to success, they are also saying, make Prof Legah, not only a humanist but a selfless being, lost in seeking for the good of all.

Having worked his way to the top through hard work and dedication, his sincerity in using



his story to inspire beneficiaries, our readers concur, is a message that makes for sound nation building.

The Landmark University President, for millions of those who make up our readership, has, across the years, truly reflected the name of the school through landmark community ventures and outstanding professional training for the youth.

This year however, the humble, easy-going and determined Prof Legah, they say, has hit a mark not known of many persons who have embarked on giving back to community by offering scholarships to needy children nationwide and sending some abroad. His humanitarian and charity works, many say and rightly so, have positioned Prof Legah in the realm of a man giving for the sake of building society and not seeking for anything in return.

Many are hailing him for rising into an atmosphere of bliss and honour and for putting his resources at the service of others.

While many have limited giving solely to money, Prof Legah, enthusiasts say and rightly so, stands unique for adding time, expertise, love and compassion to what he gives.

Prof Legah, for some, has not only discovered his purpose, gift and passion but is a shining star that is lighting the stars of others and seeking the good of the nation.

The ever-smiling Prof Legah, a multi-tasker who has continued to inspire millions of Cameroonians, acquaintances say, is yet to hit his prime, despite the national influence of his actions.

He has a power of touch, smile and grace of always listening to people in distress and changing their situations for good.

The Prof Legah of that echelon, many say, is just what has translated into the whooping scholarship offer that is reverberating nationwide.

For some, by reaching out to those who can't pay back, Prof Legah has given extra meaning to his success story.

The offer to hundreds of vulnerable children from Prof Legah, in the reading of some, is a way opener for families and households reeling especially from the pressure of the crisis in the North West and South West Regions.

In the thinking of the likes of German physi-

cist, Albert Einstein, who said: "It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it," Prof Legah, is rather a time-tested example for giving more than what his community offered him.

Even at this, Your Personality of The Week still sees the opportunity to give to others as a privilege. The abundance of light he enjoys in all he does, admirers are also saying, is because of Prof Legah's consistency in creating light for others through his many empowerment schemes.

He stands out as a compatriot and international scholar with surpassing aura and connection that have remained constant in promoting community greatness through acts of compassion.

Prof Legah's charity and wisdom are eroding fear, ignorance and contributing to nation building. His actions of service give meaning to love in uncountable ways. He is today a national figure also on account of using his time, wealth, intellect and being to generate energy for positive change. Others are seeing visions and reams but Prof Legah is active in the realm of reality, through charity and willing service.

He has a mind stretched by new ideas and has continued to breathe innovation and success into the psyche of young people.

Prof Legah, acquaintances say, and aptly so, is a man of new dimensions in everything he does. While some have been idling and dreaming perfection, Prof Legah is on the go, promoting excellence.

Your Personality of The Week has refused to recline into elusive safety. Prof Legah is always stepping forward to ensure the growth and the development of others.

Prof Legah has a competitive spirit that cannot be quenched. He is being admired across the globe for living in the consciousness that education is the soul of society and working to guarantee its access to those who cannot afford it.

The offer of Your Personality of The Week has been described as a priceless gift untangling destinies for the good of society.

The Founder of Landmark Metropolitan University in Buea and Landmark Technologies in Toronto-Canada, is a man after God's heart who is an outstanding blessing to this generation.

Through Landmark Technologies, an affiliate IT online training platform of Landmark Metropolitan University registered in Canada in 2020, over 5000 persons from 41 countries have acquired skills and are making great strides in major industries of the globe.

Prof Legah's trajectory is a story of resilience and encouragement to many. Having admitted the God factor in who he has become today, this globally acclaimed entrepreneur is yet to say his last.

The native of Bali Nyonga, Mezam Division of the North West Region, falls in the category of one of Cameroon's most enterprising and influential youth. Prof Legah has for years shown the productive capacity of his unique foresight and intuition in managing people and institutions. He has never had a better yesterday.

Your Personality of The Week is a highflyer who has been moving from glory to glory.

Little wonder, his nationally-saluted scholarship offer has over the years increased in terms of amount. From 60 million FCFA in 2021 to 90 million FCFA in 2022 and now 100 million FCFA that has created waves.

For standing unique not only in pursuing money, fame and personal development, Prof Legah has shot to the stardom and popular view of putting community service at the heart of his actions.

Our readers have rated him and rightly so, as a national asset of international mettle and a genius to watch out for.

Akeh population hail Fundong mayor for transforming community

Cont'd from page 1

In the presence of the traditional ruler of Akeh, Fon Yangsi I, the people of Akeh, during the commissioning ceremony of the bridges, sang and danced without restraint to the praise of the Mayor of Fundong Council, Ndong Awoh Denis, whom they described as a development locomotive.

During the inaugural ceremony, Mayor Ndong Denis was hailed for wiping the tears of the people of Akeh by constructing the bridges over the Meshang and Tinaketi Rivers, whose previous states hindered movement within nearby communities.

The bridges which were literally abandoned for years by previous council administrations of Fundong had become a source of worry and public anger to the people of Akeh before Mayor Ndong Denis came to their rescue.

Speaking during the inaugural ceremony of the road infrastructure projects, the people of Akeh through their traditional ruler, His Royal Highness Fon Yangsi I, throw flowers on Mayor Ndong Awoh Denis.

He was hailed for prioritising the needs of the people of Akeh by realising the construction of the two bridges. The projects seek to disenclave Akeh Fondom and other neighbouring communities.

Meanwhile, speaking during the inaugural ceremony of the bridges, the youth of Akeh village hailed Mayor Ndong Denis for constantly channeling their plight to government.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, Mayor Ndong Denis said, he was motivated strictly by the desire to see the people of Akeh grow and be like others.

He said, the Fundong Council, under his leadership cannot be indifferent to the plight and suffering of the people of Akeh.

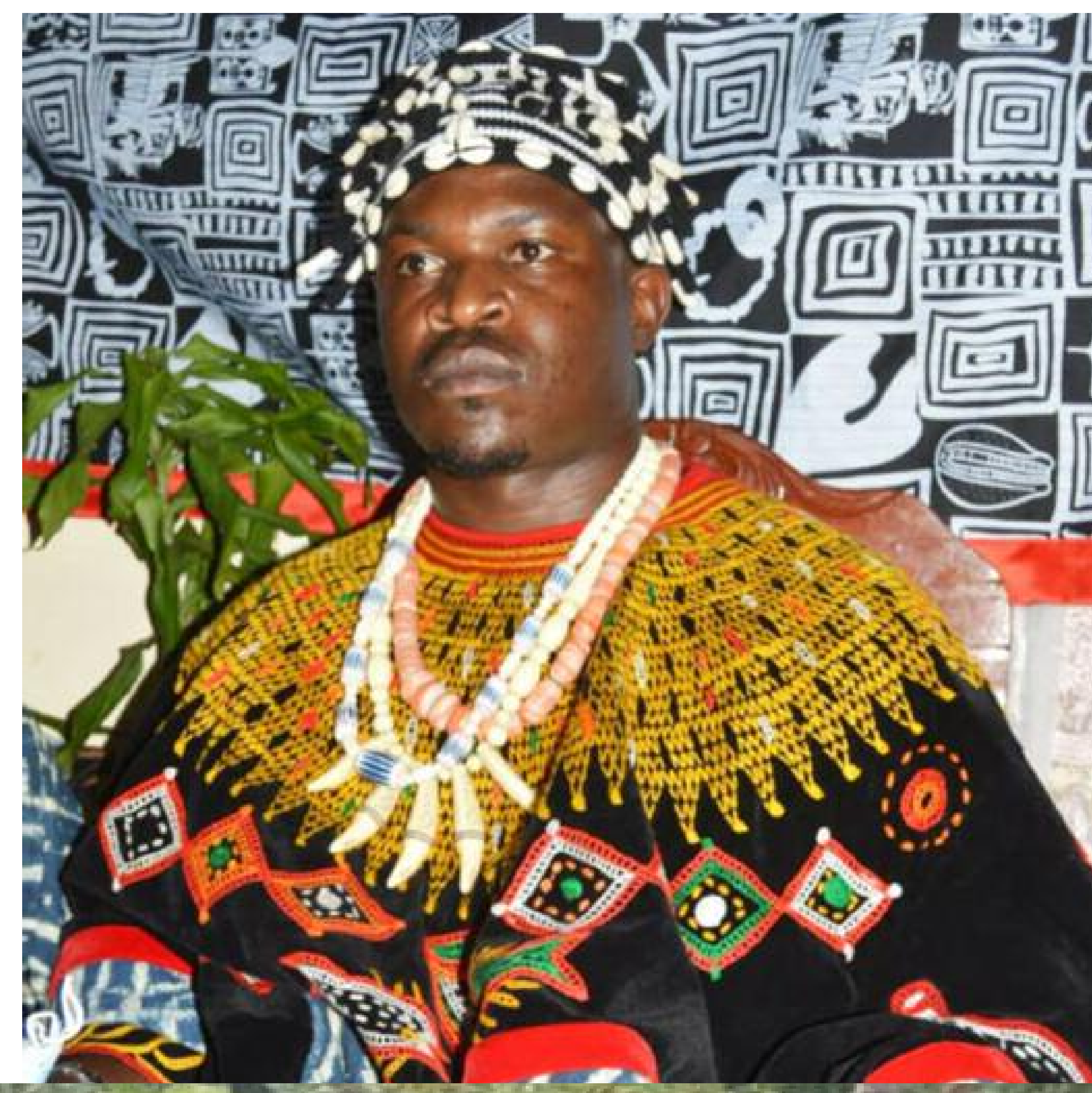
He pledged that the council wouldn't look away while the people of Akeh encounter difficulties for their daily survival.

While promising to do more, Mayor Ndong Denis urged the people of Akeh to make judicious use of the infrastructure placed at their disposal.



Mayor Ndong Denis: Development locomotive

lic investment budget while four are from



Partial view of one of the bridges in Akeh

Fundong council goes projects crazy

The Fundong Council under Mayor Ndong Denis is seemingly unstoppable in its development drive.

The council is currently engaged in several projects aimed at transforming the entire municipality.

While some of the projects are funded by the Public Investment Budget, PIB, others are financed by the Road Fund and the Decentralisation Fund.

As per the situation of projects in the Fundong municipality for 2023, the council has of now some 16 projects from the pub-

lic investment budget while four are from the Road Fund with one from the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance, FEICOM.

The Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development is said to have put at the disposal of the Fundong council 100 million FCFA.

"The Fundong council budgeted the 100 million FCFA into seven projects. The projects are presented as follows: Construction of the municipal rest house in Fundong - phase 2 (15 million FCFA- completed). This project started last year receiving funding from the Ministry of Tourism and leisure with the sum of 25 million. There is rest house which consists of; one large liv-

ing room, four rooms, an office, and a kitchen," the council disclosed in a document.

"This year, we added 15 million to it to be able to take it to a level that is habitable. It only needs equipment and embellishment of the surroundings to look like a tourism destination," the document added.

Other projects, the document disclosed, include the "Supply of compressed earth brick machine to the Fundong Council (15 million - completed). Fundong council has been using a manual earth brick machine for some years now. When we saw that the interest for compressed bricks rose, we went in for a hydraulic compressed earth brick machine that was fabricated in China and has already been supplied to be used around Bamenda and Fundong".

"Last year, we thought of re-equipping the Fundong council with road equipment. We budgeted for a truck to startup with. As the year progressed, we found out that the procedure to obtain a fairly used truck was very cumbersome passing through the Prime Ministry for an authorisation and MATGENIE for approval. We had budgeted 50 million, so we had to quickly revert to constructing an office block in order not to lose the money at the end of the financial year. This building which was designed to have 4 offices for four delegations has one completed and other one roofed," the document also stated.

The Fundong Council is engaged in several other projects including the completion of outpatient and administrative block in the Fundong district hospital, the installation of solar energy system in the newly constructed Fundong modern market, the construction of a water tank for the Laikom Palace and the construction of water tank for Ngwainkuma.

Projects in the basic education sector include the construction of a block of two classrooms at GS Mbengka, construction of two classrooms at GPS Ngwainkuma and the completion of construction of two classrooms at GS Baiso.

Others include the construction of teachers' staff quarters in GS Fundong and the construction of a nursery block at GNS Fujua-Hausa.

IMF recommends bridging of gender gaps to revive economies

By Cyprian Ntiamba Obi Ntui

The International Monetary Fund, IMF, has called on member countries, especially those in Africa to strive to close gender gaps in different spheres of human endeavour as a strategy to hasten economic revival.

According to the IMF, narrowing the gap between the share of men and women who work is one of the very important reforms policymakers can make to revive economies amid the weakest medium-term growth outlook in more than three decades.

The organisation has stated that with global growth predicted to languish at just 3 percent over the next five years and with traditional growth engines sputtering, many economies are missing out by not tapping women's potential.

The group disclosed that only 47 percent of women are active in today's labour markets, compared with 72 percent of men.

The average global gap has fallen by only 1 percentage point annually over the past three decades and remains unacceptably wide.

To blame, the IMF said, are unfair laws, unequal access to services, discriminatory attitudes and other barriers that prevent women from realising their full economic potential.

"The result is a shocking waste of talent, leading to losses in potential growth," the



Women are capable of much more than peasant farming

group noted.

It estimates that emerging and developing economies could boost gross domestic product by about 8 percent over the next few years by raising the rate of female labour force participation by 5.9 percentage points – the average amount by which the top 5 percent of countries reduced the participation gap during 2014-19.

Alluding that the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic aggravated the case for women marginalisation in employment.

The group has challenged policymakers to lift growth in many ways, from governance

reforms to strengthen institutions, to financial reforms to unlock capital for investment, as discussed in a recent IMF blog.

Complementing these reforms with measures to narrow gender gaps, the IMF said would greatly amplify the said returns.

It has however deplored the fact that, present policies do not come close to closing gender gaps.

Many researchers say it's inevitable that women's labour force participation will eventually reach that of men, even if it takes centuries.

But gender gaps are unlikely to ever close

if present policy trends persist, as new research papers show.

"Our analysis of three decades of data shows that countries have made progress increasing women's participation, but economies of all income levels experienced several setbacks—a result of shocks, crises and policy reversals. The pandemic, for example, eroded progress closing gender gaps, especially for women with young children. Setbacks like this cause scarring that slows and often reverses progress toward gender equality," IMF experts noted.

The body has noted gender gaps in labour force participation will narrow but never close if countries continue on their present policy path. Gaps would remain large for most countries, exceeding 16 percentage points in one out of ten countries.

The IMF has insisted that countries must step up efforts to break down barriers to women's participation in the labour market – such as limited access to education, health, assets, finance, land, legal rights, and care services.

It has also recommended that governments should ensure that women are systematically take account of how macroeconomic, structural, and financial policy packages impact on the female folk.

The IMF concluded by assuring that the group's gender strategy aims to assist member countries in these efforts.

Centre Region:

Project launched to screen, treat 8,000 students of eye defects

Dewah Fabrice Teh

A project has been launched to screen and treat over 8,000 school-going children of eye deficiency in the Centre Region.

The project known as Eye health and corrective refractive errors in Cameroon's schools dubbed BrightSight, which is in its third phase, was launched in Yaounde.

The project is being implemented by the Ministers of Public Health and that of Secondary Education, with the support of the US humanitarian organisation, Helen Keller Int'l, HKI.

The launch of the BrightSight Phase III for Centre Region, was jointly chaired by the Centre Regional Delegate for Public Health, Dr Azoumbou Mefant Therese and Centre Regional Delegate for Secondary Education, Ndemba Sidonie Therese on behalf of their respective ministers.

The event which brought together focal points and representatives of some secondary schools within the Nkolondongo and Djoungolo Health Districts, was also attended by the Coordinator of the National Blindness Control Programme, Prof Assumpta Lucienne Bella.

According to the Centre Regional Delegate for Secondary Education, Ndemba Sidonie Therese, refractive errors represent the most common eye issue among school-age children in Cameroon.

However, the refractive errors are easily correctible with eyeglasses, but with-

**Health, education officials chairing launch of BrightSight III****Officials, focal points in group photo**

out access to care, many children suffer unnecessarily.

She further explained that during the first and second phases of the BrightSight project, a lot of positive academic results were registered from the students who benefited from the project, thus the need to extend to the third phase.

"The particularities of this third phase is that we have seen the positive impacts on the works of children. When we look

at the indicators when they never had the glasses and after they received the glasses, there has been a positive impact on their academic results," she said.

While thanking the stakeholders for their commitment to the project, she insisted that the successful implementation of the project will have a positive impact on students in these schools that were not included during the previous phases.

During the screening, children detected with visual acuity impairment will be provided free eyeglasses while those with more complex eye problems will be referred for free surgery.

HKI Director of Food Systems, Alex Ndjebayi, speaking on behalf of HKI Country Director, Prof Robert Mba, said the project is aimed at improving eye health and school performance of under-served school-aged children through increase screening and treatment of children with eye issues.

He added that they are so far satisfied with the successes registered by the project whose first phase was launched in 2021.

The project which began in the Efoulan Health District of Yaounde, was then extended to Biyem-assi in the Centre Region and Dschang in the West Region.

According to the HKI official, it had been wished that this phase of the project be extended to all districts in Yaounde but was limited to just two districts within Yaounde due to funding constraints.

Besides the two districts in Yaounde, the BrightSight III project has also earmarked another 8,000 children in the Mifi health district of the West region. The project expected to be launched in the days ahead for the West Region, targets children aged between 11 to 15 years old.

A preliminary results from a recent operational research carried out by Helen Keller Intl on 17,237 students aged 10 to 15, shows a 9.8% prevalence of severe visual impairment and 43.7% of refractive errors.

South Region:

ANTIC schools public, private institutions on securing documents in digital era

By Deng Eric

Representatives of over 100 public and private institutions in the South Region, have been edified on what it takes to secure administrative documents in the digital era.

This was during a seminar organised by the National Agency for Information and Communication Technology, ANTIC, in Ebolowa, Wednesday, September 27.

The seminar was the third in a series, organised since 2021, as part of ongoing measures taken by ANTIC to effectively combat the falsification of official documents issued by public and private institutions.

Speaking at the start of the seminar, the Director General of ANTIC, Dr Ebot Ebot Enaw, said in as much as the digital economy has prompted the digitalisation of services which offers a wide variety of opportunities, there are several challenges relating to the safety and security of electronic documents, digital contents, electronic transactions and digital messages.

"While it is true that public authorities use ICTs and the Internet to disseminate information, it should equally be noted that the disturbing and alarming rate at which administrative documents, sometimes confidential, are published on social media, remains worrisome in the adoption and use of these technologies," the ANTIC boss noted.

He said in some cases, the documents that circulate online are fake and seek to misinform public opinion, discredit public institutions, stir hatred and endanger national security.

To him, the advent of digital tools has greatly enhanced and eased the falsification of official documents.

Measures to tackle menace

In a bid to address these challenges, ANTIC developed a digital signature scheme known as Doc@uthANTIC. It is used to secure official documents and provides three

key security services, notably authentication of users, integrity of documents and non-repudiation of signatories.

According to ANTIC boss, "By providing these services, our solution offers some assurance to online users as to the safety of their online transactions and interactions and as such helps build trust and confidence in this space necessary for the growth and development of the digital economy".

He went on to add: "This service deployed by ANTIC, secures official documents by getting them digitally signed generating a QR code in the process which is inserted in the document in question".

Dr Ebot Ebot further stated that in a bid to reduce risks posed by cybercrime and help build trust and confidence needed to enable Cameroon's digital economy thrive nationwide, they have employed the services of the National Public Key Infrastructure hosted by ANTIC to secure sensitive applications of public and private institutions open to the public.

The official further stated that in a bid to reduce risks posed by cybercrime and help build trust and confidence needed to enable Cameroon's digital economy thrive nationwide, they have employed the services of the National Public Key Infrastructure hosted by ANTIC to secure sensitive applications of public and private institutions open to the

public.

He cited some of the applications they have been able to secure so far, including ANOR's conformity certificates platform, Ministry of Finance's platform for the production of Irrevocable Bank Transfer Certificates for Civil Servants, CAMRAIL's ticketing system, end of course diplomas issued by training institutes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development among others.

Participants at the Ebolowa seminar, discussed issues ranging from law enforcement officers in the face of digital counterfeiting, legal provisions with regard to the falsification of official documents, protection scheme of the National Civil Status Registry to securing travel tickets and conformity certificates.

It should be noted that in keeping with its mission of securing the national cyberspace in general and online transactions in particular, ANTIC, in 2022, launched a campaign for the delivery of Transport Layer Security, TLS, certificates free of charge to public and private institutions for the securing of their websites.

TLS is a protocol or communication rule that allows computer systems to communicate to each other on Internet safety.

The campaign lasted for a year and an appraisal of public administration web platforms was carried out, it emerged from find-

ings that about 30 institutions are in need of the service.

The ANTIC boss requested representatives of these institutions to take necessary measures to ensure their websites are secured.

He said the hope of ANTIC is that by the end of the training, more organisations would get on board, by adopting and integrating the advanced electronic signature into the production chain of their official documents.

The seminar provided an avenue for insightful conversations that will raise awareness of public and private institutions on the need to secure the production chain of official documents they issue in a bid to prevent their falsification.

**ANTIC boss, Dr Ebot Ebot, talking to reporters after opening of seminar****Seminar participants listening to lectures****ANTIC DG, seminar facilitators & participants immortalize training**

MINFI boss installs new executives of Cameroon Insurance Companies Association

By Elizabeth Banyitabi

The new executive bureau of the Cameroon Association of Insurance Companies known by its French acronym, ASAC, has officially been commissioned into office.

The new ASAC team that has as president, Thierry Kepeden, was installed Wednesday, September 27, in Douala, by the Minister of Finance, Louis Paul Motaze.

The nine-man bureau that was put in place during ASAC general assembly which started on Monday September 25 has a two-year mandate.

ASAC, as a regulatory body of the insurance sector, plays an essential role in guiding and supervising the activities of insurance companies in Cameroon.

Its main objective is to guarantee a healthy and transparent environment for consumers, while promoting growth and competitiveness within the sector.

Speaking at the installation ceremony, Minister Motaze used the opportunity to recall the importance of strengthening the regulation of insurance companies within a constantly evolving economic context.

He emphasised on the need to adapt to new challenges and guarantee the protection of consumer interests.

According Minister Motaze, ASAC has recorded outstanding results in what concerns the centralisation of insurance certificates, the start of consolidation of the automotive branch through the implementation of new certificates as well as the cost-effective operational ASAC-MINFI platform for the sub-scription of vehicle certificates.

Going by the Minister, this satisfactory achievements observed, should not end. "I hope that what we have begun to do, we are going to continue and reach our target," Minister Motaze said, stressing on the vital role that the insurance sector plays in the economy.

Since the year 2021, the Cameroon Association of Insurance Companies has witnessed a more than 10% increase in its turnover.

However, the the Minister of Finance says there is still much to be done as the most important thing is presently to multiply the rate of penetration of insurance coverage in the country.

Faced with persistent challenges in domains like life insurance, automobile insurance and fraudulent insurance activities, the newly elected executive bureau are conscious, they have a lot a huge target ahead of the

ASAC boss assures of greater collaboration

The new ASAC President, Thierry Kepeden, highlighted the importance of working closely with members in order to close the gap.

He also assured of cooperation with government authorities and other stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the insurance sector in Cameroon.

By working closely with companies, government authorities and other stakeholders, ASAC is committed to making Cameroon a major player in the insurance sector in Africa.

The insurance sector which is normally supposed to contribute at least 2% of the country's Gross Domestic Products, GDP, formerly witnessed a period of stagnation and poor revenue between 2017 and 2020.

In the last two years, the market saw a boom and now counts not less than FCFA 250 billion CFA.

"That eventually means we are working hard and that we can possibly come up with a structural reform stand so that the insurance market could be set rolling," Kepeden said.

He told reporters that together with the Minister of Finance, they deliberated on several aspects that could permit them multiply the turnover of the insurance sector in the country.

By so doing, the Cameroon Association of Insurance Companies with over three decades of existence, would better fulfill its role insure persons at their crucial moments.

The association's president said, the set objectives could be attained by strengthened regulations which will better protect consumers and guarantee the solvency of insurance companies.

ASAC bureau intends to ensure that companies are able to meet their obligations and boost investors' confidence.

Created in 1973, ASAC united all insurance companies approved in accordance with current regulations. ASAC it was said has worked to prevent abusive practices and ensure fair competition between companies.



MINFI boss shakes hands with new bureau members shortly after installation



Cross section of attendees at ASAC installation ceremony



New ASAC bureau members, gov't officials immortalise event

The installation ceremony was attended by a cream of officials among them, the Governor of the Littoral Region, Samuel Dieudonné Ivaha Diboua, Wouri Senior

Divisional Officer, Mboutou Benjamin, Douala City mayor, Dr Roger Mbassa Nadine among other business persons and partners in the insurance sector.

Buea Bishop wins prestigious Church Management Torchbearer Award

By Mua Patrick

The Bishop of the Diocese of Buea, His Lordship Michael Miabesue Bibi, has bagged the prize of Church Management Torchbearer.

The Chief Shepherd of the Buea Diocese was handed the coveted prize Wednesday, September 27.

This was during a restricted event held at the Bishop's House in Small Soppo, Buea, Fako Division of the South West Region.

The award handed Bishop Bibi is an initiative of Yaounde-based print media organ, NewsWatch Newspaper.

The award presentation ceremony in Buea, came weeks after the 10th anniversary celebration of the NewsWatch Newspaper, during which some 41 Cameroonians were singled out and rewarded for their contributions to the growth of the nation.

Organisers of the event said Bishop Bibi was named winner of the 'Church Management Torchbearer Award' for "manifesting exceptional skills in leading God's people in the Diocese of Buea and for tactfully restructuring Catholic University Institute of Buea, CUIB to fulfil its mission of moulding entry-level professionals with moral and spiritual values".

NewsWatch Newspaper Publisher, Ndi Eugene Ndi, who presented the award to the



Bishop Bibi Michael speaking to reporters in Buea

Bishop Wednesday, said laureates of NewsWatch 10th anniversary award were voted by the newspaper's wide community of readers and the final results were compiled by a jury of experts made up of revered media men and women in the country.

Speaking shortly after receiving the prize, Bishop Michael Bibi said he was both privileged and honoured to have been recognised for his efforts in leading God's people in the Diocese of Buea.

The religious leader stated that: "It is my prayer and wish that this award that I have received will be an extra motivation to the people of the Diocese of Buea, so that we

continue to work together to see how we can make the diocese to grow from strength to strength".

He then disclosed that: "The Diocese of Buea especially with our directorate of communication...we are ready to collaborate and work together and cooperate with NewsWatch newspaper and all the other media platforms in our nation and beyond so that we continue to inform our people about realities happening around us not only issues concerning the society but issues concerning the spiritual growth of the people of God".

Quizzed to comment on the secret behind his successes as head of the Diocese of Buea

which attracted the prize, Bishop Bibi stated that the award was the result of the collective efforts of all members of the Diocese.

"The Diocese of Buea is made up of the religious and the members of Christ lay faithful. As the chief shepherd of the Diocese of Buea, if I am able to do anything in the Diocese, it is thanks to the support and prayers of all the people of God in the diocese. I think that the greatest secret has been that we work together, we share ideas together...", he said.

Taking the cue during Wednesday's event, NewsWatch CEO cum Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, Ndi Eugene Ndi, explained that the "award we just handed to the Bishop of Buea is part of the 41 awards that we gave out to some Cameroonians during our 10th anniversary celebration in Yaounde".

In justifying the choice of Bishop Bibi as winner of the coveted prize, Ndi sustained that since taking over the leadership of the Church in Buea, the Bishop has introduced sweeping reforms which have instilled order in the diocese.

He noted that: "Before now in the Diocese of Buea, there were some associations of priests who I will say were misleading God's people but today they are no longer there. It takes the wisdom of a leader whom God chosen to instill such order within a very time in office".

In midterm report on Anglophone crisis:

Rights group says 116 killed in army-separatist shootings

By Shing Timothy

The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, CHRDA, has revealed that some 116 persons were killed during the first semester of 2023, in confrontations between government forces and separatists fighters, involved in the armed conflict ravaging the North West and South West regions.

The killings, together with other horrific human rights violations and abuses, documented by the non-governmental rights group, were presented during a special ceremony to unveil its midterm report on the human rights situation in conflict affected regions of Cameroon.

Going by CHRDA Data, the period under review, also registered an increase in conflict between the armed Fulani militias, the civilian population and armed separatists in the restive North West Region.

CHRDA advanced that the conflict stemmed from the protracted farmer-grazer conflicts between the Fulani and natives in some part of the region.

Incidents in Nwa Subdivision, Donga Mantung Division and others in Momo Division as well as human rights abuses perpetrated by Fulani militias from Nigeria were presented in the report.



Agbor speaking to journalists during the press conference

Presenting the right abuses in figures, the organisation detailed that there were a total 116 killings, 214 arbitrary arrests, 5 rape cases, 100 attacks and injuries incidents, 189 cases of torture by defense and security forces, 98 kidnap cases, 32 cases of inhumane and degrading treatment and one case of enforced disappearance.

Most of the individuals killed during this period include males, with 77 persons and just six females. Also, 29 other victims killed were unidentifiable, according to the report from CHRDA.

Between January 2023 and June 2023 in the three regions, June was noted as the most bloody, recording 33 deaths, with March being the least deathly with seven persons killed.

The commemoration of days such as February 11, March 8, and

May 20, according to CHRDA, is a contributing factor to the escalation of the violence as there are often calls for ghost towns and threats from separatist fighters against civilians who attempt to participate in these celebrations.

Some of the major incidents reported include the killing of five unarmed civilians in Ekona by state defence and security forces, killing of six CDC workers in Tiko and nine persons in Small Mankon Bamenda by unidentified armed men, killing of five unarmed forces persons in the Bamenda II Subdivision and another incident in Babanki by state forces.

CHRDA noted the unfortunate killing of Bamenda based journalist, Anye Nde Nso, by non-state armed actors. The report attributed majority of the incidents to government forces for perpetrating the killings and other massive



CHRDA staff after the programme

human right violations.

The defence and security forces as reported by CHRDA killed 41 persons in the North West Region while 29 were killed in the South West Region during the first quarter of 2023, while separatist fighters killed 22 in the North West region and 24 in the South West region within the same period in 2023.

Speaking to the press, the Founder and President of CHRDA, Barrister Felix Nkongho Agbor, said the report demonstrates a rise in cases of violence.

"...the midterm report really shows an up rise in violence and really shows things are not getting any better," Felix Nkongho said.

This year witnessed massive surrendering, especially by the ex-separatist fighters in the Anglophone Regions as per the data from government sources.

Despite the positives from the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration, DDR Centres, CHRDA noted with regret some irregularities, which did not meet the purpose of the centres.

The rights group noted that a certain Shutang Urma who surrendered to the DDR centre in Bamenda is being involved in military operations in the North West Region.

Apart from the Anglophone crisis, the report also touched on Bokom Haram War in the Far North Region of the country.

CHRDA noted that as of June 9, 2023, a total of 3,520 separatist fighters and Boko Haram combatants have answered present to President Paul Biya's peace call, by dropping their weapons in the conflict-affected North West, South West and Far North regions of Cameroon.

Scoreboard

Up score:

Prof Fru Angwafo III: North West Regional Assembly president

Mark Twain, renowned American writer and author of popular novel, *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, said: "Every time you stop a school, you will have to build a jail. What you gain at one end you lose at the other. It's like feeding a dog on his own tail. It won't fatten the dog".

He also said "the man who does not read books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them".

Twain also averred that: "There is nothing schooling cannot do. Nothing is above its reach. It can turn bad morals to good; it can destroy bad principles and recreate good ones; it can lift men to 'angel ship'".

If Twain's assertions are anything to go by, then the importance of education cannot be overemphasised.

Education helps a person hone their communication skills by learning how to read, write, speak and listen.

It develops critical thinking and helps an individual meet basic job qualifications and makes them more likely to secure better jobs.

Education promotes gender equality and helps empower girls and women. It also reduces child mortality.

According to UNESCO, a child born to a mother who has a high school diploma is 31 percent more likely to survive past the age of five.

Thus actions that promote education are laudable. It is for this reason that the North West Assembly, led by its president, Prof Fru Angwafo III, has taken up the mantle to promote education and effective schooling in the region.

The Regional Assembly recently awarded scholarships and school didactic materials to meritorious students from all seven Divisions of the North West Region for the 2023/2024 school year.

The award event took place in Bamenda



on Friday September 22. The students, carefully selected by the Regional Delegation of Secondary Education, were outstanding in the 2023 end-of-course examinations.

Coordinated by the President of the North West Regional Assembly, Prof Angwafo III, the award of scholarships and donation of didactics, held in the presence of the Secretary General at the North West Governor's office, Bassilekin George.

Scholarship grants ranging from 30,000 FCFA to 40,000 FCFA were handed to 100 best students who excelled in the 2023 GCE Advanced and Ordinary levels, respectively.

This was accompanied by award of attestations of excellence to outstanding students who sat for various examinations, including the GCE Advanced and Ordinary levels, CAP, BEPC, CAPIEMP, TVEE, and ITVEE.

For his laudable efforts in promoting academic excellence and effective schooling in the North West Region, Prof Fru Angwafo III gets a score of **9/10**.

Down score:

Dimdim Mengue: Man who impersonated presidency Director of General Affairs

Impersonation is a crime condemned by Cameroon's Penal Code. While impersonation is not only criminal, it has adverse effects. One of the most significant effects of impersonation is the damage it can cause to a person's reputation.

Impersonators may use their fake identities to spread false information or defame someone's character. This can lead to serious consequences, such as loss of employment or even legal action.

It becomes even worse when someone impersonates another person and use the false identity to dupe people or extort money.

This is the case of a 39-year-old man, identified as Dimdim Mengue, who was arrested in Yaounde for impersonating the Director of General Affairs at the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic.

Dimdim is said to have extorted his victims of huge sums of money, after promising them contracts and appointments.

The suspect fell into the dragnet of police officers September 6, 2023, while trying to extort a director at the Ministry of Secondary Education.

He was presented to the press by the Commissioner of the Central Police Station N°3 of Yaounde, Police Commissioner Ekema Francis Kange.

Ekema Kange told reporters that investigations to track the suspect was launched following a complaint filed by one of his victims, a businessman, Cedric Mayo.

The businessman, Commissioner Ekema Kange recounted, complained that the accused had promised him contracts after receiving his deposit of 30 million FCFA.

The complainant, the police official added, had succeeded to block the said amount from being withdrawn by the suspect after he smelled something suspi-

cious in the contract.

"...Dimdim Mengue [the suspect] had proposed to him certain contracts, telling him he is an attaché at the Presidency. In confidence, Mr Mayo decided to open up to him and after few months later, he discovered that Mr Mengue [the suspect] was not very clear," Ekema Kange recounted.

He disclosed that after investigations by officers under his command, the accused was arrested.

The Police Commissioner then disclosed that after an exhaustive search in the phone and house of the accused in Ebolowa, South Region, incriminating materials, which he uses to carry out his activities and deceive victims, were found, including close to 300 pairs of designer suits, shoes and stamps, among others.

Victims of the suspect, the police official disclosed, were mostly General Managers and Directors General of state corporations like ENEO, CAMWATER, CAMRAIL, among others.

He further disclosed that the suspect also impersonated other top officials of the Presidency. For impersonation and extortion, Dimdim Mengue gets a score of **0/10**.



Yaounde City Council reviews 2024 dev't roadmap

By Ngwanwi Nengeh Banda

The Yaounde City Council has reviewed its development priorities for 2024. This was the focus of an extraordinary council session on Wednesday, September 27.

Yaounde City Mayor, Luc Messi Atangana, chaired deliberations in the presence of the Senior Divisional Officer, SDO, for Mfoundi, Emmanuel Mareil Djikdent.

Discussions during the session touched on the 2024 budget of the City Council and projects that will address the concerns of the population. According to the City Mayor, the council intends to acquire equipment to boost road construction, road rehabilitation, rehabilitation of trading spaces and improving waste management.

Eight deliberations from the City Mayor for some key projects were also adopted. In addition, the councillors made proposals on key areas the council should focus on in its development agenda for the next financial year.

In terms of infrastructure, the councillors called on authorities to prioritise improving that which has to do with health, education and business across the municipality.

The City Mayor, Luc Messi Atangana, told reporters that, "by law, it was only right that Councilors should be made fully aware of these projects, appreciate them and make additional proposals to ensure that the relevant and immediate needs of our population are taken into

account".

Adjustments and proposals made, the municipal authority stated, will be imputed into the draft budget and submitted for deliberation during the budgetary session billed for December this year.

Key deliberations

One of the deliberations authorised the City Mayor to make available funds for the Inclusive and Resilient Cities Development Project, PDVIR, in the Yaounde V and Yaounde VII municipalities.

Another deliberation authorised the City Mayor to proceed with the development, construction, rehabilitation and/or extension of retail areas belonging to the Yaounde City Council with the support of private partners.

Through another deliberation, councillors authorise the City Mayor to sign a concession contract for the construction through Build, Operate and Transfer, BOT, a high-end Eco energetic shopping centre, hotel, an office space and luxury flats at the Ntougou neighbourhood in Yaounde II.

The contract will be signed with Innovex Chartered Quantity Surveyors And Project Managers Proprietary Limited.

Councillors also empowered the mayor through a deliberation to make special logistical or financial allocations to combat urban disorder and insecurity in Yaounde.

They also approved the sale of land



Yaounde City Mayor, Luc Messi Atangana, addressing councillors during session



Councillors following deliberations during session

belonging to the city council in Tsinga to the Port Authority of Douala, PAD, for the construction of its Yaounde office.

To note that the Yaounde City Council is already working on getting other

actors to boost waste management in the city. In the meantime, it has been working with traditional rulers and other stakeholders to handle the challenge of indiscriminate waste disposal.

Limbe paramount chief receives Service to Humanity Award

By Solomon Tembang

The Paramount Ruler of Limbe in Fako Division, South West Region, His Royal Majesty John Elufa Manga Williams, has been awarded by authoritative Yaounde-based newspaper, NewsWatch, for his significant humanitarian service to society.

He was handed the prestigious award on Wednesday September 27. This was during a ceremony that took place at the palace of the Royal Chiefdom of Limbe at Mbonjo Down Beach.

It was attended by some of some notables, Quarter Heads, some residents of Limbe and media men and women.

Chief John Elufa Manga Williams was named winner of the 'Service to Humanity Award' by the media organ.

The organisers of the award said it was "for his sustained efforts in aiding, empowering and boosting education of Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs".

The traditional ruler was pronounced winner of the award during the 10th anniversary celebration of NewsWatch newspaper in Yaounde, last August 19.

The crowd pulling event was placed under the aegis of the Minister of Communication, who was represented at the event by the Inspector General in the Ministry.

The 10th anniversary celebrations at Djeuga Palace Hotel brought together about 200 guests among whom were representatives of diplomatic institutions



His Royal Majesty John Elufa Manga Williams brandishing award

accredited to Yaounde, top political, religious and traditional authorities, media executives, journalists as well as other stakeholders.

Chief Manga Williams could not make it to the anniversary ceremony in Yaounde and wished to receive his award in his palace in the company of some notables and Quarter Heads.

Laureates of NewsWatch 10th anniversary award were voted by the newspaper's wide community of readers and the final results were compiled by a jury of experts made up of revered media men and women in the country.

The Chairman of the jury, Viban Jude, said: "The crisis in the North West and South West regions has forced many people out of their homes and some have found solace in safer places like Limbe. Since his enthronement as the First Class traditional ruler of Limbe, His Majesty John Elufa Manga Williams has made it a duty to assist the IDPs and other less privileged within the chief-

Springboard to continue working chiefdom

Reacting after receiving the award, Chief Manga Williams said: "What you think and know about yourself is not what others think and know about you. For me, I do things the way my heart tells me to. If the people out there think that it really helps the community I think it is a blessing to me and to my collaborators with whom I work very closely on a daily basis".

"Every day we go round the quarters and what we discover at times make our hearts to bleed. Unfortunately, we are not in a situation where we can effectively carry out projects; firstly because it is not within our domain and secondly because we have very limited financial resources. But the best we can do to uplift the community, we will not hesitate to do them," he added.

Chief Manga Williams continued that: "I will not say that this is



Limbe paramount chief with some notables, quarter heads, others



Chief Manga Williams with NewsWatch Publisher & other journalists

the last of the things that we can do so salvage the community, but I think that it is just a springboard to continue working on behalf of the chiefdom and to see that lives are improved, especially for the inhabitants of the various quarters that make up the chiefdom".

On his part, the Publisher/Editor of NewsWatch, Ndi Eugene Ndi, said since his enthronement, Chief John Manga Williams has made it a duty to support and empower vulnerable

people and IDPs who have found solace in Limbe"

"That is one of the reasons that the audience of NewsWatch, that voted nationwide chose him. NewsWatch award laureates are determined by readers who are spread nationwide. They vote and the compilation is done by a jury made up of four very independent media men and women, headed by Jude Viban. This committee compiles and makes public the results," Ndi said.

Cultural Dossier

Compiled by Morine Tanyi

X-Maleya announces mega concert in Washington



Renowned musical group, X-Maleya, has announced the staging of a mega concert in Washington DC, United States of American.

This information is contained in a release made public recently by the management of the group.

The management of group in the release urged fans to mobilise for a massive turnout when Haissam Zaiter and Samnig Roger go on stage in Washington DC. The concert will hold Saturday January 6, 2024 at the Lincoln Theater.

The concert will be taking place after those that took place at the Olympia Hall in Paris and Olympia in Montreal, Canada.

In a recent media outing, one of the band members, Hais said he is a Cameroonian to the core from Meyo village in the Centre Region but, "thought it wise to let my American background discover the rich cultural heritage in African music, through unity and fusion".

For his peer Roger, "it has been years of hard work and planning. We have toured Africa and Europe, it is only fair to showcase in the USA in grand style as it is also the birthplace of Hais".

To the group, X-Maleya, the duo is set to perform in front of both an American and African audience in a spectacular live show. During the concert, the duo will be expected to revisit song from their rich repertoire.

The concert, according to the management of the group, will also be an opportunity for the artists to perform songs from their new album.

They group through the announcement of the upcoming concert also sent a message of appreciation to Cameroonians and their fans across the globe. Support from fans, they said is what has taken them to where they are. The group's seventh album is expected to be released this December.

LesLine drops video of song, Super Power, October 1

The video of the much anticipated song, Super Power by the multitalented Afro soul Gospel Artiste, LesLine, aka Her Vocal Highness will be released this October 1 on all streaming platform.

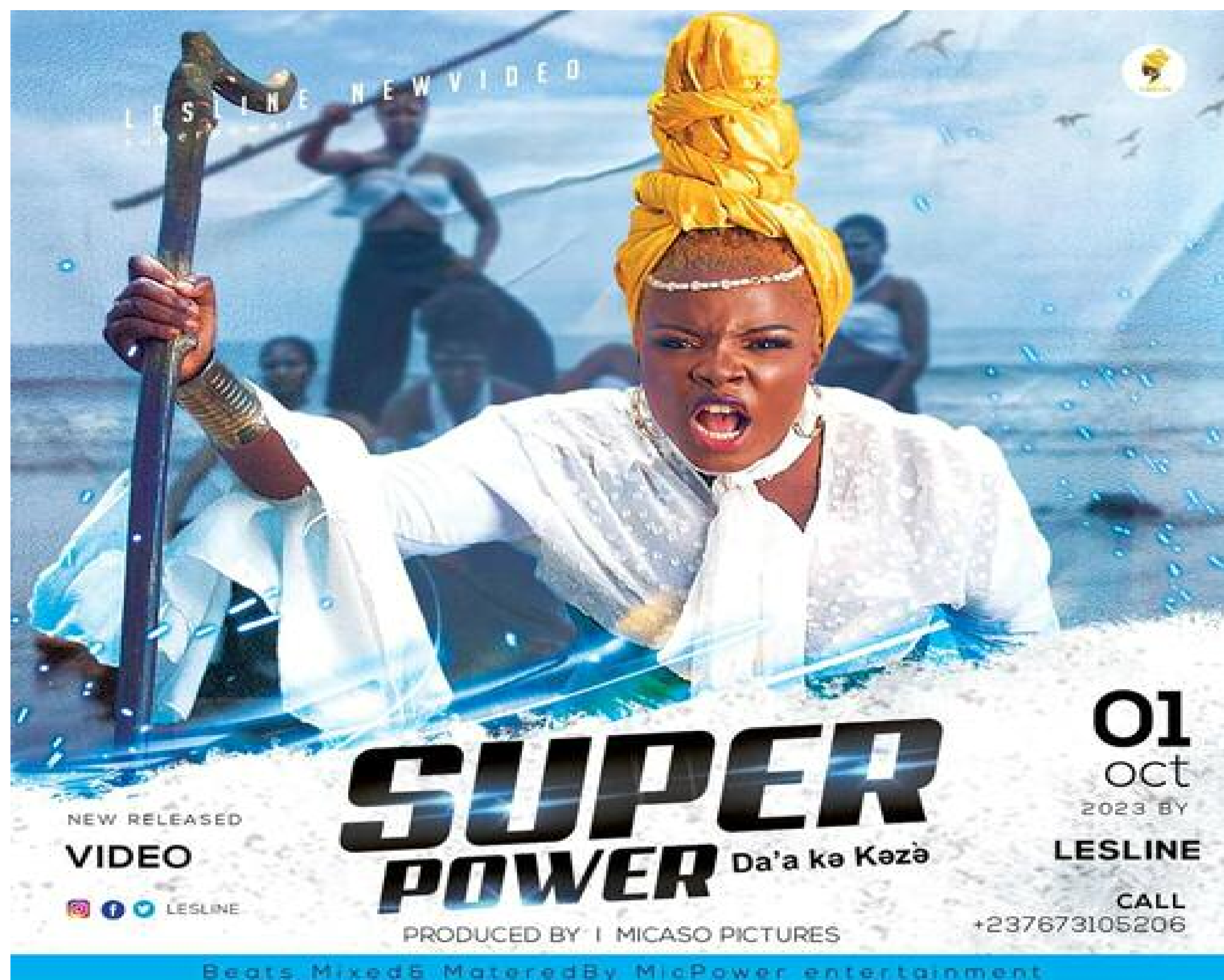
The artiste made the announcement in a statement sent to the public days ago. According to the dynamic and inspiring music minister, the song is a combination of contemporary gospel, soul, and African rhythms.

But in the note announcing the video, it is indicated that, LesLine's "unique sound and inspiring message have captivated audiences both locally and internationally," adding that, "her new music video is no exception, as it promises to showcase the power of Jesus Christ in an African context".

The music video, the note further reiterated, is expected to inspire and uplift listeners across the world and make them see the power of God.

The video is directed by a team of talented creative experts headed by Mr Asa and audio produced by, Mic Power Entertainment. The video features stunning visuals and choreography from the Mimshack Dance Academy.

As momentum builds ahead of the release of the video, LesLine said: "I



am thrilled to be releasing this video. It is a celebration of the beauty and power of African culture, as well as the power in the name of Jesus Christ. I hope that it will inspire and uplift everyone who watches it".

She restated her passion and com-

mitment to showcase the beauty and splendour of African culture through her music. In the meantime, she has called o fans to join the pre-order through a Super Power T-shirt that cost 5000 FCFA.

Culture minister hails initiator over success of Cine Club N'Kah festival

The Minister of Arts and Culture, Bidoung Mkpatt, has hailed the founder and initiator of the Cine Club N'Kah, Mary Neolle, and her crew for successfully organising the 14th act of the show that seeks to boost African cinema.

The 14th edition of the festival was organised by the Association Tell and Be Africa.

The member of government was speaking recently during an audience granted Niba and two of her guest speakers at the festival viz.

The guests who accompanied her to the audience were; Maka Kotto, a Cameroonian by origin who was once Minister of Culture in Quebec and renowned actor and comedian and Ckeik Doukoure.

Speaking during the audience, Minister Bidoung Mkpatt, hailed Niba and her team for their hard work and for fight to promote African movie and Cameroon's heritage internationally.

Niba's works, the minister noted have their importance given the caliber of personalities who attended the festival on home soil.

The club, the Director of Cinematography in the Ministry of Arts and Culture, Donatus Fai Tangem, said, gives the ministry delight.

Despite being based in Paris, France; Dr Fai said they are happy that Niba still identifies talents around the world and bring them together.

The festival, he said was staged at a time when Cameroonian films are making waves on the global stage.

"We hope that the younger genera-



Minister Bidoung Mkpatt (4th from left) speaking during audience



Minister flanked by officials after audience

tions will be able to tap from their huge experiences for the growth of African cinema," Dr Fai added.

Maka Kotto on his part told reporters that it was a great experience being in Cameroon which he considers home.

"Giving back to the younger gener-

ation thanks to the invitation of Mary Neolle Niba through her Cine Club N'Kah initiative was a pleasure," Maka intimated, adding that, "it is an idea I had never thought of but I want to use this opportunity to thank her for the work done".

Ndangoh Tah Calvin Foundation puts smile on faces of needy learners, IDPs

Cont'd from page 1

The Ndangoh Tah Calvin Foundation also donated several textbooks on different subjects to libraries in Mbengwi in order to boost the culture of reading.

The gesture, which has become a tradition in the foundation created years back to take care of destitute and downtrodden orphans, windows and elderly, aims to promote education and effective schooling in the administrative unit.

The President and Chief Executive Officer, CEO, of the foundation, Ntumfor Barrister Ndangoh Tah Calvin, said he decided to donate books to enable children return to school.

"We are in September when schools just reopened nationwide. So, I thought it wise to touch the lives of pupils and students who are future leaders of Cameroon," he said, adding that most children have for long not been to school due to the ongoing crisis.

"These books are to encourage them to go to school," Barrister Ndangoh Tah said.

In a bid to build the culture of reading in pupils and students, Barrister Ndangoh Tah said he also decided to put books in libraries, particularly those on Information Communication Technology, ICTs, to enable young people gain computer and other ICT related-field knowledge.

Education, Barrister Ndangoh Tah insisted, "is the best way to change the society".

This, he added, is the reason he has decided to stake his neck and be relentless in crusading the "education of every Meta child".

Aside the donation of didactics, Barrister Ndangoh Tah said, the foundation, with its motto of "Giving is better



Barrister Ndangoh Tah (left) brandishing customized books

than talking", intends to, in the days ahead, launch a scholarship scheme to promote academic excellence for children in Primary and Secondary Schools.

Mission, objective of foundation

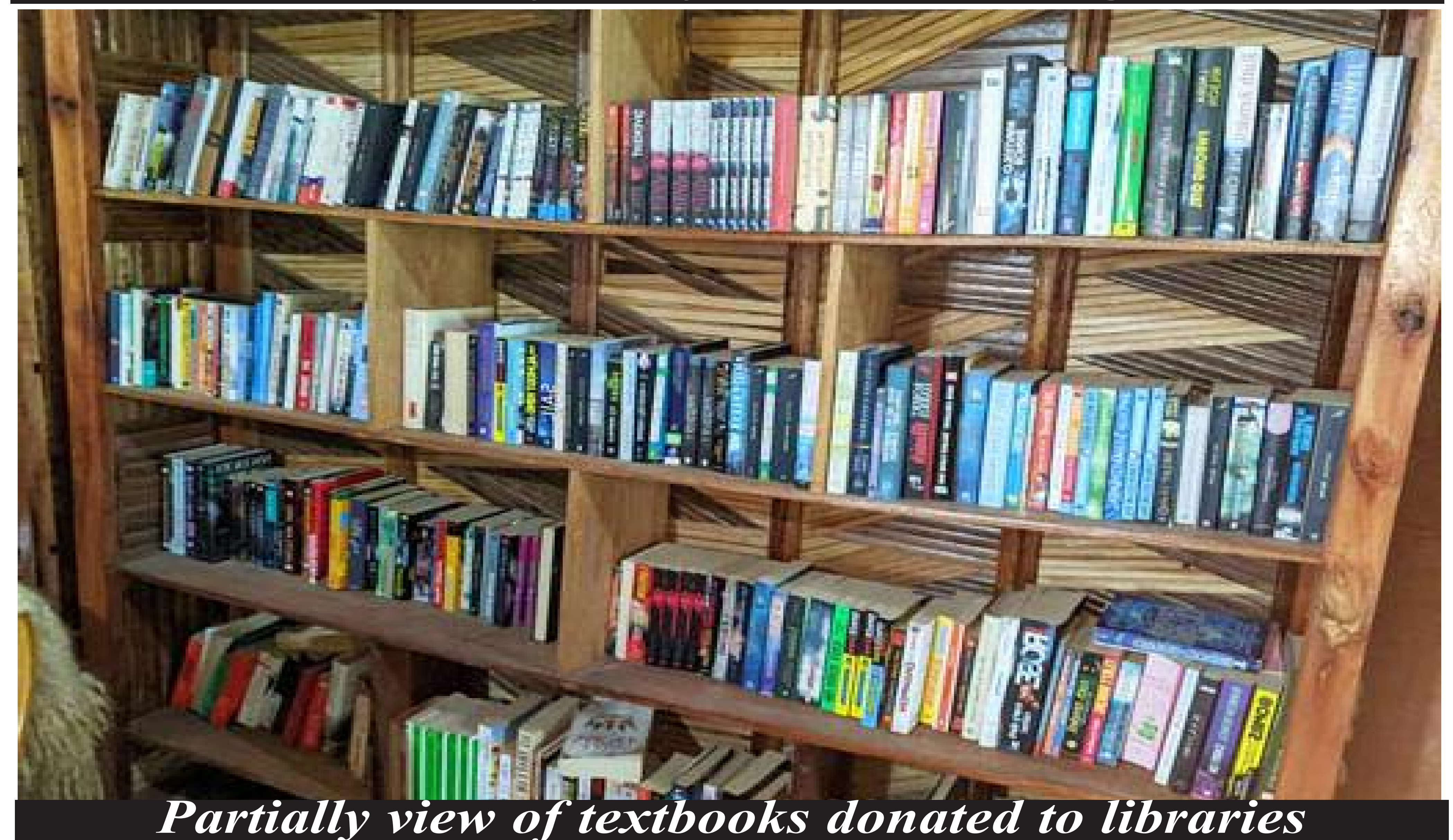
Barrister Ndangoh Tah said he was motivated to create the foundation because of his soft spot for the suffering masses.

The Foundation, he said, was created while he is still alive unlike those created in memory of persons when they die. This, he said, is to permit his children see his good deeds so as to continue when he is no more.

He saluted the support gotten from some partners and appealed on all and sundry who feel the pinch of the suffering population to support the activities of the foundation.



Cross section of beneficiaries receiving books



Partially view of textbooks donated to libraries

"I count on the prayers of widows, orphans and the elderly people and IDPs that I take care of. I know God will always answer the prayers of these category of persons," the celebrated lawyer and award-winning notable said.

UNDP, partners train over 500 youths on peacebuilding values

By Dewah Fabrice Teh

The United Nations Development Program, UNDP, and its partners have schooled over 500 youths on peace building values and best practices in the promotion of peace.

This was during a two-day National Youth Peace Forum organised by the Movement for Democracy, Development and Transparency, MDDT Cameroon, with support from the UNDP.

The training, which took place on September 27 and 28, was part of activities marking the celebration of the 2023 World Peace Day which is commemorated every September 21. The theme for this year was: "Actions for peace: Our ambition for global goals".

The trainees drawn from the country's 10 regions were told that they have to advocate peace, especially at a time when the nation's peaceful coexistence is threatened by instability in the North West and South West regions, Far North Region and border areas in the East region.

Senior Specialist at the UNDP and representative of the Resident Representative of the UNDP in Cameroon, Ginette Camara, urged the young people to stop being outsiders in the peacebuilding process in the country.

She, among other speakers at the event, challenged the participants to take concrete actions, aimed at promoting peace wherever they will be heading after the forum, as highlighted by the theme of the 2023 World Peace Day.

This, they stated, is to help build a better and more economically empowered and prosperous Cameroon. The National Coordinator of the MDDT Cameroon, Clifford Akonteh, and his peers made a number of recommendations at the end of the forum.

The recommendations which will be forwarded to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education as well as other bodies, called for continuous, inclusive, and genuine dia-



UNDP Resident Representative in Cameroon, Ginette Camara, addressing the press



Authorities, participants in a group photo after the event

logue with primary actors in solving the ongoing crisis in the North West and South West regions.

They also called on authorities concerned to develop programs on the role of law and human rights training for defense and security

officers especially those assigned in conflict-affected areas.

Youths pledge to heed calls

Participants at the Yaounde forum expressed their readiness to selflessly take up

the fight, promising to not only serve as agents of peace but frontline actors in pushing for a peaceful and successful Cameroon.

"The Cameroonian youth is the ambassador for peace and not the person propagating issues that fight against peace. I am looking forward to effectively joining in the fight," Jeff Bin Zeh, a participant from the North West Region, said.

"We learned a lot of things during this forum and the training we received here. We all know peace is an indispensable tool and that was emphasized again. That is why we are set to join the moving wagon," Ahmadou Ahmadou, a participant from the Far North, noted.

State, UNDP laud initiative

The Youth Forum for Peace was organised by MDDT Cameroon with support from the United Nations Development Program and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the event, the Technical Adviser No 2 in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, Prof Kum Awah Paschal, who represented his minister, said the event was timely and a perfect avenue through which the state can empower youths to effectively join the fight in peacebuilding.

"Whenever there is an activity of this nature, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education steps up to encourage others and their mentors to do the same. This is a timely move and the ministry strongly stands behind this," Prof Kum Awah said.

On her part, UNDP Senior Specialist, Ginette Camara said: "We are very happy that this forum is organised by youths. We encourage youths to take this issue of promoting peace in their heart. Nobody can be better in an environment where there is no peace. As the Secretary General of the United Nations said, peace is not only a vision for humanity. Peace is also the need of action".