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WEEKENDER

Cameroon's Poll Was A
Testament To Rule Of Law,
Democracy - Minister Tells UN

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Pope Leo XIV To Visit Cameroon Amid Hopes For Dialogue, Peace

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conference room on February 25 by the commission's president, the Reverend Dieudonné Massi Gams.

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UN Urged To Support Ngarbuh Massacre Victims Appeal 'Lenient' Sentences

BY ANDREW NSOSEKA

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa to support families of vic-

tims of the 2020 Ngarbuh massacre in filing a "well-grounded appeal" seeking reparations and heavier penalties for those convicted, following what it described as a trial "short on justice".



Medical Report Rules Out Foul Play In Ekane's Death Amid Growing Public Distrust

By ETIENNE MAINIMO MENGNO

The death of prominent opposition figure Ekane Anicent Georges, who died in military detention in December last year, has officially been attributed to natural causes, according to a recent press release from the Ministry of Defence.

The statement cites a “complete absence of traumatic injuries” and points to “serious underlying medical conditions” as the cause of death of the 74-year-old political leader, who died on December 1, 2025, at the Military Centre of the National Gendarmerie in Yaounde.

Ekane was President of the African Movement for the New Independence and Democracy (MANIDEM) and a key figure in the Union for Change coalition during the last presidential election. His death came nearly two months after his arrest in Douala in late October, in what many observers described as part of a broader crackdown on opposition members following the disputed 2025 presidential poll.

According to the Ministry, a panel of medical experts including a professor and two doctors, carried out the post-mortem examination. The report, the government said, was intended to dispel rumours and mounting speculation of foul play. Officials described Ekane as a patient with a “delicate medical history” who succumbed to pre-existing health problems rather than external violence.

However, the official account has been met with considerable scepticism. Family members had earlier raised concerns about Ekane's health while in custody, alleging

that a vital respiratory device had been confiscated — claims authorities consistently denied. The nearly three-month delay in releasing the autopsy findings further fuelled public distrust and calls for greater transparency.

For 85 days, Ekane's body remained under judicial seal at the Yaounde Central Hospital mortuary to allow for investigative procedures, including the autopsy. The legal impasse ended on 23 February when the State Counsel authorised the removal of the seal, enabling the transfer of his remains to his family for burial and bringing a measure of closure to a tense and emotional period.

Ekane's detention and death sparked strong reactions across Cameroon's political and civil society landscape. Minister of Communication and Government Spokesperson René Emmanuel Sadi offered a notably candid response, describing Ekane as a “friend” and expressing personal regret over the circumstances surrounding his arrest.

In an interview, Sadi suggested that the decision to detain the MANIDEM leader may not have involved full consultation among relevant state authorities. “There are some decisions which are taken by people who think that it is in the interest of the country. Sometimes they do not consult those who can have a different position,” he said. “I think we should regret what happened. If I was there, I would not have allowed that. It's my own point of view.”

Legal and human rights figures also condemned the circumstances of Ekane's death. Akere Muna described it as “a wound upon a



Late Ekane Anicent Georges

wound”, criticising authorities for failing to release a gravely ill detainee. Human rights lawyer Alice Nkom labelled the episode a “criminal national disgrace”, accusing the state of denying him essential medical support. Christopher Fomunyoh of the National Democratic Institute highlighted international concern, particularly as Ekane had been detained after challenging election results many Cameroonians viewed as questionable.

A veteran of the 1990s democratic movement, Ekane devoted his life to promoting multiparty politics and challenging authoritarian governance. Supporters recall that even in his final weeks, while battling serious illness, he remained resolute. An earlier erroneous report of his

death had already prompted urgent appeals for his release — appeals that went unanswered.

The Ministry of Defence maintains that a formal investigation into the circumstances of his death is ongoing. For many supporters and civil society groups, however, Ekane's passing has become a symbol of the broader struggle for accountability and transparency in Cameroon's political system.

UN Urged To Support Ngarbuh Massacre Victims Appeal 'Lenient' Sentences

By ANDREW NSOSEKA

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa to support families of victims of the 2020 Ngarbuh massacre in filing a “well-grounded appeal” seeking reparations and heavier penalties for those convicted, following what it described as a trial “short on justice”.

On February 20, 2026, a military court in Yaounde sentenced three security force members and a pro-government militia member, tried in absentia, for their role in the killing of 21 civilians in Ngarbuh, in Cameroon's Northwest Region, on February 14, 2020. The court handed down prison terms ranging from five to 10 years, alongside fines of FCFA 183,100 each.

In a strongly worded statement, Human Rights Watch criticised the verdict, arguing that the penalties were unduly lenient and that senior officers who allegedly bore command responsibility were never investigated.

“Prosecutors did not pursue any evidence about who planned and ordered the killings,” said Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior Africa researcher at HRW. “The failure of Cameroon's prosecutors and judiciary to investi-

gate those bearing command responsibility, combined with the denial of reparations, exacerbates the suffering of victims' families.”

HRW said the proceedings, which lasted more than five years, were marred by “serious shortcomings”. Authorities did not arrest or charge senior officers who authorised and oversaw the operation, while 17 ethnic Fulani militiamen accused of murder remain at large. Victims' families had only limited access to the court, key evidence was excluded, and claims for compensation were rejected.

HRW said its investigations found that government forces and allied Fulani militiamen killed 21 people, including 13 children and a pregnant woman. It furthered that at least five homes were burned, dozens of properties looted, and residents beaten in what appeared to be a reprisal attack against a community suspected of harbouring separatist fighters amid the ongoing Anglophone Crisis.

It notes that under Cameroon's penal code, murder is punishable by life imprisonment, and co-perpetrators are subject to the same penalties as principal offenders. HRW said the sentences imposed “are relatively light, taking into account the gravity of the crimes”, adding that international practice requires punishments for serious crimes to reflect their

gravity and serve as deterrence.

HRW revealed that the court rejected a compensation claim of 1.7 billion CFA francs filed on behalf of the victims by barrister Menkem Sother, stating that families had already received FCFA 80 million. However, Sother told HRW there was no proof that any such payment had been made.

“The Ngarbuh trial has delivered neither full accountability nor meaningful redress,” Allegrozzi said. “The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa should offer legal and technical assistance to the victims' families, to enable them to file a well-grounded appeal seeking reparations and to ensure continued protection of their rights throughout the process.”

The UN Centre, based in Yaounde and mandated to promote the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations, reportedly assigned a lawyer to attend one hearing in 2022. According to Sother, the representative did not return for subsequent proceedings.

Defence and civil parties' lawyers have 10 days to appeal the ruling. HRW urged renewed international engagement to ensure that the appeal process delivers justice that the initial trial, in its view, failed to provide.

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Weekender

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CONAC, Police Nab Two For Inflating Women's Day Fabric Prices

A Cameroonian woman and a Senegalese national are in police custody following an investigation by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC) into the illegal sale of the official International Women's Day fabric.

The revelation was made during a press briefing at the CONAC conference room on February 25 by the commission's president, the Reverend Dieudonné Massi Gams.

According to the CONAC chief, on February 23, 2026, the commission received two reports via its Green Line (1517) concerning the illegal price gouging of the commemorative fabric. Individuals operating opposite the Laking Textiles agency on Avenue Kennedy in Yaoundé were selling the material for between FCFA 15,000 and 20,000 per unit—significantly above the state-approved price of FCFA 10,000.

Whistleblowers, who were contacted the same day by CONAC investigators, alleged that managers of the Laking Textiles branch at Avenue Kennedy were refusing to sell the March 8, 2026, commemorative fabric to customers, claiming to be out of stock.



However, investigators discovered that the resellers were obtaining their supplies directly from these same Laking Textiles managers, who appear to be orchestrating an artificial shortage to funnel customers towards the intermediaries. It is alleged that a portion of the profits from this fraudulent

scheme is paid back to the establishment's managers.

The reported practices are considered speculative and fraudulent, akin to corruption and the misappropriation of public funds. The creation of an artificial shortage and complicity with external resellers undermines commercial trans-

parency and consumer rights.

Consequently, in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code, all legal avenues leading to reparations will be pursued. Reverend Massi Gams stated that CONAC is more committed than ever to strengthening the fight against corruption, as instructed by the Head of State in his inaugural address on November 6, 2025, to combat this evil responsible for the nation's underdevelopment.

A stock of 59 units of the March 2026 loincloth, each six yards long, was seized by the Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE). These confiscated goods were to be sold on Avenue Kennedy by MINCOMMERCE agents at the conclusion of the press conference at the official price of FCFA 10,100 each, with the proceeds paid into the State treasury.

The president of the anti-corruption body expressed his gratitude to the Head of the Regional Division of the Judicial Police of the Centre for deploying officers to assist CONAC with the operation, and also thanked the media for their commitment to the fight against corruption.

By SOLANGE TEGWI

Cameroon's Poll Was A Testament To Rule Of Law, Democracy - Minister Tells UN

By NFORMI SONDE KINSAI

Cameroon's Minister of External Relations, HE Le Jeune Mbella Mbella, has told the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva that the country's October 2025 presidential election served as a "barometer" of its commitment to the rule of law and democratic governance.

Addressing the high-level segment on February 23, 2026, the minister said the conduct of the election demonstrated respect for public liberties within the framework of the law. He argued that the vitality of political pluralism and citizen participation reflected Cameroon's democratic maturity.

According to Mbella Mbella, President Paul Biya remains committed to peace and institutional stability, adding that the government continues to strengthen democratic governance and the rule of law.

He further stated that Cameroon's public policy is aligned with the National Development Strategy 2030 and the United Nations' Agenda 2030, with particular emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights. Special attention, he said, is being given to vulnerable groups, including women, young people, persons with disabilities and indigenous communities.

In that regard, the minister announced that a special youth employment plan, backed by an allocation of FCFA 50 billion in the 2026 state budget, is being rolled out to tackle youth unemployment and improve socio-economic inclusion.

Mbella Mbella acknowledged,

however, that Cameroon continues to face security challenges in the Northwest, Southwest and Far North Regions. He maintained that, despite the crises affecting those areas, joint actions by defence and security forces, alongside reconstruction and reintegration programmes, have led to a significant improvement in the situation.

He welcomed what he described as the progressive return to normalcy and commended the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for its recent report on the affected Regions. The report, he said, contributes to an objective understanding of the government's efforts.

"We take this opportunity to appeal for the strengthening of the Regional Bureau of the High Commissioner in Cameroon, whose technical support remains precious," he told Council members, adding that Cameroon would continue to participate actively in the Council's work to enhance its effectiveness and dynamism.

Describing the United Nations as a pillar of peace and collective security amid global challenges, the minister recalled that the promotion and protection of human rights form a cornerstone of the UN Charter.

He stated that since independence, Cameroon has placed respect for human rights at the centre of its development agenda. The preamble to the 1996 Constitution, he noted, guarantees fundamental freedoms and equality before the law. He added that this constitutional framework is reinforced by Cameroon's ratification of numerous international and regional human rights instruments and their gradual domestication.



H.E. Mbella Mbella addressing UN Human Rights Council Members

Institutionally, he highlighted the role of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission and other specialised bodies in promoting and protecting fundamental rights. He also pointed out that Cameroon has hosted the Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa since 2001, describing it as evidence of the country's regional commitment. He further cited cooperation with African human rights mechanisms, including the African Court and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The minister congratulated HE Sidharto Reza Suryodipura on his election as President of the Council and paid tribute to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, for his dedication to the protection of human dignity.

However, some observers argue that the minister's address did not fully reflect concerns raised by rights groups, including allegations of arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings in parts of the country.

Weekender

NEWS

News

Young People Trained In Emergency First Response

With growing exposure to accidents and other hazards, young people are being encouraged to move from being bystanders to becoming active participants in the chain of survival. The first few minutes after an accident are often decisive, and early mastery of life-saving reflexes can significantly reduce preventable deaths.

It was against this backdrop that the Youth Member of Parliament for Yaoundé II and President of Jeunes Dynamique pour un Avenir Meilleur (Dynamic Youths for a Better Future – JDAM), Honourable Jean Daniel Obama, in partnership with the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC), organised a one-day first aid training workshop for young people.

The initiative was inspired by the theme of the upcoming National Youth Day: “Youth at the Heart of Great Hopes, for a United, Stable and Prosperous Cameroon.”

The workshop, held on 31 January in the Messa-Mezala neighbourhood of Yaoundé, equipped participants with practical skills to save lives in the event of common emergencies, including domestic accidents, road crashes and choking incidents. Beyond technical knowledge, the training sought to build composure, confidence, civic responsibility and empathy among young people. Organisers noted that such initiatives help transform fear and



Practical phase and awarding of attestations at end of workshop

helplessness into prompt and effective action, while nurturing a new generation of first responders capable of contributing to safer communities.

The session was facilitated by Tsapi Kleber, Monitor and First Aider at the Cameroon Red Cross, under the supervision of the CRC President for Yaoundé II, Melinga Edwige Michelle. Participants were trained in rapid and appropriate response techniques for various emergency situations, including road accidents, fire outbreaks, electric shocks, snake bites and cardiac ar-

rest, pending the arrival of professional emergency services.

The young people were also taught how to assess accident scenes, particularly how to identify victims in more critical condition when several casualties are involved and evacuation cannot be carried out simultaneously. Emphasis was placed on alerting the appropriate emergency services and communicating clearly and accurately.

Participants were introduced to key emergency numbers, including Police (117), Gendarmerie (113) and Fire Service (118). They were ad-

vised to provide precise information when reporting incidents. For example, in the event of a fire outbreak, callers should specify whether it involves gas, electricity or wood, as this determines the equipment and materials required for an effective response. The facilitator cautioned against the misuse of emergency numbers for frivolous or non-urgent matters.

According to Hon. Jean Daniel Obama, the workshop aimed to equip young people with essential skills to protect, alert and provide assistance while awaiting professional responders. He expressed the hope that participants would, in turn, pass on their knowledge to peers, thereby strengthening collective safety.

“This initiative seeks to transform young people into safety ambassadors, capable of acting calmly and competently whenever the need arises,” he said, adding that such engagement contributes to building a safer, more stable and prosperous Cameroon.

The CRC President for Yaoundé II encouraged participants to enroll in short-term courses offered by the institution to deepen their knowledge of first aid and emergency response.

BY SOLANGE TEGWI

Pastor Calls For Spiritual Restoration At Three-Day Revival

Hundreds of worshippers gathered at Salvation Baptist Church this week for a three-day spiritual revival, where Pastor Tatangupue Gerrard delivered a stirring message declaring that “Jesus is missing in the church”.

The programme, organised by Salvation Baptist Church, Obili, from February 20 to 22, centred on the theme, “Restore me, O Lord”, inspired by 1 Peter 5:10 and Joel 2:25. The event featured gospel music ministers including Min. Frank Multipurpose and Min. Jarvis Ndeh.

Preaching on the topic, “Even Though the Caravan Is Still Active”, based on Luke 2:41–50, Gerrard warned that a crowded sanctuary does not necessarily signify the presence of God.

“It is not because people are many that Jesus is involved,” Gerrard said. He argued that many congregants celebrate in churches where Christ is absent, as the focus has shifted from the Saviour to self-exaltation.

Lamenting the state of some congregations, Gerrard said “the church has become a place of entertainment”. He noted that while many ministers and prayer leaders once exalted Christ, some now operate on what he described as “past glories”.

“Many people are still clapping for them, but they know that the fire is no longer there,” he said.

Despite his concerns, the pastor offered a message of hope, stressing that God remains willing to restore those who genuinely seek Him. Drawing a parallel with Joseph and Mary’s search for the young Jesus in Jerusalem, he urged believers to embark on a personal journey of spiritual rediscovery.

“The foremost imperative for Christians is to earnestly seek Jesus, regardless of how long they have been members of the church,” he said.

Gerrard also addressed obstacles to spiritual renewal, identifying “hidden sin” as a major destructive force within the church.

“The power of sin is in secrecy,” he said, adding that true restoration requires confession and openness before God. He outlined what he termed a “tripod of effective restoration”: exposing one’s life to God, taking immediate corrective action, and changing one’s spiritual “location”.

Looking ahead to the future of the nation, Gerrard declared that “God is looking for a species of men He will trust over Cameroon”. He reiterated that the church must return to a foundation in which Jesus Christ remains the sole focus of worship and glory.

The revival featured extended sessions of prayer, music, healing and prophetic ministrations. Participants reported significant personal experiences during the three-day gathering.



Christians during prayers for revival

“Ministrations were truly restorative, especially the preaching and prophetic moments,” Bamu Edith told The Post. She added that “everyone was visited in special and different ways”.

Another attendee, Fonsi Rejoice, said the programme underscored the importance of prayer in confronting spiritual challenges that are sometimes mistaken for medical conditions. “There are really people

suffering ignorantly in the hands of the devil,” she said.

For Lugong Timothy, the event marked a spiritual turning point. “It was a time of refreshing, where many prayer lives were rekindled, many lives transformed, and many of Satan’s programmes exposed and destroyed,” he said.

BY NADEGE DZILAMONYUY LIMNYUY

Weekender

NEWS

News

BANGOLAN LEADERSHIP TUSSLE: Ngoketunjia Fons Union Steps In, Calls For Protection Of Customs, Tradition

By ETIENNE NFOR LIBOH

Recent developments in Bangolan village have sparked controversy within traditional institutions in Ngoketunjia Division, following an attempt by the Ngumba society and some kingmakers to dethrone Senator Fon Chafah Isaac as Fon of Bangolan.

The situation was further complicated by the reaction of the administration. The Senior Divisional Officer (SDO) for Ngoketunjia publicly sided with Senator Fon Chafah Isaac, maintaining that he remains Fon for life. The SDO's position has intensified debate over the roles of traditional authorities and the state in matters

concerning customary leadership.

The unfolding events come shortly after the Divisional Officer (DO) for Ndop suspended the Ngumba of Bamunka Fandom over allegations of disorder, the disintegration of quarters, and land disputes within the same division. The suspension, which occurred only days earlier, added to tensions already simmering among traditional institutions.

Against this backdrop, the Ngoketunjia Fons Union issued a press release on February 23, calling for calm and urging all parties to preserve the longstanding harmony between traditional societies and the administrative authorities.

In their statement, the Fons ex-

pressed solidarity with Senator Fon Chafah Isaac and cautioned stakeholders against exploiting the current socio-political climate to undermine established customs and traditions. They stressed the need to safeguard the division's cultural heritage and uphold respect for traditional institutions.

The Union emphasised that traditional leadership structures are governed by well-defined customs and should not be subjected to actions that could erode their legitimacy. While acknowledging the role of the administration in maintaining public order, the Fons underscored the importance of mutual respect and dialogue in resolving disputes.

Observers note that the dispute highlights broader questions about the interface between customary authority and state administration, particularly at a time of heightened political sensitivity in the country.

The Ngoketunjia Fons Union reiterated its commitment to peace and stability within the division, urging traditional societies, administrative officials, and community members to act responsibly and prioritise unity.

As tensions continue, many residents hope that dialogue and adherence to established customs will help restore calm and prevent further divisions within the traditional leadership of Ngoketunjia.

Comfort Mussa Named DearYou Ambassador For Women's Health In Cameroon

By ANDREW NBOSEKA

DearYou, an international women's health awareness programme of The DEAR Foundation Switzerland, has announced a partnership with Cameroonian journalist and women's rights advocate, Comfort Mussa, who will serve as a volunteer Ambassador for the initiative.

The collaboration marks a significant step in DearYou's growing presence in Central Africa, where organisers say trusted local voices are essential to fostering informed and culturally sensitive conversations around women's health.

Cameroon's bilingual landscape and vibrant media space are seen as strategic assets in this effort. By working through established communication channels, including radio, television, print and online platforms, DearYou aims to make clear and accessible health information available to women in ways that reflect local realities.

As a DearYou Ambassador, Comfort Mussa will engage with media houses, participate in public events and facilitate community discussions designed to strengthen women's health literacy. Her role will centre on encouraging women to seek accurate information, recognise early symptoms of health concerns and understand when professional medical advice may be necessary.

"Access to trustworthy health information is essential for women's dignity and autonomy," Mussa said in a statement released on Tuesday. "DearYou's approach aligns closely with the realities women face in Cameroon, where dialogue, trust and cultural sensitivity are fundamental."

A representative of The DEAR Foundation Switzerland underscored the importance of community-led engagement in the initiative's expansion strategy.



Comfort Mussa, DearYou Ambassador in Cameroon

"DearYou is built on listening and working through trusted local voices," the representative stated. "Our collaboration with Comfort Mussa reflects our commitment to supporting women with respectful, accessible information while recognising and strengthening existing community leadership."

Gradual, Ambassador-Led Engagement

According to organisers, DearYou's activities in Cameroon will evolve gradually through voluntary, Ambassador-led efforts rather than large-scale institutional roll-outs.

Current and planned activities include sustained media engagement across multiple platforms, participation in Women's Month

events and women-focused conferences, as well as the facilitation of community conversations through established local and regional networks.

The initiative will also involve the dissemination of informational materials and the promotion of the DearYou mobile application, which provides structured and easy-to-understand health guidance.

Stakeholders emphasised that the project is intended to complement - not replace the work already being done by local organisations and individuals active in women's health, education and empowerment. By reinforcing existing structures and partnerships, DearYou hopes to strengthen community-based awareness efforts rather than duplicate them.

A Global Network for Women's Health Literacy

DearYou describes itself as a global initiative dedicated to improving women's access to clear and culturally adaptable health information. Through its free mobile application and an international network of volunteer Ambassadors, the programme seeks to promote awareness, early detection and informed dialogue around women's health issues.

The DearYou app is available at no cost and in multiple languages. It is designed to help women make informed health decisions by offering structured information that is easy to navigate and understand. Users can learn to recognise symptoms, determine when medical consultation may be advisable and access trusted support resources.

Beyond Cameroon, DearYou is active across Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia through its network of volunteer Ambassadors and institutional partners. These representatives contribute to awareness campaigns within their own communities and professional networks, tailoring communication to local contexts.

For Cameroon, the collaboration with Comfort Mussa signals an approach rooted in partnership and cultural sensitivity. By combining global resources with local expertise, DearYou aims to foster a more informed and empowered generation of women equipped with the knowledge needed to make sound health decisions.

As awareness efforts begin to take shape in the months ahead, stakeholders hope the initiative will help bridge information gaps and encourage open, constructive dialogue on women's health across the country.

Minister Ousmane Mey, UK Special Representative For Nature Discuss Sustainable Agriculture

BY ETIENNE MAINIMO MENGNO

Cameroon's Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), Alamine Ousmane Mey, and the UK's Special Representative for Nature, HE Ruth Davis, have held discussions on the importance of developing value chains in the field of agriculture.

This is one among the so many things discussed on February 24 during an audience Minister Ousmane Mey granted the UK diplomat in Yaounde. She was accompanied by the British High Commissioner to Cameroon, Matt Woods.

During the hourlong meeting, the two officials discussed a framework for sustainable development that balances Cameroon's natural resources with economic necessity.

"I had a very good and fruitful discussion with the minister," Davis told reporters following the meeting. "We were discussing the vital importance of a plan for sustainable



Minister Ousmane Mey and HE Ruth Davis discussing during the audience

development that will integrate the needs of the natural environment and the benefits of natural resources in Cameroon with the needs of the people to have jobs and prosperity."

Davis emphasised that environmental protection and economic growth are codependent. "We agreed that unless there are jobs and prosperity for people—for example, through agricultural supply

chains—then there can't be long-term protection of nature," Davis said. "But also, nature is essential to protect the future of people."

The discussions highlighted the cocoa sector as a primary example of where international partnership can provide direct support and payments to those practicing agroecology. Davis also noted that environmental goals must be supported by physical infrastructure.

"We also discussed how important it is to integrate infrastructure development... to enable projects to get to market," Davis said.

Appointed as the UK special representative for nature in November 2024, Davis is an environment specialist with more than 20 years of experience in climate policy. She previously served as the deputy director for policy and advocacy at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and as political director at Greenpeace UK.

NJANG MUSIC: A Living Kom Cultural Tradition As Projected By Musical Artist, Busta P.

YERIMA KINI NSOM

Njang music, a traditional rhythmic art form rooted in the Kom communities of Cameroon's Northwest Region, remains one of the most culturally distinctive expressions of the grass fields heritage. It is characterised by layered percussion, communal call-and-response vocals, and integrated dance movements. Njang functions not merely as entertainment, but also as a medium of cultural transmission and communal identity.

Within Kom society, music occupies a central role in preserving oral history, reinforcing clan lineage systems, and marking ceremonial milestones such as marriages, festivals, and community gatherings. Njang performances often include narrative storytelling that reflects values of respect, honor, unity, and traditional social structure.

"In contrast to contemporary Afrobeats and mainstream African pop genres, Njang upholds a rhythmic framework and ceremonial significance distinct to grassland communities. The intricate drum patterns adhere to layered cycles unique to the Region, while the call-and-response format accentuates communal engagement. The performance is inextricably linked to dance, attire, and cultural context, rendering an authentic presentation contingent upon cultural immersion and traditional knowledge."

The cultural distinctiveness of Njang is derived from a multitude of irreplaceable elements. Songs are performed exclusively in Kom, a language predominantly spoken throughout the 43 villages of the Kom Kingdom. The rhythms are crafted using instruments that are unique to the Region, including the balafon, intricate Kom-specific drum patterns, wooden flutes, and specialized percussion instruments. Most crucially, Njang fulfills specific cultural functions intricately linked to the royal protocols of the Kom and various life cycle events, playing indispensable roles in royal court cel-

ebrations, matrimonial ceremonies, and funeral rites.

"Njang music carries our identity," says Dr. Ateh Francis Ngong, Board Chair of the Cameroon Music Art Corporation. He adds: "It reflects our history, our marriage customs, our social values, and our communal rhythm. It cannot be separated from the culture that produced it."

Cultural documentation reveals the existence of numerous dance troupes, such as Njang and Chong, that grace various occasions, including funerals. The Njang-fubom performance, executed by both men and women, serves to entertain and perpetuate cultural heritage, while Njangwain—primarily performed by women—emphasizes the significance of oral tradition within Kom culture.

Among contemporary artists working within this tradition is Zerubabel Paul Yem, professionally known as Busta P. Born on April 24, 1987, in Fundong within the Northwest Region, he has become recognised within Kom and diaspora communities for performing and adapting Njang music while maintaining its identifiable traditional structure.

Beginning his artistic journey as a street dancer in 2005, Busta P developed an understanding of rhythm and cultural expression before transitioning fully into music. After educational interruptions in 2001, he demonstrated determination by returning to studies in 2015, earning his Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates at Holy Infant Evening High School in Yaounde.

By 2014, Busta P had established himself in music with "Njang Adeng," a collaboration with fellow artist Vinhora. The work demonstrated how traditional Njang rhythms could be presented to contemporary audiences while maintaining cultural authenticity. His subsequent recordings, including "Njang Recall" (2021), "Kwang Kwang" (2022), and "Adeng" (2024), have continued to incorporate traditional themes and Kom language lyrics.

His performances frequently in-

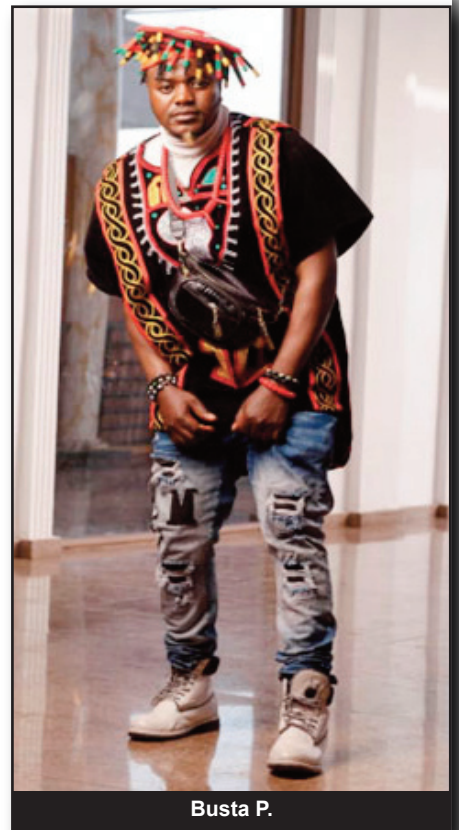
corporate traditional themes, including interpretations of Kom marriage rites and communal celebrations, presented through structured percussion patterns and dialect-based lyrical expression. From 2019 to 2022, he served as a featured artist at Texas Lounge in Yaounde, where his performances consistently drew audiences and provided cultural entertainment.

According to the President of Woinkom, a cultural organisation of the Koms, in the UK, Vincent Mudame, "authentic Njang performance requires knowledge of our language, customs, and ceremonial meaning". When performed correctly, he goes on, it educates younger generations and strengthens identity.

Community leaders observe that artists who maintain the structural integrity of Njang contribute to cultural preservation at a time when globalisation increasingly influences local musical expression. Beyond performance, Busta P has engaged in cultural education initiatives, offering training sessions focused on traditional music techniques, storytelling methods, and the proper playing of indigenous instruments.

In recent years, diaspora gatherings have increasingly become platforms for sustaining indigenous traditions. Cultural conventions organised by Kom associations abroad serve not only as social reunions but as preservation spaces for music, dance, and oral heritage, providing opportunities for traditional artists to perform for audiences who maintain connection to their ancestral culture.

"As long as artists continue to perform and teach these traditions, they remain alive," observes a community elder. "Njang is more than music; it is a cultural language," he adds



Busta P.

As Cameroon continues to navigate the delicate equilibrium between modernisation and the preservation of its rich heritage, traditional musical forms such as Njang emerge as enduring manifestations of cultural identity. Through sustained performance, meticulous documentation, and comprehensive education, the rhythm of the Kom tradition persists, resonating both within the homeland and among diaspora communities.

Weekender

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Buea Diocese Set To Ordain 8 New Priests In April 2026

By ANDREW NSOSEKA

The Catholic Diocese of Buea is preparing for a major celebration of faith and vocation as Bishop Michael Bibi has officially announced the priestly ordination of eight deacons.

Following a period of prayerful discernment and the canonical publication of banns, the Diocese has confirmed that eight men will be ordained to the sacred priesthood on Thursday, 9th April 2026.

The deacons, who have successfully completed their period of discernment, are Rev. Clifford Zong, Rev. Cyril Nkeh, Rev. Evans Njuabe, Rev. Evaristus Mukong, Rev. Karl John Killi, Rev. Serge Ngassa, Rev. Victor Suliy, and Rev. Augustine Ebot.

Their journey to the altar has been a public one. In accordance with Church law, their names were published on three consecutive Sundays—December 28, 2025, January 4, and January 11, 2026—allowing the faithful to offer any observations regarding their suitability for Holy Orders.

The historic ordination Mass will take place at 9.00am at the Divine Mercy Co-Cathedral in Molyko, a central hub of worship for the diocese.

The ceremony promises to be a profound moment of grace for the entire Christian community, as these eight men answer the call to serve as priests.

To support the logistics and celebration of this significant event, Bishop Bibi has announced that a special second collection will be held in all parishes across the diocese on Palm Sunday, March 29th, 2026. The funds will assist the Diocesan Pastoral Council in preparing a fitting and dignified ceremony to welcome the new priests.

In his announcement, the Bishop urged the faithful to keep the soon-to-be-ordained men in their prayers.

"Let us continue to pray for these our brothers who have been called for service in the Church," Bishop Bibi said, "that they may be endowed with all the graces they need for this service."

The ordination of eight new priests represents a significant moment of hope and renewal for the Diocese of Buea, bolstering its pastoral workforce and inspiring young people to consider their own vocations. The entire diocesan family now looks forward to April 9, when these eight deacons will become priests forever, in the person of Christ the Head.



Bishop Michael Bibi

DISSECTING 2026 BUDGET: General Budget Allocation By Institution, Ministerial Programmes With Largest Amounts

By NFORMI SONDE KINSAL

As a sequel to our series of articles on how state resources are raised and spent, we shall in this edition, continue to examine budget allocation to institutions/ministries grouped under different sectors.

The goal remains - educating and informing the citizens to be able to question what personalities placed in authority are doing with the commonwealth.

As announced in edition No 02543 of The Post of February 23, we shall look at production and trade sector that is allocated FCFA 263.1 billion in the 2026 state budget, representing an increase of FCFA 20.2 billion (+8.3%) compared to the 2025 financial year. The production and trade sector accounts for about 3% of the general state budget.

The ministries and their 2026 budgets under this sector are: Trade (FCFA 15.6 billion); Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises, (FCFA 15.0 billion); Tourism & Leisure, (FCFA 9.9 billion); Mines, (FCFA 13.8 billion); Agriculture, (FCFA 114.6 billion); Livestock, (FCFA 56.8 billion); Environment, (FCFA 14.2 billion); and Forestry, (FCFA 23.3 billion).

The health sector is allocated FCFA 391.3 billion in the state budget. It represents an increase of FCFA 65.8 billion (+20.2%) compared to the 2025 financial year; and 4.51% of the overall budget.

For the social affairs and employment sector, its 2026 budget is

FCFA 77.8 billion, witnessing an increase of FCFA 924 million compared to the 2025 financial year. The ministries here are: Social Affairs, (FCFA 29.6 billion); Employment & Vocational Training, (FCFA 33.0 billion); Labour & Social Security, (FCFA 8.1 billion); and Women's Empowerment & the Family, (FCFA 10.0 billion).

Concerning the infrastructure sector, it is allocated FCFA 1,339.5 billion, representing a decrease of FCFA 39.6 billion compared to the 2025 financial year. The ministries classified under this are: Posts & Telecommunications, (FCFA 29.6 billion); Urban Development & Housing, (FCFA 168.9 billion); Public Works, (FCFA 651.9 billion); Transport, (FCFA 34.6 billion); Water & Energy, (FCFA 425.7 billion); and State Property, Surveys & Land Tenure, (FCFA 28.8 billion).

The communication, culture, leisure and sport sector, which is the last group, is allocated FCFA 80.7 billion in the 2026 budget, compared to FCFA 77.4 billion in the 2025 financial year. The ministries and their budgets here are: Communication, (FCFA, 8.2 billion); Arts & Culture, (FCFA 10.4 billion); Youth Affairs & Civic Education, (FCFA 28.7 billion); and Sports & Physical Education, (FCFA 33.3 billion).

Programmes Receiving Largest Budgets:

According to the Citizen Budget document, a production of the Ministry of Finance; the 2026 budget is divided into 183 budgetary programmes.

Of this figure, there are 11 main programmes accounting for 24% of the general budget. They cover road construction, quality of education, electricity supply, the restructuring of public enterprises, defence, and security.

The 11 topmost ministerial programmes are as follows: construction of roads and other infrastructure lodged in the Ministry of Public Works, FCFA 379.7 billion; improving the quality of education and school life in the secondary education sub-sector (MINESEC), FCFA 252.8 billion; rehabilitation, maintenance, and repair of roads and other infrastructure (Public Works), FCFA 221.9 billion; universal primary education (MINEDUB), FCFA 197.1 billion; defence of the integrity of the national territory (Ministry of Defence), FCFA 179.1 billion; and energy supply (Ministry of Water & Energy), FCFA 173.3 billion.

Others are: strengthening equitable and inclusive access to secondary education (MINESEC), FCFA 145.3 billion; intensification of professionalisation and optimisation of training (MINESEC), FCFA 141.8 billion; participation in and rehabilitation of public enterprises through investment (MINEPAT), FCFA 135.0 billion; strengthening the health system (MINSANTE), FCFA 132.5 billion; and support for structural transformation to accelerate growth (MINEPAT), FCFA 122.7 billion. This gives a total of FCFA 2 081.1 billion for the 11 top programmes.

2026 Major Investment Projects:

Public investment expenditures are planned and executed annually with the expectation of improving living conditions and developing factors of production. On whether the expectations are met in the case of Cameroon, is another issue.

The major government investment projects are devoted to infrastructure acquisition, providing water and electricity to the population, developing agriculture, and so on. The public investment budget for the 9 budgetary sectors is FCFA 2,023.3 billion up by FCFA 278 billion (+15.9%) compared to the initial 2025 finance law.

Some major government investment projects sectoral breakdown for 2026 by sectors is as follows: sovereignty and governance sector, FCFA 50.4 billion; defence and security, FCFA 49.7 billion; general and financial administration, FCFA 440.9 billion; education, training, and research, FCFA 78.1 billion; production and trade sector, FCFA 133.5 billion; health, FCFA 70.9 billion; social affairs and employment, FCFA 22.6 billion; infrastructure sector, FCFA 1, 161.4 billion; and communication, culture, leisure, and sports, FCFA 15.8 billion.

In our very last article expected in the next edition of The Post, we shall look at how gender is taken into account in the 2026 budget; and why climate is becoming a budgetary concern as well as how government is addressing the issue.

NW Public Conciliator Resolves 30 Of 47 Complaints, Exposes Salary Arrears In Councils

BY ETIENNE NFOR LIBOH

The Office of the Public Independent Conciliator (PIC) for the Northwest Region has published its 2025 annual report, revealing that 30 out of 47 complaints lodged against regional and council services were resolved, while several councils are still owing workers up to 14 months in salary arrears.

The report, released on February 24, 2026, provides a detailed account of the institution's activities in promoting good governance, improving council service delivery and mediating disputes between citizens and local authorities.

Established to ensure that councils deliver services without discrimination or marginalisation, and in full respect of human rights, the PIC is mandated to receive and investigate complaints relating to acts or omissions by regional and council authorities. The goal is to secure fair and equitable treatment for citizens under the law and to resolve disputes amicably.

In line with Decree No. 2020/773 of December 24 2020, which lays down the conditions for the discharge of the PIC's duties, the Conciliator is required under Article 25 to submit an annual report to the President of the Republic on the state of relations between citizens and regional and council services. The report must present a balance sheet of activities undertaken during the year.

According to the 2025 report, the Northwest PIC received 47 complaints, of which 30 were resolved, leaving 17 pending. The complaints primarily concerned service delivery, administrative grievances and disputes involving council management.

Beyond complaint handling, the office carried out staff capacity-building initiatives and undertook benchmarking visits to institutions with similar mandates in countries such as Kenya and Ghana, including bodies responsible for human rights and administrative justice. The PIC also intensified sensitisation and outreach activities aimed at informing citizens of their rights and available redress mechanisms.

The report further highlights collaborative efforts, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Adaptive Safety Nets and Economic Inclusion Project to strengthen civil status registration in the Region. The office also partnered with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) Social and Policy Development (SPD) programme to evaluate the implementation of the 2010 law on the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities.

However, the report raises concerns about the functioning of certain regional and local authorities.

At the level of the Regional Assembly, members of the House of Chiefs and the House of Divisional Representatives reportedly expressed dissatisfaction over their limited involvement in project cy-



Northwest Public Independent Conciliator, Simon Tamfu Fai, presenting annual report to the press

cles. According to the report, while they participate in the deliberation and adoption of projects, they are often excluded from the conception and execution phases.

The situation is more troubling in some local councils, particularly with regard to workers' welfare. While several councils were commended for progress in project execution and for involving neighbourhood and village committees in development initiatives, others were criticised for financial mismanagement and prolonged salary arrears.

Councils such as Babessi, Andek, Mbengwi and Batibo were cited as owing workers salaries for periods of up to 14 months — a situation likely to affect morale and service delivery.

The PIC underscored that such

challenges undermine public trust and strain relations between citizens and local authorities. It therefore issued recommendations aimed at improving transparency, accountability and inclusive governance in 2026.

The full report, available on the website of the Office of the Public Independent Conciliator, outlines key challenges encountered during the year and sets out perspectives for strengthening institutional performance and citizen engagement.

Observers say the findings reinforce the need for stronger oversight and improved collaboration between councils and communities to ensure that decentralisation delivers tangible benefits to the population.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION OF NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Secretariat General

No 0003 /C/MINEPDED/SG/DPDD/SDEE

Yaounde, the 10th February, 2026

Press Release

The Minister of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development hereby, informs the national and international community, about the holding of public hearings relating to the **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports** for the development of the **“Plaine Centrale Agro Parc” Program** in the Center and Adamawa Regions, submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER).

The public hearings consist of the opening of a reading room where the ESIA reports and the registers will be kept to record the observations of the participants.

These public hearings will hold from the **2nd to the 7th March 2026**, as from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the **Ngambe-Tikar, Yoko, Tibati, Dir Council halls** and the neighboring localities.

This exercise is aimed at collecting the observations of the population and interested parties on the above study. The Minister of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development consequently, invites the population and all the other stakeholders to actively take part in the exercise.

The Minister Delegate
Dr. Nana Aboubakar Djalloh

Website: www.thepostnpcameroon.com

Weekender

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Pope Leo XIV To Visit Cameroon Amid Hopes For Dialogue, Peace

By ANDREW NBOSEKA

Pope Leo XIV will undertake an Apostolic Journey to Africa from April 13 to 23 2026, with Cameroon among four countries scheduled for the official visits, the Vatican has announced.

According to the Holy See, the Pontiff will travel to Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea during the 10-day trip. In Cameroon, he is expected in Yaounde, Bamenda and Douala from April 15 to 18 2026.

In a separate press release, the Government of Cameroon confirmed that the visit is being made at the invitation of President Paul Biya. The statement, signed by Mvondo Ayolo, Minister, Director of the Civil Cabinet at the Presidency, indicated that the Apostolic Visit will take place from April 15 to 18 2026 in the three cities.

The announcement has generated widespread anticipation within Cameroon's sizeable Catholic community, as well as among political and civil society actors who see the visit as significant in the country's current socio-political climate.

Cameroon has been grappling with multiple challenges in recent years, notably the ongoing crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions, otherwise known as the Anglophone Crisis. The conflict, which began in 2016 as protests by lawyers and teachers over perceived marginalisation of the English-speaking minority, later escalated

into armed confrontations between separatist fighters and government forces. The violence has led to thousands of deaths and displaced hundreds of thousands of people, drawing international concern.

Bamenda, one of the cities on the Pope's itinerary, lies at the heart of the Northwest Region and has been significantly affected by the conflict. Observers say the choice of Bamenda is symbolically important, as it places the crisis-hit Region at the centre of the Papal visit. Many hope the Pontiff's presence could encourage dialogue, reconciliation and renewed efforts towards a peaceful resolution.

The visit also comes in the aftermath of Cameroon's October 2025 presidential election, which maintained President Paul Biya in office. While the government described the poll as peaceful and reflective of democratic maturity, opposition parties and some civil society groups raised concerns over transparency and electoral reforms. International partners have continued to call for inclusive governance and strengthened democratic institutions.

Against this backdrop, Pope Leo XIV's visit is widely expected to carry a message of peace, unity and social justice. The Catholic Church in Cameroon has historically played a prominent role in education, healthcare and mediation efforts, particularly in times of political tension. Church leaders have on several occasions called for dialogue



His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV

and the protection of human rights in conflict-affected areas.

Pope Leo XIV's African tour will begin in Algiers and Annaba, Algeria, before proceeding to Cameroon. After the Cameroonian leg, he will travel to Luanda, Muxima and Saurimo in Angola, and conclude the journey in Malabo, Mongomo and Bata in Equatorial Guinea.

While the Vatican has yet to pub-

lish the full schedule, the Apostolic Journey is already being viewed as one of the most significant international events for Cameroon in 2026. For many citizens, beyond its religious importance, the visit represents a moment of reflection and a potential opportunity to reinforce calls for peace, national cohesion and democratic consolidation.

Youth MP Calls For Stronger Synergy To Combat Underemployment

By SOLANGE TEGWI

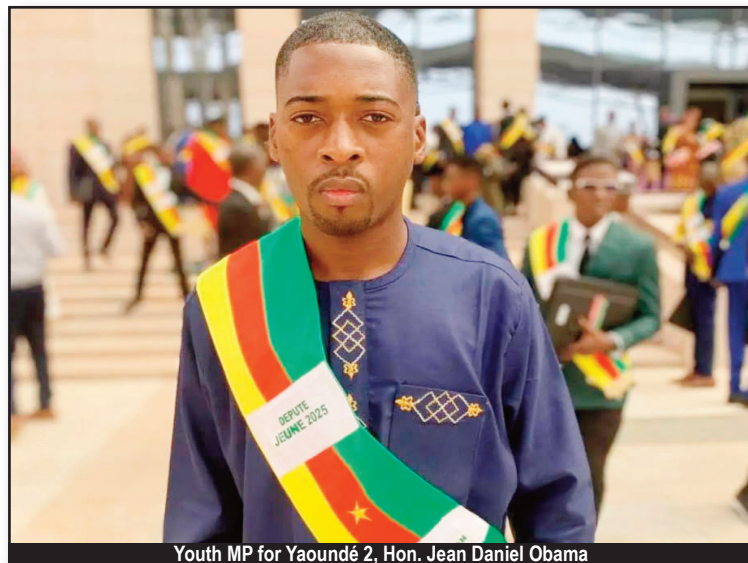
The Youth Member of Parliament for Yaounde II in Mfoundi Division, Honourable Jean Daniel Obama, has urged young people to work together in order to address the persistent challenge of youth underemployment and underemployment.

Speaking recently, Hon. Obama stressed that unity and collaboration among young people are essential if meaningful progress is to be achieved.

"If young people want to go far, they must walk and work together," he said, underscoring the importance of collective effort in overcoming economic hardship.

He noted that the Head of State's Special Plan for the Promotion of Youth Employment, alongside other government incentives, could deliver more tangible results if properly embraced and implemented with integrity from the top down to the grassroots. According to him, these initiatives are central to the current "Septennat of Great Hopes" mandate, which places young people at the heart of national unity, stability and prosperity.

Hon. Obama argued that peace and stability can only be sustained through prosperity, which he described as the product of consistent creativity, hard work and solidarity. He added that gainful employment helps to ward off what he termed three



Youth MP for Yaounde 2, Hon. Jean Daniel Obama

major evils affecting young people — boredom, vice and need — factors he said often push them towards deviant behaviour.

The Youth MP further cautioned against what he described as the "easy life" mentality. He encouraged young people to step out of their comfort zones and demonstrate integrity, particularly when entrusted with financial or material support for projects.

"When we request funding to exe-

cute a project, making every effort to deliver quality work opens the door to greater opportunities," he said, adding that credibility and accountability are crucial in building trust with potential partners and sponsors.

Hon. Obama also criticised self-centredness, calling instead for a spirit of patriotism and mutual support. He reminded young people that they share common struggles and aspirations.

"We are all in the same boat, bat-

ling for survival. If you see an opportunity that another young person qualifies for, it is patriotic to assist them," he said. Without genuine synergy and collaboration, he warned, young people risk stagnation. Citing an African philosophical principle, he added: "I am because you are."

The MP acknowledged that the government has put in place strategies aimed at easing the burden of youth unemployment and expanding opportunities in both the public and private sectors. However, he stressed that these opportunities require competence and professionalism.

"Nothing comes on a silver platter," he remarked. "It is not enough to know where you want to go; you must be willing to do what it takes to get there."

He encouraged young people to cultivate interests in sectors that matter to national development and to intentionally pursue training programmes that enhance their skills and employability.

According to him, professionalism, continuous learning and a strong work ethic are indispensable if the country is to harness the full potential of its youthful population.

Hon. Jean Daniel Obama concluded by reiterating that unity, competence and integrity among young people are critical to building a united, stable and prosperous Cameroon.

Weekender

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Cameroonian Conservationist Revives Forests, Waterways, Creating 300 Jobs In Nkambe

By ANDREW NSOSEKA

A Cameroonian environmentalist has restored forests, revived groundwater and created more than 300 jobs in her home region by blending Japanese forest restoration techniques with grassroots community mobilisation.

Limbi Blessing Tata, founder of Ecological Balance Cameroon, says her work in Nkambe in the Northwest Region was inspired by a simple childhood observation: as forests receded, streams disappeared with them.

"Growing up, we depended on nature for everything," Tata recalls. "If you were sick, you knew where to find medicine. If you were hungry, you knew your farm. But as the forests moved further away, the streams also moved. There was clearly a link."

In Nkambe, many homes still lack running water. Families rely on public taps or untreated streams. To secure water for an 8 a.m. engagement, residents often arrive at taps by 4 a.m. During the peak dry season, some walk nearly a kilometre to find what Tata describes as "clean" water — "clean in quotes".

After university, Tata entered the conservation field but found herself caught between two opposing schools of thought: development advocates willing to sacrifice forests for infrastructure, and strict conservationists who argued that nature should be left entirely untouched.

"I was not comfortable with either side," she says. "We cannot separate conservation from livelihood. That's not my reality."

Her conviction deepened after a dangerous encounter with illegal loggers while working to protect *Microberlinia bisulcata*, known locally as zebra wood and described by forestry officials as "the cocaine of the forest" because of its high international value. The experience con-



Nkambe River Revival Forest Project

vinced her that enforcement alone would not save forests.

"Conservation cannot work if people do not have better livelihood options," she says. "Everybody involved in illegal logging is protecting their income."

In 2016, as a new single mother with no steady income, Tata resigned from her job and registered Ecological Balance Cameroon. Armed with a laptop and an internet stick, she began writing grant proposals — sometimes 15 a week — often working 18-hour days.

Her breakthrough came with a £5,000 grant from the Rufford Foundation. "For us, £5,000 was like a miracle," she says. "It was validation that this could work."

The turning point in her ap-

proach came during a 2018 scholarship in Kerala, India, where she encountered the Miyawaki method, pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. The dense native planting technique boasts survival rates of up to 82 per cent and, crucially, can recharge groundwater up to 30 times more effectively than monoculture plantations.

"I realised that our untouched primary forests in Cameroon were already like Miyawaki forests — native, diverse, dense," Tata explains. "The method simply replicates intentionally what nature does over time."

Her first Miyawaki forest, planted in 2019, covered just 200 square metres and included 600 trees. Today, the organisation has established nine such forests, five funded by SUGi, including the flagship Nkambe River Revival Forest Project.

Convincing communities to protect watersheds proved challenging. Farmers cultivating vegetables in wetlands during the dry season were reluctant to surrender fertile land. In some cases, newly planted trees were uprooted.

"We had to work closely with traditional councils and chiefs," Tata says. "We don't just talk about trees. We talk about groundwater availability. Even if you build taps, if there's no water in the aquifer, nothing will flow."

She often invites elderly residents to describe how rivers have shrunk to a fraction of their 1980 levels, framing conservation as a matter of memory and survival rather than abstract environmentalism.

Within two years of the first plantings, local water management committees reported a noticeable rise in storage tank levels. One community was able to extend piping to a new neighbourhood for the first time in decades.

The second forest became what

Tata calls a "bird heaven", with a surge in birdlife signalling ecological recovery. "Birds are like the spies of the environment," she says. "When they come back, you know something is right."

Since November 2023, the project has generated over 300 jobs, both permanent and part-time, through 13 community nurseries. Roles range from seed collection and nursery management to honey harvesting and sustainable packaging enterprises designed to reduce plastic pollution. Seven small businesses have been incubated so far.

Tree planting days have evolved into community celebrations, drawing chiefs, civil servants and even passing soldiers. Volunteers transport saplings by vehicle and on foot, while children collect discarded poly bags for recycling.

Yet Tata warns that relying solely on grants is unsustainable. During the COVID-19 pandemic, pledged funding vanished overnight. She now plans to diversify income streams through cooperative social enterprises, carbon and water credits, and payments for ecosystem services.

Over the next five years, she hopes to scale restoration across all five agroecological zones of the Northwest Region, building what she calls "thriving communities, not surviving communities".

However, she acknowledges the need for stronger scientific backing. "We need data," she says. "We can say the water has increased, but we must prove it. Science is not based on emotions."

For Tata, the lesson is clear: conservation must be practical, community-driven and anchored in purpose.

"Beyond grit and resilience, your work must be bigger than yourself," she reflects. "That is what makes an organisation outlive its founder."

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE HOLDEN AT LIMBE

BETWEEN:

SUIT NO: CFIL/20/07/2026

NFOR NCHANJI SAMUEL PLAINTIFF
AND

NFORMI HENRY.....1st DEFENDANT
NFORMI PROMISE.....2nd DEFENDANT
NFORMI LAWRENCE.....3rd DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

LET THE ABOVEMENTIONED RESPONDENTS TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to the ruling of the President of the COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE LIMBE, His Worship Magistrate VALERY ANKONGNDA SAMANDI on the 17th Day of February 2026 in SUIT NO. CFIL/20/07/2026 ordered for Substituted service to the abovementioned DEFENDANTS through this medium. In consequence, hearing of the said suit has been slated for the 3th Day of March 2026.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT the PLAINTIFF shall on the 3th September 2026 proceed to hearing and judgment delivered without further notice to the DEFENDANTS.

DONE AND DATED AT SEUNANG AWAH LAW FIRM, LIMBE, THIS 24TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

BARRISTER ALOYSIUS SEUNANG AWAH
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

Cameroon Steps Up Anti-Money Laundering Reforms In Bid To Exit FATF 'Grey List'

BY NFORMI SONDE KINSAL

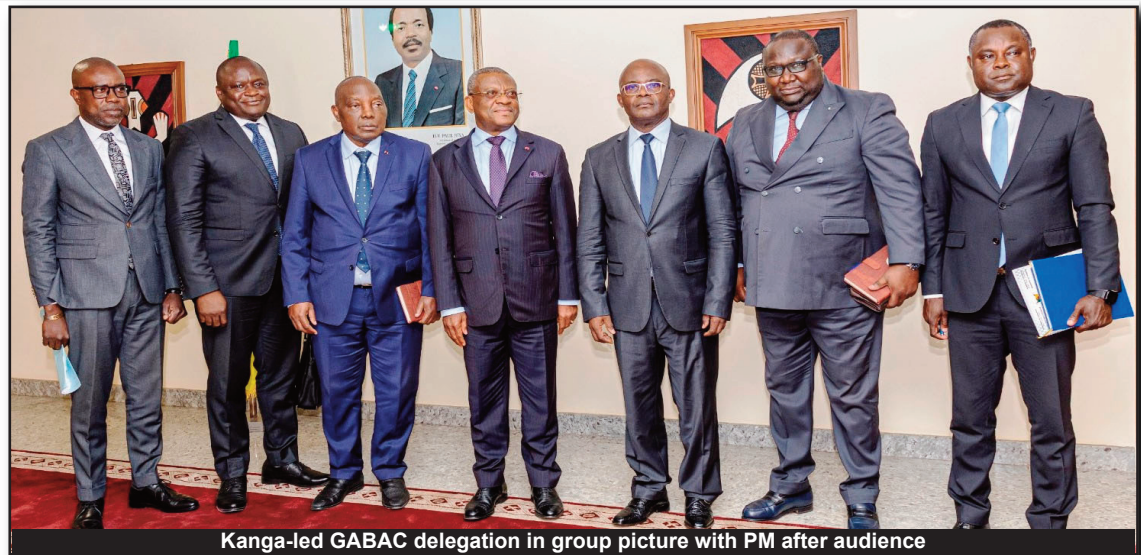
The Permanent Secretary of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), also known by its French acronym GABAC, André Kanga, has commended efforts by the Cameroonian authorities to secure the country's removal from the global watchdog's 'grey list' for money laundering and terrorist financing.

Kanga made the remarks on February 24, 2026, in Yaoundé after an audience with the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute. Speaking to the press, he acknowledged the progress made and expressed cautious optimism about Cameroon's prospects.

"We are in Cameroon to report to our hierarchy regarding the 'grey list'," Kanga said. "We have every hope that Cameroon will come out of it, even though I cannot state exactly when. Based on the objectives set for 2026, everything is possible. We have the support of the authorities and the ball is therefore in our court. As technicians, it is for us to do the needful."

According to an article published by Business in Cameroon, the country has been on the 'grey list' since June 23, 2023. The designation applies to countries identified as having strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) frameworks, but which are actively working with the FATF to address them. Although inclusion does not trigger immediate sanctions, it increases the risk of international financial restrictions and heightened scrutiny if reforms are delayed.

In response to the listing, President Paul Biya signed a decree on October 30, 2023, establishing a Coordination



Kanga-led GABAC delegation in group picture with PM after audience

Committee to steer national policies against money laundering, terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The committee comprises representatives from government ministries, regulatory bodies and professional associations, including bankers, notaries, lawyers, insurers, chartered accountants, microfinance institutions and other economic actors.

Following the FATF's fourth plenary session held in Paris in October 2025, the watchdog acknowledged Cameroon's progress but concluded that it was insufficient to warrant immediate removal from the 'grey list'. While recognising ongoing reform efforts, the FATF noted that several deadlines in the agreed action plan had expired and urged the authorities

to accelerate implementation.

In line with these recommendations, Cameroonian officials have set a new target of the end of 2026 to complete the outstanding reforms under the action plan submitted to the FATF.

During the same Paris session, several African countries — including Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Africa — were removed from the 'grey list' after fulfilling their respective commitments.

The Director of the National Financial Investigation Agency (ANIF), Hubert Nde Sambone, is quoted as admitting that, despite notable measures taken, not all commitments have been fully met. Key areas still requiring attention include the supervision of non-profit organisations and certain

non-financial professions considered vulnerable to money laundering risks.

Analysts warn that continued inclusion on the 'grey list' could deter foreign investment and increase compliance burdens on Cameroonian financial institutions dealing with international partners. Nevertheless, the FATF has acknowledged what it describes as Cameroon's "ongoing reform momentum" and indicated it remains open to an earlier re-evaluation should substantial and verifiable progress be achieved.

With the 2026 deadline now in sight, authorities face mounting pressure to translate commitments into measurable results and restore confidence in the country's financial governance framework.

Bello Bourdanne Honoured As 2025 Best Sporting Manager

BY ETIENNE MAINIMO MENGNO

The President of the Cameroon Volleyball Federation (FECAVOLLEY) and President of CAVB Zone 4, Bello Bourdanne, has been officially recognised as the 2025 Best Sporting Manager.

The distinction was conferred on February 24th by the International Association of Press Publishers (AIEP), an organisation representing more than 500 press editors across the globe.

The award serves as a proof to Bourdanne's significant contributions toward the revolution of Cameroonian Volleyball and his commitment to elevating the sport's profile on both a national and international stage.

Speaking during the ceremony, Cyrille Kuete, representing AIEP, saluted the remarkable journey of a sporting leader whose commitment, discipline, and sense of state force admiration. He stressed that the association recognises not only administrative performance but also a structured vision and exemplary sport governance exhibited by Bourdanne.

"The International Association of Press Publishers decided to select the president of Africa Volley and president of Bello Bourdanne because they realised that the president is a man with republican values, who respected the hierarchy, who had the mission to



Cyrille Kuete (Right) handing the honour to Bello Bourdanne (Left)

restore the image of the Cameroonian Volleyball in conjunction with the governmental institution," Cyrille Kuete said.

Kuete also highlighted the collaborative nature of this leadership, adding that they see these works where they manage to federate and manage to unite each other in order to think unanimously for the development of the Cameroonian Volleyball. He noted that the association sees compatriots who invest for the image of Cameroon through such dedicated governance.

Furthermore, the AIEP representative noted that the recent re-election as head of the Cameroonian Volleyball Federation illustrates the renewed confidence of the players in his discipline and confirms the relevance of his leadership.

Upon receiving the award, Bourdanne expressed gratitude to AIEP, stating that the reward reminds him of a deep conviction that has guided his action since the first day he took over the leadership of the Federation.

He remarked that receiving this distinction from an organisation rep-

resenting the international press is particularly significant because it concerns not only results but also a method—that of dialogue, responsibility, and respect for ethical principles.

"This reward is not an end, it is an invitation to do more, to aim higher and to continue to build an ambitious, credible and inspiring African sporting governance model," Bourdanne said.

Reflecting on the nature of leadership, he further noted that a manager is not a position, but a responsibility. He described this as a responsibility towards athletes, managers, partners, and institutions, but above all towards the youth who see in sport a hope, a path, and sometimes a destiny.

While dedicating the award to the entire federation and its stakeholders, Bourdanne asserted that at the head of the Cameroonian Volleyball Federation, they have made the choice of rigour, transparency, and long-term vision.

"We have chosen to build, unite and innovate, convinced that long-term sporting performance first rests on the quality of governance," he stated.

This recognition marks Bourdanne's second significant accolade in just two years, reflecting his continued impact on the sport and his commitment to promoting a positive and progressive image of volleyball in Cameroon and beyond.

PROMOTING EMPLOYABILITY, INCLUSION:

Access Bank Cameroon Connects With University Of Ngaoundéré Students

Douala, January 30, 2026. As part of its commitment to youth empowerment, inclusiveness, and human capital development, Access Bank Cameroon PLC organised an institutional visit to the University of Ngaoundéré on January 28, 2026, under the engagement theme "Inspiration, Possibility & Access."

The initiative forms part of the Bank's broader expansion and employer-branding strategy aimed at strengthening its presence across all regions of Cameroon while building sustainable bridges between academia and the professional world.

Doris Bodylawson, Head, Human Resources at Access Bank Cameroon, highlighted the Bank's focus on people development:

"Beyond academic excellence, today's job market requires adaptability, innovation, and strong professional skills. Through initiatives like this, we aim to prepare students to confidently transition from university to the workplace, while also positioning Access Bank Cameroon as an employer of choice for young professionals across the country."

The visit brought together university authorities, students, faculty members, and representatives of Access Bank Cameroon for an interactive exchange focused on employability, career readiness, and access to opportunities within the banking and financial services sector.

Speaking at the event, Professor Paré Daouda, Vice-Rector of the University of Ngaoundéré, praised the collaboration:

"This engagement represents a true win-win partnership between Access Bank Cameroon and the University of Ngaoundéré. It gives our students direct exposure to industry expectations and real opportunities, while reinforcing the importance of excellence and discipline. We encourage our students to fully seize the possibilities presented by Access Bank Cameroon."

During the engagement, Access Bank Cameroon presented a range of opportunities available to students, including academic and professional internships, employability skills development, mentorship initiatives, and structured entry-level career pathways. Emphasis was placed on the Bank's Entry Level Training Program (ELTP), a flagship initiative designed to equip high-potential young graduates with practical banking skills and international exposure before integrating them into the Bank's workforce.

Sharing her personal experience, Audrey Neba, former ELTP graduate of the first cohort and Ambassador of the Entry Level Training Program, encouraged students to believe in the possibilities ahead:

"The ELTP was a defining moment in my professional journey. It provided me with practical exposure, international standards, and the confidence to grow within the banking sector. Access Bank Cameroon truly invests in young talents and gives them the tools to succeed."

Students actively participated in the session through questions and discussions, demonstrating strong interest in internship opportunities, career prospects within the Bank, and entrepreneurship-related pathways supported by Access Bank Cameroon.



Through this initiative, Access Bank Cameroon continues to reinforce its role as a responsible corporate citizen, committed to inclusive growth, youth development, and the extension of its impact beyond traditional business hubs, in line with its long-term expansion strategy in Cameroon.

About Access Bank Cameroon Plc

Access Bank Cameroon Plc is a full-service commercial bank focused on wholesale, retail, digital, and proximity banking. Licensed on February 3rd, 2022, and officially launched on May 23rd, 2022, from its flagship office in Akwa, Douala, the Bank is proud to contribute to the economic narrative of Cameroon a strategic hub for business in Central Africa.

With a strong focus on SMEs, women-led businesses, and youth innovation, the Bank supports capacity building in creativity, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship. Its financial inclusion strategy offers customized support for individuals and enterprises of all sizes, including access to finance, mentoring, business develop-

ment programs, market support, and trade promotion.

Access Bank Cameroon currently serves clients across corporate, retail, and SME's and operates in seven branches across Douala and Yaoundé:

- Akwa 1
- Akwa 2
- Bonamoussadi
- Bonaberi
- Marché Central
- Intendance
- Hippodrome

Access Bank Cameroon Plc is a proud subsidiary of Access Bank Group, a leading full-service commercial bank operating across 3 continents, 25 countries, and serving over 60 million customers. The Group has subsidiaries in Sub-Saharan Africa and the United Kingdom, which has branches in Dubai (UAE), France and Hongkong and representative offices in China, Lebanon, India.