Biya’s Silent Character in Power:

WISDOM, DANGER or PROVOCATION?

“Things are changing and we can’t have one law for all organisations”
Minister Atanga Nji at National Assembly

The Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji, on Wednesday 17 November 2021 defended bill No.2006/PJ/L/AN which proposes amendments to some provisions of Law No 90/053 of 19 December 1990. This was at committee room A of the National Assembly in the presence of Honourable Zondol Hersesse, President of the Committee on Constitutional Law and other members of that Committee.

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Editorial: Biya’s Silent Character in Power: Wisdom, danger or Provocation?

There is a wise saying that “Listen and silent are spelled with the same letters. Think about it.” In this Cameroonians would think that if it is to listen President Paul Biya have listened for so long and consequently justifying that his silence has been for too long especially with the Anglophone crisis which continue to claim lives. As the mornings come and the nights go away, Cameroonians are desperately waiting for their President to use his wisdom, to bring a peaceful and sustainable solution to all the problems that have ruined the country’s image both within and abroad.

From the day he came to power as President of the Republic of Cameroon, many have hated him for his silence but to others, he has become a role model because of same silence. One thing Cameroonians have noted about their President, Paul Biya is that at the moment the country is desperately expecting to hear from him, he maintains silence, which sometimes can be likened to indifference. As a matter of fact, his loyalists see this silence to be a golden character trait. Irrespective of the interpretation equated to this silence, Cameroonians who know their president so well will tell you that in Biya’s silence, there is always action which is being rehearsed. The media is often seen as a weapon that provokes politicians to talk but unfortunately, Paul Biya remains the kind of leader who only talks when he deems it necessary. The surest times Cameroonians are rest assured to listen to him are 31st December for his end of year speech with remarks and promises and 10th February which he addresses the Youths. Out of this normal calendar Biya has respected for so long in making outings in the media. In this silence, many of Biya’s appointees have surely learned from experience that his silence is not a sign of trust but a sign of keen observation to see who is playing foul in his political camp. Such people have hardly been forgiven as he takes them down from power and transforms them to inmates. John W. Gardner and American novelist once said “Leaders come in many forms, with many styles and diverse qualities. There are quiet leaders and leaders one can hear in the next county. Some find strength in eloquence, some in judgement, some in courage.” From his words, one could imagine that there is nothing wrong with Biya’s silence which looks like a provocation to many Cameroonians. On the contrary, one could think otherwise when he listens to Martin Luther Kings who said “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” This is the kind of silence Cameroonians have observed from their President since the anglophone crisis started and since corruption started destroying the economy in Cameroon. At this hour, silence is becoming dangerous as the ship is sinking and darkness is almost falling on Cameroonians. Will President Paul Biya allow this silence to prolong when children are killed left and right in Anglophone regions? Will he allow blood to continue to flow as bullets have been given the chance to solve problems that can never be solved with bullets?
The Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations in Charge of Cooperation with the Commonwealth, H.E Mbayu Felix on Tuesday, 16 November 2021 was at the National Assembly to edify members of the foreign affairs committee on implications of adopting instruments of international law in national laws.

The session with the Foreign Affairs Committee was chaired by Hon. Banmi Emmanuel, who lauded the Minister of External Relations for educating the Members of Parliament on such pertinent issues. To him the importance of such a meeting arises from some worries parliamentarians have when it comes to drafting instruments of international law.

“This meeting was to edify parliamentarians on the genesis of putting in place international instruments and their implications to our national laws and of course the role that the Members of Parliament can play before it comes to the table of Parliamentarians or Parliament as a whole” said Hon. Banmi Emmanuel.

To Minister Mbayu Felix, who lectured in the session, he emphasized to Parliamentarians that there is need to always modify national laws to conform to international treaties Cameroon has signed. This to him is because international treaties adopted override national laws.

Talking about the powers to amend such laws when they come to parliament, H.E Mbayu Felix said the parliament is supposed to exercise its authority in checking those laws without necessary rubber stamping them when they leave government offices.

“Most often because we have exchanges with them, we take time to advise them on the details of these treaties, most often their comments or their preoccupations are taken into consideration” said Minister Mbayu Felix.

To talk about the relevance of such meetings H.E Mbayu Felix explained, “Knowledge is key in this type of exercise. You know most often when people question government action it is because they are not well informed. The parliament is at the key stage in the process of adopting laws. It is thus important that we come and provide them with all the information not only about the nature and the process which we follow in adopting or negotiating international conventions, but also to let them see what impact it has on our national laws”.

The Parliamentarians in this committee expressed their satisfaction on this exercise which moulded their minds on something relevant to them.
By Fonban E. Lendzemo

Representatives from the Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF from the 11-15 November 2021 went down to the field with their media partners to evaluate the achievements of the Pandemic Emergency Financing (PEF) as executed in some districts in the South West Region.

It should be noted that, the Pandemic Emergency Financing is a programme of the Ministry of Public Health in Cameroon which was designed to respond to the health needs of vulnerable population within the English Speaking regions with special emphasis on the internally displaced amid the conflict wrecking these regions of Cameroon as well as the COVID 19 global Pandemic.

Following the documentation of PEF, the project has been running for about two years and has targeted reproductive health, immunization, malaria, equipping of hospitals and few other areas of interest in the health sector.

UNICEF has been a key partner that supported the government of Cameroon in this programme and provided significant assistance to some 20 health districts in the North West and South West Regions. Some beneficiaries and health officials in some health districts specifically in the South West Region during the recent evaluation mission lauded the supportive role UNICEF played in the PEF response programme.

“We did an analysis of the indicators of reproductive health and we selected maternal and neonatal deaths. When we did this analysis, we realized that the maternal and neonatal death rate for the region was high. Fortunately, UNICEF came in timely to help us. With the crisis many women could not go to hospitals and this accounted for the rise in maternal and neonatal deaths.”

We trained 50 health care workers to take care of vulnerable children to improve on their health conditions from pregnancy to delivery and after delivery” said Mme Endelely Caroline Suka who is a Coordinator of Pandemic Emergency Financing in charge of Reproductive Health Component for the South West Region.

The package donated by UNICEF as assistance in this programme has been of great importance as appreciated by Mbome Vivian, a Nurse in Limbe Regional Hospital who is in Charge of the Neonatology Unit.

“We received an incubator, kangaroo bags and beds. Considering the fact that our neonatology unit is expanding, we receive babies from other health care facilities which do not have a neonatology unit. At first our incubators were usually insufficient and so we had to refer the babies to other hospitals. Ever since we received these kangaroo bags, we can give premature children in our units kangaroo care” she said.

She further explained that “Kangaroo care is a kind of care which involves skin to skin contact between the mother and the baby. The baby is completely naked and the mother is naked upward. So, kangaroo care improves the heart rate of the baby and the sleeping time”.

23 year-old Etanki Mireille, losing her first twins in a premature delivery in her first pregnancy and taking in another pregnancy months after with twins witnessed another premature delivery. Though her second time still brought a sad moment in her life as she lost one of the twins, another child was saved in an incubator. She explained the ordeal in her second pregnancy.

“I was in the house and I started feeling waste pains and I came here. The doctor said I had to see the gynecologist but I didn’t. When I came to the hospital, the nurses said I was in labour and they tried to stop the contractions but it failed. They said I should be allowed to give birth so I gave birth to twins, two girls and lost one but the other is in the incubator”

Her experience was sad and explanatory statements from health experts indicated that difficulties to access medical facilities and sometimes very poor roads can cause such premature births.

There is indeed need to expand health amenities and increase proximity to pregnant women.

Chai Ferdinand who is the Chief of the Idenau Health District said PEF has helped those around his district who neglected their vaccination schedules. He also expressed the linguistic challenge working with the population around this area as they dominantly speak their native language and not English or French.

He also talked about their gains in vaccination with the PEF programme.

“For routine vaccines we have measles, yellow fever, human papilloma where we gave prevention against cervical cancer to girls of 9-13 years. We met some pregnant women who have never taken any vaccines. We once met a woman whose husband refused her from taking a vaccine. He said there is no need taking a vaccine because even children who take vaccines still fall sick. So, the PEF programme has really helped us to send people to those areas to do a lot of mobilization and sensitization”.

The vaccines donated in the Idenau area was confirmed by the locals in Last Kumbo, a fishing community dominated by settlers who found themselves around the sea shore area as a result of fishing which is their economic activity.

For the Mbonge Health District was Beckley Sone Njume, a frontline field epidemiologist and Chief of Bureau Health for that district whom we met in his residence in Tiko. We spoke to him and he addressed the challenges in personnel and security within his district while giving remarks on the impact of PEF in Mbonge.

“I think the greatest challenge is that which has to do with access to health care by the local population which is very important as far as the fight against malaria is concerned. It is thanks to the PEF malaria programme some 85 community health workers benefited from a 10 days intensive training to upgrade their skills,” said Beckley Sone.

He added that there is need to increase access to health care by the local population which is hard hit by the crisis in the region. He raised concerns on reporting health threats which to him were under reported in his districts.

The statistics of those who have received treatment in the area in the backdrop of the PEF as he presented were thus; 15000 cases of malaria, 2080 cases of respiratory tract infections and 1576 cases of diarrhoea, mostly children.

Though the security concerns in the region could not permit on-site visits to some health districts, the beneficiaries of PEF in the districts visited expressed gratitude to UNICEF for the gesture they made in providing incubators, kangaroo beds and resources for improving skills in medical personnel as well as health commodities to assist the vulnerable population in improving their health care.

Coordination in this mission to South West was provid- ed by Dr. Nebongo Daniel of the Central Technical Group of the Expanded Programme on Immunization of the Ministry of Public Health.
No Meaningful Dialogue can take place without gender inclusion - Georges Elanga

Durating a capacity building workshop that held in Yaounde recently, the Minister of Decentralisation and Local Development, George Elanga Obam revealed that there can be no meaningful development without a gender inclusive orientation. As a result, regional councillors from the country’s three regions, including the South, East and Centre, are reinforcing their capacities for the elaboration of regional development plans taking into consideration gender equality.

The regional councils will have to make use of essential proposals in the methodological guide put at their disposal by the ministry of decentralisation and local development. One of the principal directives in that guide is that of gender equality which aligns to the UN2063 agenda stipulating gender equality which aligns to the UN2063 agenda.

The decentralisation boss, Georges Elanga Obam while opening the workshop reaffirmed government’s commitment to promote President Paul Biya’s gender equality vision in local development endeavours. For her part, the Minister of Women Empowerment and the Family, Marie Therese Aben Ondoua acknowledged that, the Head of State in his document for the achievement of gender equality. At its launch, UN Women made a call to mobilize the first 100,000 men in the campaign; a movement for gender equality. At its launch, UN Women made a call to mobilize the first 100,000 men in the campaign; a movement for gender equality.

The commitment of men with power and privilege can be a major game-changer for gender equality, and hope that the human stories as well as scalable, proven solutions will provide a roadmap to progress and help to shape the robust men’s movement for gender equality. Though a lot of strides have been taken in bridging the gap between men and women in Cameroon, much still needs to be done.
CAMYOSFOP/UN-WOMEN train 20 women in soap production

By Fonban E. Lendzemo

The Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace also known as CAMYOSFOP in partnership with UN Women has trained some 20 women in production of detergents and some products in Yaounde.

The training took place around the Biyem Assi neighbourhood from the 16-17 November 2021 where experts drilled trainees on production of soap, menthol, hydro-alcoholic gel and few other products.

Presiding over the opening ceremony, the Executive Director and the Representative of UN Women in one voice said that this training was aimed at helping internally displaced women to get skills to be productive in their immediate communities.

“UN-Women has organized this activity, to empower women amid this COVID19 pandemic. It is a means to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 on women activities. This is why we are training them on how to produce these items. This will help them to be able to generate their income during this period of the pandemic” said Bouchard Zambo a National HIV/AIDS Expert who Represented the UN Women.

To Eugene Ngalim who is the Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP, this is not the first nor the last of their training. “After Yaounde we will be moving to Bafoussam where we will be training IDPs, women living with HIV/AIDS and widows. Bafoussam will be more intensive than Yaounde. We are training diversified groups of vulnerable women. In the East we trained the Mbororos and the Barkas, in the South West we trained the Association of women living with HIV/AIDS. The intention is empowering vulnerable women groups economically” he said.

At the end of the training, the trainees drilled in the production of various products earmarked, confessed to have satisfactorily acquired the required skills.

“I have been overwhelmed since the start of this workshop. I have learned so many things from this workshop. Now I can be produce eau de javel, menthol and I can also produce solid soap” said Njong Emilia, one of the trainees.

Anyie Lafortune, another trainee, said she will use the skills acquired to start a small business to produce eau de javel at a small scale.

After this workshop, trainees will be expected to use their skills to start up small business initiatives that can be able to provide them minimum income to sustain them in Yaounde as IDPs.
Politics

“Things are changing and we can’t have one law for all organisations” Atanga Nji

By Fonban E. Lendzemo

The Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji, on Wednesday 17 November 2021 defended bill No.2006/PJL/AN which proposes amendments to some provisions of Law No 90/053 of 19 December 1990. This was at committee room A of the National Assembly in the presence of Honourable Zondol Hersesse, President of the Committee on Constitutional Law and other members of that Committee.

This bill to amend this 1990 law relating to freedom of association comes in as a result of the need to provide different legal frameworks for operation of organisations based on their specificities as explained by Minister Paul Atanga Nji to the members of parliament.

“We have the 1990 law governing organisations which is supreme, but there are some specificities in some organisations. We have to readjust and adopt these specificities to make new laws” said Minister Paul Atanga Nji.

Hersesse cited an example with what is called inter-trade organisations indicating that there is need to make distinctions and this explains the need to amend the law such that different organisations can have their legal framework. This, to the minister will enable organisations to function with their specificities taken into consideration.

It would appear by the explanation of the Minister that different organisations in Cameroon be it political parties, civil society organisations and others are grouped and governed by one law.

The Minister explained that the bill he defended will provide a legal framework that will consider the realities of organisations since political parties have their own ways of functioning as well as syndicates.

“Each time when the government concludes, to move forward, then at that time they will study the specificity of any inter-trade organisation. Things are changing and it is difficult to have one law to govern all organisations” the Minister concluded as he said the amendments will touch

Motivational

“Youths should strive to be creative”

by Kongbunri Clothilda

Students graduate from school every year to battle with the high unemployment in the country not only because these youths are not equipped to better fit into the job market but also because of the limited engagement to build the entrepreneurial capacity of young people to create self-employment. However, some dynamic youths have decided to make a difference by taking up entrepreneurship just to make ends meet. This reporter caught up with a fruit juice vendor in the capital city and gathered the following about her business.

What kind of juice do you make? Natural Blend is a start-up business based in Yaounde which I started two months ago. It deals with the production of different kinds of fruit juice and cocktails devoid of chemicals and sugar.

Some of my productions are; pineapple juice, watermelon juice, papaya juice, mango juice, orange juice, cocktails, vanilla flavoured Yogurt, Greek yogurt amongst others. All these productions are 100% Natural, 0% Sugar level and no chemicals added to it. I started the production of Natural Blend in August 2021 and I started the production, marketing and sales on the September 1, 2021.

What motivated you into this business?

I realised that I have passion for anything concerning cooking or relating to the kitchen. I encountered difficulties getting a job after completing my course work as a master’s degree student and due to the fact that I needed money to do my research, I decided to take up a volunteer job in a restaurant. From there I started watching videos and doing research on everything that concerned food. From there, I came across several fruit juice production videos on YouTube. That was when I thought it wise that I could start up my own business but drifting it from the normal societal belief that juice “must be sweet ” I also drifted it towards this direction because I know and have come across so many people who care about their health and are so keen when it comes to consuming any drink. Moreover, I started this because I felt I could feel this gap in the society where most individuals suffering from health issues like diabetes and hypertension do not have the opportunity to consume drinks void of sugar and chemicals because most at times those producing sell only in restaurants. Therefore, the desire to bring these natural products closer to those who need them.

3. How lucrative is the business and what are the challenges you face?

Acturally, the business is lucrative though slow but there are high prospects if proper marketing is done. For example, during my first month of marketing, I sold 30 bottles. Still looking forward to see how this month will look like. With regards to the challenges, I face difficulties boosting my market and equally the problem of reaching out to the target population. The business is a personal initiative but now because of the challenges I face in marketing, I am entering into a co-marketing partnership with Dark Kontinent.

What advice can you give the youths out there who are looking for jobs?

As a young girl I have always strived to be independent and creative because I realised that not everyone can be employed. Thus, my advice to the youths out there is that they shouldn’t sit and complain of unemployment and lack of capital to start up something. My belief in life is to always put every thought I have into action rather than waiting for someone to start and employ me of which I won’t still be satisfied with the salary. I believe a “journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Before starting Natural Blend, I had been into several business that didn’t work out lucrative but I kept improving every day. I had been into Ankara designs, clothing, jewel- leries etc but the failure of these never stopped me from creating new ideas. So, my advice to every youth out there is to always strive to be creative, not only copying what is already in the society but copying and modifying to cover a gap in the society. Always study and find a gap to fill before implementing any idea.
November 15, 2021.

The Provincial Leadership Team
Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis,
Shisong.

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE MILITARY INVASION OF THE ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC GENERAL HOSPITAL, SHISONG.

Once again, the Cameroon Military orchestrated a surprise invasion of the Shisong Hospital. The last time they did was on Monday the 19th of July, 2021, at about 2:35am.

This time, today Sunday the 14th of November, 2021, at about 1:30pm, the Cameroon Military again entered the St. Elizabeth Catholic General Hospital and Cardiac Centre, Shisong. The number of the military men could not be easily determined but they came in three (03) armoured cars. They were armed with sophisticated weapons and dressed in combat attire. A frightful scene for all, especially for patients in a Hospital setting.

The Director of the Hospital (Dr. Sr. Anshoma Helen Mbouch, Cardiologist) was immediately alerted. She came and met the military. The Military requested for the Emergency Unit of the Hospital, as they claimed to be searching for Amba boys that were brought for treatment in the Hospital that same morning. The Director took them to the Out Patient Department, which serves as the emergency unit and where all consultations in the Hospital begin.

Not satisfied with this, they insisted to be taken to the Emergency Unit with the inscription on the door but were calmly told that all cases are brought to the Out Patients’ Unit for consultation. Here too, they were told that emergency treatment is administered and those with indication of admission are normally sent to the appropriate units. They took the Registers and went through it, thoroughly. Then they resorted to a thorough search of the entire Hospital. They moved from Ward to Ward and from Unit to Unit. The Dispensary, Admission Room, Men’s Medical Unit, the Pediatric Unit, the Females’ Medical Unit, the Surgical Units I & II, the Maternity and the Theatre were all bumped into, with patients and little children and babies and pregnant women in them. All the Private Wards were opened and searched. All the toilets and rooms the Hospital were searched. Nothing suspicious was found.

Not finding the Amba Boys they were looking for, they started insulting and threatening the Reverend Sisters. They even threatened to shoot the Sisters in the leg if they did not indicate where they had hidden and are treating the Amba Boys in the Hospital.

In the meantime, the two (02) Security Officers on Duty were arrested and systematically interrogated. They were asked, at gun point, to show where the Amba Boys were hidden. The response from the Guards was clear and concise. Their responsibility starts with receiving all the patients and then forward to the Out patients’ Department, where the cases are taken over by the Nurses and Doctors. From there, they go back to their duty posts.

Not satisfied with this explanation, the Military exercised brute force on the Security Officers. They were severely beaten with the butts of the guns and kicked with their military boots. They all sustained injuries and swollen faces. The Administration later asked the Security Officers to go for consultation and to have a medical checkup.

Coming out to the Hospital parking lot, the Military insisted that all the bikes should be identified, else they will be burnt. All those who parked their bikes were called and each one of them identified his bike by starting the engine and was asked to park where the military indicated to them. (It should be noted that the Administration had issued a Public Order whereby only bikes of the Staff, patients, guardians, hospital should be parked in the hospital premises and records are kept).

Thereafter, the Military insisted they wanted to see the Consultation Area of the Cardiologist. The Director, being the Cardiologist, identified herself. She was asked to escort them to consultation room and the exploratory laboratories (the echocardiograms and electrocardiograms areas). They entered the Out Patients’ Department of the Cardiac Centre and all the consultation rooms. They requested to go down to the Basement of the Cardiac Centre and there they searched everywhere.

At the end of the search, at about 3:30pm, some of the Military men expressed remorse and indicated that their action was exaggerated. However, some of them continued with their threats to the Sisters and the Hospital. They promised that the next time they would be back; they will set the entire hospital on fire.

They left the hospital at about 3:45pm.

Subscribed by,
Dr. Sr. Anshoma Helen Mbouch
Director

CC:
The Centre (Deputy Director, Rd)
The Bishop, Director of Parishes
Culled From the facebook page of; 
Strive Masiyiwa
Founder & Executive Chairman, Econet Group & Cassava Technologies | Co-Founder Higher-life Foundation

F lashback #2: Serious entrepreneurs take note — "Most people complain they don't have opportunities in life, but the reality is they don't notice those staring right in front of them...”

This week I'm still really busy so I am going to continue to share some things I wrote here to you last year, just as our world was plunging into one of our most challenging chapters in history. I want you to understand why I am sharing these again: I can write words here but it's up to YOU and only YOU to take action. Who remembers when I wrote this: "If your goal is anything but profitability - if it's to be big, or to grow fast, or to become a technology leader - you'll hit problems"? Prof. Michael Porter

If you are using investor money "your goal has to be profitability". Unless you can demonstrate to investors that your goal is profitability, they will not invest!

You cannot walk to an investor and say: "My goal is to create value, and profitability comes later." They will say to you: "Do it with your own money, and come back to us later..." That is what I would also say. Now do what that mean investors are not interested in "value creation"? Yes, they are, but only from those whose goal is "profitability"! Deep calling to deep!

Mutale Mulenga wrote (January 2020), "If you are in tech. Listen to Business Wars. Facebook vs Snapchat. Am enjoying it and learning.

My reply: I prefer that you don't pick and choose what to listen to, but listen to every single one, at least twice! This is the only way you are going to capture the core principles:

#1. How it was an entrepreneur just like you, who started the biggest businesses in the world.

#2. How they developed a single #Innovation, and were then propelled by #Competitors to keep Innovating.

#3. Competition has been a secret ingredient in driving businesses to #Innovate.

#4. #Innovation on its own will not work without powerful #Marketing strategies.

#5. I want you to see the way money is raised to build businesses.

Things like Stock Exchanges are discussed over and over again.

These Business Wars podcasts capture in dramatic ways things I have been teaching for years! Really, really need everyone to listen to this free information. [You can find 356 episodes, all on #SasaiPodcasts, but that is NOT why I am telling you about them!!]

If you are really serious, listen to the whole [free] Business Wars series. You might think some of these companies are so huge they couldn't possibly be relevant to your challenges as an entrepreneur in your little company... But think again!

Now if you don't want to take the time to listen to all these episodes with pen and paper in hand [via whichever platform you choose], I don't think you should consider yourself serious about being an entrepreneur. That's okay: Just make another plan but don't fool yourself or waste anyone's time or investment money. —You don't have to agree with all the various strategic decisions these successful [and sometimes failed] entrepreneurs make in the Business Wars episodes, but take the time to listen and LEARN from them. What worked? What didn't? Any lessons learned for you and your team?

H omework for those of you who are my best students so far: Tell me what you have learned on Business Wars that has been most valuable to you. #Senior-Class, please help guide the #JuniorClass here. Image credit: JodiCobb, @National Geo.

"The more you learn, the more opportunities you have. If you want to continue to succeed, never stop learning. Most people complain they don't have opportunities in life, but the reality is they don't notice those staring right in front of them". Fayaz King

**Things to consider in selecting a career in the university**

M any universities offer hundreds of choices and it is always a challenge to pick one when it feels like the rest of your adult life is riding on that choice. It is a big commitment but not a life sentence. However, the major you choose will never predict your future. Many graduates pursue careers that aren’t related to their college majors, or find jobs that have nothing to do with what they studied in college. According to the US Department of Labor, an average person switches jobs once every 3 years and changes career two or three times in a lifetime. Have no fear that choosing a college major will lock you into a specific career for the rest of your life. Moreover, if you intend to earn a professional degree after college, you will probably need certain courses under your belt. Some students choose a major because it will prepare them for a specific career path. Maybe you already know that you want to become an Accountant, Nurse, Physiotherapist or Web developer. Before you declare, take a class or two in the relevant discipline, check out the outline, talk to students in the department of your choice and make sure you can and will do the coursework required for the career of your dreams. Future earning potential is worth considering in selecting a college major. College is a big investment, and while it can pay you back in many ways beyond salary, it can be a major factor for students who are paying their own way. Keeping the quality of your life must also be considered when choosing a major — that six-figure salary may not be worth it if you are not happy at your office. Some students chose a major simply because they love the subject matter. If you love what you’re doing, you are more likely to fully engage with your classes and that can mean better grades and greater relationship with others in your field. If philosophy is your calling, don’t write if off because you are not sure of what the graduate school or the job market holds for philosophers. Many liberal arts provide students with critical thinking skills, communication skills and writing skills that are valued by many employers.
NW: SOGOC and ACAC with Modern Traditional Doctors To Down Maternal Mortality In the Region

By Manaseh Vushigho

Traditional Doctors of the Northwest Region have been schooled on how to reduce the rapid increase in maternal deaths related to unsafe abortions. The one day workshop that brought together modern traditional Doctors and herbalists was organized by the Advocacy for Comprehensive Abortion Care (ACAC) an NGO under the canopy of the Society of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians of Cameroon (SOGOC).

Speaking to participants in B'da over the weekend, the national president of SOGOC, Professor Emeritus Robert Leke told the traditional healthcare providers to cease from practices that could up the number of mortality and morbidity cases in the region. He revealed that over 700 women die each year in Cameroon as a result of criminal abortions or postpartum haemorrhage. This he qualified results from poor management in the hands of quacks or traditional healthcare providers.

The health expert said it is the duty of the traditional doctor to course every case to the Gynaecologists and stay off any trials that could result to the loss of lives. The regional chapter of SOGOC which is headed by Dr. Takang of the University of Bamenda UBa, he further explained is charged with enforcement of the visions of SOGOC.

The objective of ACAC and its partners is to advocate for an enabling environment for increased access to safe abortion services within the context of the Cameroon law in a bid to reduce maternal mortality.

Its other utmost goals include the strengthening management and organizational capacity of SOGOC, establish and strengthen a coordinated network for increased advocacy amongst other lawful moves towards the target audience. The target audience therefore include reproductive health policy makers MINSANTE, MINPROF and other related ministerial departments, law makers and the public.

It should be noted that since the ACAC project went operational in Cameroon it has succeeded to create a network of like-minded stakeholders. This has enabled an increased advocacy and access to comprehensive abortion care services for eligible cases so as to reduce maternal mortality in Cameroon.

Bamenda II Council: Mayor Ignites Decentralization through Women Empowerment

By Manaseh Vushigho

After almost four years in the cold the Mezam Women Empowerment Center and its activism can now be seen and felt by the service providers and users alike. This came under the stewardship of the mayor of the B'da council area Peter Chenwi and his councilors through the Council Development Plan who provided over 14 million francs for the construction of a new building to handle the concerns of centre.

Presenting the Newly constructed building to the public on Thursday November 12, 2021 with working inputs worth over 20 million, the mayor told the public it was the effective devolution of powers to locally elected officials that has permitted the council to access the needs of the people and meet them. He enjoined the population to make a judicious and a jealous use of this center as he implored the director, Tendongmo Wirba Hasan and the general director, Tendongmo Franklin and his team to take good care of the infrastructure and equipment and to thereof employ it for the purpose it was conceived and made available.

“We will be always coming around to see how judicious the employment of this public utility is handled” Mayor Chenwi told the director of the center. “It is our duty to reach the population with what they need. It is for this reason that we were elected. More so the woman is as important development partner as you know”, he reiterated. On the backdrop of women and their vulnerability at the heart of the ongoing crisis in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon, it was necessary to resuscitate the center that was burnt down in 2017.

Sharing the same vicin- ity with the makeshift council complex as well as the B'da II Sub Divisional Office, Mayor Chenwi told the public he could not stand aside and watch the untold suffering women and young girls were going through in career orientation and other social values. “With the law of decentralization I could not do otherwise than reach these female folks which is the live wire of our existence”, Mayor Chenwi insisted.

The handover ceremony was witnessed by the D.O B’da II, the Regional Del. Women Empowerment and the Family Welfare Hasan and the general public. The structure contains a conference hall, workshops, a demonstration kitchen, toilets and enough space outdoor activities. The is open to women and girls interested in career orientation. Tailoring, embroidery, beads making and other domestic and or home chores are the priority areas of the center. “ We are very happy with the mayor’s offer. It has helped the congestion that used to be here. With Covid-19 it was necessary to resuscitate the center”, Manika a trainee at the center told The Astute Ink.

Publisher: Fonban E. Lendzemo
Tel: + 237 674774546 - Yaounde
Price: 400 FCFA
Actions for Development and Empowerment presents COVID-19 cash management findings

By Fonban E. Lendzemo

Actions for Development and Empowerment, a Civil Society Organization abbreviated ADE and its partners, on November 17, 2021 shared discussions to enable Cameroonians have a good understanding of the management of COVID-funds which to many were mismanaged by some officials according to reports.

The coalition meeting which focuses on “Gauging the Transparency of COVID-19 Incidence Management Response in Cameroon” took place at Tandeng Muna Foundation in the presence of some experts. The conspicuous presence of Kah Walla in this meeting could not be ignored as she gave her own thoughts about the COVID-19 funds mismanagement.

To her, her organisation is not working to fight the government but it is rather making an effort to ensure that the government is transparent, accountable and trustworthy.

To Kah Walla who was the keynote speaker, she called on Cameroonian youths to stay quiet no more as the money stolen is that which has to be used in creating jobs and strengthening the economy. She lauded the efforts of Actions for Development and Empowerment.

“There is no advocacy without data” said Kah Walla. She added, “It is very important to understand the public finance is our money; we as Cameroonians are the ones who generate public finances through our taxes. So, whenever there is stealing which the audit report clearly demonstrated, it is our right and duty to go and ask more questions and demand that measures be taken so that stealing is stopped”.

To Dr. Allain Martin Kofele of the International Governance Institute- Cameroon, Cameroonians spend more energy trying to fight the systems messing up and the output is often insignificant. To him, capacity building of local actors can produce better fruits. “Problems that have to do with transparency and corruption are in two phases; there is a problem at the Executive phase which is up and there is a problem of public participation at the bottom. Before now, a lot has been done in trying to change the executive bodies and the results are very little. What if we focus more on building local actors, empowering them to re-strategize?” said Dr. Allain Martin.

Ndì Nancy, the founder and Executive Director of sit-up said this project is a Pan-African project running in many countries. She confirms the challenges she has faced with her team. “It is no news that freedom of information act is not yet ratified in Cameroon, so having access to information is so difficult” she said.

Irrespective of the challenges, she maintains that her organisation will stop at nothing to ensure that there is transparency and accountability in government that can enable citizens to have trust in the government leading them.
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