

OCTOBER 12 POLL

Biya 'steals' Far North's loyalty in maiden campaign rally!



The Head of State told the people of the vote-rich Far North Region during his maiden campaign rally in Maroua yesterday that he understands their challenges and is relentlessly working toward addressing them. The CPDM flagbearer expressed gratitude to the region for choosing to stand with him despite what he termed attempts by the opposition to blackmail him in a bid to boost their chances in next Sunday's election. **P.4**

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NSIF begins distributing school allowances to over 61,000 students

NEWS

EAST REGION

Prime Minister inaugurates Mbama-Messamena

The project, carried out during the 2018- 2025 seven-year program, has transformed the towns of Abong-Mbang and Messamena, with nearly 12 kilometers of urban roads completed, 6.153 km in Abong-Mbang and 5 km in Messamena.

By Saju Linda

The Prime Minister, Head of Government Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute has officially inaugurated the Mbama-Messamena road, a 40-kilometer stretch in the Upper-Nyong Division of the East Region. The project, carried out during the 2018- 2025 seven-year program, has transformed the towns of Abong-Mbang and Messamena, with nearly 12 kilometers of urban roads completed, 6.153 km in Abong-Mbang and 5 km in Messamena. Financed through the Public Investment Budget at a cost of 33 billion CFA francs, the road aims to open up a key production basin in the East, ease the movement of people and goods, and improve access to health care across its zone of influence. In an interview, Public Works Minister



Emmanuel Nganou Djoumessi highlighted significant progress in Cameroon's road network. As of December 31, 2023, the country's network was estimated at 121,873

kilometers, including 10,225.58 kilometers of paved roads. This marks a steady rise from 9,144.5 kilometers in 2021 and 9,539.5 kilometers in 2022. The Minister

had earlier set the goal of surpassing the symbolic 10,000-kilometer mark, announcing in early 2023 the paving of at least 700 additional kilometers. Looking ahead, road

expansion remains central to the National Development Strategy 2020 to 2030 (SND30), which charts Cameroon's path toward becoming an emerging economy by 2035. The strategy foresees the construction of 6,000 additional kilometers of paved roads and the maintenance of nearly 3,000 kilometers of the existing network. Major rehabilitation projects are also planned, including the Ngaoundéré-Garoua and Edéa-Kribi highways, two heavily trafficked routes. These initiatives fall within a broader vision to modernise the country's road infrastructure, boost economic growth, facilitate mobility, and strengthen interregional connectivity. The inauguration of the Mbama-Messamena road thus represents not only a local milestone but also a building block in Cameroon's long-term development agenda.

KUMBO

BIR frees nine hostages

The hostages were reportedly kidnapped while travelling to Kumbo in the Bui Division of the North West Region recently.



By Saju Linda

The Rapid Intervention Battalion has reportedly freed nine hostages in Kumbo in the Bui Division of the North West Region. The hostages were reportedly kidnapped while travelling to Kumbo recently. Per sources, elements of the battalion freed the victims after immediately intervening to rescue them following an alert. According to sources, thanks to rapid, coordinated, and decisive action, the BIR forces succeeded in rescuing nine hostages and neutralizing the terrorists involved in the attack, according to a report from this elite unit of the Cameroonian army. In a statement, the BIR reassured the public of its unwavering

commitment in the fight against armed groups. It also reaffirmed its determination to guarantee the security of citizens while working tirelessly for the return of peace and stability in Bui Division. The BIR is an elite force of the Cameroonian army that reports directly to the President of the Republic. Supported by the United States, the BIR is active both against Boko Haram insurgents in the Far North and against separatist groups in the western regions. Unlike other branches of the military, the BIR's budget does not appear in the Ministry of Defense's official accounts. Its funding sources remain opaque, though it is reportedly financed by the National Hydrocarbons Corporation, SNH. The force has its own flag, marked with the lion's seal, and is headquar-

tered in Yaoundé in a base popularly known as Bastos, after the neighborhood where it is located. Historically, the BIR was reorganized in 2001 and 2008 to increase its capacity. At the time, each battalion consisted of a 145-man intervention unit, a 37-man special command and support section, a 37-man special intervention unit, a 97-man command and support group, and a 1,000-man light intervention group. These structures reflected its dual mission: rapid deployment and specialized counter-insurgency operations. The latest intervention in Bui illustrates once again the decisive role of the BIR in safeguarding Cameroon's national security and preserving territorial integrity against persistent threats.

CRYPTOCURRENCY

Minister warns against circulation of fake scheme on social media

The Minister of Finance Louis Paul Motazé has issued a warning regarding a false announcement circulating actively on social media platforms, particularly through messaging platform, WhatsApp.

By Brigitte BATE

His fraudulent message falsely promotes a cryptocurrency investment program that unrealistically promises exceptional returns within hours. Minister Louis Paul Motazé formally denounced this operation, noting that the amounts, contact information, and extravagant promises indicate a widespread scam that is becoming increasingly common. He reminded the public that in investment matters, no high and rapid returns are guaranteed without major risk, and that promises of multiplying one's capital in record time represent typical signs of financial fraud. The public, especially social media users, is urgently advised to exercise caution and dis-



cernment. Before committing to any investment project, the Minister emphasized the necessity of conducting preliminary verification with officially competent institutions. These designated structures hold sole author-

ity to oversee and regulate financial operations. He has asked anyone who sees the fraudulent message to protect their money and report it immediately to authorities, in order to contribute to the fight against cybercrime.

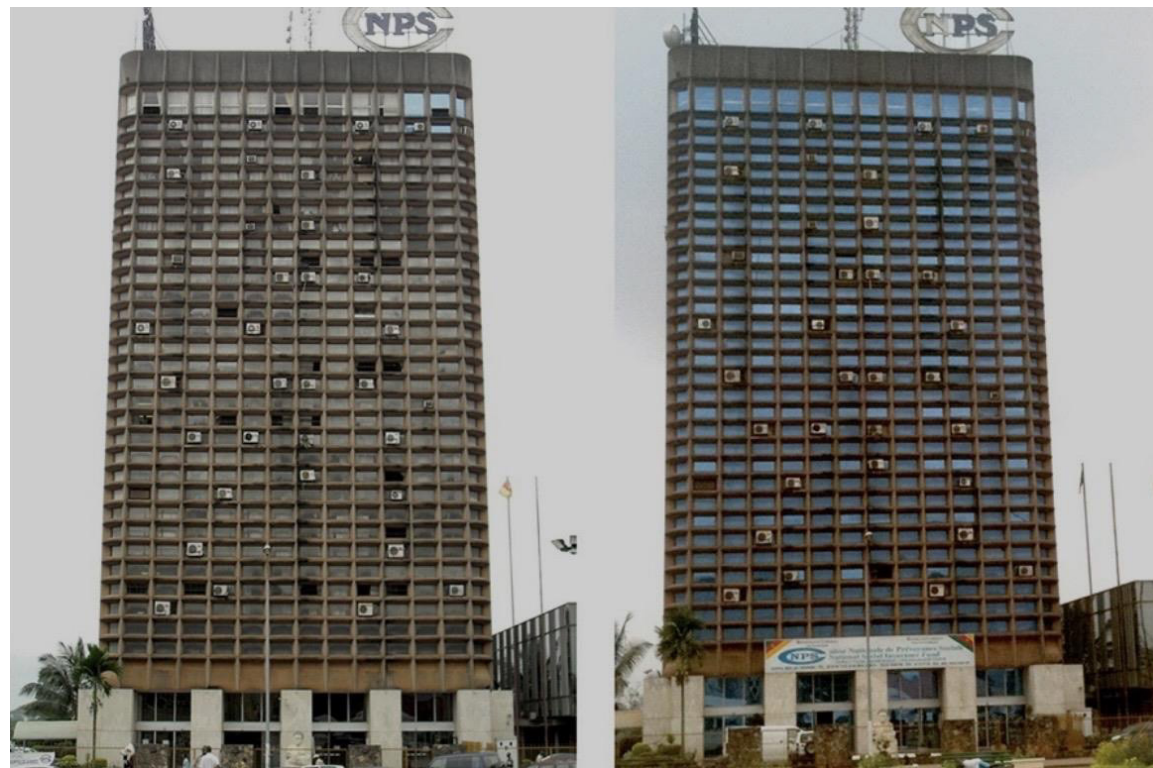
SOCIAL INSURANCE

CNPS begins distributing school allowances to over 61,000 students

The National Social Insurance Fund flagged off the exercise for the distribution of direct financial support to the beneficiaries for the 2025-2026 school year last Sunday.

By **Brigette BATE**

October 5, 2025, was a shining start for some, as the National Social Insurance Fund, CNPS confirmed the first payment of the special school year allowance. In a public announcement, the Fund stated that this initial payment phase has successfully reached 24,147 beneficiaries, providing crucial support for the education of 61,223 students and apprentices. It confirmed that each eligible child is granted 54,000 CFA francs to assist with school related costs. While these initial payments are complete, the CNPS announced it continues to accept



and review claims submitted via email, with subsequent disbursements scheduled to follow on a regular basis. For those yet to apply, the institution clarified that the window for submission remains open until October 31, 2025. The requirements, as outlined by the CNPS, mandate that applications require either school certificates for children aged 3-21 or apprenticeship attestations for youth aged 14-18, which must be submitted through the dedicated Sapelli Aïna application. The Director General made it clear that helping people is their top priority. He also reminded everyone that they can get help through their website, social media pages, postal mail.

YAOUNDE

Youth affairs minister launches student's business competition

In a statement signed last Monday, the Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, Mounouna Foutsou announced that he had officially launched the competition, notably calling on secondary schools in the Mfoundi Division of the Centre Region to submit innovative project ideas conceived by learners aged 15 to 25.

By **Brigette BATE**

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Secondary Education and its partners, has officially launched the Call for Applications for this year's budget. The initiative per the statement aims to encourage the emergence of a greater number of start-ups and turn schools into real business incubators, in line with the education sector policy. The competition is centered on project ideas in diverse fields including product manufacturing and assembly, digital marketing, the clothing industry, cosmetics, catering, renewable energies, computer graphics, and literary and artistic creation. The call is open to all public and private general or technical secondary schools located within the Mfoundi Division of the Centre Region. To be eligible, schools must demonstrate a keen interest in promoting entrepreneurial awareness and submit a list of at least three project ideas led by students aged between 15 and 25 years. According to the organizers, schools wishing to



apply must fill in a form available from the Centre Regional Delegation, the Mfoundi Divisional Delegation, its seven Subdivisional Delegations, or online via a dedicated link. The official statement notes that the closing date for submission of application files is Tuesday 05 November 2025. The competition will unfold in four main phases, beginning with a pre selection phase

where the organizing committee will screen applications. This will be followed by a maturation phase in schools, conducted jointly by the decentralized services of the Youth affairs ministry and school heads, explained the statement. This phase involves accompanying projects as they mature, and compiling a list of projects eligible for the challenge for each competing school. The third phase will see a selection by subdivision through a caravan, where the three best candidates from each of the seven subdivisions will be chosen to proceed. The final phase is slated for December

2025 in Yaounde during the Youth Connekt Cameroon Convention. The statement details that during this final, the best candidates will, for three days, receive personalized coaching, will showcase their projects and be assessed by a panel of judges. At the end of this phase, the best seven projects will be selected and awarded prizes.

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CAMEROON VOTES

OCTOBER 12 POLL

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By TEMBA Junior SUH

The Head of State, Paul Biya has expressed his gratitude to the population of the Far North Region for standing with him in the leadup to the forthcoming 2025 presidential election despite the odds. The 92-year-old leader has promised to continue addressing the challenges of the population as a show of gratitude and compensation for the prolonged trust and love that the vote-rich region has shown him over the years whilst he holds the nation's biggest office. Biya made the declarations in Maroua, capital of the Far North Region yesterday. This was during his campaign rally in the Far North Region chief town in the preparation for next Sunday's presidential election where he will be on the starting lineup seeking to secure a seven-year mandate that will extend his stay in the Unity Palace top office to 50 years. "I am deeply touched to see that so many of you have come to meet me. Thank you for the support you have continued to show me, year in, year out, despite the daily challenges, despite the false omens, the slander, the fabrications," the flagbearer of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, CPDM party stated amidst thunderous applause from the thousands of his supporters and sympathizers. The Head of State said he is not surprised by the love that the population has shown him, insisting that it simply further demonstrates the courage and commitment that the population has towards him and his vision for the country. "I know your sincerity. I know your loyalty. I feel good among you. You are aware of my sensitivity to the problems you face. You are aware of my frankness and my sincerity," the president further stated. The president said he is strongly attached to the population of the region while going further to count some of the major projects that he has executed to directly and indirectly over the years to satisfy the needs of the region. Biya said he will build on the groundbreaking projects as



he continues working tirelessly to meet the expectation of the people in full demonstration of the special warmth that he has for the region. "I am well aware of the problems that are of concern to you. I am aware of the unfilled expectations that make you doubt the future. Based on my own experience, I can assure you that these problems are not impossible to overcome," President Biya said.

Biya vows to introduce new projects

President Biya in the speech, went beyond counting his gains in the region to dishing out renewed promises of renewed hope to the population of the Far North Region and the country at large. He notably promised to put in place incentives that will further boost the socio-economic fiber of the nation and enhance self-entrepreneurship for young Cameroonians. The Head of State also vowed to boost efforts in educating and empowering more women at all levels. Concerning the youth, the Head of State particularly promised to restructure the National Employment Fund to ensure that young people have the opportunities to find or create jobs despite their academic qualifications. "I made a commitment that the situation of women and young people would be at the heart off my concerns during the next seven-year term. My goal, dear compatriots, is that every young person, wherever they

may be, should have opportunities to easily find a job or become an entrepreneur. No young person, whether or not a certificate holder, will be left behind," President Biya said. The president also announced that the state will make key adjustments in the areas of education, promising to further improve the professionalization of education while pledging similar strides in the sectors of vocational training and in information and communications technology, ICT. "We will optimize the many programmes dedicated to young people and make the most of existing training centres and business incubators. We will also, at the same time, develop specific financing mechanisms or projects initiated by young people," the CPDM said. On his project concern women, the Head of State was clear. He emphasized that "We should step up efforts to educate and empower women, as we need more women at all levels of responsibility. We will ensure, more than in the past, that their rights are respected and that they are protected against all kinds of violence," the Head of State stated while touching on the place of women on his agenda for the next seven years if he is given the chance to lead the nation for another mandate.

Biya's Far North outing softening grounds amidst rising threat from opposition

Biya's outings in the Far North

Region is believed to be a well-calculated move from his end as he seeks to soften the grounds amidst the rising threats that he has been facing from his challengers in the ongoing presidential election race. Although Biya has been noted over the years for always opting to hold campaign rallies in the Far North Region ahead of presidential elections, yesterday's outing is strongly believed to have been tailored to calm down the relatively speeding wind of change that had been caused by candidates like Issa Tchiroma Bakary of the Cameroon National Salvation Front, FSNC. Tchiroma, a longtime ally of President Biya, has over the last months, emerged as Biya's biggest challenger. The 75-year-old's prominence as the incumbent's lead challenge particularly gained prominence in the last two weeks after he held multiple groundbreaking pre-campaign and campaign rallies in several parts of the country. The outings saw Tchiroma strongly connecting with the Cameroonian people, especially the younger demographic who are believed to have identified in the former Communications Minister, a man who can anchor the nation's ship pass the storm that it has been going through over the last few decades. Among them, rising economic hardship, youth unemployment, the lack of proper healthcare facilities, poor road networks among others.

House Speaker steals show in Maroua

Biya's rally in Maroua was not only punctuated by his multiple promises about a better life for the population of the Far North Region which retains its strategic position heading into next Sunday's election as the region with the second highest number of registered voters with over a million voters. The gathering was also animated by a rather strange performance by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honorable Cavaye Yeguie Djibril. The CPDM strongman for the Far North Region left a greater section of the thousands of CPDM supporters and sympathizers who turned out at the ceremonial ground stunned after he relatively had a mix up while delivering his speech, an error that resulted to him having him difficult to put together his ideas as he addressed the population ex tempore. Despite the multiple mix ups, the member of parliament did just enough in finally getting his messages through as he notably used his rich political experience to, in the simplest of manners possible, vote for Biya during next Sunday's election. "I know you have to vote. Of course, you need to vote. But while vote, choose the white ballot and slot it into the ballot box and tear down the other ballot papers," the House Speaker stated. He also touched on several issues affecting the region. Notable among them issues in the areas of education where he frowned against the phenomenon of teachers abandoning their places of placements in interiors and preferring to stay in urban areas while learners suffer in interiors. The House Speaker however failed to clear the spirit of concern that has been raised among Cameroonians by his blunders in the speech with many blaming the errors to his old age as an 85-year-old. Multiple videos of the blunders quickly flooded social media platforms with many using his errors to point accusing fingers at the ageing leadership that the country has had in place over the last years.

CAMEROON VOTES

MAROUA

Biya's campaign visit sparks shocking opposition support

The streets of Maroua had been decorated with party banners and security reinforced to welcome the Head of State.

By Saju Linda

President Paul Biya's campaign visit to Maroua on October 6, 2025, was expected to be a moment of political consolidation for the CPDM candidate ahead of the presidential election. Instead, the event unexpectedly turned into a display of popular support for opposition leader Issa Tchiroma Bakary, candidate of the Union for Change 2025 coalition. The streets of Maroua had been decorated with party banners and security reinforced to welcome the Head of State. Schools in the city were instructed to release students early so they could join the rally in large numbers, a common practice



during campaign season. Thousands of young people, dressed in their

uniforms, poured into the streets to give the appearance of strong

a spontaneous demonstration of

mobilization for the CPDM. Yet as the presidential convoy advanced and the rally unfolded, the mood shifted. Instead of cheering for Paul Biya, many students and youths began chanting in favor of Issa Tchiroma Bakary, a native of the Far North and one of the main opposition figures in this year's race. What was meant to be a show of CPDM strength quickly turned into

support for the Union for Change 2025 candidate. Observers noted that the scene highlighted both the weariness of the population toward the ruling party and the growing popularity of Issa Tchiroma Bakary in his home region. The chants and banners raised in his name gave the impression that Maroua, traditionally considered a CPDM stronghold, could become a decisive battleground in the upcoming election. The episode underscored the unpredictability of the campaign. What was supposed to be a carefully orchestrated rally for the incumbent instead revealed cracks in the ruling party's ability to control the narrative, particularly among the youth who make up a large portion of the electorate.

GAROUA

Security measures amplified amid election tension

In an official statement released by the Senior Divisional Officer of the Bénoué Division, Oumarou Haman Wabi last Monday, the security alert level in Garoua was raised following credible reports indicating a presidential candidate's alleged plans to disrupt public order with supporters during the electoral period.

By Brigitte BATE

Authorities in Garoua have elevated the city's alert level following concerning reports about potential disturbances during the ongoing presidential election period. The Senior Divisional Officer of the Bénoué Division Oumarou Haman Wabi made this announcement Monday after receiving multiple consistent reports indicating one presidential candidate might be planning public disorder activities with supporters. The official release specifically warned that these alleged maneuvers appear aimed at destabilizing Garoua during both the electoral and post electoral periods. In response, the prefect's office issued an unambiguous warning that any calls for violence threatening public peace would be strictly forbidden. The statement made clear that no



acts of vandalism or public disorder would be tolerated, adding that those involved in planning or executing such activities would face severe legal consequences. The SDO's announcement come as a reminder to all presidential candidates of their obligation to operate within legal boundaries, including the requirement to coordinate their campaign

programs with local authorities for proper oversight. While urging residents to continue with their normal daily activities, the administration called for increased public vigilance during this sensitive time. The measures according to the chief officer represent an effort to maintain stability as the October 12 presidential election approaches.

OCTOBER POLL

Group condemns candidate's alleged remarks on terrorism

Candidate Issa Tchiroma's visit to the North West has sparked condemnation from human rights organizations over his statements regarding his relationship with separatist fighters in the conflict affected region.

By Brigitte BATE

International non-governmental organization, Action 237-Suisse has issued a formal caution to 2025 presidential election candidate Issa Tchiroma Bakary concerning his recent statements about alleged connections to armed groups, the organization stated in an official release dated 06 October 2025. The organization, which holds consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, expressed profound concern over the candidate's alleged remarks regarding his relationships with individuals connected to terrorist activities in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. The Geneva-based human rights group characterized these statements as deeply troubling and offensive to the memory of victims who have suffered from violence in the ongoing conflict. While acknowledging the importance of freedom of expression in democratic processes, the organization stressed that



this fundamental right must be balanced with considerations of public security and social stability. The statement particularly emphasized that political discourse should not undermine ongoing efforts to restore peace in affected regions. Action 237-Suisse, which has established itself as a prominent voice in the fight against impunity, reminded the public of its consistent track record in pursuing justice through international legal channels. The organization noted it has previously filed numerous complaints with European judicial bodies against individuals believed to be contributing to

the escalation of violence in Cameroon's Anglophone regions. The statement with a clear warning of the organization's intent to pursue legal action through Cameroonian judicial systems as similar statements continues. Specifically, the organization indicated it would seek charges related to the endorsement of terrorist acts, marking a significant escalation in its response to political public surrounding the ongoing crisis. This situation shows that international observers are paying closer attention to political speeches during Cameroon's election period.

CAMEROON VOTES

OCTOBER POLL

Man arrested for desecrating Biya's effigies

A video showing Abdoulaye Abakar tearing up images of President Biya went viral on social media platforms recently, sparking widespread outrage and criticism

By Saju Linda

The Regional Division of the Judicial Police, DRPJ has announced that it has apprehended Abdoulaye Abakar, a man accused of desecrating effigies of the Head of State, Paul Biya. A video showing Abdoulaye Abakar tearing up images of President Biya went viral on social media platforms recently, sparking widespread outrage and criticism. The video shows the suspect deliberately destroying official portraits of the president while holding up a photograph of former member of government and candidate in the forthcoming 2025 presidential election, Issa Tchiroma Bakary.



The incident, which unfolded in the heat of the election campaign, has been described as a deliberate provocation and a direct challenge to presidential authority. Public condemnation was swift, with many emphasizing that the President of the Republic, beyond his candidacy status, represents the continuity and dignity of the State. In a recent outing, the DRPJ said it has apprehended the suspect who is believed to be Tchiroma's supporter. Currently held in police custody, Abdoulaye Abakar is accused of multiple offenses, including incitement to hatred, rebellion, insulting constituted bodies, and hostilities against the homeland. Sources indicate he will be presented before the prosecutor in the coming days to face justice.

HAVE YOUR SAY ?

OCTOBER POLL

Expectation, anxiety as Cameroonians vote again

In less than one week, Cameroonians will head to the polls, where both returning and first-time voters will cast ballots to decide their nation's leadership for the next seven years.

By Brigitte BATE

As Cameroon prepares for Election Day on October 12, the air is filled with a mix of hope and hesitation. For many, this is a routine event, but for thousands of young people across the nation, it marks a significant first, the first time they will cast a ballot. This energy is not universal from social media comments. In quiet corners and online forums, a different story unfolds among other card-carrying citizens. Some express a deep-seated fatigue, a feeling that their vote will not truly change the outcome of this 2025 election. "What difference will my one vote make, I just think it's before I stay like I have always done » that is Essomba Denis who says her vote cannot bring a change. This has been a common question, pointing to a belief that the political landscape is already decided. Others see the election not as a potential



for change, but as a continuation. For these individuals, October 12 will simply mean the start of a new term for an existing regime, as some put it, « an old regime renewed ». Freddy Nkandem. They feel that regardless of the result, the fundamental way the country runs will remain the same, making the effort to vote feel pointless to them. Longla Raphael captured

the nation's mixed feelings, saying his chosen candidate was removed from the list, leaving him with no other choice than thinks his vote was taken away. yet he still believes « we should breathe another regime to feel it ». This reflects the difficult choice many faces between past disappointments and the hope for something new.

REACTIONS

Brice NOUBIAP, *First time voter*

“Let's go make Cameroon what we want it to be”

Like they say one hand cannot tie a plastic alone, that's why I'm voting because we need many hands, many voices, to build the better Cameroon we all want to see. So, if I am to advise others, let's go make Cameroon what we want it to be.



LONGLA RAPHAEL, *First time voter*

“My chosen candidate was removed from the electoral list”

I have never voted before but this year I finally registered because I believed in a candidate, but my hopes were dashed when his chosen candidate was removed from the electoral list. so now, I cannot vote for him. Because voting for someone I don't want is a waist



NEWS

STRENGTHENING ONLINE OUTREACH

State officials trained to counter digital threats

A recent three-day seminar organized by the National Agency for Information and Communication Technology in Kribi has equipped public administration officials with enhanced skills to promote government actions and combat online misinformation.

By Brigitte BATE

Ghana A recent week-long capacity building workshop in Kribi has equipped some 38 communications staff from various ministries with enhanced digital communication skills to strengthen the online presence of public administrations. The training, organized by the National Agency for Information and Communication Technology, ANTIC, focused on practical digital skills for better promoting state actions and countering online misinformation. During the opening ceremony, ANTIC's



Director General Prof Ebot Ebot Enaw acknowledged that though 95% of public services run websites and social media platforms, many are lacking in

content and meaningful digital engagements. The workshop addressed this gap by providing officials with tools to enhance their digital communication

strategies. With internet penetration rates rising from 4.5% in 2010 to over 45.6% in 2025, digital platforms have become essential communication chan-

nels. Social media platforms now serve as major interaction spaces, with Cameroon recording more than 5.5 million active users representing 18.5% penetration. The training seminar implemented practical knowledge for participants to better promote government actions, detect fake news and deepfakes, and develop effective digital communication strategies. These efforts according to officials aim to increase engagement rates on administration communication platforms and foster positive citizen sentiment, following the 2016 directive for implementing a more assertive public communication strategy.

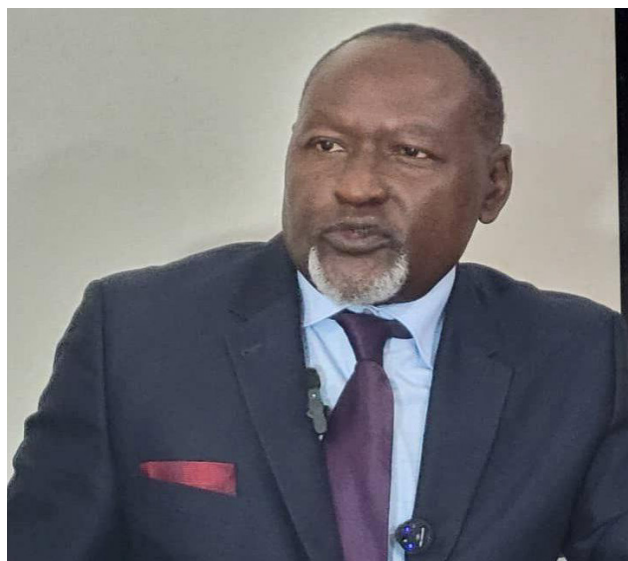
ADAMAWA

Wave of resignations hits APAR

On October 6, 2025, Mouhaman Ndjama, the party's regional president for Adamawa, tendered his resignation in a collective letter addressed to the national president, Célestin Djamen.

By Saju Linda

The Patriotic and Republican Alliance, APAR, is facing fresh turbulence, with a major wave of resignations shaking its ranks in the Adamawa Region. On October 6, 2025, Mouhaman Ndjama, the party's regional president for Adamawa, tendered his resignation in a collective letter addressed to the national president, Célestin Djamen. "I have taken the firm decision to resign as a member of APAR Adamawa, as well as from my duties as regional president," the letter stated. Ndjama added that his departure also entailed the resignation of all members of the regional bureau and the presidents of seven local cells in Ngaoundéré. The disgruntled activists accuse Djamen of arrogance, contempt toward militants, and unilateral decision-making without consultation. Their main grievance stems from Djamen's rallying of APAR to the G20 coalition without prior discussion. "Mr. President, we are not customers of the APAR store," the activists retorted



in their resignation letter. The controversy traces back to August, when Djamen openly declared his support for the G20, a coalition of political parties that have consistently endorsed President Paul Biya's candidacy since the October 7, 2018, presidential election. Djamen, a former member of both the Social Democratic Front, SDF, and the Cameroon Renaissance Movement CRM, justified his stance by declaring Paul Biya as the best candidate for 2025. This alignment has already triggered

significant departures. Brice Momo, APAR's national coordinator, and Mathias Sadje, departmental coordinator in Mongo in the Littoral Region, both resigned following Djamen's decision. Now, with the Adamawa leadership and grassroots structures breaking away, APAR faces mounting internal fractures that raise questions about its stability and its capacity to rally members in the lead-up to the 2025 political season.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Douala University Institute of Technology begins new school year

The University Institute of Technology, IUT of Douala officially launched its academic year at the new Edéa campus on October 6, 2025, in the presence of a host of government and university dignitaries.

By Paul Marcel MBEMBE

This ceremony marks the realization of a strategic partnership between the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy, and Handicrafts, as part of the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2020-2030, SND30. Presided over by the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Prof. Jacques Fame Ndongo, the ceremony was held at the heart of the National Pilot Business Incubator, an emblematic site of the link between training and entrepreneurship. Also present were Dr. Achille Bassilekin III, Minister of SMEs, the Minister of Transport Jean Ernest Masséna Ngalle Bibéhe, as well as several administrative, traditional, and university authorities. Prof. Jacques Etame, director of the IUT, delivered the inaugural lecture on the theme: «Project-based pedagogy, a strategic lever for youth employability.»



He presented the Douala IUT-Edéa campus as an innovative school, focused on value creation and self-employment. For him, this establishment reflects the desire to bring university training closer to economic realities. In his speech, Minister Achille Bassilekin III praised the structuring impact of this initiative on the local entrepreneurial fabric, stating that this new academic hub will help stimulate innovation and the competitiveness of SMEs in Cameroon. Minister Jacques Fame Ndongo, for his part, encouraged the first enrolled students to invest themselves fully. «You are builders, path-

finders, bearers of light,» he declared, before inviting the youth to make the Edéa IUT a hub of excellence and transformation. One of the highlights of the ceremony was the signing of a partnership agreement between Higher education ministry, the Small and medium size enterprises ministry and the University of Douala. This agreement aims to establish a University-Business dynamic through alternating internships and integrated entrepreneurial support. This is a decisive step towards a better alignment between academic training and the needs of the job market.