



Well-being & Being well: Street Food: What To Avoid

FAWONE GA:
Over 400 Women
Expected In
Yaounde



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SW Marks Teachers' Day: Celebration Under A Shadow

By Solomon Agborem

World Teachers' Day was observed in parts of the South-West Region on Monday,

October 5, with pockets of activity recorded in major towns including Buea, Limbe and Kumba, despite the restrictions associated with the weekly Monday ghost-town observance in the English-speaking regions.

The day was noticeably quieter in many other communities, where streets remained largely deserted and normal commercial and social activities were limited, as is customary on Mondays in the North-West and South-West regions.

In the towns where activities took place, teachers and education stakeholders used the occasion to recognise the contribution of educators to the development of society and reflect on the challenges facing the profession.



MATA-USA Sets Agenda For Community Engagement And Development In Mamfe Town



By Noela Ebob Bisong

Mamfe Town Association USA, Inc. (MATA-USA), a newly established nonprofit organization in the United States, has begun laying the foundation for community development initiatives aimed at supporting Mamfe Town in Manyu Division of Cameroon's Southwest Region.

Tinto: FCFA 300M Council Chambers Allegedly Abandoned

By Clarkson Fongang



The construction of the Tinto Council Chambers, which has been ongoing for close to a decade, is yet to be handed over. The project has allegedly been abandoned by the contractor, who had

earlier promised to complete the job in record time. > "The level of execution is about 65%. The contracting firm is KINGSMARCK CONSULTING ENTERPRISE BUEA. The project is almost abandoned despite the intervention of the SDO," laments Enow David, Secretary General of Tinto Council.

CEMAC Bankers' Days: CCA-BANK Woos Potential Clients In Bangui



Tinto:

FCFA 300M Council Chambers Allegedly Abandoned



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Tongues are wagging across the Upper Banyang Subdivision as to why the Tinto Council Chambers have not been received by the council administration, close to a decade after the contract was awarded. The structure, which should have been the pride of the municipality, is now an eyesore. Even the walls are nothing to write home about, with only some whitewashed paint to cover the shame.

According to sources at the Tin-

to Council, the contractor claims to know too many people in high places within the region, which is why he is noted to be nonchalant. The DAWN gathered that several correspondences have been written to the contractor to complete the job, but all have fallen on deaf ears. *FEICOM Steps In* According to FEICOM's Assistance Code for Councils (CIF-C), the project falls under the community facilities category. In this case, the beneficiary council pays 15%, another 65% is covered by solidarity contributions, while the loan share completes the re-

maining 20%. Tinto Council had paid the statutory 15% to the Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance, better known as FEICOM, at the time the project was awarded to DAP Construction in 2016, whose contractor later died in a ghastly motor accident. The contract was later relaunched and awarded to KINGSMARCK CONSULTING ENTERPRISE, BUEA, and since then the people have been deprived of such an infrastructural jewel.

According to FEICOM's procedure, the loan share only goes into

effect after the structure has been provisionally received. Thus, the council shall only pay the 20% after the provisional reception, which is yet to take place, while the contractor has gone silent. The unanswered question is: who is not putting the right pressure on the contractor? Is the Mayor too busy to follow up on the file? If decentralization must be a reality, everyone in the chain should play their role and avoid pushing the blame towards the central government all the time. Tinto Council Chambers yet to be received

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SW Customs Sector Enforces Declaration And Registration Of New Phones



By Clarkson Fongang

The Chief of the Southwest Customs Sector, Mongue Nyamsi Daniel, has reminded the population of the Southwest Region that the Southwest Customs Sector office is open for the public to come, declare and have the new phones registered with the Cameroon Customs Information Service. This follows the new Government Policy requiring all newly imported phones into Cameroon from April 1, 2026, to be declared and registered with the Cameroon Customs Information System. The business community, as well as individuals who happen to have bought an undeclared or unregistered phone, can take this opportunity to visit the SW Customs Sector Office at Bota-Limbe to be served. Those concerned can bring the phone itself or copy down the 15-digit International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number of the phone, along with its trademark. Upon coming to the Customs Sector Office, the phone(s) will be assessed, payments will be made by the business person, and the IMEI will be registered on the Cameroon Customs Information Service. After registration, the system goes on to activate your phone so that it can now

be used with any mobile telephone network - MTN, ORANGE or CAMTEL. To check if your phone has been registered, you can always verify it by inputting your 15-digit IMEI code number on the website: <https://mpie.camsis.cm>. Before going to the Customs Office to have your phone evaluated and your payment calculated, make sure you copy down the IMEI number or numbers of the phones onto a list. You can verify this code on the phone's carton/package, or dial *#06# for the IMEI number to pop up on the phone's screen. It should be recalled that in the month of August, a sensitization campaign initiated by the Chief of Sector was carried out in the towns of Buea, Tiko/Mutengene, Limbe, and Idenau to enlighten the people of the Southwest.

The campaign was led by Customs Officers Alex Fotso, Ekounda Mpeng, and Eloundou, along with members of the press. Local phone sellers and the general public were sensitized to this new Government Policy, which requires all newly imported or acquired phones to be registered on the Cameroon Customs Information Service - <https://mpie.camsis.cm> - and an equivalent customs duty paid based on the brand and model of the phone in question. Sellers were reminded that, as per the

new policy, the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers of all phones must, from April 1, 2026, be registered first with the Cameroon Customs Information System before the phone can be activated for use with any mobile telephone service operator in Cameroon—namely MTN, Orange, or Camtel. Phones Risk Being Blocked! They were equally reminded that any phone whose IMEI number has not been registered with the Cameroon Customs Services runs the risk of being blocked by mobile service providers like MTN, Orange, or Camtel. Complaints About High Costs of Registration... The Customs Officers who led the campaign told the sellers not to be frightened by the issue of costs. They informed them that, as business persons who buy and sell in bulk, there is room for an understanding once they visit the SW Customs Sector Office to have their phones registered. More Than 50 Already Registered! It is worth noting that since the campaign, many sellers and individuals have already visited the SW Customs Office at Bota-Limbe to register their phones and pay their duties.

"I was here today to register my phone with the Bota Customs Sector Office. In fact, it wasn't as costly as I thought, and it didn't take long to be done. I re-

ceived a message that my phone needed to be registered, so I came and did it here at the Bota Customs office," said one Mr. Madougou Yazi, a Limbe resident. Phone-Gifts From Abroad Have to Be Registered! The second successful registration case at the SW Customs Sector Office that talked to the press was Mr. John Mouchia, a retired worker. "As you see, my daughter sent me a phone from the US. I didn't buy it. I put in my Cameroonian SIM card and used it for just a week. Then, a message popped up from the Customs Service informing me that no customs duty had been paid for the phone. "The message continued by informing me that if I don't pay the customs duty, my phone will be blocked after some time. "I came here today with the phone and met the Customs officer, who explained the entire payment procedure to me. I complied, and he logged into his computer, accessed the <https://mpie.camsis.cm> site, and registered the phone using its IMEI number," Mr. Mouchia said. Therefore, the public should be aware that even phone-gifts from abroad are subject to registration and payment. The only exceptions are tourists or individuals visiting Cameroon for a short stay of up to two months. Sensitization by a Customs officer

Cameroon Strengthens Paediatric HIV Case Finding Through HIV Self-Testing



By **Sandrine Moma**

Cameroon is continuing efforts to strengthen HIV testing among children through innovative approaches. The integration of HIV self-testing into health services is being explored as an additional opportunity to identify children who may have been exposed to HIV and facilitate their referral to appropriate services. This issue was at the centre of the DELTA2 HIV Self-Testing Project Evaluation Results Dissemination Workshop held in Yaoundé. The meeting brought together several stakeholders in the national HIV response to review the project's implementation experience, programme results, challenges encountered, lessons learned and prospects for strengthening paediatric HIV case finding. The Permanent Secretary of the National AIDS Control Committee (NACC), Dr Joseph FOKAM, took part in the discussions alongside representatives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Disease Control, Epidemics and Pandemics (DLMEP), the Department of Research, Operations and Surveillance (DROS), the Elizabeth

Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), RECAJ+ and operational partners involved in implementing the strategy. The discussions focused particularly on children aged 2 to 10 years attending health facilities, with emphasis on opportunities to integrate HIV self-testing into routine clinical practices. The objective is to create additional opportunities for paediatric case finding and facilitate the referral of children requiring further testing and care to the appropriate services. The first session examined the context, rationale, scope, objectives and expected results of integrating HIV self-testing into clinical services. Participants also reviewed the implementation context, highlighting achievements as well as challenges encountered in integrating this innovation into paediatric case-finding services. Discussions underscored the need to adapt HIV testing approaches to the realities of health facilities, healthcare providers and families. By creating additional entry points for HIV testing, innovative approaches can help address gaps in identifying children living with HIV. The second session focused on programme results from the implementation of the DELTA2 project.

Beyond the presentation of results, participants discussed factors that may influence the uptake and effectiveness of HIV self-testing, as well as key lessons learned from the implementation experience. Particular attention was also given to factors associated with eligibility for and reactivity to HIV self-testing among children aged 2–10 years attending health facilities in four regions of Cameroon, as well as the acceptability of integrating this clinical innovation into paediatric case finding. For NACC, strengthening paediatric HIV case finding remains an important component of the national HIV response. Early identification of children living with HIV facilitates diagnostic confirmation, treatment initiation and continued follow-up. Expanding testing opportunities through differentiated and innovative approaches can therefore complement existing strategies and help address gaps across the HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care cascade. Several recommendations were made to strengthen the implementation and sustainability of the approach. These included conducting a cost analysis that takes human resources into account in order to better assess the value and implica-

tions of the approach at health-facility level.

Participants also recommended strengthening healthcare providers' capacity to systematically offer the screening tool to children at all service entry points within health facilities, as well as ensuring the continuous availability of paediatric antiretroviral medicines in all health facilities providing paediatric care. The workshop ended with handing over of awards for the team working in integrating HIV self-testing as a clinical innovation. to improve pediatric case finding in Cameroon. The DELTA2 project experience therefore provides valuable evidence and lessons to inform ongoing discussions on the role of HIV self-testing and other differentiated testing approaches in Cameroon's national HIV response. Through collaboration among national programmes, technical partners and implementing organisations, Cameroon continues to explore innovative approaches to identify children living with HIV while strengthening the mechanisms needed to ensure timely care and treatment for those who test positive.

Limbe I Gendarmerie Brigade Moves To New Office

By Clarkson Fongang

The Limbe I Subdivision now has a new Gendarmerie Brigade Office located close to the CDC Middle Farms Credit Union Building, en route to the Limbe Naval Base Command Office at Bota-Middle Farms. The new office, constructed by the Government, was inaugurated on Monday, September 28, 2026. The new office is a more spacious structure with larger office spaces and features two cells—one for male detainees and another for females. A good number of the people who attended the inaugural ceremony congratulated the Government on the new facility. The new office offers a far more comfortable environment for the gendarmerie officers who are expected to ensure the security and protection of the people of the Limbe I Subdivision.

The inauguration ceremony was marked by prayers offered by Rev. Father James Nwaimo of the New Town Catholic Church, a Reverend Pastor, and an Imam. They all prayed that God should protect the Brigade Commander, Master Warrant Officer Ankiambom Anthony, his collaborators, and all his personnel as they settle down to provide security services to the population.



They equally prayed that God would accord all of them wisdom in handling the cases and issues that come before them for adjudication. The inauguration was under the supervision of the D.O of the Limbe I Subdivision, Innocent Moni Nanje, the Commander of the Limbe Naval Base, Issova Sono Seraphine, the new Gendarmerie Company Commander; and the Mayor of the Limbe I Municipality, among others. It is worth noting that the new structure

was constructed by AJOTEM Global Services Ltd. The contractor on his part, thanked the Government for the opportunity granted to realize the project. It should be noted that the former building housing the Limbe Gendarmerie Brigade services at the Bota Customs Quarters was built for the Customs. Furthermore, the Limbe Gendarmerie Brigade Office is said to have been opened sometime in the 1960s.

SW Marks Teachers' Day: Celebration Under A Shadow

By Solomon Agborem

World Teachers' Day was observed in parts of the South-West Region on Monday, October 5, with pockets of activity recorded in major towns including Buea, Limbe and Kumba, despite the restrictions associated with the weekly Monday ghost-town observance in the English-speaking regions.

The day was noticeably quieter in many other communities, where streets remained largely deserted and normal commercial and social activities were limited, as is customary on Mondays in the North-West and South-West regions.

In the towns where activities took place, teachers and education stakeholders used the occasion to recognise the contribution of educators to the development of society and reflect on the challenges facing the profession.

This year's celebration was held under the national theme, "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures." The theme marks the 60th anniversary of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which established important principles on teachers' professional rights, responsibilities and working conditions.

For teachers across Cameroon, however, the occasion comes against a backdrop of persistent challenges. These include inadequate teaching and learning resources, over-

crowded classrooms and concerns over remuneration, particularly among teachers in the private sector.

In the conflict-affected North-West and South-West regions, security has added another layer of difficulty. Teachers have continued to work in an environment marked by school disruptions, displacement and attacks affecting education personnel and institutions. The significance of Teachers' Day is particularly pronounced in the English-speaking regions, where teachers were among the professional groups whose grievances helped bring the Anglophone crisis into national focus.

In 2016, teachers took to the streets to protest concerns over the education system, including the deployment of French-speaking teachers in English-language schools and what they described as broader problems affecting the Anglo-Saxon educational system. Lawyers were also protesting concerns within the legal sector.

Those protests, and the government response to them, became an important early chapter in the crisis that later escalated into armed conflict and prolonged disruption of daily life.

Nearly a decade later, Teachers' Day carries a special resonance in the region.

For the educators who continue to teach amid these challenges, the occasion is not simply about celebration. It is also a reminder of the importance of keeping classrooms open and ensuring that another generation does not lose its opportunity to learn.



Bachuo-Ntai: Prof. Eyong Kenneth Donates Didactic Materials To Foster Education

By Solomon Agborem

Prof. Eyong Kenneth Oben, Director of HTTTC Bambili, a bona-fide son of Bachuo-Ntai has donated a consignment of didactic materials to pupils and students of his community. The recent donation that took place in Bachuo-Ntai, according to Prof. Eyong Kenneth is a goodwill gesture to enhance better academic performance by the pupils and students. The items were made up of exercise books, ledgers, pens, pencils, erasers and school bags. The gifts were handed to beneficiaries on behalf of the donor by Manyu I CPDM Section President Tabi Beteck Godfred. Addressing pupils, students and parents, Tabi Beteck recounted that the donor, Prof Eyong Kenneth Oben became an orphan at the age of 9 but was never discouraged. He went on that it was the intention of the benefactor to reciprocate back to his community because he had benefited from the goodwill of others growing up as an orphan. He later urged the beneficiaries to use the didactic materials judiciously. It should be noted, before the donation by Prof. Eyong Kenneth Oben the Director of HTTTC Bambili, other sons and daughters of Bachuo-Ntai had earlier made donations to the Home Economics Laboratory of GHS Bachuo-Ntai, furnished the office of the Principal and also assisted the vice principals.



FAWONE GA: Over 400 Women Expected In Yaounde

By Solomon Agborem

Over 400 Women are expected to be in Yaounde, political capital of Cameroon for the Fako Women N'Edinge Global General Assembly.

This revelation was made by the President General, Dr. Etonde Mbua Hannah during an exclusive interview she granted The DAWN on Sunday October 4, 2026 in Limbe.

According to Dr. Etonde, who is a staunch Advocate for Women empowerment, FAKO WOMEN N'EDINGE better known as FAWONE will hold

the Global General Assembly from October 9-10, 2026 in Yaounde after they last met in Tiko in the South West Region.

She went on that 16 Chapters across the globe shall be present for the ground breaking Global General Assembly which is expected to shape the future of the Association.

Dr. Etonde Mbua Hannah, the President General insisted that FAWONE stands for service, development and peace.

"FAWONE Global has as at today a total of 869 women from sixteen Chapters, for the General⁸ Assembly meeting we are expecting about 350-400 Women" she stated.



Buea: Teachers Brave The Odds amidst Ghost Town

By Solomon Agborem

Teachers in the South West Region on October 5, 2026 marked the 60th edition on World Teachers Day amidst regular Monday Ghost Town imposed by non state armed groups.

In Buea, the ceremony to mark the day, took place at the Buea Council Chambers under the patronage of SW Governor, Bernard Okalia Bilai.

It was on the theme: "Supporting teachers :60 years of protecting the Profession, Enhancing it's Status and Building our Future"

Speaking on behalf of teachers, the Regional Delegate of Basic Education, Rose Elangwe stated that the theme was appropriate and timely which necessitated support towards teachers by the community.

She went on that it was a reminder to teachers of the nobility of their profession in today's society. The Regional Delegate also hailed government through the Minister of Secondary Education for the clean school philosophy which has been largely implemented in the Southwest.

She enumerated innovations such as smart classrooms that have been introduced but warned teachers not to replace their duty with AI.

She however called for responsibility and integrity in the wake of increasing reports of examination leakages and abuse.

SW Governor, Bernard Okalia Bilai on his part praised teachers for being resilient despite the insecurity around their environment of work. He assured them of his constant support at all times.

Similar celebrations to mark teachers day also took place in Limbe and other towns of the region.



WELL - BEING & BEING WELL

News

Street Food: What To Avoid



By Rahel Ule

Street food is affordable, convenient and an important part of everyday life for many people. From soya and roast fish to fried snacks, boiled eggs and fresh fruit, roadside food can be delicious. But when food is poorly handled or stored, it can also become a source of food poisoning.

Food poisoning is often caused by bacteria, viruses or parasites that enter food through contaminated water, dirty hands, utensils or surfaces. Symptoms may include vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, nausea and fever. In severe cases, it can lead to dehydration and require urgent medical attention.

One of the first things to watch is how the food is prepared and handled. Avoid buying from vendors whose hands, utensils or cooking surfaces appear visibly dirty. Avoid food that's cold. Food handlers should not handle money and then immediately touch ready-to-eat food without washing their hands.

Be particularly careful with food that has been sitting open for hours. Flies can carry germs from rubbish and other contaminated surfaces onto food. Food kept at room temperature for long periods can also allow bacteria to multiply rapidly, especially in hot weather.

Meat, chicken, fresh fruits and fish deserve special attention. Avoid anything that is undercooked, has an unusual smell or has been kept lukewarm for a long time. Meat should be thoroughly cooked. Food is better when it's steaming hot before it is eaten.

Boiled eggs and mayonnaise-based foods can become risky when they are left in the heat for extended periods. The same applies to cooked rice, beans, noodles and other prepared foods that are not properly refrigerated.

Fresh fruits and vegetables can also cause illness if they have been washed with contaminated well water. When buying cut fruit, salads or fresh juices from the roadside, consider whether the water used and the utensils are clean. Whole fruits that you can wash and peel yourself are generally safer. Rewash sliced fruits.

A simple rule is: look, smell and observe before you eat. Choose vendors who keep food covered, separate raw and cooked foods, use clean utensils and serve freshly cooked meals.

Finally, wash your hands with soap and safe water before eating. If vomiting or diarrhoea becomes severe, lasts for several days, or is accompanied by blood, high fever or signs of dehydration, seek medical care promptly.

A tasty meal should nourish you—not send you to the hospital.

CITAL 2026 Targets National Gathering In Tiko



By The DAWN News Desk

Tiko is set to host the Cameroon International Talent Festival (CITAL) 2026, an initiative that organisers say will bring together young talents, cultural performers and entertainment enthusiasts from across the country and the Cameroonian diaspora.

Billed under the slogan “One Venue. One Nation. One Entertainment,” CITAL 2026 is being presented by its organisers as a national platform for celebrating Cameroon’s cultural diversity and the creative abilities of its youth.

Organisers say they are targeting a gathering of about 20,000 people in Tiko, with participants expected from all ten regions of Cameroon as well as the diaspora.

Beyond entertainment, the festival is being promoted as an opportunity to use music, culture and talent to encourage peace, national unity and peaceful coexistence.

“CITAL 2026 is more than a festival,” the organisers said in their announcement, describing the event as a platform for healing, hope and the promotion of young Cameroonian talent.

The choice of Tiko as host city adds a local

dimension to the initiative. The South-West town has in recent years hosted youth-focused activities promoting peace and social cohesion. In July 2026, Tiko hosted the fifth edition of the “Na We We” Sport Jamboree, a youth-led peacebuilding initiative supported by the United Nations Population Fund.

CITAL is expected to combine entertainment with cultural expression, providing a platform for musicians, performers and other young creatives.

The organisers have also invited artists and personalities from Cameroon’s entertainment and cultural scene to support the initiative.

At a time when the country continues to face social and security challenges in parts of its territory, the festival’s organisers are positioning CITAL as an opportunity to bring Cameroonians together through the arts.

For Tiko, the proposed event could also provide an opportunity to showcase the town as a destination for cultural and youth-oriented activities.

Further details on the festival programme, participating artists, ticketing and the confirmed date and venue are expected from the organisers.

Tiko Health District Holds Crisis Meeting

By Etengeneng Kelvin Tabot

The Tiko Health District on September 30, 2026, held a crisis meeting bringing together representatives of the Ministry of Public Health, Tiko Council, health authorities, health workers and other stakeholders to address concerns affecting healthcare delivery and the regulation of health facilities in the district.

Regional Delegate for Public Health, Dr Eko Eko Filbert, expressed concern over reported incidents affecting healthcare services and called for concrete and sustainable corrective measures.

He stressed that the Ministry's primary responsibility is to protect the population by ensuring that healthcare is accessible, affordable, safe and properly regulated.

The meeting focused on the qualifications and registration of health personnel, with participants reminded that only appropriately qualified and registered professionals should practise in health facilities.

Participants also examined the sourcing of medicines, laboratory reagents and other healthcare products. Health facilities were urged to obtain medical supplies only from authorised sources and comply fully with ministry regulations.

The meeting further clarified the distinction between establishing a health facility and obtaining authorisation to operate.



Facilities must meet prescribed infrastructure, equipment and operational standards before they can legally function. Other concerns included illegal practitioners, suspected illicit medicines, patient referrals, emergency transportation, patient reception, human resources, infrastructure and access to healthcare.

In response, the Regional Delegate announced plans to deploy field control teams to inspect medicines in health facilities. Products whose provenance cannot be established will be seized and destroyed, in accordance with regulations.

Stakeholders were also encouraged to report suspected illegal practitioners to the competent authorities, including through anonymous reporting channels.

Emergency referrals, particularly from Kange, also featured prominently in the discussions. The Tiko Council expressed willingness to explore providing a standby boat to facilitate emergency medical evacuations, subject to the necessary arrangements.

The meeting ended with recommendations for immediate implementation and a renewed call for professionalism, regulatory compliance and collaboration among health stakeholders.

Dr Eko Eko Filbert urged health professionals to remain focused on their fundamental responsibility of serving and protecting the population, while ensuring that all health facilities operate within the established regulatory framework.

Tiko Heads To Maroua For National Clean City Contest

By Special Report from Maroua

Divisional Delegate for Housing and Urban Development.

Tiko Council, the South-West Region's representative at the 2026 National Clean City Contest, arrived in Maroua on Saturday, October 3, determined to improve on its fourth-place finish in the 2023 competition.

The delegation, led by Mayor HRH Dr Peter Ikome Mesoso III, travelled from Douala International Airport aboard a Camair-Co flight, transiting through Nsimalen before arriving in Maroua. The team is based at Legion Soko.

The delegation includes a representative of the Governor's Office, the South-West Regional Delegates for Decentralisation and Local Development and Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Fako

Tiko, known as the Gateway City, will participate in a special Tam Tam Weekend programme to be broadcast live on CRTV on Sunday, October 4.

The winner of the 2026 National Clean City Contest is expected to be announced in Maroua on Monday, October 5, during activities marking World Habitat Day.

The event will be chaired by the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Célestine Ketcha Courtès, in the presence of other dignitaries.

Tiko's participation comes as the council seeks to build on its previous performance and strengthen its position among Cameroon's cleanest cities.



Kumba I Council Tackles Waste At Kumba Mbeng Bridge

By Florence Ebai Nyor

Workers of the Kumba I Sub-Divisional Council on Friday, September 25, 2026, carried out a special clean-up exercise at Kumba Mbeng Bridge, removing large quantities of plastic bottles and other waste that had accumulated around the bridge.

Organised by the Council's Department of Hygiene and Sanitation, the exercise formed part of ongoing efforts to improve cleanliness and protect public spaces across the municipality.

The accumulation of plastic waste at the bridge has also drawn attention to the wider problem of indiscriminate dumping into Kumba Water, with plastic bottles and other non-biodegradable materials increasingly finding their way into the waterway.

The Council has called on residents, traders, commuters and other users of the area to stop treating Kumba Water as a dumping ground and to use appropriate waste-disposal facilities.

The environmental consequences of indiscriminate dumping extend beyond the appearance of public spaces. Plastic waste can obstruct waterways and drainage systems, restricting the flow of rainwater and increasing the risk of flooding. It can also pollute water bodies and damage aquatic ecosystems.



Cameroon's environmental authorities have previously identified plastic waste as a contributor to urban flooding because of its tendency to block waterways. Broader World Bank research similarly identifies poorly managed plastic waste as a major cause of clogged drainage systems and increased flooding risks.

The problem is not limited to plastic bottles. Household refuse, food waste and other materials dumped into waterways can accumulate and create unsanitary conditions, while stagnant water and accumulated waste can provide breeding sites for disease vectors.

The Kumba I Council says maintaining a clean environment cannot be left to council workers alone. Regular clean-up campaigns can remove accumulated waste, but lasting results depend on residents changing disposal habits.

The Council is therefore urging the population to keep plastics, household refuse and other waste out of Kumba Water and dispose of them through appropriate channels.

The clean-up at Mbeng Bridge may have removed the immediate problem, but the Council's message is clear: keeping Kumba clean requires sustained action from both the authorities and the communities they serve.

52,123 Waste Items Removed From Limbe Coastline

By Florence Ebai Nyor

A total of 52,123 pieces of waste were removed from parts of Limbe's coastline during the 2026 International Coastal Cleanup, highlighting the continuing challenge of marine pollution along Cameroon's coastal communities.

The cleanup, organised by the Association for Community Awareness (ASCOA), brought together volunteers and community members at Down Beach and Bota Beach in Limbe. Items collected included plastic bottles, bags, bottle caps, fishing gear and other debris.

ASCOA said the exercise formed part of the global International Coastal Cleanup movement coordinated by Ocean Conservancy. The 2026 campaign was held on September 19, with ASCOA organising cleanup activities at four sites along Cameroon's coastline.

Since 2018, ASCOA has coordinated the International Coastal Cleanup in Cameroon, working with volunteers, community groups, schools, public institutions, businesses and environmental partners. The organisation said its previous activities had mobilised more than 6,300 volunteers and removed more than 2,500 tonnes of marine litter.

The scale of the waste collected in Limbe reflects a wider problem facing Cameroon's coastline. Research on marine debris in Cameroon has identified land-based plastic waste and discarded fishing gear as significant concerns, with waste from inland areas often finding its way to the coast and into the ocean.

Ocean Conservancy's latest global cleanup findings also show the prominence of plastic waste. Its 2025 International Coastal Cleanup data recorded more than 1.3 million plastic beverage bottles and nearly 886,000 bottle caps among the items collected worldwide.

Beyond improving the appearance of beaches, the cleanup exercises provide data on the types and sources of marine debris. Ocean Conservancy says such information helps researchers and policymakers develop longer-term solutions to ocean pollution.

ASCOA thanked Ocean Conservancy, volunteers, coordinators, community members and other stakeholders who supported the Limbe exercise.

The organisation said the campaign was part of a broader call for communities to take action against marine pollution under the message "Sea the Change."

For Limbe, the removal of more than 52,000 waste items is a reminder that keeping the coastline clean requires not only periodic cleanups, but also sustained efforts to prevent waste from reaching beaches and waterways in the first place.

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CEMAC Bankers' Days: CCA-BANK Woos Potential Clients In Bangui



By Emmanuela Nyoki

CCA-BANK is resolutely pursuing its development across the CEMAC sub-region and is actively preparing to establish its presence in the Central African Republic, with the opening of its Bangui branch announced before the end of 2026. The bank's participation in the Bangui Financial Days 2026, held in conjunction with the 5th edition of the CEMAC Bankers' Days, marked a major milestone in this expansion drive.

Held for the first time in the Central African Republic, the event brought together key financial sector stakeholders from across the sub-region in Bangui to discuss economic financing, structural transformation of markets and innovation in financial services. Throughout the three-day event, the CCA-BANK Bangui teams, led by Mr. ADRIEN NKWO, Managing Director, and Mr. BRICE TOKAM, Deputy Managing Director, maintained a strong presence at the bank's stand and across the various event venues.

This mobilisation enabled CCA-BANK to strengthen its visibility among public authorities, businesses, financial sector professionals and the general public, while presenting its products and services and concretely preparing for its entry into the Central African market. The opening ceremony was notably attended by H.E. Mr. HER-

VÉ NDOBA, Minister of Finance and Budget of the Central African Republic, and Mr. YVON SANA BANGUI, Governor of BEAC, who took part in the various activities and visited the exhibition stands. On October 2, the official proceedings continued under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. FÉLIX MOLOUA, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Central African Republic, in the presence of the Minister of Finance and Budget, the Governor of BEAC and several senior officials from financial institutions across the sub-region.

The bank also played an active role in the high-level discussions. Mrs. ALVINE DÉsirÉE TIWODA, Managing Director of CCA-BANK Cameroon, notably participated in the panel dedicated to financing businesses and accelerating value chains within CEMAC. On this occasion, she shared CCA-BANK's experience in supporting and financing economic stakeholders, particularly businesses and SMEs, highlighting the importance of a banking sector capable of sustainably supporting the transformation of the economies of the sub-region. The third day of the event was marked by a visit to the CCA-BANK stand by H.E. Mr. FÉLIX MOLOUA, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Central African Republic.

The Head of Government welcomed the bank to the Central African Republic as preparations for its establish-

ment continue. For Mrs. ALVINE DÉsirÉE TIWODA, this establishment goes beyond simply opening a new branch. CCA-BANK intends to place its experience and expertise at the service of the development of the Central African market, particularly through knowledge transfer, training of local teams and support for individuals, businesses and other economic stakeholders in bringing their projects to fruition. This ambition is already visible on the ground. Located at Rond-point Zéro, one of Bangui's most emblematic and busiest locations, CCA-BANK's future branch is already attracting the attention of local residents. Under the leadership of Mr. ADRIEN NKWO and Mr. BRICE TOKAM, a local team has been assembled and is preparing to welcome individuals, businesses and all Central African economic stakeholders as soon as the branch opens. During the three days of the Bangui Financial Days, numerous visitors stopped by the CCA-BANK stand to discover its offering and learn more about its upcoming establishment.

Several expressed their eagerness to see the doors of the new branch open and gain access to the bank's services. This strong interest reflects the enthusiasm generated by CCA-BANK's arrival and confirms the relevance of establishing a presence in a market offering significant development opportunities. The establishment in the Central African Republic forms part of a broader regional expansion strategy. Building

on experience developed over the years in community banking before becoming a universal bank in 2018, CCA-BANK is now pursuing its development through CCA-BANK Holding, with a clear ambition to strengthen its presence across several markets in the sub-region. This expansion notably includes the Central African Republic, Guinea-Conakry, Congo-Brazzaville, Chad and Gabon, progressively confirming CCA-BANK's ambition to establish itself as a leading banking player at the regional level. With total assets of nearly FCFA 1,300 billion, the bank intends to build on its experience, expertise and the commitment of its teams to support its development in the Central African market.

The CEMAC Bankers' Days concluded in Bangui with the symbolic handover of the torch to Cameroon, which will host the 2027 edition. This handover symbolises the continuity of a dynamic of cooperation, dialogue and integration within the regional banking sector. In Bangui, the countdown has now begun. With a local team already mobilised, a strategically located branch and proven expertise, CCA-BANK is preparing to open a new chapter in its history in the Central African Republic, with the ambition of providing long-term support to Central Africans, businesses and project leaders throughout their development journey. A new presence, a new proximity and, above all, a new milestone in CCA-BANK's regional ambition.

MATA-USA Sets Agenda For Community Engagement And Development In Mamfe Town



MATA-USA president, Dr Michael Nkongho (L) and Vice President, Dr Rebecca Etta Ngassa (R) pose with Ambassador Henri Etoundi Essomba



Cameroon's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Henri Etoundi Essomba with MATA-USA delegation

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nity.

In a significant step toward advancing its mission and establishing relationships with key institutions, a delegation from MATA-USA paid a courtesy visit to Cameroon's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Henri Etoundi Essomba, at the Embassy of Cameroon in Washington, D.C., on September 18, 2026. The delegation, comprising members of the association's executive leadership and other representatives, used the meeting to formally introduce MATA-USA and present its vision, mission and objectives.

During the discussions, the association outlined its commitment to mobilizing members of the Mamfe community and friends of Mamfe in the United States to contribute to initiatives intended to improve the wellbeing of individuals and families in Mamfe Town. MATA-USA identified education, health, economic empowerment, humanitarian assistance and social welfare among its principal areas of focus. The organization said its long-term objective is to develop sustainable, community-driven initiatives capable of making a meaningful contribution to Mamfe Town and its residents.

Explaining the motivation behind the establishment of MATA-USA, the association's Executive President, Dr. Michael Nkongho, said the organization was founded on a shared desire to bring people together in service to their commu-

"MATA-USA was established to bring together people who share a connection to and interest in Mamfe Town, regardless of their professional, social, cultural, ethnic or religious backgrounds, and provide a platform through which we can collectively contribute to the wellbeing and development of our community," Dr. Nkongho said. "Our goal is to harness the knowledge, experience, resources and goodwill of our members and partners to support meaningful and sustainable initiatives that can positively impact the lives of the people of Mamfe Town."

The meeting also provided an opportunity for the association to discuss constructive engagement with Cameroon's diplomatic mission in the United States and to better understand how diaspora-based community organizations can contribute to development efforts in their communities of origin.

Ambassador Etoundi Essomba welcomed the establishment of MATA-USA and expressed his readiness to support the association within the scope of his ability and office. "I warmly welcome this initiative and want the association to know of my readiness to support its efforts to the extent that I am able," Ambassador Etoundi Essomba said. The Ambassador also encouraged the association's leadership and members as they work to stren-

then the organization and pursue its community-focused objectives.

MATA-USA representatives described the meeting as an important milestone for the young association and an opportunity to reaffirm the principles on which the organization was established: unity, service, accountability and community development.

The association is being steered in its formative stage by a pioneer executive led by Dr. Nkongho, with Dr. Rebecca Etta Ngassa serving as Vice President and Dr. James Ayuk as Secretary General. Other members of the leadership team are Mrs. Grace Tabi Nnoko, Assistant Secretary General; Mr. Francis Forcham Dohmusi, Financial Secretary; Mrs. Mercy Dongmo, Treasurer; Mr. Samuel Nyambi Takem, Protocol Officer; and Mrs. Glory Besong, Public Relations Officer. Together, the pioneer leadership is tasked with building the association's institutional foundation, encouraging member participation and translating its vision into sustainable programs and partnerships that can benefit Mamfe Town.

The Washington meeting forms part of those broader efforts to strengthen MATA-USA's organizational structures and establish constructive relationships with institutions and stakeholders whose expertise, experience and support could contribute to its objectives. Operating under the motto, "Unity in Service, Stren-

gth in Community," MATA-USA brings together individuals from diverse professional, social, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds united by a shared commitment to the wellbeing and development of Mamfe Town.

The association says its approach will emphasize inclusiveness, collaboration and accountability, while encouraging members to contribute their professional expertise, experience, resources and networks toward initiatives that respond to identified community needs. As MATA-USA moves from its formative stage toward implementing its objectives, its immediate priorities include strengthening institutional capacity, expanding community participation and identifying initiatives through which members and partners can make sustainable contributions to Mamfe Town.

Its leadership says the broader vision is to build an enduring organization capable of harnessing the collective strengths of the Mamfe community in the United States while fostering partnerships with individuals and institutions that share its commitment to community development. Through collaboration, accountability and sustained engagement, MATA-USA hopes to establish itself as a platform through which members of the Mamfe community in the United States and other supporters can contribute meaningfully to the social and economic development of Mamfe Town.