

KLW BRIEFING

Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiation

Cameroon: Biya Offers Items Worth FCFA 600M to IDPs in Four Regions

By Ariane Foguem | December 21, 2020

The Head of State Paul Biya has ordered the disbursement of FCFA 600 million to provide items to internally displaced people in the North West, South West, Centre and South regions of the country. A Ceremony to launch the first phase of the distribution process took place Monday December 21 at the esplanade of the Yaounde City Council under the chair of the Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji. The donation targets some twenty thousand internally displaced population from the North West and South West, Centre and South regions of the country to cope with the end of year festivities. Among these IDPs are those who fled from the Anglophone crisis rocking the North West and South West regions of Cameroon for four years now and the Boko Haram insurgency in the Far North region.

Cameroon Says Boko Haram Infiltrates Top Business and Political Leaders

By Moki Edwin KIndzeka | December 19, 2020

A Cameroonian official said Friday he had found evidence that, as widely suspected, Boko Haram militants have been establishing close ties in Cameroonian political and business circles. The revelation came after Cameroon's military arrested a former lawmaker for allegedly supplying cattle to the Nigerian terrorist group. Midjiyawa Bakari, governor of Cameroon's Far North region, on Nigeria's border, says that within the past two months, Boko Haram has been establishing ties with top officials of his region. He spoke via a messaging app from the northern town of Maroua. He says security reports indicate that Boko Haram has infiltrated some political, business and elite circles along Cameroon's northern border with Nigeria. He says Boko Haram accomplices in the communities supply food and money for the terrorists to procure weapons. Bakari says the military has been assigned to arrest those who have established ties with Boko Haram. Bakari did not say how many people have been arrested for establishing ties with the terrorist group, but this week, local media reported the arrest by Cameroon's military of a former member of parliament, Blama Malla, for alleged ties with the Boko Haram. He has been detained in the northern town of Mora. The media reports that Malla, a member of President Paul Biya's ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement party, is accused of supplying cattle and money to Boko Haram. Retired Colonel



Goats are being distributed in Maroua, Cameroon, July 11, 2019, as part of an empowerment initiative designed to prevent locals from being recruited by Boko Haram militants. (M. Kindzeka)

Zacheus Bakoma Elango Voted President of SW Regional Council

By Journal du Cameroun |
December 22, 2020

Zacheus Bakoma Elango is the pioneer President of the Regional Assembly in the South West region of Cameroon. The retired civil administrator was elected this Tuesday during the inaugural session as of right for the election of executive bureau members of the South West Regional Assembly which took place at the Buea Council chambers. Zacheus Bakoma will be assisted by Dr Chief Atem Ebako and other bureau members including Gobina Mokoko Simon, Commissioner for Economic Development, Takang Walters as Commissioner for education, sports and cultural development and Chief Foto Felix and Limunga Becky as secretaries. In line with the provisions of the law, the Vice President, Dr Chief Atem Ebako who represents traditional rulers will head the House of Chiefs in the region. The session to elect executive bureau in other regions is unfolding under the chair of the eldest members of regional councils assisted by the youngest.

Didier Bajeck, a security specialist and former Cameroon defense spokesperson, says while the military is stepping up intelligence to arrest the suspects, civilians should be on the alert. Ejani Leonard Kulu, a political analyst at the University of Dschang in Cameroon, says Boko Haram has historically had ties with some top business figures and politicians in Nigeria. He says it is the same situation in Cameroon. "Nigeria and Cameroon share so much ties together, cultural, religious ties, socio-economic ties," Kulu said. "Boko Haram in its modus operandi infiltrates the society, touch key persons at different areas. So it is something that has been a routine in Nigeria and in Cameroon when the president of the National Assembly said, "Il y a les Boko Haram parmi nous," such an information was not supposed to be taken lightly because these are people who are highly informed." The "Il y a les Boko Haram parmi nous" that Kulu refers to means there are Boko Haram members in our midst. It is a statement made in 2018 by Cavaye Yegui Djibril, speaker of Cameroon's National Assembly during a plenary session. At the time, Malla was still a lawmaker from the Mayo Sava administrative unit. Djibril did not specify names. Kulu said the government should not have taken such a statement lightly. Cameroon has also always accused Boko Haram of infiltrating militias created to fight the terrorists.

Pre-Election Violence in CAR Sends Hundreds Fleeing to Cameroon

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka | December 21, 2020

Cameroon says hundreds of Central African Republic (CAR) civilians have fled across the border in the past few days to escape election-related violence. Bangui is holding elections later this month and those fleeing into Cameroon say sporadic clashes are already breaking out. Local residents say Garoua Boulay's public square in the past four days has seeing an unusual influx of civilians from neighboring CAR. Gregoire Mvongo, the governor of Cameroon's East region which includes Garoua Boulay, says about a thousand people have crossed over into Cameroon since Friday to escape violence in the lead-up to the December 27 poll. Mvongo said the situation in the CAR is very troubling. On Saturday, the CAR government accused [former



A vehicle carrying the president of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadera, arrives at a stadium for an election rally, in Bangui, Dec. 19, 2020.

president Francois] Bozize of organizing a rebel alliance to attack the capital, Bangui, a week before the election. Bangui said U.N. peacekeepers dispersed armed rebels loyal to Bozize who were occupying areas near the capital. Bozize, whose candidacy for the presidential election was rejected, denied he organized any rebel attack. His opposition coalition on Sunday demanded the election be postponed due to the violence, but the government insisted the vote will go ahead. The December 27 election is seen as an important step in bringing stability to the CAR. In the past seven years of fighting, close to a million Central Africans have fled to neighboring Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria.

Cameroon NOC Puts on Christmas Festival for Internally Displaced Children

By Ali Iveson | December 21, 2020

The Cameroon National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSC) and Commonwealth Sports Cameroon have held a two-day camp for internally displaced children. Sports and other physical activities were used during "Festi Noël" - which was put on for English-speaking children displaced from north-west and south-west Cameroon because of political unrest. The two-day event concluded on Friday (December 18), with the children given Christmas presents. It is hoped that the event will have boosted morale, as well as offering other benefits associated with physical activity. Earlier in the week, the CNOSC Board of Directors met for the last time in 2020 in capital Yaoundé. Providing training for federations, how best to collaborate with the International Olympic Committee and preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics - postponed until 2021 because of the coronavirus crisis - were among the topics discussed. Cameroon has sent athletes to every Summer Olympics since Tokyo 1964, plus the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Games. Weightlifter Madias Nzesso won the nation's last medal - bronze at London 2012 - and the men's football team won Cameroon's first gold medal at Sydney 2000.