

Participatory Development Gov't Rewards More Performant Local Councils

■ The total prize money, FCFA 1.25 billion, will be used by the 30 beneficiary councils to spur growth in their respective municipalities.

AMINDEH Blaise ATABONG

Thirty local councils across the country have been rewarded by the government for their performance in local governance and development as well as their progressiveness. The councils, three from each of the 10 regions, were honoured at an award ceremony in Yaounde, Wednesday October 31, 2018.

According to officials of the National Community-driven Participatory Programme (PNDP), they opened a performance desk through which they monitored and assessed the performance of participating councils in the competition. In evaluating the councils, Regional Technical Teams put in place considered variables such as accounts management and budget execution, transparency and local governance, as well as the execution and follow-up of PNDP-sponsored projects. Some 336 councils out of 360 are said to have participated in the competition which is in its second edition. The other councils couldn't participate due to accessibility problem



Government is bent on effective decentralization.

orchestrated by insecurity in some parts of the country. As prize money, each of the 20 councils that made it to performance honour roll bagged home FCFA 50 million, while the 10 councils which distinguished themselves for progressiveness each received FCFA 25 million. The award money is to be used to fund micro projects. Bamendjou council in the West Region emerged as the most performant council in the country,

scoring 87/100. Somalomo council in the East Region got the Best Progressiveness Prize, leading nine other councils with a score of 60.12. Nguti, Balikumbat, Ayos, Tombel, Tiko, Elak-Oku, Kumbo, Soa, Obala, amongst other councils, were honoured. Alamine Ousmane Mey, Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, encouraged the local councils which made progress. He commended the council executives for adopting and practicing an in-

clusive approach to local development. Minister Mey said the initiative was an indication that government, since 1996, is committed to promote decentralization. For her part, Elisabeth Huybens, Operations Manager for the World Bank in Cameroon, promised the availability of the Bank and its specialists in accompanying councils in their development drive. One of the beneficiaries, Ngum Jerome Njioh, Mayor of Elak-Oku, said the situation remains chal-

lenging but they had to thrive to be performant. "All we need now is development. Even when people try to destroy, good people only try to build. There is no magic to success - its all thanks to hard work. The prize money is quite a big sum of money. Even when multiplied by 100, it will not be able to fund projects in our bank. But we thank PNDP because to have such an amount now is not easy," Ngum Jerome told Cameroon Tribune.

Assassinat d'un missionnaire américain à Bamenda Le gouvernement ouvre une enquête

■ Le communiqué de presse du MINDEF parvenu à notre Rédaction.

« Un groupe de terroristes armés a fait irruption dans la matinée du mardi 30 octobre 2018 vers 10 heures à Bambui, agglomération rurale située à 14 kilomètres de Bamenda dans l'arrondissement de Tubah, département de la Mezam, en vue d'attaquer la zone universitaire et la brigade territoriale de gendarmerie de Tubah, avec un premier positionnement au carrefour dit «Four Corners».

Vers 10 heures, le Révérend Charles Truman Wesco, né le 24 août 1974 à Washington D.C. pasteur à la Cameroon Bible Fellowship de nationalité américaine qui venait à passer à bord de son véhicule dans lequel avaient également pris place son épouse, son fils et son chauffeur, a essuyé un tir en provenance des terroristes embusqués. Touché à la tempe, il va être évacué dans un premier temps dans un centre de santé de Nkwen, puis, transféré à l'Hôpital régional de Bamenda où il va succomber à ses blessures.

Immédiatement poursuivis par les forces de défense et de sécurité, les terroristes, armés, vont riposter par des tirs, ce qui va provoquer un affrontement entre eux et les forces positionnées autour de l'Université

de Bamenda. Le bilan fait état de quatre terroristes neutralisés, de plusieurs blessés dans leurs rangs et quatre fusils de calibre 12 récupérés. L'étudiant camerounais Grégoire Nsabarang Ngeh, en 4ème année de l'ENSET de céans qui se trouvait par-là, a été blessé pendant l'échange de tirs et est actuellement pris en charge, tout comme le lieutenant Nkol Aganji Serge, lui aussi blessé.

Une enquête approfondie a immédiatement été ouverte autour de ce regrettable incident.

Enfin, le ministre délégué à la présidence chargé de la Défense demande une fois de plus aux ressortissants étrangers dont la présence y serait véritablement indispensable, de signaler aux autorités administratives et forces de défense et de sécurité, leurs mouvements dans les régions du Nord-Ouest et du Sud-Ouest en raison des menées de groupes terroristes et bandes armées qui y sont régulièrement enregistrées. Par ailleurs, il remercie les populations pour leur remarquable et patriotique contribution dans la lutte que mène le Cameroun contre le terrorisme dans les régions du Nord-Ouest et du Sud-Ouest».

(é) BETI ASSOMO Joseph

Killing Of An American Pastor

Government Opens Investigations

■ Following is a press release from the Ministry of Defence.

"The Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence

Hereby informs the general public that on Tuesday October 30, 2018 at about 10:00am, a group of terrorists who took cover at the junction known as "Four Corners" stormed Bambui, a rural agglomeration located 14km from Bamenda, in the Tubah Sub division, Mezam Division, of the North West Region with the objective to attack the University and the Gendarmerie Brigade of Tubah.

At about 10:00am, Reverend Charles Truman Wesco, an American, born on the 29th of August 1974 at Washington D.C and Pastor of the Cameroon Bible Fellowship who was on board his car with his wife, son and driver was shot by these terrorists who were on cover. The Pastor received a bullet on the temple and was immediately rushed to the Nkwen Health Centre and later to the Bamenda Regional Hospital where he finally gave up the ghost.

Immediately, tracked by the Defence and Security Forces, who were stationed around the University of Bamenda, the armed terrorists reposed, thereby igniting a cross exchange of fire between the

terrorists and the Defence Forces.

Report reveals 4 terrorists were neutralized, many others within their ranks wounded and 4 rifles recovered. The Cameroonian student Gregory Nsabarang Ngeh, of the 4th year at the Higher Technical Teachers Training College, fortuitously found around the vicinity was wounded during the exchange of fire and is presently receiving medical attention. So too is Lieutenant Nkol Aganji Serge, also wounded.

Following this another regrettable incident, an investigation was immediately opened. The Minister Delegate at the Presidency in Charge of Defence call once more to all foreigners which presence is absolutely necessary to always inform the administrative authorities and the Defence and Security Forces of their movements in the North-West and South-West Regions due to the actions of terrorists groups disseminated in those areas.

In addition, he thanked the population for their remarkable and patriotic contribution in the fight against terrorism that Cameroon is carrying out in the North West and South West Regions".

(s) BETI ASSOMO Joseph