



EDITORIAL

" THE OBVIOUS YET SILENT VOICES OF FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN CAMEROON'S POLITICS"

Velveeta viban

Africa 40 under 40 achiever

PAN AFRICANIST-HUMANIST-ACTIVIST



*"I am just as human
as everybody else
and we are all
dealing with battles
and struggles
regardless of where
we come from"*

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IMAGES

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RIISING AGRIPRENEUR

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EDITORS NOTE

In the month of April, for the first time in the History of Cameroon, 33 women sat in the Upper House of Parliament, following the senatorial election and appointments by the president of the Republic H.E Paul Biya. The news of an increase in the number of women in Parliament has been applauded by many as a milestone in the achievement of gender equality, but several questions still linger on the minds of many Cameroonians who desire to understand what this means for Cameroon and the woman folk in particular. This edition of 237 Women on the Move magazine, presents the facts and figures of women's political representation in cameroon, zooming in on the importance of equal representation as fundamental to more responsive, accountable, and democratic practice in the country.

We also celebrate female game-changers in leadership and decision making and find inspiration in their vision and persistence which serve as an example of what ordinary people can do to effect extraordinary change: From the first Central African woman to win the 40 under 40 achievers award, to the women pulling strings in Agriculture, these stories will inspire you to start now and be the change you want to see in the World.



***LINDA NEH N'GOBESING
EDITOR IN CHIEF***

In addition to our Woman for Woman page, we have also introduced a column to give a voice to men, and in this edition we kickstart with a rising star known as SOBADA from Ghana who is supporting the ambitions and determination of women on the African continent and takes pride in showcasing this through music.

We look forward to your emails. Please tell us about what the women in your community are doing and the men who are supporting the cause for gender equality. We would like to hear their stories and let the world also know.

Enjoy your reading

EDITORIAL: THE OBVIOUS YET SILENT VOICES OF FEMALE REPRESENTATION

The figures have been welcomed as improving, the political parties smiled upon as progressive and the country's democratization process lauded as inclusive enough. Twenty-eight female senators out of seventy elected following the March 2023 senatorial election in Cameroon and five out of thirty appointed by the Head of state as his presidential prerogative. Claps and cheers have been directed to the debutantes as they meet the already serving political matriarchs at the Upper House of Parliament.

On the administrative front, 35 out of the 360 council executives are female, and 11 cabinet ministers have been appointed into government.

These numbers are a far cry from what used to obtain some decades back. They can fool an observer into believing that female representation in politics in Cameroon is in its prime.

This couldn't be farther from the truth when we juxtapose with statistics from the country's elections management body-ELECAM, making up 48.8% as registered voters in the last elections, almost at parity with male voters, what can be the plausible reason women's presence still shies under 30% of the national political representation rate?

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Druscilla mokosso joki
Editorialist

"But we know how influence peddling and sponsoring can propel the "highly connected", who's only outstanding contribution to the political environment was to have been born male"

EDITORIAL: THE OBVIOUS YET SILENT VOICES OF FEMALE REPRESENTATION

Why will the country's electoral code enunciate a 30% gender parity rate, conforming to Beijing's Action Plan yet political machinations erase its satisfactory application?

Why will political parties, from the power wielder CPDM to strung out SDF or unapologetically forward thinking CPRN all lay claims to observing the 30% gender parity in lists or posts, yet relegate their female members to hand-clappers, chorus-singers, stylish hostesses and food caterers in political meetings?

Respondents to these questions will obviously hide the system's patriarchy behind the clichés; women are not apt enough, or intelligent enough, or capable enough, or influential enough or interested enough in politics. But we know how influence peddling and sponsoring can propel the "highly connected", whose only outstanding contribution to the political environment was to have been born male, and when a compelling female figure rises out of the shadows to heights of recognition and acclaim, the need to maintain the patriarchal status quo, will morph male rivals into perpetrators of gender-based violence, characterised by hate speech, harassment, threats and all manner of abuse, which misogynists say is the cost of doing politics.

Her looks, background, education, business, family, or social circle will be utilized as lethal weapons against the aspiring or respectable female politician. Little wonder young girls and women shy away from the political space, choosing to hide behind the safety, mental, physical and otherwise, that comes with exercising their craft, far from the madding crowd of politics, but with this silence comes lesser and lesser numbers, serving a greater harm to gate-keep women's voices on the national and international arenas. Spaces that so desperately need the feminine contribution and touch, in order for society to maintain and preserve values crucial to human survival, growth and flourishing.

MEET YOUR FEMALE SENATORS



SEN .NEBA NDOSIRI BRIGIT



SEN.DSAMOU MOUTIO



SEN.ENO EMMA LAFON



SEN.FOINTAMA HILDA



SEN.DJAKAOU BOUBA JULIENNE



SEN.DIN BELL MARIE



SEN.KALKABA SOUADATOU



SEN.NGANGOUBE AMINATOU



SEN.MIREILLE ADARE



SEN.AFANE JEANNE CAROLINE



SEN.ELOUMBA MEDJO



SEN. SALAMATOU ÉPSE MOUSSA MARTINE



SEN.MOSONGO ERNESTINE AKON



SEN.NDJOCK NTUBE AGNES



SEN.KOUNGOU EDIMA ELIANE



SEN.SOPPO SOPPO NGANDO N

MEET YOUR FEMALE SENATORS



SEN. YVONNE ASTA



SEN. YINDA YVETTE NGOBAMA



SEN. NICOLE OKALIA BILAL



SEN. ASSO ELISE



SEN. SOURNAC HENRIETTE



SEN. NGBWA BALA



SEN. BASSIROU SALIHOU



SEN. REGINA MUNDI



SEN. DIDJATONOU OUMAROU



SEN. BISSECK PAULETTE



SEN. ABOUT MARLYSE



SEN. AKONO BEGALA NAOMI



SEN. BINGUELA WAIDERE



SEN. PUENE FRANCOISE



SEN. ROUGAYATOU ASTA



SEN. SALE ZEKIATOU DJAMO

STATES LADY OF INFLUENCE

LONDON CTO DIGITAL WEEK 2023: MINISTER MINETTE LIBOM LI LIKENG GALVANISES SUPPORT TO TACKLE CAMEROONS BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROBLEMS



Cameroon's Minister of Post and Telecommunications Minister Minette LIBOM LI LIKENG was amongst over 20 other commonwealth state ministers who took part in the first ever ministerial alliance for Digital Nations in London United Kingdom this year. She exploited this meeting to engage international partners to find solutions to Cameroon's broadband connectivity problems. This edition's "States Lady of Influence" is Minette Libom Li Likeng. We sat down with her to find out about her engagements at the London meeting and how this will contribute in making the lives of Cameroonians better.

Your excellency you took part in the "CTO Ministerial Alliance for Digital Nations", what was this all about?

Let me start by pointing out that, on the very high authorization of the President of the Republic, I led a high-level delegation to London to take part in this very important meeting. The Ministerial Alliance for Digital Nations is an initiative of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) organised to facilitate collaboration between CTO member states and the information and communications technology (ICT) industry. The main objective was to discuss ICT issues with the aim of enabling each member state to contribute to successful digital transformation of Commonwealth countries.

Issue 02

This year, the session examined issues relating to universal broadband access at affordable prices as an essential condition for digital transformation.

Within this framework, Commonwealth telecommunications ministers shared with industry partners the difficulties they face in achieving affordable universal broadband access. In return, solutions were proposed to remedy the problems encountered, taking into account the context of each country.



Let's talk about your specific mission to the meeting, tell us what role exactly you played, and how beneficial this is for Cameroonians.

I was invited to share some of the challenges Cameroon faces with regard to broadband connectivity, alongside other commonwealth ICT sector ministers, we discussed ways of putting in place high quality telecommunications infrastructure that will enable users to access fast, reliable, and affordable Internet services. In line with the vision of the Head of State, H.E Paul Biya, which is to accelerate our country's digital transformation, the government intends to purchase equipment that will improve our broadband access infrastructure. The aim is to enable all citizens, businesses, and households have access to broadband services in order to improve the quality of electronic communications, and foster the development of an ICT industry.

How else did you engage to ensure that all these plans are concretized and that this isn't just one of the many futile conferences where so much is said and no action is taken thereafter?

Let me start by saying that Cameroon was endorsed to host the next CTO council which comes up in October this year, as you know it is never easy to get this kind of endorsement except you are doing something right. I think this is the first significant step because during this digital week, international ICT sector members will be in Cameroon, and we will have the chance to engage better alongside National stakeholders. I also had fruitful meetings on the sidelines with the ITU Secretary General Mrs.Doreen Bogdan, during which we discussed ways in which the ITU can better support Cameroon through ITU projects and programs. I also had a meeting with the CTO Secretary General, and we discussed the new course for the CTO. We are working towards ensuring that Cameroonians benefit from what I like to describe as the "Fascinating" leadership of Ms. Bernadette Lewis.



"Leadership is not much about being in a leadership role but it's about how you lead people and you can lead from behind, leading from behind sometimes means leading initiatives that propel girl's women and other people to become the best version of themselves."

Velveeta viban
2023

INTERVIEW: AFRICA 40 UNDER 40 ACHIEVER

Velveeta Viban



Pan Africanist, women's rights Advocate and girl child education ambassador Velveeta Viban is the first ever Central African to win the 40 UNDER 40 ACHIEVER AWARD. The 33 year old, Cameroonian who hails from Nso in the North West region is the founder of an organisation known as I am Human. Women on the Move caught up with her for an exclusive interview shortly after she received this award.

Hello, Ms. Velveeta Viban, and thank you for accepting to have this conversation with women on the move

Hi, Women. on the move. Thank you so much for having me. The name Women on the Move is very inspirational.

INTERVIEW: AFRICA 40 UNDER 40 ACHIEVER

Velveeta. Vibran

Take us through your journey, what inspired your decision to start your organisation, iamhuman.org?

My journey to starting my organisation was sparked by a personal experience, but it is also inspired by everything that happens around us. Growing up I was always trying to impose myself, to find out who I was, to find my voice and not be judged for who I was or how I looked or the things that I liked to do.

I used to be a tomboy, I liked to play basketball, I was always different in my own way, I tried to follow in my father's footsteps trying to write like him and talk like him, and most of the time people always remembered me as the sister of someone, or the child of someone but not very much as an individual with her own name, her own dreams and her own voice.

basically I was struggling with an identity crisis, and I always tried to stand out. It became even worse as I grew up and had to make some specific decisions about my life.

The years 2016 and 2017 were very defining years of my life, I went into a very deep thought process and when the covid -19 crises broke out, I was struggling to help my sister who was in and out of school, and people were always coming to me for help with the hope that I had the solution to things and before I knew it I was providing support here and there, so I started asking myself who I am really? and somehow the answer came up, I am just as human as everybody else and we are all dealing with battles and struggles regardless of where we come from and everyone is trying to be acknowledged and to be heard, hence the name of the organisation I founded "I am human". I could have said we are human but then it will be too general and I wanted it to feel like it's a mission for everybody because again I am human like you, you are human like I am and if we just remove all the labels and the things we place on each other we can provide help we can provide support we can hear each other out and provide solutions to the issues that each one of us is facing.

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"I am human like you, you are human like I am and if we just remove all the labels and the things we place on each other we can provide help we can provide support we can hear each other out and provide solutions to the issues that each one of us is facing."

VELVEETA IN ACTION



INTERVIEW:AFRICA 40 UNDER 40 ACHIEVER

The multiple award winner

You are the first in the central African region to be named a 40 under 40 achiever. How would you use being the recipient of this award to influence others, and how would it impact your career?



It's so interesting being the first Central African to have won this award but as you know we are always the first of many and I always like to say that I am just a bridge, I laugh about the fact that growing up I was never first in my class I always came second in things and by the way I am second child, and so I always got teased about having to second in a lot of things and I made peace with that but it doesn't really matter in which position you come whether you are the first African woman or the first Cameroonian woman, one thing I know is that this is an opportunity and a door opener for more women who are doing more amazing things and who will continue to do more amazing things to come forward, so I think first of all it means that I am going to be able to influence the spheres and the spaces in which I walk through where women feel like they are not being heard and they are not being valued, and they are struggling to position themselves.

I will continue in that light of emancipating people and women in particular to put their work and their words out there because people are listening to you regardless of if you think or believe in the potential that you carry.

In terms of how this will pretty much affect my career I think that there is no straight path to how your life goes, I think this will be an opportunity and a learning curve, a way for which I can branch out to working with other Africans and other women and other people in impact spaces, other women in peace spheres, and just work with innovators on the continent especially on the African Continent, to provide solutions to problems that we have.

I do believe in partnerships and I believe in community spaces, community solutions to community problems and I think that this award will be an opportunity area to propel my career to providing more solutions which come from a collective space because again I would not have done this without the team.



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Tell us more about some of the projects your organisation is currently running.

Most of our initiatives are around alternative learning methods and providing digital skills for vulnerable women. We have a signature project called oject PROJECT BRIDGE whose objective is providing business and digital skills to vulnerable women from conflict affected regions and women living with disabilities .These trainings provide women with skills which enable them to become economically independent to run businesses, to understand how to run their finances better, to take loans to start a business and most importantly how to capitalise on the digital era so they can use social media platforms to their advantage. It is a training program which equips women with these skills but also provides them with small start-up capital to enable them to start a business. We also do alternative start up programs for kids which include gender based violence mentorship programs in slump affected communities which I have been able to run in Cameroon, Nigeria and Kenya where we teach and train girls on how to identify and report cases of violence, but also how to help the teachers report these cases of violence. We have been able to provide other support in terms of alternative learning material like drawing books, activity books for children during the covid pandemic to help them learn and stay involved and engaged during the pandemic. We also provide livelihood support like food items and water and sanitation issues, especially from people coming from the conflict affected regions. We are trying to expand our activities to respond to the need of women seeking financial independence to enable them to feel safe and protected from violence.

You are a multiple award winner and one who is known to have succinct leadership skills. Are we expecting you on the national or international political scene anytime soon? Considering that young people, especially in Cameroon, are in dire need of leaders.

This is a very serious question, and I hear you and I hear what people say. In terms of being on the international and political scene, I have heard a lot of people and a lot of counterparts and colleagues say that I am going to be propelled to that space but one thing I know is that leadership is not much about being in a leadership role but it's about how you lead people and you can lead from behind, leading from behind sometimes means leading initiatives that propel girl's women and other people to become the best version of themselves. So while the door and the opportunities remain open if they come then yes maybe, but I am more interested in giving people the skills that they need to enable them make the best decisions for themselves for their families and for the generations to come so yeah if it comes I am very keen also on working on policy development especially for the rights and the welfare of vulnerable populations. I am looking forward to contributing in those directions. I am looking forward to contributing to the international development space and answering questions on issues that concern vulnerable groups.

On Leadership and decision making

The decision-making process in itself is very complex. There are multiple stakeholders and actors at different points in the journey and the process of making a decision. I think the complexity of the process might not be understood, hence why a lot of people are left out of the process. One of the things that we need to do as Cameroonians is to break it down for the average Cameroonian, to help people understand the different roles that they play at the different levels of the pyramid towards a decision, in this way everyone understand at their own level what their role is and once they do then they start taking steps to be included in that process. It's a huge opportunity area but it's also very complex and sometimes it starts with how we even make decisions and govern our homes, our schools, who we choose as class prefects, as school prefects at local Government levels, so people understand the power right from an education stand point, what role is it that they play and how much their voices matter in terms of how they are included in the process. Cameroon has a lot of work to be done, but we can learn from other countries and how they have evolved over time to include young people, women, and why not children are in issues that concern them. We can get there if we all decide to dismantle these complexities and use lay language to communicate what it means to be part of the decision-making process.

“Cameroon has a lot of work to be done, but we can learn from other countries and how they have evolved over time to include young people, women, and why not children in issues that concern them.”



Thank you for talking to women on the move, we will be happy to have you again next time

It was an absolute pleasure. We continue to move, I am glad that a platform like WOTM is giving voices to thousands and others that come after us to be able to talk on issues that concern women.

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MEN FOR WOMEN: MEET KING SOBADA OF GHANA

A RISING ARTIST DETERMINED TO FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS VIA MUSIC

Godfred Enyan is a rising Ghanaian musical artist who uses his songs as a tool for advocacy. Fondly called King Sobada, the young artist recently dropped a single in which he hails the African women for her incredible potential and calls on his male counterparts to support the woman folk.

When women on the move asked him what motivated the choice of words for the lyrics he said “I wanted to highlight the achievements of African women, to draw the world’s attention to the barriers they face in their lives daily and to show the world why it is important to break these barriers”

King SOBADA hopes that his message will enable most people change their perception towards women and create an enabling environment for them to achieve their dreams wherever they are. “Women have proven their competence over the years, African women just need more opportunities to live up to their God given potential” says the young artist who also describes himself as a Pan Africanist.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Ghana.

Follow King SOBADA on social media to learn more about his songs and for the updates on his upcoming projects

Facebook:Sobada Enyan

Instagram: king Sobada

Twitter:@enyan_godfred



“I want to highlight the achievements of African women, to draw the world’s attention to the barriers they face in their lives daily and to show the world why it is important to break these barriers”

WOMAN TO WOMAN:**DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN CONTROL? HERE ARE 7 EXAMPLES THAT NEED YOUR URGENT ATTENTION.**

By Munge Silvie E.

The invisible measuring rods and standards of life that have been set by society have an impact on how we navigate through life. We often hear people say “Don’t worry about what you cannot control”, it is a statement I make for example to talk my friends or family members out of a bad mood or difficult situation, but do you know what exactly you cannot control?

There are so many things in life that we may not be able to control like; wars, pandemics, death, people, relationships, family and even the air that we breath so why worry about these when you can start today and make better choices?

Here are 7 examples that urgently need your attention:

1. EDUCATION AND CAREER

Growing up my father always said “your education is the only thing I can give to you; it is the only thing no one can take away from you”, it did not make sense to me until I became an adult. In my teens, I did not put in any extra effort to make good grades, I knew I could pass an exam without studying. That was me settling for the barest minimum. As I grew older, I began thinking of how great my grades would have been if I had made the decision to be the best. The minimum grades have not helped me today. In my university days, I met a friend who told me he could not play hard without working hard, and so do the people he associates with. He had set academic standards for himself and kept his eyes on his goal alongside all the distractions life comes with. We had this discussion in a bar, and it has never left my head. It is from there that I started reflecting on the things that I can do for myself and be content. Every outcome of my educational and career achievements is a result of the decision I made that day. What I am saying in effect is this, your education and career ambitions are yours. Own them and control them in your favour.

2. ATTITUDE AND EMPATHY

Whatever you portray as your character is solely your choice, you cannot control someone else’s attitude, but you can control your attitude. It is totally up to you to decide if you want to be angry, sad, happy, or arrogant about a situation you are currently facing. Whether you want to make the best out of the situation or the worse is all up to you, you choose! When you exercise empathy, it cannot go unnoticed. That is when you begin to be understood, you must understand first, in order to be understood. So choose today to be empathetic and to change your reactions towards situations. A positive attitude is always ideal.

3. FOCUS

We live in an age and time when internet journalism is on the rise thanks to the upsurge of social media. But it doesn't mean you have to make your self an audience to this information, the first reaction for most people in front of any scene or faced with any situation is to rush to social media and share their thought or upload a video of the situation. You oversee what you pay your attention to, where you invest your time and where your focus is. This goes the same with what priorities you set for your life and how clearly you set your focus. This is centred around the things that mean the most to you, what you care about, and how relevant it is to you as an individual. All of these are sincerely up to you to make these careful choices.

4. MOOD

To some people, I am crazy and laugh a whole lot. To some others, I am always stern and serious and unapproachable. When I hear this, I have a good laugh and shake my head. This is just me choosing my mood depending on how I feel regardless of my environment. If you can control your viewpoint, your mood will follow. For example, if someone gets you angry, it is not because they have the power to choose how you feel, it because you let them get under your skin. Whatever perspective you choose to make of a situation is under your influence and control, do well to choose an enjoyable one that works for you.

5. MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

The amazing thing about this section is that discipline is the core of it all. In order to achieve a healthy mental and physical state that involves your body and mind, you must initiate a disciplined lifestyle to achieve this goal. Exercising is one of the best antidepressants you don't have to spend a dime on. And it is a win-win for you, using one stone to shoot two birds because it essentially makes your brain work and feel better with a lighter body and mood. You decide if you want to lazy around for hours thinking about the things you cannot control or take 20 mins exercise time for your own benefit.

6. SELF LOVE, SELF TALK.

How do you talk to yourself? Will you feel good if someone spoke to you that way or offended? You must learn to give yourself those reassuring and warm words you give out to others. You deserve them too; it is an undiluted booster for your state of being. Talk yourself into how you want to appear, how you want to talk, yourself confidence and your entourage. Take care of yourself and do the things that are going to make you happy and fulfilled. Buy yourself a gift, control what you eat, who you spend your time with, go on vacation, smile at yourself on the mirror, hug someone in need, get that dress you really like, talk to that person you want to, just do the things you are holding yourself from doing. You are in control of this buddy!

7. GRATITUDE

Oh, heavenly number seven, gratitude. Remember I spoke above about how I love the number seven? You will get to love it, too, after learning about gratitude. I want you to give yourself one task every day before you go to bed. Get a journal, and write down what you are grateful for on that day. It may sound childish and stupid now, but trust me, life will begin to have more meaning to you once you do this for the first seven days. Write down everything you are grateful for. It could be as small as just breathing air or as big as buying a new house.

Always remind yourself that it is such an amazing thing, a blessing that you have power over these basic things which are integral parts of your happiness and wellbeing as a human. Kindly let go of the big things that you can not control and focus on these small things that's not going you can control. It will have a mega impact.

ALARMING RATE OF FEMICIDE: CALLS INCREASE FOR COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION.



In the month of May 2023 several development organisations working to promote the rights of women and girls in Cameroon converged in Hilton Hotel to call for the strengthening of a legal framework which should put a definitive end to gender based violence recording a disturbing rise in Cameroon lately.

In a statement delivered by Cameroons minister of women's empowerment and the family professor Marie Theres Abena Ondoua, she said "Since January 2023, we have recorded no less than 27 women and young girls who have died as a result of violence perpetrated against them by men, in most cases a spouse or a relative."

Some representatives from other women's rights organisations present at the event however argue that the official numbers provided by the ministry of women's empowerment may not represent the reality, considering that several cases of gender based violence are not reported hence the urgent need for a legal framework to put an end to femicide."A specific law against violence against women is a must in Cameroon. We acknowledge that Several mechanisms have been put in place but that is not enough. Perpetrators must be deterred, especially when they are intimate partners or family members," said the national president of the Association to Fight Violence Against Women, Élise Pierrette Mpoung Meno.

The resident coordinator of UN Women in Cameroon Marie Pierre Raky Chaupin, was joined by representatives of several other international development organisations who fully support this initiative. Noemie Dalmonte, Deputy Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) proposed a ready to go solution while pushing for a comprehensive legislation "There are many provisions that punish different forms of gender-based violence. We may need to examine the existing strong legal framework in Cameroon and better coordinate it with comprehensive legislation. This is an advocacy that UNFPA has started,"

While encouraging civil society and Development partners to continue pushing for specific legislation that will "severely punish" GBV perpetrators, Minister Marie Therese Abena Ondo said new strategies will be put in place to combat these gruesome acts of violence, calling on communities to be active in fishing out and reporting the perpetrators.

**STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



SACRILAGE IN KEJOM KEKU;30 ELDERLY WOMEN KIDNAPPED



A video circulating on social media in the month of May shows a group of 30 women who were supposedly kidnapped by separatist fighters in the North West region of Cameroon where there has been an ongoing war for more than six years.

They senior division officer for mezam said in an interview broadcast on state media that these women were "severely tortured and abducted by armed terrorists in the village of Kedjom Keku, in the North West region, where armed seperatists groups frequently kidnap civilians, mainly for ransom" He added that a day before their arrests these elderly women were planning a peaceful march to protest against separatists.

According to a statement by the Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA), an NGO based in Yaoundé which documents human rights violations in Africa "the women publicly demonstrated the day before their abduction against the exploitative activities of the Amba Fighters and in particular the obligation imposed on civilians by the latter to pay them monthly taxes of 10,000 CFA francs (15 euros) for men and 5,000 for women (7.50 euros)"

Although these elderly women have been released many have described the actions of the kidnapers as a sacrilege.

The two English-speaking regions have been the scene of a deadly conflict since late 2016 between separatist rebels on one side, who call themselves the "Amba Boys" or "Amba Fighters", and the army and police on the other, both sides being regularly

THE RISING AGRIPRENEUR

By Munge Silvie E

Ufeitogwu Laura is the founder of Lauryanel's Organic Foods, a food processing business institute based in Buea, South west region of Cameroon where the 34 year old single mother of 3 was born and raised.

In 2020, Laura was shortlisted for a training program organized by the Buea Regional Multipurpose Youth Center where she gained skills in food processing. Eager to put her skills to use, she started her own food processing unit Lauryanel's Organic Foods where she produces hygienically packed safe and nutritious foods.

Equipped with state of the art dehydrators and other food processing machinery, lauryanel's Organic Foods is poised to save kitchen time for most working class people who continue to raise concerns about the time used in preparing ingredients for meals. According to Laura, another sure market for her business are Cameroonians in the diaspora who are constantly requesting specific foods from home which must be processed before transportation.



Although her business has only been running for 8 months, Laura has already started recording successes which include cash prizes from the Cameroon Youth Entrepreneurship Forum and Thomsonco Conference Pitching Workshop. All of these funds have enabled her to reinvest in her business. She was born without a physical challenge but got a partial disability through an accident later in her life. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and Anthropology from the prestigious University of Buea-Cameroon.

RUN WITH PURPOSE

Local and global opportunities for women and girls



Early-stage African female tech innovators are given insights into PR and communications basics through the Future is Female Mentorship Program, including developing a communications plan, business narrative, media relations, and more. The ultimate objective of PR and communications is to assist these women in increasing the exposure of their companies with various stakeholders, which will result in more clients, audiences, media attention, partners, and, of course, direct investment.

Consult the website of the future is female at www.thefutureisfemale.org for details

This is a one-year virtual boot-camp for girls and young women of African descent to acquire beginner to advanced data skills. For participants who have some experience working with data, this is also an opportunity to take part in projects and competitions on the Datacamp platform so that you can build your portfolio, gain hands-on experience and confidently take on data science job interviews.

The GirlLEAD Project - Promoting gender inclusion in tech and entrepreneurship



Consult the website of the future is female at <https://thegirlleadproject.org>

RUN WITH PURPOSE

Local and global opportunities for women and girls



Africa Women Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum AWIEF 9th annual Conference, Exhibition and Awards

Registration is now open for our annual AWIEF conference and awards, which will be held at the Kigali Convention Centre (KCC), Kigali, Rwanda, on 9 and 10 November 2023.

The ultimate goal of AWIEF is contributing to Africa's inclusive and sustainable economic and social transformation.

*Consult the website of opportunity desk for more
www.opportunitydesk.com*

Gender Just Climate solutions award

Through this annual awards celebration, we identify the most outstanding grassroots climate actions that center women's leadership and gender-equality. The three best projects each receive a monetary prize and are granted the opportunity to actively participate in the climate negotiations. The Gender Just Climate Solutions Award comprises of three categories: Technical climate solutions, Non-Technical climate solutions and Transformational climate solutions



*Consult the website of opportunity desk for more
www.opportunitydesk.com*



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