

## Limbe Bids Bye To Seattle Visitor

Limbe woke up on Tuesday, November 1, to see off their month-long guest, Tad Davis, who had been visiting from the city of Seattle, USA.

Tad, a member of the Seattle-Limbe Sister City Association, had concluded a one-month stay in Limbe, Cameroon. During his visit, he had working sessions with the Government Delegate to the Limbe Urban Council, Samuel Ebiama Lifanda, and various groupings, some having working partnerships with the Council.

Tad expressed satisfaction with his visit. To him, Limbe had much in common with the City of Seattle; except for the town's road infrastructure, which he said needs great improvements.



The Government Delegate to the Limbe Urban Council, Samuel Ebiama Lifanda, offering a gift of a carved canoe to Tad Davis during his reception at the Limbe Urban Council Conference Room in mid-October, 2005.

## Nigerians Pack Off!

One major issue of the month was the voluntary departure back home en masse of some 4000 Nigerians from Cameroon. They said that the main cause of their abrupt decision to pack off was the resident permit levy which has "become too high" for them to pay. A biennial rate of FCFA 120,000 is the current rate for all African aliens living in Cameroon. The departures, overseen by the Nigerian Consul General to Buea, HE John Abhulimen, began on November 12 via the old German-built Bota Port in Limbe. Though the program has been temporarily suspended, Abhulimen on November 29 said some 4000 have already left.

During his visit to Limbe on November 19, the Consul said the repatriation was a voluntary decision of Nigerians who can no longer pay. He denied allegations that the departures were linked to the Bakassi crisis. "The Bakassi crisis is already over. This has nothing to do with it," he said. The Nigerian government is yet to hand over Bakassi, an oil rich peninsula located at the borders between the two countries. The International Court of Justice ordered the handover to Cameroon in 2002.

## SONARA Marathon

Cameroon's lone oil refining company, SONARA, joined the queue of competitions on November 26, with the organisation of a 42 km marathon in Limbe. Eric Mbatcha, a high school student, from GTHS Nkambe in the Northwest Province emerged winner out of 157 runners who took part. The renowned sprinter, 22, did it in 2 hrs 34 minutes. Though he went home with FCFA 250,000 as his reward, he said if the amount could be increased it will encourage more athletes.

Catherine Gwang, 25, emerged as the best in the female category.



## Government Delegate in St. Briec, France

The Government Delegate, Samuel Ebiama Lifanda, returned from a trip to France, with news that two coaches from the City of St. Briec in France were expected in the days ahead. He said the buses shall be used to assist the transportation of students to school at a lower cost. Limbe and St. Briec have a sister city relationship.

Limbe Council Chairman, Andrew Motanga, and Government Delegate, Samuel Lifanda (second and third respectively from the left), pose with St. Briec Council officials during their October visit to France. At the background is one of the offered buses.

## Health

Nursing mothers of children under the age of five, in Limbe, joined the rest in the country and beyond to vaccinate their kids against polio on November 9 to 12. On November 9, the Southwest Governor, Louis Eyeya Zanga, urged the medical staff across the province to ensure that all children due the vaccine in the whole province are successfully reached. He disclosed that statistics show Cameroon, as of 2003, still had some 15 cases of the poliovirus.

He was speaking November 9, during the launching of the polio eradication campaign in Bakingili, a neighborhood village to Limbe.

Polio is a very infectious disease that causes paralysis, especially among children and is known to have no cure as such. Over 75 percent of cases are known to be in Africa and the WHO has been battling over the past few years to have the virus exterminated across the globe.

This campaign was followed on November 11, by the launching of a national census campaign aimed at knowing the population of Cameroon. Current estimates put it at 16.5 million, while Limbe is said to be harboring some 120,000 people. Results of the exercise, it has been said, will only be known in February 2006.



Southwest Governor, Louis Eyeya Zanga, pours two drops of polio vaccine during the launch of the polio eradication campaign on November 9 in Bakingili, in the neighborhood of Limbe.

## 30th Anniversary!

Government High School, GHS, Limbe, one of the town's oldest secondary schools celebrated its 30th anniversary on Saturday, November 5. Opened on November 3, 1975, with 103 students, the Principal, Mrs. Eyere Takor, told guests present that the school has in 30 years successfully turned out 18,519 students. She said children have been really longing to come and enjoy "part of their success story."

But owing to some acute difficulties such as the lack of a good laboratory, enough classroom accommodations and teachers, they have been unable to satisfy the educational quests of all who have come calling. The Secretary General in the Ministry of Secondary Education, Prof. Leke Tambo, who presided at the celebrations, promised that the government was going to come to their assistance.

"You all know that government efforts run slowly but surely." Tambo Said.

## Best Cakes!

Ethel Emade Esabe, 30, was crowned on November 20, as the best cake baker of the year. This was the outcome of a maiden cake contest that was organised in Limbe by a local NGO, Steward, run by Mrs. Tima Haddison. Esabe, a law student in the University of Yaounde, said she has been into cake baking for ten years. Meanwhile, Tima said her aim was to encourage the profession of cake making and to boost standards. She said that with improved standards, local cake specialists in Cameroon could make a lot of money especially in international competitions.



These cakes won the best overall prizes. One is in the form of a typical African thatch house: these kinds of houses are mostly found in the Northwestern parts of Cameroon. Beside is a cake in the form of a guitar. The two were produced by Ms. Ethel Esabe.