

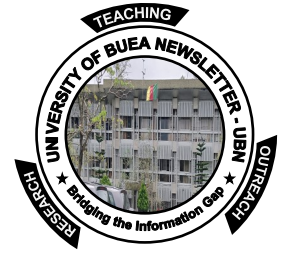


# UNIVERSITY OF BUEA NEWSLETTER

## UBN

Motto: Information Sharing for Empowerment

A Quarterly Publication on latest Developments in UB



December 2022, No. 2

## University of Buea Unveils Convocation Deadlock After Three Sessions



The University of Buea bounced back strongly to once again perform its academic ritual - the convocation ceremony. The Convocation, which officially marks the end of students' studies at the university had been suspended due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. However, these three years of convocation deadlock were broken this 2022 when the University decided to run for the first time, a convocation spanning three days from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. Pomp, merry, ecstasy and a spirit of achievement and fulfillment draped the municipality of Buea and its environs as UB embarked on this first of a kind Convocation Ceremony.



Putting in mind the backlog of students since 2019, the strategies to check Covid-19, and the institution's determination to respect the Anglo-Saxon tradition of academia, the management opted for the organization of the convocation in groupings. The first day of the convocation ceremony involved graduates from the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, and the College of Technology with over 2000 graduating students and 59 Ph.D.s inclusive.



This ceremony was chaired on behalf of the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education by Professor Ako Edward, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the UB Council. In his address to the graduating students, the Vice-Chancellor of UB, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga reminded them to take advantage of their background training to become not only job creators for themselves but to engage other job seekers into their web.

The 2000 students who were on the graduation ground had the opportunity to listen to a prominent and leading administrator in the Cameroon University System, Professor Dorothy Limunga Njeuma, pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buea. In an attempt to initiate and applaud the value of good character among the graduating students, the guest speaker thrilled the scene with her topic: 'Ravages of Corruption' in which she pointed out succinctly that the task of achieving an emergent nation lies with the graduating students. She did not hesitate to recall the Head of State's 2013 address to them in which he commended the valiant potentials imbued in young men and women of Cameroon. Speaking out



of experience, she noted the absence of discipline and morality among the youth. She described these core values as necessary ingredients to veritable success. As a way forward, Professor Njeuma called on the graduating students to avoid short-cuts and dubious mechanisms to earn success.

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology carried the day as the Valedictorian, Mr Cho Lawrence was from that Faculty precisely, the Department of Power Systems with a cumulative GPA of 3.81.

The second episode of the convocation took place on Friday 2nd December, 2022 with another category of graduating students from the Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters (ASTI), Faculties of Education, and Social and Management Sciences. A total of 4,342 graduating students including 99 Ph.D.s were all gathered for the ferment of degrees.

While addressing the graduating students, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horance Manga requested them to see themselves as generational thinkers. He urged them to 'foresee the future and solve problems of the future'. The Guest Speaker, an eminent and prolific scholar and distinguished administrator, Professor Ivo Leke Tambo told the graduating students that social cohesion is necessary to seek for ways in resolving the social and economic development problems facing Cameroon.

The Valedictory address was delivered by Wara Emmanuel from the Department of Educational Foundations and Administration, Faculty of Education. He graduated with First Class Honours scoring a cumulative GPA of 3.86 on a scale of 4.

The last phase of the graduation saw students graduating from the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Laws and Political Science. These students were called upon to go out and show evidence of competence considering that they will be judged by society based on quality. The valedictorian was Musa Logo Pride with First Class Honours scoring a GPA of 3.81 on a scale of 4. The convocation discourse on the final day was delivered by Professor Emeritus Kashim Ibrahim Tala. He exhorted graduands to be 'part of the solution and not the problem'

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## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS



**Prof. Ngomo  
Horace Manga,  
Vice-Chancellor**



It is my unique pleasure once more to welcome readers of the University of Buea Newsletter (UBN) to the second edition of its production. The UBN is still in its creeping stage and all of us have the obligation to make it a duty to see it grow to maturity irrespective of the current challenges. It is in our best interest to have many news platforms capable of transforming the unknowns of our institution to visible sights to all stakeholders. It is my pleasure to recommend that this Newsletter should be our watchword within the communication platforms of the University of Buea.

I want to note one thing very clear about the Newsletter. The publication of the first edition was not easy taking into consideration that it was only introduced in the middle of the financial year. This means procuring finances for its publication was difficult. I really do appreciate the DVC/RCB for crossing over all the difficulties - even working at odd hours - to finally see the first edition go operational. Due to the necessity of the Newsletter to be permanent in our academic milieu, the management saw it very crucial to officially introduce the Newsletter into the 2023 programme of the University. I therefore call on the DVC/RCB to continue paddling the canoe of news events of the University of Buea through the UBN with relentless commitment. The UBN has come to stay!

This second edition of the University of Buea Newsletter is coming at the end of 2022. Indeed, coming to bid us farewell and open another chapter of our mission: teaching, research and outreach for the forthcoming year. The current edition has taken stock of the major events ending the year. These events, including the historic organization of the convocation for three days, give us resounding memories. They also demonstrate as an institution, we are making progress amidst the challenges we face, just like any other academic institution.

As Vice-Chancellor, I will like to use this medium to thank all the staff who worked immensely for the successful end of the year 2022. I also thank the students for their collaboration. We all worked hard in our different functions to give this institution a facelift. Again, this can be seen more importantly in our end of year graduation ceremony indicating our level of success in teaching. There is also clear evidence in our attempt to maintain a balanced level of commitment with all our partners, all in the same vein to achieve our mission. Once again, I want to thank all the staff individually, each in his/her own sphere of competence for making the University of Buea, 'The Place to Be'.

I will like to use this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research, Cooperation and Relations with the Business World, for seeing the need as a communication expert to explore the importance of bringing to limelight, the Newsletter closer to us as a university. We equally appreciate his very supportive team.

This is a festive period in our calendar. The UBN takes this opportunity to wish all of you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023. We look forward to meeting you in January for the continuation of our mandate as promoters of the mission and vision of the University of Buea.

## University of Buea Witnesses Another Wave of Appointments

Barely four months after the Presidential Decree uplifting deserving appointees to other positions of responsibility, another strong tornado swept over the mountain ridges of the University of Buea putting some staff into new functions. Following the Ministerial Circular No.220255/MINESUP of 9 November 2022, the Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques Fame Ndongu, out of necessity of service, appointed some staff of the University of Buea as well as other deserving Cameroonians to some key positions ranging from academic to non-academic responsibilities. The November 9 2022 appointments cut across all the establishments and central services with the exception of the Faculty of Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Engineering and Technology and College of Technology.

The University of Buea recorded a total of 37 appointments. The newly appointed staff were raised to the positions of Dean of Studies, Vice-Deans, Heads of Division, Heads of Department, Heads of Service and Faculty Officers. The numerical value of the appointments is as follows:

S/N	Position	Number
1	Dean of Studies	1
2	Vice-Dean	2
3	HOD	19
4	HOS	13
5	Faculty Officer	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

The UBN went further to highlight the peculiarity of these appointments. Prominent amongst these changes are the positions of the two Vice-Deans. The new Vice-Dean in charge of Studies and Students Affairs, Faculty of Social and Management Sciences, Dr. Dorothy Forsac was formerly serving as the Head of Division, Cooperation under the service of the DVC/RCB. Another prominent appointee this time is Dr. Mukah Samuel, formerly a Lecturer, was appointed as Vice-Dean in charge of Programmes and Academic Affairs, Faculty of Social and Management Sciences.

The positions of the Faculty Officers of Education and Arts were swapped. At the Directorate of Development, two positions were swapped also; the Head of Division for Physical Plant was moved to the Division for Maintenance while the Head of Division for Maintenance was moved to the Division for Physical Plant.

The newly appointed staff were installed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. The occasion which took place at the Dorothy Limunga Njeuma Amphitheatre

was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga. He was flanked by his close collaborators. Appointees, some important dignitaries, well-wishers and members of the University community answered present at the installation ceremony.

After the installation rituals performed by the Vice-Chancellor and Director of Administrative Affairs, Dr Asongalem Emmanuel, the former mounted the rostrum once more to congratulate the newly appointed officials. He reminded appointees of the task ahead. This includes assisting the University of Buea in paddling smoothly, its triple mission (teaching, research and outreach) successfully end. While attaching administrative importance and validity to the newly appointed officials, the VC announced that their appointments received the Prime Minister’s recognition and approval before it was made public by the Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques Fame Ndongu.

To grace the solemn occasion, Mr Percy Abain, a student of the University of Buea was officially presented to the stakeholders as winner of the First Prize for Solo Singing during the 2022 University Festival of Arts and Culture (UNIFAC) which took place in Yaounde. The solo singer laureate was given the opportunity to replay the tape that earned him the award. In his song, “Cry for Peace”, a blend of empathic lyrics for peace, the soloist thrilled the audience with a wonderful voice clearly recounting the essence to reestablish peace. As the lyrics went down deep into the spine of the audience, the resonance of the music kept tickling in the minds of the listeners and in the midst of this classic piece, some people could not hold back tears to complement their joy.

Though UB could not offer the young artist an additional award for his beautiful and creative soul searching song, the evidence was clear that he deserved the music award as the audience took turns to compensate him with tokens, led by the Vice-Chancellor.

Similarly, Percy Abain was winner of the “ Using Music to Preach Peace” competition of 14th November 2021 organized by the UN Office of Disarmament.



**UB's Maiden Research Conference Breaks New Grounds in the Research History of the Institution**

The Research Office under the mentorship and counseling of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research, Cooperation and Relations with the Business World, Professor Kingsley Lyonga Ngange on October 25th 2022 organized the first ever research conference of the University of Buea. The conference which targeted postgraduate students and newly recruited Assistant Lectures was organized on the theme "Enhancing the Capacity of Emerging Researchers".

The high turnout of the event was a clear indication that the ongoing process of revamping research in UB has resounding effect on both students and teachers. The conference had in attendance foreign dignitaries notably Professor Victor Mbarika, President of ICT University who attended in person from the United States of America.

In his opening remarks, the representative of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nol Alembong appreciated the ingenuity of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor/RCB for initiating the research conference, Professor Joyce Endeley for being available to present the keynote address, as well as the Professor Victor Mbarika for attending the conference.

The keynote address presented by Professor Joyce Endeley emphasized that research is an integral part of seeking solutions to societal problems. In her own words, "if you cannot solve societal problems, you are not a researcher". The maiden conference gave birth to a new information platform in UB: the University of Buea Newsletter. To paint a good picture of the state of research in the institution, the Head of Division for Research and Publications, Dr Serephine Esemu presented in a coherent manner, what it takes to do good research and what the University has achieved over the years in terms of research.

Various professors from UB took turns to drill attendees with their experiences in research and grant writing. Professor Samuel Wanji, in his presentation on the 'Importance of Research' was able to catapult the necessity of research in our contemporary world.

Professor Ghogomou Stephen with his experience as a grant winner exposed the secrets behind the process.

Most importantly, he stated that institutional credibility is instrumental in grant proposal writing. Taking the next turn, Professor Christopher Ngosong thrilled the audience on 'The Essence of Scientific Writing' while Professor Achidi Eric identified the various types of research grants and called on emerging researchers to tract grant through funding agencies, adverts, professional and institutional newsletters, colleagues, research offices and internet sources.

Professor Kingsley Ngange presented on communication and commercialization of research findings. Meanwhile, Professor Rosemary Shafack spoke on research ethics. Dr. Mathew Forka also presented on the need for interdisciplinary research.

In his closing remarks, the Vice-Chancellor's representative expressed profound satisfaction with the conference proceedings. He thanked the DVC/RCB for his ingenuity in making the conference a success. The VC's representative, because of the impressive output of the conference, asked for the same kind of conference in 2023, with a change of status from national to international.

The unnoticeably long conference came to an end with broad smiles of gratitude from emerging researchers and students who were opportune to listen to those who matter in research.

This maiden conference was digitally broadcast for participants in different parts of the world through zoom and other social media platforms.



## UBN Unveils the Institution’s Potentials for Research

Research will continue to remain an integral component in development irrespective of the advanced state of a society. To this effect, and considering the importance of research, the University of Buea Newsletter (UBN) team made a tour taking stock of all what UB has to render emerging researchers and students for a career profile.

The very important factor to guide and guarantee a good research and consequently good result is the availability of personnel. The University of Buea is proud of its competent and qualified staff whose prowess have taken them far and wide and at times, beyond the national frontiers. The UBN notes that the teaching staff of professorial rank at the time of UB’s creation in 1993, was less than 5%. Today, the story has metamorphosed not only in quality but quantity as seen in the table below:

S/N	Grade	Number
1	Professors	42
2	Associate Professors	95
3	Lecturers	222
4	Assistant Lecturers	242
<b>Total</b>		<b>601</b>

Over the years, the institution has emerged strong in terms of the quality and number of staff available to enhance research. With this increasing number of Professors and Associate Professors, UB continues to be a pacesetter in research, making great strides in international competitive grants.

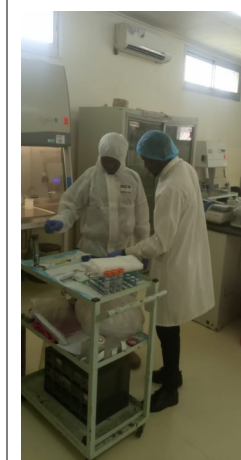
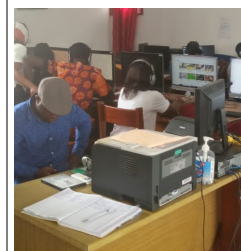
Foremost to this trend, is UB’s potential to enhance continuous growth in research through the research office. In this light, the office has made available and very accessible several instruments to govern research. The latest ground breaking achievement the office is putting together is the first ever Institutional Review Board. It is already at an advanced stage.

This document will become operational within the shortest possible time and its application will greatly enhance research. In addition to this, is a good work team which is readily available to assist the researchers irrespective of the constraints.

The proliferation of research activities in the University ranging from internal, national to international standards has also been due to the availability of research centres and laboratories. These laboratories and research centres are housed by different establishments of the institution as presented in the table below:

S/N	Establishment	Lab/research centre	Areas of Research
1	COT	* EE-Telecom lab * Computer lab * EE-Power lab	Design Projects Networking Power systems
2	FET	Demonstration unit for Wind Energy	Wind energy
3	Science	- Plant Ecology lab - Life Sciences Teaching lab - Biotechnology - Laboratory for Emerging Infectious Diseases	- Biomedical science - To curb the effects of emerging infectious disease
4	FED	UNESCO Chair on Special Education Needs	Training in Special Needs Education
5	FSMS	Journalism and Mass Communication - Charlot Lab (Radio and TV) - Communication Research Centre	- Training on TV and Radio production - Training in Communication Research

In addition to the research centers and laboratories (FAVM’s Rhizobiology lab and FHS’s D-SINE Africa lab have been treated in this edition of the newsletter), the university is blessed with a good library and digital facilities. All these facilities have greatly facilitated research and it is hoped that with these, emerging researchers and students have the background to become prominent researchers.



## UB Awards Funding to Two Projects through the Income Generating Project Scheme



Still in an attempt to continue the sustainability of the income generating projects enunciated in the articles launching the Incubator Projects at the University of Buea, a second phase of this project was launched to select two projects in addition to the already existing project.

To this effect, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga on 26th September made a call inviting researchers and research teams interested in developing incubation units to submit a two-page pre-proposal for possible funding to the tune of ten million (10,000,000) FCFA. In a quick response to this, the Research Office received 06 applications from researchers and research teams competing for the available funds to run the second phase of income generating projects.



After expert reviews were made on these projects, 3 were shortlisted to be presented for more scrutiny in order to select just the best of the projects. The 3 shortlisted projects were: Up-grading of a small scale water processing and bottling project in the University of Buea, (UB-SPRINGS); Designing of a sustainable self-charging Pure Electric Vehicle for Campus Use, and Sustainable Fabric Design and Textile transformation in the University of Buea.

The presentation of these selected projects by the Principal Investigators vying for the award took place on 2 November 2022 at the Amphitheatre 150C. Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor/RCB, Professor Kingsley Ngange reiterated that the incubator project would serve the outreach mission of the University. Amongst those who witnessed the presentations were a powerful selection team made up of competent, leading and experienced scientists, researchers and principal investigators in different capacities.



The scene was opened with a presentation from Dr. Mbua Lyonga Roy assisted by Dr Nkwatoh Anthanaus on the UB-SPRINGS project. In 30 minutes, the

presenters drilled the audience on the importance of funding the project. This was followed by the presentation on Pure Electric Vehicle by Professor Tanyi Emmanuel. He attested to the existence of electric vehicles in the western world but whose inadaptability to the African context, Cameroon not exempted, makes the current project essential for funding.

In his presentation, Professor Tanyi demonstrated a good knowledge and understanding of the kind of electrical vehicle that could be worthy and lasting. His project is designed to invent an electrical vehicle to suit the needs of the University of Buea intra-transport services.

Lastly, Dr. Marcus Ngwa presented the Sustainable Fabric Design and Textile transformation project. He was able to convince the audience of his in-depth skills in this domain and the benefits the project will bring to UB.

At the end of this presentations, the selection team deliberated to evaluate the projects and declare the winners of the November incubator competition. Though the deliberations were tough, perhaps due to the high level of necessity of the projects to the contemporary problems at stake, the panel taking everything into consideration, declared the following projects to be funded: UB-SPRINGS and Sustainable Fabric Design.

As we pen off on this story, the Research Office acknowledges the efforts of the Faculty of Arts to be able to compete and win within the framework of the incubator project. This is a glaring indication of the university's commitment to dynamism and strict adherence to its initial objectives; income generating activities.



## University of Buea Continues to Spread its Scope of Mentorship

The University of Buea once more has recorded on its list, three new mentee institutions: Life Trust Professional Institute of Competence (LTPIC), Tiko, Professional Higher Institute of Business Management and Technology (PHIMAT) and Tchonang Higher Institute of Bafoussam (THIB).

The signing ceremony of the framework and specific agreements between the University of Buea and LTPIC to set in motion the mentorship process took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 in the Boardroom of the Central Administrative Building.

The occasion which was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ngomo Horace Manga had a representative of the Minister of Higher Education. The Deans of the faculties hosting the programmes for which LTPIC was seeking mentorship were also present: the Dean of Faculty of Social and Management Sciences, Professor Yenshu Emmanuel and the Dean of Faculty of Education, Professor Margaret Endeley.

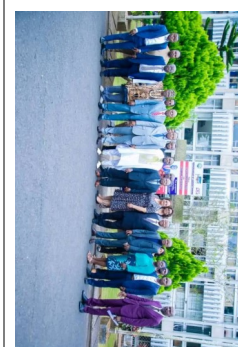
The Vice-Chancellor in his usual hospitality welcomed the guests from LTPIC to the academic mentorship programme. While appreciating LTPIC for the initiative, the VC equally emphasized the need of both parties to respect the terms of the agreement to ensure a smooth running of the programme. After the introduction of the officials to sign the agreement, the President of LTPIC expressed his profound gratitude for the warm welcome by the Vice-Chancellor. This was immediately followed by the signing of the framework and specific agreements.

Similarly, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, the curtain for the signing of framework and specific agreements for the year 2022 was drawn with the endorsement between UB and two institutions; Professional Higher Institute of Business Management and Technology (PHIMAT), Douala and Tchonang Higher Institute of Bafoussam (THIB). The President of PHIMAT, Mr. Nchhendeh Christian without hesitating, acknowledged UB as the best place to seek for mentorship and expressed his gladness for UB's acceptance which he saw as a milestone achievement by PHIMAT.

The Promoter of the Tchonang Higher Institute of Bafoussam, Mr Tchonang Elie, on his part rated UB as an expert in dishing out quality results and with this, he confirmed why the University of Buea is referred to as 'The Place to Be'.

Immediately, after signing the agreements, the representative of the Minister, Mr Mvondo Freddy remarked that out of the 11 State Universities, the University of Buea is the best in terms of quality of its products. He urged the University to continue in that spirit of commitment which is winning trust and confidence.

The Vice-Chancellor in his closing remarks thanked the two institutions for shortlisting UB as their mentor. The brief ceremony ended with group photographs.



## University of Buea Newsletter visits the TAKEOFF Project



**Prof. Wanji Samuel,**  
Principal Investigator,  
TAKEOFF Project  
Cameroon

The TAKEOFF project of which Professor Wanji Samuel is the Principal Investigator for Cameroon is spearheaded by the TAKEOFF consortium which brings together international experts (from five research institutions) in filarial infections. This collaboration is aimed at tackling the obstacles to fight filariasis and podoconiosis diseases, hence the acronym TAKEOFF. Filariasis is one of the neglected tropical diseases (NTD) caused by filarial nematodes of which more than 200 million people are parasitized world-wide while Podoconiosis, a non-infectious form of lower limbs lymphoedema on the other hand, affects an estimated 4 million persons globally.

Professor Wanji in his explanation reveals that podoconiosis is caused by chronic exposure to irritant soils that leads to accumulation of fluid in the lymph vessels, and is common in highland areas of tropical Africa, Central America and North-West India. Peculiar to this disease condition are patient morbidity and stigmatization.



Podoconiosis affected limbs

To address the challenges of filariasis and podoconiosis diseases, this consortium was created to provide innovative treatment and morbidity management strategies which are of utmost importance in improving the care of patients, reducing suffering, and the prevention of morbidity, stigmatization and economic losses.

The TAKEOFF project work pages are 9 (WP1-WP9), of which team Cameroon is strongly involved in 4 (WP1, WP3, WP5 and WP8).

WP1 had as main objective to establish a Filarial Clinical Trial and Research Platform (F-CuRE) across the multi-country study sites. In this regard, the International Council of Harmonisation/ Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP) procedures were implemented at all clinical trial sites, and GCP (and where appropriate, GLP) training for study clinicians, nurses and research scientists by regulatory authorities. Harmonised approaches on regulatory issues including monitoring strategies, and electronic data capture systems were implemented to allow exchange and comparison of data and trial outcomes across trial sites. Additionally, a bio banking unit was created for all biospecimens (blood, plasma, urine and other biological materials) collected during the clinical trials for future biomarker validation.

The goal of WP3 was to use a mobile phone based text messaging system to map and assess lymphedema burden within endemic communities by community health workers. In this task, TAKEOFF used the SMS system to

identify and map individuals with podoconiosis within endemic communities for the enrolment within the clinical trial in WP5. The CHWs were trained on podoconiosis diagnosis, case identification, information recording and processing and also use of the SMS-based system. The SMS based system proved faster, safer and more effective than the standard paper based method of reporting cases. This system was further developed and modified to enhance participant follow-up.

The clinical trial investigating doxycycline for treatment of non-filarial LE due to podoconiosis – a randomised, placebo controlled pilot trial, was carried out under WP5. Given that in filarial LE, a 200 mg/day doxycycline treatment for 6 weeks has previously been shown to halt or even reverse the progression of disease severity. The main goal of WP5 was to determine if a doxycycline treatment regimen will improve podoconiosis (non-filarial LE) condition. In addition, it had as goals to assess variation in vasculogenesis regulators before and after treatment with doxycycline, and also to collect skin swabs from treated individuals for microbiome study. The clinical trial yet to be blinded and the microbiome data is presently under analysis.

In the last workpackage for Cameroon, WP8, the main goal was to establish Podoconiosis treatment centers with goal to train people in the management, treatment and prevention of podoconiosis through international training workshops, strengthen podoconiosis prevention through distribution of shoes to children, and conduct podoconiosis control-driven research activities in the rural settings of the North-West Region of Cameroon. Due to the neglect in management of non-filarial lymphoedema, the goal was to create centres which will distribute the standard of care available for these patients and which are proven in other endemic regions.

In terms of capacity building, the TAKEOFF project has already graduated 7 M.Sc. Holders; 5 in Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases (ECID) and 2 in Microbiology. Currently, 7 are still undergoing training: 5 M.Sc. and 2 Ph.D. candidates. In addition, the project has trained 3 Post doc scientists. Locally, the CHWS that have worked within the project have acquired skills on diagnosis of podoconiosis and use of the SMS method in the reporting of cases of the disease.

In terms of advocacy, the University of Buea, through its Vice-Chancellor, signed an MOU with the Ministry of Public Health, through its Minister. This ensured the collaboration between both institutions and the support of structures of the Ministry of Public Health.



## University of Buea Grabs first positions in Solo Singing and Slam Competition during the 2022 University Festival of Arts and Culture

The 2022 edition of the University Festival of Arts and Culture (UNIFAC) coming after a brief stop of two years because of the threatening effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, was organized in Yaounde by the Ministry of Higher Education. The three day, 23rd to 25th of November event took place at the Siantou University campus. The event saw the participation of the University of Buea with a delegation of 51 including student artists from 9 different disciplines and staff from the service of Students Affairs representing the institution for the annual event.

This competition brought together student artists from various state universities and other higher institutions of learning across the country to compete and showcase the rich cultural values of Cameroon through their artistic creativity and knowhow in diverse domains (theatre, choral music, orchestra, solo singing, patrimonial dance, slam, stand-up comedy, internal décor, photography, plastic arts, oral and written litera-

ture). The main objective of the 2022 edition of UNIFAC was to reawaken the cultural and artistic values of students in institutions of higher learning in Cameroon.

Among the high profile dignitaries who were present at the opening ceremony under the auspices of the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education Professor Jacques Fame Ndonga were the Minister of Secondary Education, Professor Nalova Lyonga and the Minister of Employment and Vocational Training Mr Issa Tchiroma. Dr Watou Siantou, speaking as the host of the day thanked the Minister of State for entrusting and renewing the confidence on Siantou to host such an event to unveil hidden national values and talents among young artists.

The University of Buea took part in 9 categories, winning first position in Solo Singing and Slam. Other results of the competition are presented as follows:

S/N	Discipline	Position in the Competition	Observation
1	Solo Singing	1st	Presented a crowd pulling song for peace. There were 30 contestants
2	Slam	1st	There were 14 contestants
3	Cultural Entrepreneurship	3rd	None
4	Patrimonial Dance	5th	They competed in the Fang Beti and Grassfield Cultural Spheres
5	Fine Arts	7th	None
6	Plastic Arts	6th	None
7	Photography	7th	None
8	Stand-up comedy	13th	None
9	Culinary Arts	-	None



### University of Buea hosts Celebration of Ecobank Day 2022

Saturday, 12 November 2022 was not only an honour for Ecobank which celebrated its annual event- Ecobank day, but also an honour for the University of Buea which was seen as the appropriate and convenient scene to host the 2022 edition of the event. This year's event was celebrated under the theme "Financial Inclusion" as part of Ecobank's corporate and social responsibilities. The Ecobank team to the University of Buea which made the event a resounding success was headed by the Executive Managing Director of Ecobank Cameroon and CEMAC Sub-Region, Madam Gwendoline Abunaw, a UB Alumni.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research, Cooperation and Relations with the Business World, Professor Kingsley Lyonga Ngange, representing the Vice-Chancellor in this occasion, welcomed the participants who came to discover the secrets behind the theme 'Financial Inclusion'. He expressed his deep appreciation to Ecobank for featuring the University of Buea as one of the centers for the celebration of the 2022 event. The DVC/RCB equally thanked the Managing Director for always keeping in mind and reflecting on the slogan, UB, "The Place to Be". The Professor casted a retrospective scene on the University of Buea/Ecobank relation spanning as far back as 2013 with the signing and sealing of the first partnership agreement between the two parties.

Without hesitation, Professor Ngange listed a number of Ecobank's achievements which have stood the test of time and won the hearts and minds of the UB community: the refurbishing of the UB main entrance, the construction of a fountain at the UB entrance and the placement of an ATM at the University of Buea. With all these achievements within these years, Ecobank has displayed outstandingly, her intention of keeping the cooperation ties with the University of Buea colourful and active.

On behalf of Ecobank, the Executive Managing Director of Ecobank Cameroon and CEMAC, Madam Gwendoline Abunaw took turn to welcome participants to the 2022 Ecobank annual event. While recognizing the refined high profile training acquired from the

University some 24 years ago, she announced to the participants that her presence at UB for the event was "coming back home." Concerning the matter of the day revolving around the "Financial Inclusion", she noted that Ecobank is working out strategies to extend its financial services to all. With her financial skills acquired through training in UB and experience, she elaborated and thrilled the audience on the essence of financial inclusion.

In addition to the series of engagements by Ecobank to give the University a facelift as part of its corporate and social responsibilities since the commencement of the implementation of the partnership agreement, Ecobank this time, still as continuation of its commitment to UB, donated 20 brand new computers and headphones to UB. These donations are geared towards equipping the Computer Laboratories of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology and the College of Technology. The Managing Director in the course of the donation said that what has been given was what was available at the time and promised to do more next time.

While receiving the donation on behalf of the University, Professor Ngange appreciated the benevolent gesture and promised that the computers and headphones will be judiciously used to improve on the training of students at the University of Buea.

During the last segment of the programme which was characterized by a questions and answers session, participants had the opportunity to be clarified on their doubts. The Ecobank delegation threw some questions to the students and in return gave visa cards to those who responded correctly. The grandeur of the occasion was manifested through the distribution of more visa cards and t-shirts to participants meanwhile a total of 30 visa cards were given to be distributed to UB staff.



## 76 Newly Recruited Assistant Lecturers Join the University of Buea

In the ongoing process of the Special Recruitment of 2000 Assistant Lecturers initiated by the Head of State, His Excellency President Paul Biya, the result of the third and last phase of this scheme was released on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

In the communiqué released by the Secretary General at the Prime Minister's Office, Fouda Seraphine Magloire doubling as the President of the Central Supervising Commission for the recruitment of 2000 Assistant Lecturers, the University of Buea was given 76 out of the 573 positions to complete its quota. Apart from the Faculty of Arts which was not represented in the November 2022 recruitment list, all other establishments had the opportunity to have newly recruited academic staff as follows:

S/N	Establishment	Quota
1	Advanced School of Translation and Interpretation (ASTI)	3
2	College of Technology	10
3	Faculty of Education	03
4	Faculty of Engineering and Technology	4
5	Faculty of Health Sciences	10
6	Faculty of laws and Political Sciences	8
7	Faculty of Science	12
8	Faculty of Social and Management Sciences	7
9	Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	13
10	Higher Teachers Technical Training College	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>

Out of the 76 newly recruited Assistant Lectures, 92.1 % of the positions were given to young Cameroonians who have had no previous employment while 7.9% were awarded to those who are currently employed somewhere else.

With this new innovation in recruiting Assistant Lecturers giving priority to those without prior employment, it is hoped that they will easily be absorbed into the system avoiding the complex letter of withdrawals from other ministries and its implementation difficulties. The age ranges of the 76 newly recruited is between 28 and 44 in line with conditions which were put in place.

The University of Buea Newsletter congratulates all the newly recruited Assistant Lecturers and wishes them well in the dispatch of their duties.

### Beekeeping Training Workshop Starts “One Student One Beehive Initiative at the UB Campus” By Dr Ewane Divine

Bees are very important to agriculture, food and livelihoods. Their importance cuts across the pollination of crops, through the provision of food, medicine and employment. This is why beekeeping is one of the key livestock speculations in the emergence plan for Cameroon as stated in Vision 2035 and the National Development Strategic Plan (NDS30). In line with the vision of the state of Cameroon, the mission of the University of Buea and the orientation of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, the Department of Animal Science organized a three day workshop on beekeeping, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Farm (FAVM TRF). This is the third workshop organized in the department with the University of Buea Animal Science Students Association (UBANSSA).

The purpose of this workshop was to impart practical skills on beekeeping to students of the Department of Animal Science, as a reinforcement of their academic and community impact on Apiculture. After this workshop, Level 400 and first year MSc. students in the department started their student's personal work on apiculture (SPWA), which launched the “one student one hive initiative”

In his closing remarks at the end of the workshop, the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Prof. Mvondo Awono Jean Pierre - assessed the vision and efforts of the Department of Animal Science, as well as the commitment of the participants. He pledged to support the Department of Animal Science in ensuring that each participating student had a beehive to construct and manage. The workshop was facilitated by Dr.Cham David and Dr.Ewane Divine from the Department of Animal Science.



**Visit to REFODE  
Lab of Prof. Samuel  
Wanji**



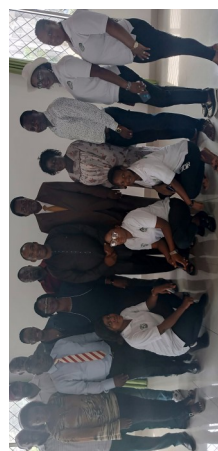
**Visit to NIDNA Lab  
of Dr Ntie-Kang  
Fidele**



**Visit to  
Biotechnology Unit  
of Prof. Ghogomu**



**Visit to Rhizobiology  
Unit of Prof.  
Ngosong Christopher**



**Visits of the DVC/RCB to Research Laboratories for better  
Comprehension and Stocktaking of current challenges**

In an effort to have a better comprehension on the functioning of the various research laboratories, take stock of their challenges, as well as seek ways on how administration could assist them to better enhance their performance, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor/RCB led a delegation comprising of 6 persons under his service to visit 5 research laboratories. The visits were programmed for two days; Thursday 15th and Friday 16th December 2022. The laboratories that were visited are housed by the Faculties of Science, Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine and Health Sciences.

On Day 1, Thursday 15 December, the team led by the DVC/RCB visited 3 laboratories. The first stop was at the REFODE laboratory with Professor Samuel Wanji as the Principal Investigator (PI). The second stop was at NIDNA laboratory with Dr Ntie-Kang Fidele as PI, and the third stop was at the Biotechnology Unit laboratory with Professor Stephen Ghogomu as PI.

On Day 2, Friday 16 December, the team visited two other laboratories; Rhizobiology laboratory hosted by FAVM with Professor Christopher Ngosong as the PI, and the D-SINE Africa Project hosted by FHS with Professor Chichom Mefire as the PI.

During the two-days visit, the DVC/RCB, Professor Kingsley Lyonga Ngange began each session by introducing his team and stating clearly the purpose of the visits. He made it clear to the PIs that his visit was intended to fully abreast himself and his service with the activities the PIs carry out in the various research laboratories. He pointed out that with this acquaintance, it would be possible to pinpoint clearly where the administration could come to assist the researchers in the course of their research engagements. While also assuring the PIs and their teams of the university's constant support, the DVC/RCB declared his role as an advocate not only to clear all the administrative obstacles impeding research but as a bridge to speed research at UB.

The PIs and their research teams on their part, took time to explain to the visiting team what they do, showed the team the equipment they have, the different compartments of their labs, the office spaces and furniture, conference halls, generators as backup power, the students they have trained, those working in the labs, and their challenges. The DVC/RCB took the opportunity to also interact with the Master's and PhD students the team met on site, engaging them



with questions as a way to ascertain their level of comprehension of what they do in the laboratories.

At the REFODE laboratory, Professor Wanji ushered the guests to all the units (Temperature, Microbiology, Histopathology, Molecular Biology, Insectarium, Operation and Semi Operation Units). At the NIDNA laboratory and in the absence of the PI (Dr Ntie-Kang), the Lab Manager, Dr Eni took the guests round. Speaking during the visit, Professor Efang Simon, a consultant of the lab told the visiting team that one of their objectives in the project is to train African Scientists to be drug producers, away from the position of drug consumers. At the Biotechnology Unit, the PI, Professor Stephen Ghogomu presented a brief PowerPoint on the history and activities of the unit.

At the Rhizobiology laboratory of FAVM, the team was received by the Dean, Professor Mvondo Awono, the PI Professor Christopher Ngosong and other project team members. The team also saw and visited the Agroecology laboratory with Dr Ndam as the PI just beside the Rhizobiology laboratory. The last stopover was at D-SINE Africa Project office where the team met the PI, Professor Chichom Mefire who took time to explain the content of the two projects running.

In his conclusion, the DVC/RCB appreciated the visits to the research laboratories and was convinced from what was seen that the PIs were at work. To this effect, he recommended that further visits will be twice a year; June and December. In his last statement calling off the December visit to research laboratories, the DVC/RCB called on the PIs to forward their objectives for 2023 in January to serve as a benchmark for his subsequent evaluation visits.



**D-SINE Africa Project of Prof. Chichom Mefire**