

OFFICE OF THE DEFENSE TEAM OF Mr. LUMA Albert and Mr. EMI Emmanuel

PRESS STATEMENT

Legal Team Resolves to Prosecute Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne then EP and Mr. Yosimbom Nkong John of CBC and various Field Pastors for Violating Court and Administrative Injunctions

The defense team of Mr. LUMA Albert and Mr. EMI Emmanuel this 10th day of January 2025 herein present an update of their cases against the Cameroon Baptist Convention following the amendment of the 2014 Constitution and Bylaws of the CBC by Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne, the outgoing Executive President (EP) of the CBC on the 10th day of June 2023 in gross violation of the following provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the church;

Sections 2(4)(a) of the Cameroon Baptist Convention and By-Laws of June 13, 2014, Articles 9(3)(a) of the CBC Constitution of June 13, 2014 as read with Section 2(1) of the By-Laws of June 13, 2014, Article 33(1) of the CBC Constitution of June 13, 2014, Section 23(1) of the CBC By laws of June 13th, 2014, Section 23(7) of the CBC By-Laws of June 13th, 2014, Section 23(5) of CBC By-Laws of June 13, 2014, Section 23(10) of the C.B.C By-Laws of June 13, 2014 and Section 23(9) and (10) of the June 13, 2014 Constitution.

Courageous Baptist Christians like Chief TAKU Jacob, Mr. LUMA Albert and Mr. EMI Emmanuel opposed to the above flagrante violations of the laws of the church and instituted Suit No HCMB/06/2024 in the High Court of Mezam praying the court to nullify the Constitutional amendment of June 10, 2023.

The then EP, Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne in reaction, dismissed them arbitrarily from the church for refusing to withdraw the above matter from court. They were forced in the circumstance to institute suit No. HCMB/10/2024, challenging their dismissal from the church. They also instituted suit No. HCMB/308M/2024, praying the court to restrain the then EP and the then Chairman of the CBC from further implementation of the 2023 amended constitution and Bylaws pending the determination of the matter in HCMB/10/2024 and in the interim, to continue to implement the 2014 Constitution and Bylaws of the church.

While the above matters were pending determination in the High Court of Mezam Division, the then EP and Chairman of the church went ahead to organize a decentralized election of the church on the 23/11/2024.

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It is for the above reasons that Chief TAKU Jacob, Mr. LUMA Albert and Mr. EMI Emmanuel had to seek redress in various courts and the administration. The administration and the judiciary in Garoua, Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam and Kumba suspended the decentralized elections of the 23rd day of November 2024 within the CBC. That notwithstanding, Rev. Nditemeh Charlemagne in collaboration with Mr. Yosimbom Mkong John and various Field Pastors, organized decentralized elections in these localities in total violation of the injunctions. The administration of Mezam and Bui also suspended the elections and in a dramatic twist of events, the same administration uplifted the suspensions at about midnight before the elections the following morning. Three days before the decentralized elections in Bamenda and just when the High Court of Mezam was to rule on one of the matters in that court, Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne filed an application for recusal to recuse the President of the High Court of Mezam from continuing with the hearing of matters involving the CBC. The application for recusal is pending determination before the President of the Court of Appeal of the North West Region. This application for recusal enabled Rev. Dr. Nditemeh to organize the decentralized elections on the 23rd day of December 2024 in Bamenda and elsewhere with Cameroon.

During the decentralized elections within the CBC on the 23rd day of November 2024, a new Executive President and Chairman were elected into office. The legal battle in court will continue as the unresolved matters will continue. Criminal matters will be introduced in Garoua, Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam and Kumba against Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne, Mr. Yosimbom John and various Field Pastors for violating administrative and judicial injunctions by organizing the decentralized elections of the 23rd day of November 2024.

Considering that Cameroon is a state of law, the legal team has resolved to prosecute all the matters to their logical end so that justice follows its cause because nobody is above the law as frequently emphasised by His Excellency the President of the Republic, President Paul Biya and the Honourable Minister of State, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seal.

Thank you

Lead Counsel for and behalf of the Defense Team



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Bamenda, January 10, 2025.