

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
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MINISTRE DES RELATIONS
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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
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MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
RELATIONS

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Yaounde, **17 MAR 2026**

PRESS RELEASE THE MAIDEN EDITION OF THE PETER ESSOKA PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

As part of commemorative activities of the **2026 Commonwealth Day** celebrated on **Monday 9 March 2026**, under the theme **“Unlocking Opportunities Together for a Prosperous Commonwealth”**, the Ministry of External Relations organised the maiden edition of the **“The Peter Essoka Prize for Excellence in Journalism”**, dedicated to recognising outstanding achievement in newscasting and animation on radio and television, for English-speaking journalists.

The award ceremony took place at the Ministry of External Relations on **Monday 16 March 2026**, co-chaired by their Excellencies MBELLA MBELLA and René Emmanuel SADI, respectively Minister of External Relations and Minister of Communication, in the presence of other Members of Government and High Commissioners of Commonwealth diplomatic missions accredited to Cameroon. Also present, were other personalities, including the General Manager of the Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), Mr. Charles NDONGO.

The five-man jury was led by the President of the National Communications Council, Mr. Joe CHEBONKENG KALABUBSE, as well as the following persons: Madam Rose MBOLE EPIE; Madam Gladys VIBAN, Mr. Peter ESSOKA and Mr. Robert EKUKOLE.

Following the nomination procedure that took place via radio phone-ins and messages during the annual Commonwealth Radio Quiz on Luncheon Date and The Mid-Morning Show (CRTV), from 2 to 9 March 2026, the following were nominated:

Male newscasters	<u>Ben MENO PUFONG</u> <u>Bennen BUMA GANNA</u> <u>MOKI Edwin KINDZEKA</u>
Female newscasters	<u>Druscilla MOKOSSO JOKI</u> <u>Esther KIMA</u> <u>GLORY MANKA'A AMBE</u>
Male animators	<u>NJECK Sylvanus</u> <u>Jackson NKEMBE NGOCHI</u> <u>Walter Wilson NANA</u>
Female animators	<u>Patience EMBELLE FOMINYEN</u> <u>YVETTE NKEMJI</u> <u>Lucy BUMA</u>

After deliberations by the Jury, the following emerged as winners: **the best female and male newscasters: Druscilla MOKOSSO JOKI and Ben MENO PUFONG, respectively; the best female**

and male animators: **Patience EMBELLE FOMINYEN** and **NJECK Sylvanus**, respectively.

The runners-up and third place winners for the above-mentioned categories, in chronological order were: **Esther KIMA; Glory MANKA'A AMBE; BENNEN BUMA GANA; MOKI EDWIN KINDZEKA; Yvette NKEMJI; Lucy BUMA; Jackson NKEMBE NGOCHI; and Walter WILSON NANA.**

While each winner received a **cash prize of five hundred thousand (500,000) cfa frs**, the runners-up and third place winners each received a consolatory cash prize of **one hundred thousand (100,000) cfa frs**. The Ministry of External Relations, Merdolf Sarl, and the Cameroon Association of English-Speaking Journalists (CAMASEJ) sponsored the event.


The Minister Delegate
Felix Mbarju