

**For immediate release, June 16-22 2015**

**Her Majesty The Queen awards Cameroon’s young people with first ever Queen’s Young Leaders Award**

Her Majesty The Queen presented the inaugural Queen’s Young Leaders Awards to three young people from Cameroon at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on Monday 22nd June.

Miss Mallah Enow Tabot, Mr. Alain Nteff and Mr. Joannes Paulus Yimbesalu were among 60 exceptional young people from across the Commonwealth who have been recognised by The Queen for taking the lead in transforming the lives of others and make a lasting difference in their communities.

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| Cameroon | Alain Nteff | 22 | Alain is a co-founder of GiftedMom, which helps to reduce maternal and infant mortality in rural Cameroon. The project uses SMS alerts to notify pregnant women about antenatal care and vaccinations for newborns. Alain wants the service to help up to 5 million people in central Africa. <http://www.giftedmom.org/about.html> |
| Cameroon | Mallah Enow Tabot | 26 | Mallah has worked hard to improve the lives of many young women in Cameroon including those at risk of early and forced marriages. Her organisation, United Vision for Women, uses theatre and art to engage communities and change attitudes. Now Mallah also wants to achieve better sexual and reproductive health for teenage girls. |
| Cameroon | Joannes Paulus Yimbesalu | 27 | When he was growing up Joannes saw the many sacrifices his mother made to allow him to go to school. To honour her memory, he set up a foundation to help underprivileged children.  The Hope for Children Cameroon project has helped more than 300 young people to get an education. |

Before receiving their Award at Buckingham Palace the winners met the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron at 10 Downing Street, visited the headquarters of global social networking company, Twitter and met with senior executives at the BBC World Service.

Mallah Enow Tabot said: “*I am so happy to be one of the first recipients of the Queen’s Young Leaders Award. To be recognised for my work and be presented with an Award by Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace is such a huge honour. I can’t wait to meet all the other Award winners in London and get involved in all the exciting activities that are taking place throughout the week.”*

This year’s Award winners are aged between 18 and 29 and are working to support others, raise awareness and inspire change on a variety of different issues including; education, climate change, gender equality, mental health and disability equality.

Following the ceremony on the 22nd June, Award winners will spend four days in the UK to take part in a residential development programme as part of the Award prize. The programme includes workshops at Cambridge University, meetings with UK businesses leaders, and visits to life changing social action projects.

To see a full list of Award winners and Highly Commended runners up, and read more about their stories please visit [www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com).

If you or someone you know is doing inspiring work like this year’s Queen's Young Leaders, from 7pm on Monday 22nd June you can apply or nominate someone for a 2016  Award at [www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com/).

**-ENDS-**

**For more information contact:**

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**Notes to editors**

**The Queen’s Young Leaders Programme**

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, in partnership with Comic Relief and The Royal Commonwealth Society, has established The Queen’s Young Leaders Programme in honour of Her Majesty The Queen’s 60 years of service to the Commonwealth at the time of her Diamond Jubilee. Guided by the values of the Commonwealth Charter, the goal of the Programme is to enable young people to step up as leaders and improve the lives of people across the Commonwealth.

**Award details**

Each year from 2014 to 2018, 60 exceptional young people will be selected to receive a Queen’s Young Leaders Award and become ‘Queen’s Young Leaders’ – one for every year that The Queen had served as Head of the Commonwealth at the time of her Diamond Jubilee.

As part of the Award, winners will receive bespoke mentoring and online learning provided by the University of Cambridge. Award winners will attend a week-long residential programme in the UK in June, when they will receive their Award at Buckingham Palace from Her Majesty The Queen.

*Criteria to win an award:*

\*\* Nominees will have proven experience of working to improve their communities locally, regionally or at a national level and will show evidence of their achievements

\*\* Nominees will be aged between 18 and 29 for the year of the Award and be citizens of a Commonwealth country

\*\* Nominees will demonstrate evidence of their leadership qualities

\*\* Priority will be given to individuals who have overcome challenges to achieve their goals

\*\* All nominees will need to be supported by a suitable referee.

**The Partners**

**The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust**

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust is a charitable foundation, established in 2012, to mark and celebrate Her Majesty The Queen’s 60-year contribution to the Commonwealth. The Trust has received donations from governments, corporate partners, trusts, foundations, community groups and individuals from across the Commonwealth, and its programmes work in alliance towards eliminating avoidable blindness and to empower a new generation of young leaders. With a five-year timeframe in which to deliver successful programmes, the Trust’s aim is to leave a lasting legacy, owned by the whole Commonwealth, to honour Her Majesty The Queen. For more information go to: [www.jubileetribute.org](http://www.jubileetribute.org/)

**Comic Relief**

Established in 1985, Comic Relief is a major UK fundraising and grant making charity which uses the power of entertainment to create long-lasting change. Its vision is a just world, free from poverty. It strives to make this vision a reality by supporting poor, disadvantages and vulnerable people in the UK and across some of the world’s poorest communities to change their own lives for the better. Discover more at: [www.comicrelief.com](http://www.comicrelief.com/)

**Royal Commonwealth Society**

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), founded in 1868, is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Working through a range of educational, civil society, business and governmental networks, the RCS addresses issues that matter to the Commonwealth citizens. For more information go to:[www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org/)