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PRESS & MEDIA RELEASE

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Criminal Complaint Against Bishop Michael M. Bibi, Bishop of the Diocese of Buea, Republic of Cameroon, Central Africa

This press release is issued to inform the general public that our organization, Africa E5 Foundation, Inc., has formally filed a criminal complaint with the Vatican Court, AKA Roman Rota against **Bishop Michael Miabesue Bibi** (hereinafter referred to as “Bishop Bibi”), Bishop of the Diocese of Buea, Republic of Cameroon in Central Africa.

When a chronological timeline of events is pieced together along with documentary evidence such as bank records, bank letters, articles of school creation, written affidavits, leasing bills, worker contracts, TV interviews, newspaper articles, emails, WhatsApp messages, meeting notes, phone logs, and binding partnership agreements, it concludes with all reasonable certainty that Bishop Bibi was not only a material witness to a series of criminal and fraudulent activities, but that he was the principal instigator and master-mind. Our 18-month investigation reveals that the manner with which Bishop Bibi went about the alleged criminal activities were fraudulent, premeditated and clandestine in nature. As one example, when the Bishop was informed that he did not have the authority to seize the bank accounts of Africa E5 Non-Diocesan Catholic Private schools, let alone have access to our foreign project accounts by several competent individuals and banking institutions, Bishop Bibi began to perpetuate and instigate a scheme to defraud our organization through falsification of documents, abuse of power, and spreading lies.

Case Background

1. Bishop Emeritus Immanuel Balanjo Bushu of the Diocese of Buea, Founder and Chancellor of the Catholic University Institute of Buea (CUIB), Governing Board of Trustees, granted spiritual approval to start two Non-Diocesan Catholic Private schools on August 22, 2017, CUIB Elementary Entrepreneurial Academy, AKA, the Academy of Talents (A&T) and CUIB Entrepreneurial High School, AKA the STEAM Academy (CUIB S&T) per order No. 351/J1/7/O/MINEDUB/SG/DSEPB/SDAAP of 22 August 2017 signed by Minister of Basic Education Mme Youssouf nee Hadidja Alim; approving the creation and opening of a Catholic Private Nursery and Primary School in Buea, South West region of Cameroon.

2. The creation of the schools was a special project created in 2017 during the heart of a civil war that was taking place in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon, which resulted in thousands of internally displaced children and families. The purpose of this project was to provide a specialized, world class education for vulnerable and underprivileged children with a focus on entrepreneurship. To achieve our objectives, we provided free meals to combat food insecurity, full scholarships to fight early childhood illiteracy, free books and uniforms, with added priority given to orphaned children. A total of 489 children benefitted from this opportunity to achieve their full God given potential, and approximately 213 of the children benefitted from both full and partial scholarships.
3. Bishop Bibi was appointed as Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Buea and served in that capacity from December 28, 2019, through February 25, 2021. During that time, he made a series of changes and decisions that were broadly beyond his scope of authority as an Apostolic Administrator in violation of Canon 428 which states that *“when the see is vacant, there are to be no innovations” (Sede Vacante nihil innovetur)*.
4. Bishop Emeritus Bushu was the competent canonical authority in the Diocese at the time to grant spiritual approval status to non-diocesan private catholic institutions such as our project schools. The details of our partnership and autonomous operations are well-established and documented in a binding partnership agreement that was consented to by all parties, CUIB President, Bishop Bushu, and Africa E5. Some of the key provisions of our partnership agreement are that Africa E5 is to be provided a space for our operations at the Campus of the Catholic University Institute of Buea for a duration not to exceed 8 years. Despite this, in 2020 Bishop Bibi, as Apostolic Administrator, illegally seized our schools.
5. When our institutions were seized by Bishop Bibi as Apostolic Administrator, he immediately ended our scholarship program for approximately 178 students, and he stopped the free meals, books, and school uniform programs. Worst of all, he raised tuition for the vulnerable children and their families. At the same time, he reduced teacher salaries for approximately 25 individuals without cause or authority and illegally terminated some of the personnel who were vocal about his abuse of authority and power.
6. Bishop Bibi’s action to wrongfully terminate some of the teachers is currently under litigation as he violated Cameroon’s labor Code. It is worth pointing out that while no child or family provided any financial support in the first year of the school, our foundation and partners made sure the teachers received competitive pay and a living wage to support their families.
7. Our binding partnership agreement allowed us to select a designated Country Representative with statutory and principal authority to represent our interest and act on our behalf in the Republic of Cameroon. The mandate and role of the Country Representative was to serve at the pleasure of Africa E5 Foundation and not the Bishop of the Diocese of Buea. It is within this context that in 2017 Bishop Emeritus

Immanuel Bushu selected Rev. Fr George Nkeze Jingwa, Emeritus President and Pro-Chancellor of the Catholic University Institute of Buea, CUIB, and current Vice President of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) and IFCU Regional President for Africa to serve in this role with all the rights and privileges contained in the agreement document with the Catholic University Institute of Buea as per Canons 278, 802, and 803.

8. At the instruction of Africa E5 Foundation and with the full approval, understanding and knowledge of Emeritus Bishop Immanuel Bushu, our Country Representative Rev. Father George Nkeze Jingwa was tasked with creating, representing and obtaining the ownership papers of our pilot project schools following policies and regulations governing the creation and functioning of Catholic Private institutions in the Republic of Cameroon Order No 351/J1/7/O/MINEDUB/SG/DSEPB/SDAAP of 22 August 2017 signed by Minister of Basic Education Mme Youssouf nee Hadidja Alim approving the creation and opening of a Catholic private nursery and primary school in the South West region represented by Rev. Fr George Nkeze Jingwa, using his personal address and telephone number, not using that of the church.
9. When Bishop Bibi, as Apostolic Administrator, illegally seized our schools, we had no choice but to create a new Private Christian School and relocated to a new campus in Clarks-Quarter, Buea, Southwest Region. Our new project school is called MWNPHS. For more details, please visit www.mwnphs.org.

Fraud and Criminality by Bishop Michael M. Bibi

10. Bishop Bibi clandestinely changed the name of our Country Representative at the Ministry of Basic Education without notice, power of attorney or consent of its owner. In the process, presented false documentation, and lied about the ownership of the School, and also illegally seized the school's bank accounts.
11. Bishop Bibi removed Father George Nkeze Jingwa as our Country Representative and as President and Pro-Chancellor of the CUIB on social media without any due administrative or canonical processes as per the statutes of the University and our agreement with CUIB. Later, he sacked all the Collegial Founding board members of CUIB who challenged his decisions as illegitimate per Canon 810.
12. Bishop Bibi did not stop the abuse of Power, fraud and criminality at this stage. On the contrary, he was emboldened. He used the information and documentation he had illegally obtained from the Ministry of Basic Education to make further attempts to gain access to our foreign project school accounts with a bank called National Financial Credit (NFC). This time, Bishop Bibi gained access to our bank accounts with the help of a bank agent with whom, it was alleged, shared the same tribal affiliations.
13. The bank accounts in question had three signatories approved by our foundation. Those signatories were: *The school Principal, the Country Representative, and the Project Coordinator*. We continue to use the word clandestine operation because during this process, Bishop Bibi did not inform any of the parties with authority over

the bank accounts. His coconspirator leaked all bank account details, log in profiles, and documentations. Our country team learned of this only when the principal of the school went to the bank to cash out teacher salaries for the month of May 2020 and was informed that she was no longer an approved or recognized signatory to the accounts. There was no consent or power of attorney presented either by Bishop Bibi or NFC Bank to complete this illegal transaction. The NFC bank agent who worked with Bishop Bibi illegally circumvented International and domestic banking laws governing customer privacy and account name change. Bishop Bibi's actions also violated his personal conduct and code of office including Code of Canons 220,1389,1391, and 1446.

Attempts for a Peaceful Resolution

14. When our investigation was complete, Africa E5 Foundation through our Legal Counsel Kathryn Bradley informed Bishop Bibi of our findings and gave him a timeframe to resolve the issue peacefully and amicably. On November 5, 2021, Bishop Bibi appointed Father George Nkeze Jingwa as Lead Mediator. After 30 days of meetings and mediations, we were presented with a framework for peace to which all parties had agreed to including Bishop Bibi. There was a joint edited resolution crafted and presented to us by the lead Mediator and Bishop Bibi. The affected grieving foreign partners who attended the meeting agreed to the framework. A few days after this agreement, Bishop Bibi informed us through the Lead Mediator that he would no longer sign the agreement. It was shocking and surprising to all. This was the beginning of the end of our negotiations. In January 2022, Bishop Bibi was informed of our notice of complaint of abuse of power, fraud and criminality. On February 2, 2022, Bishop Bibi's attorney emailed our legal counsel in Cameroon stating that Bishop Bibi should no longer be contacted directly on the matter. Bishop Bibi has declined all our efforts for peace, as stipulated in Canon 1446.
15. When Bishop Bibi was served with our criminal complaint, he not only failed to respond as earlier promised, but he went on a rampage to damage the public image of all the agents that were related to this project using internal WhatsApp communication, press release by Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province, false articles to other news agencies (including the abrupt expulsion of more than 90 members of several Religious Congregations which consists of priests, religious brothers and sisters). These are all attempts by Bishop Bibi to distract the public from the truth and facts in anticipation to the announcement of our criminal complaint.
16. Out of respect to his office and in compliance with Canon 1347, our attorney informed Bishop Bibi of our intentions to file criminal charges. These series of actions and activities by Bishop Bibi to damage the image of others to protect himself are in direct violations of Canons 220 and 1389.
17. Over the past two years, our organization has been very patient in giving Bishop Bibi time and space to settle down after he was appointed as Apostolic Administrator and ultimately as Bishop of the Diocese, hoping that there was an initial misunderstanding and that, when presented with the facts and background, Bishop Bibi would correct

this and do the right thing. Sadly, this has not been the case. The facts are very clear. The Africa E5 Schools were a co-tenant at the CUIB campus and paying rents for the space we were provided. We hired teachers, paid for their salaries, provided scholarships and free meals. The community knew this was a foreign sponsored school. We had autonomous bank accounts which were non-diocesan. The Catholic Education Secretariat has never had any dealings with our operations and activities. The Diocese of Buea provided no “contributory financial support” to support the running of our operations and internal infrastructure of the school. The Schools have a binding legal contract, signed by Bishop Bushu, the Bishop at the time, who was the competent authority to allow for this partnership in the Diocese. Despite handover notes and transition information between Bishop Bibi and his predecessor, Bishop Bibi continues to remain defiant when confronted with facts and evidence.

18. Due to mounting pressures from banks and from Christians over this imbroglio, Emeritus Bishop Immanuel Bushu had to break his silence to conduct a series of TV and Newspaper interviews on January 19, 2022. In that interview he confirmed all the things we are grieving about and wondered how and why his successor seized our schools and blocked our accounts. He stated... “when I was the Bishop... even I could not have access to these accounts.”
19. We are very saddened that all of our efforts to resolve this matter privately and amicably have been ignored by Bishop Bibi. His complete disregard and lack of commitment to Canon 1446 which states: “With due regard for justice, all the Christian faithful especially Bishops are to strive earnestly to avoid lawsuits among the people of God as much as possible and to resolve them peacefully as soon as possible;” leaves us with no other option than to seek further recourse, which we have done by filing a formal complaint with the Apostolic Nuncio for Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.
20. As a charitable organization, under the law of the United States, we have to abide by rules and regulations governing charitable organizations while honoring our fiduciary responsibility to honor commitment to our donor community and to our mission in assuring that people’s hard-earned monies are judiciously used with a high degree of accountability. We will continue to pursue all avenues available to us to bring a satisfactory closure on this matter. Bishop Bibi has the authority and capacity to end this debacle immediately by restoring our operating funds with NFC bank.

We would like to use this opportunity to recognize and express our profound gratitude to Emeritus Bishop Bushu, for his assistance in uncovering the criminal actions and abuse of power of Bishop Bibi. For all questions and public inquiries regarding this matter, please call us at (602) 620-7905 or email us at Info@africae5.org. To watch the Children activities and growth including ways to support them, please go to our website at www.africae5.org. Thank You.

Africa E5 Foundation
Communications & Public Relations Office