

# BUSINESS IN CAMEROON

MAJOR PROJECTS  
AGRICULTURE  
ENERGY  
MINING  
INDUSTRY  
SERVICES  
FINANCE

**Crecy Tawah Che :**  
Good and Cheap  
Housing is a  
Feasible Goal



P7-9

**Hassan Ali Bin Ali,**  
Qatari Business  
Magnate, on Visit  
to Cameroon



P17

## Cameroon's Cooking Gas Market Has Been Transformed in Less Than a Year



P3, 22 and 23



### RELEASE OF FRENCH HOSTAGES:

*"The Cameroonian people and I feel greatly relieved  
and very happy that you are free"* Paul Biya

P30

# IL Y A DU SERVICE DANS L'AIR



La valeur n'attend pas le nombre des années. 3 ans au compteur, un personnel hautement qualifié, des appareils régulièrement révisés, des valeurs, une vision, un sourire, l'étoile du Cameroun est bel et bien lancée sur sa trajectoire. Voyagez sereins, voyagez Camair-co.

Une nation, une compagnie, une étoile. Camair-co.

[www.camair-co.cm](http://www.camair-co.cm)

 **Camair-Co**  
L'étoile du Cameroun

# Variety begets choice



Cameroon's cooking gas market has been transformed in less than a year. Seven brands of domestic gas are now available. Persuasive ads run in the columns of newspapers, fill airtime on the radio and TV, and are plastered on billboards, as each producer tries to carve out its share of the market. Until recently, that market had been controlled by Total, Agil, and Mobil. But SCTM took the market by storm and now controls close to 50% of it, making the others look like novices.

Despite these changes, there are still "impurities" in the market. For example, the supply of cooking gas remains insufficient, with only 65% of national demand being met and less than 16% of the country covered. It is also still impossible for consumers to exchange, for example, a Total for a SCTM bottle. State efforts to deter dealers from manipulating bottles and clandestinely refilling the liquefied gas are futile. It is possible that artificial scarcity will cause a price hike, although government measures are repressive enough to scare dealers during the holiday season (Christmas and New Year). Frequent police raids have also caught fraudsters who try to tamper with the

gas bottles to reduce the quantity of liquid and thereby maximize their profits.

Consumers welcomed the arrival of the OiLibya and Tradex brands on the market. Tradex bottles include a device that indicates the quantity of gas and monitors how much has been used. This innovation helps the client to regulate his consumption, which is particularly important in a country where the average daily income of a household is 2,000 francs CFA. The mad rush for these new brands indicates that a persistent problem is being solved and that they could push others out of their comfort zones.

But make no mistake: the price of cooking gas is officially 6,000 francs CFA in Yaoundé and Douala, regardless of the brand. One would expect a consistent fall in prices, especially in a country that produces large quantities of oil. A competition storm is brewing on the horizon, but it is only possible if a price war begins. Consumers would see a drop in prices, and the word "choice" would then mean something for the man on the street.

Jude Viban

## BUSINESS IN CAMEROON

**Publisher** • Mediamania Sàrl • 6, rue du Léman • 1201 Genève • Suisse

**Publication Director** • Yasmine BAHRI-DOMON

**Contributors** • Agence ECOFIN, Jude VIBAN, John MACINTOCH • [www.agenceecofin.com](http://www.agenceecofin.com)

**Operator** • Mediamania Sàrl • [www.mediamania.pro](http://www.mediamania.pro) • Design : Jérémie FLAUX, Web : Christian ZANARDI, Proofreader : Rachelle Cloutier

**Advertisement** • Mediamania, Genève • Benjamin FLAUX • Tel +41 78 699 13 72 • [bflaux@mediamania.pro](mailto:bflaux@mediamania.pro)

In Cameroon • [regiepubcameroun@mediamania.pro](mailto:regiepubcameroun@mediamania.pro) • Tel +237 99 41 60 15

**Printing** • Rotimpres, Aiguaviva, Espagne

Free – cannot be sold

# CONTENTS

---

3 ▶ Variety begets choice

7 ▶ Crecy Tawah Che: Local Does Not Mean Sub-Standard

10 ▶ Imported Mayonnaise Fills Store Shelves in Cameroon



10 ▶ Palm Oil Producers Plan Price Increase, Gov't Referees

11 ▶ Only 6% of Total Exports Come from Cameroon's Agro Industry

11 ▶ European Union Offers 31.5 Billion CFA to Support Cameroon's Banana Sector



11 ▶ Chococam Adds Pasta to its Line of Products

12 ▶ Agropole Supports Local CIG to Produce 9,200 Pigs/Year

12 ▶ Three-Year Government Plan to Increase Output in Agro-Pastoral Products

13 ▶ 15 Tons of Hybrid Maize Seeds to Be Nursed

13 ▶ Plastic Waste Destroys Mangroves of the Wouri Estuary



14 ▶ Gov't Defends "Private Investment Incentives Bill" in the National Assembly

14 ▶ Birai Group Signs Contract to Develop Water Plans in 20 Towns

15 ▶ China to Give Cameroon CFAF 13.7 Billion Interest-Free Loan

15 ▶ U.S. to Fund Projects in Cameroon worth CFAF 25 Billion

16 ▶ The French Group Necotrans Wants to Invest in Cameroon's Ports

16 ▶ Japan Donates CFAF 10.5 Billion for Development Projects



17 ▶ Hassan Ali Bin Ali, Qatari Business Magnate, on Five-Day Visit to Cameroon

17 ▶ Togo Rejects Afriland's Takeover of BTICl

17 ▶ Deposits and Consignments Fund Soon Operational



- 18 ▶ Orange Leases Mobile Towers
- 18 ▶ Gov't Offices Spends CFAF 1.782 Billion on Monthly Internet and Telephone Bills
- 19 ▶ Mobile Phone Users Angry over Unsolicited Messages
- 19 ▶ Turks Aid Camtel Lay Undersea Optic Fibre



- 20 ▶ China Railway Engineering Group Co. Signs Contract to Renovate the 175 Km Batschenga-Ka'a Line
- 20 ▶ Telecentre Project Falls Short of Expected Results



- 21 ▶ Equipment for the Future Maroua International Airport
- 21 ▶ Maroua Awaits Turkish Investors
- 22 ▶ Djarmaya Refinery Means Less Work for Oil Transporters in Cameroon
- 22 ▶ SCTM Controls Cooking Gas Market in Cameroon but Meets Only 60% of Demand
- 23 ▶ More Cooking Gas Brands Means No More Price Hikes and Shortages
- 23 ▶ Well Test Results Please BowLeven

- 24 ▶ Cameroon, First Automobile Market in Central Africa
- 24 ▶ European Union "Foresees" Exclusion of Cameroon from ACP Countries Economic Partnership



- 25 ▶ CFAF 9 Billon Scandal Unseats SODECOTON GM
- 25 ▶ Stained by Corruption, Police Seize Iya Mohammed's Passport as he Prepares to Fly
- 26 ▶ Lom Pangar: Quota from Financial Partners Complete
- 26 ▶ PM Announces "Imminent" Resumption of Compensation for Kribi Deep Seaport Victims
- 27 ▶ 600 Million Tons of Iron Ore North-West of Cameroon
- 27 ▶ Canada and China Show Interest in Mbalam-Nabeba Iron Ore Project after Hanlong Drops It



- 28 ▶ The Investor's Guide
- 30 ▶ Statement by Paul Biya on the Occasion of the Release of French Hostages

**UP**

## **PERRIAL JEAN NYODOG: THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX**



After just 10 years as the General Manager of Tradex (a company that trades and exports crude oil and petroleum products), Perrial Jean Nyodog is challenging giants like Total Cameroon and MRS thanks to his hyperactivity and flexible management style.

Bolstered by his knack for innovation, Tradex has achieved many successes. In April, it became the second Cameroonian company (after SCTM) to get into the domestic gas distribution business. Its gas bottles are equipped with a device that regulates consumption and helps consumers to avoid bad surprises. There is currently a mad rush for this gas, which indicates the value of the invention. Tradex has also introduced Trad'card, which is equipped with an automatic tracking system and enables companies to restrict the card's use to specific days, times, and locations. Security wise, the card also has a tagging device (RFID) that limits its fraudulent use on unauthorized vehicles.

Tradex has a network of 36 service stations, which are architectural masterpieces.

A subsidiary of the National Hydrocarbons Corporation (SNH), Tradex signed a contract with Camair Co on April 4, 2012 to supply jet fuel for the national airliner's aircrafts. It also signed a contract with China International Water and Electric Corporation for the supply of 12.5 million litres of diesel, 150,000 litres of fuel, 40,000 gallons of oil, and 240 tons of lubricants for the construction of the Lom Pangar hydroelectric dam in eastern Cameroon.

On July 11, 2012 Tradex signed another contract with Sinohydro Corporation to provide diesel (21 million litres), premium (540,000 litres), and lubricants (648 tons) during the 54 months that the Chinese company will be constructing the Memve'ele dam, for revenues amounting to almost 13 billion francs CFA.

Under Perrial Jean Nyodog's leadership, Tradex is expanding its activities across the region. In the Central African Republic, its network has 20 pumping stations. To improve monitoring and traceability, the company has also equipped its fleet of trucks with on-board computers. The innovative vehicle that is Tradex is moving full speed ahead.

## **IYA MOHAMMED: BROWN COTTON**



It is an open secret that Iya Mohammed, the General Manager of the giant cotton-producing company, SODECOTON, is in a tough spot since March 29. That faithful day, the Budget and Finance Disciplinary Council (CDBF) announced that he had lost 9 billion francs CFA in his 27 years as the manager of the state-owned corporation.

The CDBF imposed a fine of 2 million francs CFA for his management errors, and then decreed a seven-year ban on his eligibility to occupy any top position in the administration of state-owned businesses or the public service.

After this hard blow by the CDBF, the next one hit like a ton of bricks. On Tuesday April 2, airport police confiscated his passport at the Douala international airport, just as he was about to board a plane to France, where he had a meeting. It remains unclear if the drama at the airport was linked to Iya's problems with the CDBF.

The management ban has not yet been implemented. Given the rules that regulate public companies, it is only after the Board meets that the GM may lose his job.

Iya is also not very appreciated as the president of the country's football association, since the national team has not won a silver medal since 2003.

**DOWN**

# Crecy Tawah Che: Local Does Not Mean Sub-Standard

Decent housing remains a perennial problem in Cameroon. Joined efforts by the government and the private sector are changing the situation, but there is still much to be done. Crecy Tawah Che, a retired diplomat who worked as a Second Secretary at the Cameroonian embassy in Germany, a Deputy Ambassador in London, a First Counsellor at the embassy in the US, and the Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), is now a real estate developer in his hometown of Bamenda. He believes that good and cheap housing is a feasible goal in Cameroon.

**Business in Cameroon:** Your Excellency, after a successful career in diplomacy, one would have expected you to get into the consultancy business, but you preferred real estate?

**Crecy Tawah Che:** I wanted to build good and cheap houses. I have travelled around the world and seen

***“I wanted to build good and cheap houses.”***

very good houses, and I thought that Cameroonians deserved to live in better houses in terms of architecture, beauty, and amenities.

**BIC:** We just visited your company, Aurora Building Material, and I noticed that you are into local materials. Why?

**CTC:** When I worked in Germany, I discovered that they use local materials to construct their houses – the





same materials that are found here. When we import these materials, we are very happy. But why should we import local materials from elsewhere when we can produce them ourselves? We looked into fire clay bricks and stabilized unfired clay bricks. After this research, we decided to increase the size of our bricks, which are bigger than the ones you find on the market. We have also begun producing and promoting interlock blocks. We are trying to innovate.

**BIC:** In Cameroon, it is often said that it is difficult to change people's mind set. Do you think that you will convince Cameroonians

**to move from imported materials to local ones, which they believe to be sub-standard?**

**CTC:** Cameroon's Prime Minister and Head of Government has issued two memos that aim to promote the use of local materials. I use the verb "aim" because the government's words are not followed by action. If that were the case, local materials would have been used in the construction of local buildings. You will rarely see a building that is constructed with local materials, as decreed in the PM's memo. You won't see one that is decorated with them, even at the PM's office. We have travelled around quite a bit, and I can attest to the quality

of our artistic and cultural products. A staffer from the ministry complained that our products were subpar, but Wim Pastors, a leading

***"But why should we import local materials from elsewhere when we can produce them ourselves?"***

professor in ceramics, has said that they are unique. If the PM's office used one of our artistic/culturally-decorated products – such as

The city of  
Bamenda





the lion, a symbol of the national football team – the building would be gorgeous and cheaper because it would no longer be necessary to maintain the external walls by constantly repainting them. Local does not mean sub-standard. Our bricks are compressed at a hundred bars, and we put them in the rain during three rainy seasons.

You convince Cameroonians by raising their awareness that they are actually importing second-grade building materials from other countries. Ceramic blocs are falling



off buildings in all our towns, and this is likely to continue. Grass is even growing on some ministerial buildings. But if we used locally-produced materials, we would save all the money that has to be spent in renovations. If we developed a local building materials industry, we could promote our culture, save money, and create jobs.

**BIC:** The government has created an agency to promote the use of local materials (Mipromalo), but based on what you are saying, it seems that it is falling in its mission.

**CTC:** Mipromalo was a good idea, but with all due respect, I do not think that its current activities are helpful. I was pushed into business by Mipromalo, and believe that this is the role it should be playing. It should help to identify materials that can be produced locally, set norms, and enforce them. But Mipromalo has a giant factory in Yaoundé worth 2 billion francs CFA, and is working towards

opening another factory in Douala. Few private business persons have such sums to invest, and they obtain loans from the bank at very different rates than Mipromalo. Mipromalo would be helping the

Mipromalo  
headquarters



private sector develop if it identified the products and business persons that could be part of the initiative. It would generate revenue for the state in the form of taxes, rather than compete with the private sector. Therefore, the industry cannot take off because individuals are unwilling to compete with

***“Housing in Cameroon is going to be developed by the private sector, and the government should establish the rules.”***

the state. Housing in Cameroon is going to be developed by the private sector, and the government should establish the rules. I have read many of the bills, and I think

the upcoming legislation is forward-looking.

**BIC:** It seems that there is a problem with social housing policy, since foreign companies are fa-

voured compared to the few Cameroonian ones that are willing to jump into the sector.

**CTC:** The meaning of social housing is still a problem in our country. The government cannot give a square meter of property to foreign companies at a higher price than to local Cameroonians. Elsewhere, the situation is different. I should benefit from being a Cameroonian. If the government accepts that social housing is 150,000 francs CFA per square meter, under no circumstances should a foreign company charge a higher price. If the government feels that the company should charge more, then locals should be given the same opportunity. Otherwise there will be no low-income earners, and today's middle-income earners will be the low-income earners of tomorrow. So today's low income houses should target the middle-income earners of today.

Interviewed by Jude Viban

## Imported Mayonnaise Fills Store Shelves in Cameroon



According to the *Cameroon Tribune*, over 8 brands of mayonnaise are imported from Holland, and the rest come from Tunisia, Belgium, France, and the United States. None, however, are made in Cameroon.

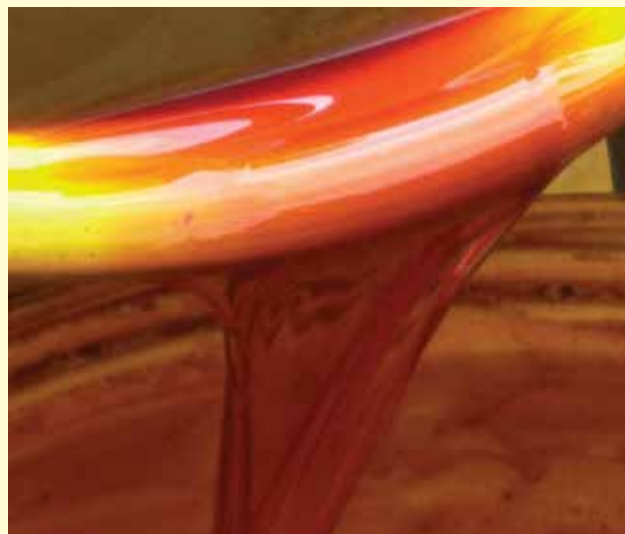
For Mathieu F., a wholesaler, mayonnaise could easily be made in Cameroon given the enormous quantity of eggs the country produces. According to him, the government has “*to do something to encourage investment by locals in this sector, especially since the quality of the imported brands is not that good.*” He adds that local people are reluctant to invest in this sector because of the numerous taxes.

According to Jean Paul K. a mobile vendor quoted in the *Cameroon Tribune*, several mayonnaise brands are on the market in Cameroon, which forces down the prices, even when compared to the recent past. He used to buy a 225 ml bottle for 1000 francs CFA, and then had to sell a tablespoon for 100, leaving him with a very slim profit margin.

But with so many new brands, a 1000 ml bottle retails between 1800 and 2000 francs CFA. From a 1000 ml bottle of mayonnaise, Jean Paul now makes about 1000 francs CFA in profits, and sometime he sells five bottles a day.

Sachets of mayonnaise are now available for 200 francs CFA, which was previously unimaginable. **JM**

## Palm Oil Producers Plan Price Increase, Gov't Referees



During an extraordinary session of the members of CRFHP held in the conference room of the Ministry of Commerce, palm oil producers declared that they plan to raise the price of the kg of crude from CFAF 450 to 550.

To justify this request, producers evoke their readiness to invest, changes in the cost structure (especially in relation to energy costs), as well as the status of palm oil as a commodity on the international market.

Although the producers' intentions are legitimate, it is very likely that an increase in prices will not be unanimously well-received, as it will also affect the price of refined palm oil and laundry soap.

The price of refined palm oil will increase from CFAF 1,200 to 1,416 per kg, and household soap will increase from CFAF 375 to 385 per tablet (400 g).

Already mobilized, associations for the protection of consumers denounce the potential increase given its unpredictable consequences for Cameroon and the sub-region, as well as for millions of households.

The government continues to play the referee. Since February 2008, it has raised the selling price of crude palm oil from CFAF 300 to 450 per kg (to the benefit of producers), and wants to maintain current prices.

**JV**



# Only 6% of Total Exports Come from Cameroon's Agro Industry

The contribution of the agro industry to national industrial production is 33%, and out of this volume, 22% is value added and only 6% is exported, according to Emmanuel Bonde, Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development.

"The country could do better," he claimed during a luncheon at an agro-industrial trade fair (Sialy) his ministry organised in Yaoundé from April 2 to 7.

In his view, agricultural products not only generate more profits, they also

provide jobs. Moreover, Bonde explained that it is important for actors in this field to exchange and work together to create good quality products that can be exported.

This is the second edition of Sialy, which has become a meeting place where investors and project owners can build partnerships. Debates on the opportunities that exist for agro-food industries and cultural events are also on the menu.

AE



## European Union Offers 31.5 Billion CFA to Support Cameroon's Banana Sector

Raul Mateus Paula, the European Union Ambassador to Cameroon, made the announcement in Douala on Monday April 16, 2013 during a seminar the EU organized to launch support measures – named MAB – for the banana-exporting countries of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group.

Out of the ten countries to be supported, three are in Africa: Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cameroon. With this programme, the EU seeks to increase productivity and improve the working conditions of employees in the sector.

"It is a concern for the EU, especially in these three African countries," Raul Mateus Paula said. MAB will also include environmental protection measures, since the EU wants to preserve nature where the crop is being grown.

Cameroon currently exports 225,000 tons of bananas per year, and aims to increase this figure to 500,000 tons by 2019.



## Chococam Adds Pasta to its Line of Products



Chococam, a company that is best known for its chocolate, has now introduced Tastic pasta, reports *Le Quotidien de l'Economie* of Wednesday April 17, 2013. Produced by its parent company, Tiger Brands, the pasta is available in a 500 g transparent container for 650 francs CFA.

Citing company sources, the paper says that the market release of this new product is part of Tiger Brands' expansion strategy for Africa, which was launched in 2008.

Within this framework, the company has recently introduced several products into the Cameroonian market, including bacon, kids' cereals, and rice. **JM**



# Agropole Supports Local CIG to Produce 9,200 Pigs/Year



Agropole, an economic program for the promotion of the most important businesses in Cameroon's rural sector, says that it will support

Pigs from Northern Cameroon

Buangsa Mbpem, a local Common Initiative Group (CIG) in the south, to increase its annual production from 585 to 9,200 pigs.

Jean-Claude Medou, Agropole's Director, was in Kribi on April 16, 2013 to deliver the good news to the CIG, according to the April 18 edition of the government-run newspaper, the *Cameroon Tribune*.

With Agropole, the government will spend 477,691 million francs CFA as a direct input for infrastructure, materials, and capacity-building, while the breeders are expected to raise 908,418 francs CFA, indicates the paper.

Buangsa Mbpem breeds pigs that weigh 100kg. "I want to increase my output to 1,000 pigs, up from 180," Mayo Nguimba, a member of the Buangsa Mbpem CIG in Kribi, told the *Cameroon Tribune*.

The animal protein deficit in Cameroon is estimated at 500,000 tons, while that for pork specifically stands at 50,000 tons.

Pork is too expensive for the average household in Cameroon. In Kribi for example, a kilogram of pork sells at 2,200 francs CFA, a price that exceeds the daily budget of the average household, which is estimated at 2,000 francs CFA. **JM**

## Three-Year Government Plan to Increase Output in Agro-Pastoral Products

The government has published a three-year plan that aims to increase the production of more than 20 agro-pastoral products by 2015.

The plan, which is available since January 2013, was prepared by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT). It calls, for example, for an increase in the production of paddy rice from 182,000 tons in 2012 to 256,200 tons by 2015.

Still in the rice sector, authorities want to increase the white rice harvest from 139,200 to 205,000 tons by 2016. Similarly, the plan projects

an increase in chicken production to 91,500 tons in 2015, up from 61,000 tons in 2010.

To achieve these objectives, the government will increase its support to SMEs, SMIs, cooperatives, and Common Initiative Groups by a factor of 5 in the next three years, according to a copy of the plan we obtained from MINEPAT.

The plan is considered an excerpt from the country's 10-year Growth and Employment Strategy Paper, which aims to catapult Cameroon to the status of an emerging economy by 2035. **JV**



# 15 Tons of Hybrid Maize Seeds to Be Nursed



Cameroon's Ministry of Agriculture has granted 265 million francs CFA for the National Institute of Agricultural Research (IRAD) to produce 15 tons of hybrid maize seeds by the end of the year.

The Minister of Agriculture, Essimi Menye, and IRAD's Director, Noé Woin, signed a convention to this effect on April 17, 2013 in Yaoundé.

According to the Minister, the government wants to reduce the food deficit and promote intensive agriculture in the country.

Noé Woin agrees, arguing that *"the seeds will increase production and reduce our dependence on imports."*

Hybrid maize seeds have a higher yield capacity: they produce over nine tons per hectare, as compared to two tons for ordinary improved seeds and one for normal seeds.

At the ceremony on April 17, IRAD also received 548 million francs CFA to produce 5.4 million plantain suckers, which will become 3,500 hectares of plantain by 2015.

According to the Minister of Agriculture, the government plans to extend the project to yams, potatoes, and other crops.

Last January, the Ministry of Agriculture and IRAD signed a memorandum of understanding for the latter to produce improved seeds. **JV**

# Plastic Waste Destroys Mangroves of the Wouri Estuary



Waste from the "Bois des Singes" and Bonendale neighbourhoods is being dumped into the mangrove forest south of Douala. According to Sidi Bare, the Littoral Regional Delegate for the Environment, this garbage is destroying the mangroves' ecosystem.

Industrial waste is also being dumped into these areas, Sidi Bare told the *Cameroon Tribune*. Oumarou Garba, a local resident, adds that some trees are being cut down for fuel.

The waste is composed of plastics and textile fabrics from households

and industries. Experts say that about 2,000 metric tons of waste are produced daily in Douala.

HYSACAM, a waste collection company, says that 1,350 tons of waste are disposed properly, while 400 to 600 tons cannot be collected due to their inaccessibility.

Runoff waste is uncollected or improperly treated, and then ends up being dumped into the Wouri Estuary. A study by the Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network suggests that garbage is blocking the free flow of water and air, and killing plant life. **JM**



# Gov't Defends "Private Investment Incentives Bill" in the National Assembly



If promulgated into law, the bill will establish a procedure by which businesses will be granted common tax, customs, financial, and special administrative incentives during the establishment and operation phases.

According to the bill (article 4), a company has to budget 5-25 million francs CFA per quarter for the employment of Cameroonians in order to benefit from these incentives. Also, companies that use between 10 and 25% of local raw materials, or that export between 10 and 25 % of their total annual revenue taxes deducted will benefit from these incentives.

According to article 7, during the operational phase (which cannot exceed 10 years), the investor may benefit from exemptions or reductions in the payment of the following: corporate tax, the minimum tax, income tax, special tax on income, and the customs duties on the export of construction equipment and equipment used by processing plants.

On Tuesday April 2, 2013, the bill on investment incentives in Cameroon was defended by two ministers: Alamine

Ousmane Mey, Minister of Finance, and Emmanuel Bonde, Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development.

According to the government, the bill supplements the investment charter and will enhance the business climate in the country. *"It will help to improve the business environment, but also to promote the creation, establishment, and development of businesses in Cameroon. It will facilitate job creation and make Cameroon an emerging economy by 2035,"* the bill reads. The bill also provides for the creation

of two offices to receive applications. One would be housed with the service responsible for the promotion of small- and medium-sized companies, while the other would be in charge of promoting foreign and local investments.

To ensure accountability, the bill provides for the creation of a control committee that would monitor the incentives that are granted to companies.

Jude Viban

## Birai Group Signs Contract to Develop Water Plans in 20 Towns



Jean Williams Sollo, GM of Camwater

The Turkish company Birai Group has signed a contract worth 50 billion francs CFA with CAMWATER, a water utility company in Cameroon. This was reported in the April 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *L'Action*, the newspaper of the Cameroon Peoples' Democratic Movement (CPDM).

According to CAMWATER's General Manager, Jean Williams Sollo, the con-

tract was signed in March during a visit to Turkey by the Head of State of Cameroon.

*"There are some towns in Cameroon that do not have drinkable water. I think that with this money, there is a real chance that we can give them access to it,"* Jean Williams Sollo told *L'Action*.

AE



# China to Give Cameroon CFAF 13.7 Billion Interest-Free Loan

Cameroon's Head of State, Paul Biya, has signed two decrees authorizing the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) to sign interest-free loan agreements worth 13.7 billion francs CFA with the People's Republic of China to finance projects in the country. The news was published in the public newspaper, the *Cameroon Tribune*, on Thursday April 4, 2013.

In mid-November, Cameroon and China had signed another cooperation agreement worth about 3.8 billion francs CFA.

According to the Chinese embassy in Yaoundé, the country is preparing the ground for investments in priority areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, renewable energy, and human resources training up to 2015, *APA news* reported on April 5.



# U.S. to Fund Projects in Cameroon worth CFAF 25 Billion

In an interview published by *Le Quotidien de l'Economie*, Robert P. Jackson, the American Ambassador in Yaoundé, announced that the U.S. will fund projects in Cameroon of a total value of 25 billion francs CFA in 2013.

Concerning investments, “so many American companies are interested in Cameroon,” he said. Tractafric, a car distribution company, now sells Ford (an American brand), while Caterpillar sells machines and engines in the country, he added.

“And let’s not forget construction equipment. American companies visit Cameroon regularly,” Mr Jackson said.

According to him, an American company will soon complete feasibility studies for the construction of a hydroelectric dam in the Northwest region, and another is interested in a similar project in the Southwest.

However, the U.S. wins fewer contracts than China in Cameroon. Mr Jackson accuses China of failing to



Robert P. Jackson, American Ambassador in Yaoundé

use local labour. “The United States of America has a different approach. We use local labour, unlike China – and that is the difference,” he declared. **JV**

# The French Group Necotrans Wants to Invest in Cameroon's Ports

The Group wants to develop port infrastructure in Douala, reports the *Cameroon Tribune* of Thursday April 5, 2013. According to Querel Gregory, the CEO of Necotrans, it also has major projects in cities such as Yaoundé and Kribi.

His statement was made after the Group met with the Secretary General at the Presidency of the Republic, Ferdinand Ngoh Ngoh, last Thursday.

The meeting, which lasted 45 minutes, was also attended by Pierre Andre Wiltzer, a former minister and the President's adviser on the Group, and Henri Pierre Mourin,

regional director for Cameroon, Chad, and CAR.

Necotrans specializes in international transport and logistics, with major markets in North Africa, West Africa, and France, where its headquarters are located. It has an extensive expertise in the field of port operations in Africa. According to the *Cameroon Tribune*, it has developed a network covering the continent's entire west coast, from Senegal to South Africa.

*"Through its establishment in the largest ports in West Africa and neighbouring landlocked countries, the company now provides a full set*



*of integrated services, from any point of origin to the delivery of the goods on site,"* a statement on Necotrans' website explains. **JV**

# Japan Donates CFAF 10.5 Billion for Development Projects

The money will be earmarked for development projects, particularly those in the social sectors needing a great deal of funding, in order to improve the lives of Cameroonians, explained the Japanese Ambassador to Cameroon, Tsutomu Arai.

Some of the projects to be sponsored include the construction of wells in the Northern region, the installation of solar energy and water supply in the Centre region, the construction of a chicken slaughterhouse in the West region, the opening of a ranch in the East, and the launching of a rural electrification project in the Littoral region.



This is the third time that Japan makes a donation to Cameroon. The first and the second ones amounted to a total of 6 billion francs CFA. They had supported projects in the agro-pastoral, wa-

ter, and health sectors, as well as the promotion of SMEs and vocational training, reported *Cameroon Radio and Television* (CRTV), the state broadcaster.

**AE**

# Hassan Ali Bin Ali, Qatari Business Magnate, on Five-Day Visit to Cameroon

Hassan Ali Bin Ali, Chairman of the Hassan Ali Bin Ali Establishment, flew to Cameroon on Sunday April 21 and was received at the Nsimalen International Airport by Jean Nzie Nzie, Attaché at the General Secretariat of the Prime Minister's office. Also there to receive him were Mohamadou Bayero Fadil, the head of Fadil Group Cameroon, and David Nkoto Emame, the head of Cameroon Telecommunications Company (CAMTEL).

Ali Bin Ali is leading a delegation of 12 business persons from Qatar and China who belong to the Haba Group. Expect-

ed to stay in Cameroon until April 27, the business tycoons are searching for investment opportunities, according to the *Cameroon Tribune* of Monday April 22, 2013.

The public newspaper also indicated that the delegation will hold working sessions with members of the government, among other activities.

Hassan Ali Bin Ali, a prominent Qatari businessman, is into trading, contracting, and supplies, in addition to offering a specialized range of services across industries in a variety of fields.



## Togo Rejects Afriland's Takeover of BTCI

The privatization commission headed by former minister Issifou Okoulou Kantchati rejected Afriland's offer last



week, according to *Le Quotidien de l'Economie* of Friday April 4, 2013. The paper's sources with

Cameroon's first bank revealed that the bid to buy the Togolese Bank of Commerce and Industry (BTCI) was rejected because Afriland did not meet the conditions set by BTCI, and its offer failed short compared to other competitors.

Meanwhile, Attijariwafa Bank of Morocco turned to BIA-Togo, one of the banks that had been earmarked for privatization, but it lost the bid to Ecobank.

In December 2012, Lomé announced its decision to privatize government-owned banks, including BIA-Togo, BTCI, BTD, and UTB. **JM**

## Deposits and Consignments Fund Soon Operational



City of Lomé

According to the Hon. Talla Talla Blondo of the Lomé constituency (East Region), the Deposits and Consignments Fund, which was set up years ago for infrastructure projects, is not yet operational. In a question and answer session held during a plenary meeting that was broadcast live over the State radio (*Cameroon Radio and Television, CRTV*), the MP expressed his concern that while other African countries that have embraced this financial change are already enjoying the benefits, "ours is yet to become operational."

Responding, Prime Minister Yang Philémon said that a working group is already active to ensure that this initiative, which aims to promote business, actually takes off.

According to him, the working group, which is headed by the Minister of Finance, is making progress and will soon propose a bill to parliament. Yang Philémon will also shortly appoint officials to pilot this pro-development initiative.

**JV**



# Orange Leases Mobile Towers



France Telecom/Orange will outsource more than two thousand relay towers in Cameroon and the Ivory Coast to reduce costs, the telecommunications group said Tuesday in a statement.

France Telecom will entrust the management of these facilities for 15 years to IHS, an African company listed on the Lagos Stock Exchange and a subsidiary of IHS Holdings.

However, Orange will remain the owner of these sites, according to the *Financial Times*.

The agreement will improve the coverage of mobile networks in

the two countries, says the French group.

IHS has promised to build new hybrid sites that combine solar energy and generators, to reduce diesel consumption by up to 70%, and to expand the mobile network to better meet local demand, according to a statement from Orange.

*"This allows us to drive efficiencies, reduce costs, and manage the particular conditions that exist in emerging markets, such as those related to the cost of energy and to the accessibility of sites,"* Marc Rennard, Executive Director for Africa, the Middle East and Asia, told the *Financial Times*. **JM**

## Gov't Offices Spends CFAF 1.782 Billion on Monthly Internet and Telephone Bills



Every month, Cameroon's administration spends 1.3 billion francs CFA in telephone bills and 482 million in internet services, according to government sources.

However, this is a 24% decrease from the 1.7 billion francs CFA that were paid monthly for landlines in 2010, says the *Cameroon Tribune* of Tuesday April 16, 2013.

Yet because the government is now connected to the internet using fibre optic cables, internet bills are on the rise, according to a *Cameroon Tribune* source at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

*"The bills jumped from 122 to 482 million francs CFA between 2010 and 2011, which represents a [significant] increase,"* adds the source.

A recent government survey suggests that there are 13,000 lines at the central services, 9,000 at the decentralized services, and 298 internet lines. But the government is still being billed for 106 Telex and 300 telephone lines that are reportedly out of service. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications aims to cut these bills by 20%. **AE**

# Mobile Phone Users Angry over Unsolicited Messages

Users of Camtel, Orange, and MTN networks in Cameroon are unhappy about the unwanted service offers, unsolicited short messages, requests to participate in games of chance, and ambiguous promotional campaigns that are being proposed by telephone operators.

A mobile phone user subscribed to MTN Cameroun receives the spam message "MTN Play" an average of four times a day.

*"They are bothersome. MTN is becoming a nuisance with the frequency of its messages,"* said Benedict Ndinwa.

*"When my phone vibrates, I think it is a message from my boyfriend – but then I discover that it is a text from MTN or Orange,"* Claudette Mbakong complained.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART) seems to have an ambig-

uous position on the issue of these unwanted service offers.

In a press release published in the *Cameroon Tribune*, ART says that the law on advertising in Cameroon "prohibits the sending of electronic messages for direct marketing," but also that it "authorizes the sending of advertising messages through mobile telephone networks."

As for games of chance, they are prohibited in Cameroon except for lotteries, raffles, and casinos that respect specific conditions. Although mobile telephone companies are not included in these categories, ART prefers to say that "products and services that are not provided for in the legal instruments of the State are under consideration by the board."

It recommends that users "avoid participating in games and other promotional campaigns without first being aware of their rules and conditions."



However, the agency says that it is seeking a way to "better handle the issue," according to the release.

ART also advises users to delete spam without reading it, to send "stop" in upper case letters to the short number that sends the junk mail for Orange Cameroun, and to call MTN Cameroon's toll-free customer service number to opt out of other message services.

Jude Vibian

## Turks Aid Camtel Lay Undersea Optic Fibre

Turks will lay fibre optic cables under the sea to carry signals straight to households, according to *L'Action* of Wednesday April 3, 2013.

*"Part of the project is to connect businesses to high speed internet at a low cost. Today, high speed internet is an essential tool for companies,"* David Nkotto Emame, the General Manager of Cameroon Telecommunications (Camtel), told *L'Action*.

Also, the plan calls for the establishment of Internet Protocol Television (IPTV), a system through which television services are delivered using the internet.



According to Mr Nkotto Emame, an order for fibre optic cables could be delivered promptly – in as little as three

days – because Turkey has many factories and there is a direct flight from Ankara to Yaoundé. **JV**

# China Railway Engineering Group Co. Signs Contract to Renovate the 175 Km Batschenga-Ka'a Line



Funded by the World Bank, the 7.5 billion francs CFA project is being implemented within the framework of a plan to improve transport and transit within the Central African and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

The Minister also announced plans to reach Ngaoundéré after Ka'a. He

added that once the railway is refurbished until Ngaoundéré, it will be possible to link it to Chad and to the Central African Republic.

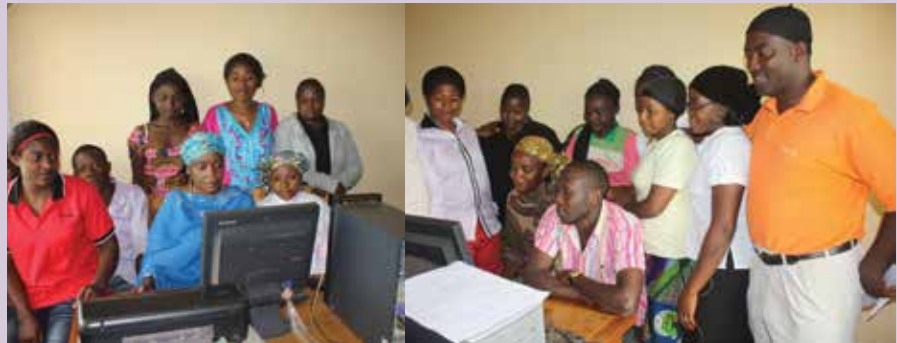
The renovation work is expected to take three years. It is part of the convention the Cameroonian government signed with Camrail in 2008 to invest 230 billion francs CFA between 2009 and 2020. **JV**

## Telecentre Project Falls Short of Expected Results

China Railway Engineering Group Co. (CREC) and Buns signed the contract with Camrail, the country's railway management company, on April 19<sup>th</sup>, in Yaoundé. The contract to repair the railway line was signed in the presence of Robert Nkili, Minister of Transport, and Hamadou Sali, Camrail's Chairman of the Board. According to the Minister, most accidents occur on this stretch of the railway line due to the degradation it has suffered.

With the work expected to start in a few weeks, Hamadou Sali announced that all the resources are in place to respect the deadline and do quality work.

CREC will work on lot 1, which requires advanced technical know-how, while Buns Company will take lot 2, which involves work of a less technical nature.



Jakiri Telecentre managed by Salamatou Yinyuy Sule, located in Bui Division of the North-West Region of the Republic of Cameroon

Only 112 telecentres are operational across the nation since the project was launched in 2003, falling short of the government's target of creating 20,000 by 2015.

Yet 20 new telecenters are being set-up, according to the Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Jean-Pierre Biyiti bi Essam, who recently launched a three-day workshop in Yaoundé with project stakeholders to reflect on the way forward.

A lack of energy and infrastructure are blamed for the delay in the pro-

ject's implementation. "We use a generator and we cannot leave it on throughout the day," explained Jasmine Koda, Manager of the Kenzou telecentre, which is located east of the country.

Telecentres are special structures that are established in rural zones to provide telecommunication and ICT services (e.g., telephone, fax, photocopy, television, and internet) to poor communities at reduced cost.

**AE**



# Equipment for the Future Maroua International Airport



Cameroon could soon have a third international airport, along with Douala and Yaoundé. Rehabilitation work has already started, according to Allabira Mamadou, the Deputy General Manager of the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority.

As part of the preparations, the country's air transport management body recently acquired two fire trucks and two pickup trucks. French made, the equipment cost about 1.5 billion francs CFA, according to a reliable source at the company, who was quoted by *Le Quotidien de l'Economie*.

With a capacity of 6,100 litres of water and 800 litres of foaming agent, the trucks were handed to the authorities in Douala on March 28.

According to the Governor of the Far North region, Awa Fonka Augustine, Turkish Airlines had previously expressed its desire to fly from Maroua to Istanbul. **JV**

## Maroua Awaits Turkish Investors



Turkish interest in Cameroon continues to grow. According to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Cameroon Tribune*, Turkish investors will take part in a sub-regional economic forum from April 22 to 24, 2013.

According to the paper, the regional Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Handicraft (CCIMA) is preparing projects that are tailored for funding by Turkish business partners. To help write up these projects, CCIMA has hired two experts from the National Institute of Sahel in Maroua.

Five sectors are concerned: agro-industry, fishing, livestock, services, infrastructure, and civil engineering. Projects in these sectors could jumpstart the economy of the Maroua region, which is where the Chamber hopes to channel Turkish investments.

**JM**

# Djarmaya Refinery Means Less Work for Oil Transporters in Cameroon

*"The launch of the Djarmaya refinery in Chad has helped reduce freight, and it also provides a refuelling stop in Chad. This has caused a huge shortfall in Cameroon, and some operators have been forced to close shop,"* said Abdoulaye Haman, President of the National Union of Cameroon Oil Carriers (SNTHC). According to him, Chad's oil sector has seen significant growth in recent years, from 27.48 billion francs CFA in 2009 to 29.970 billion in 2011.

The SNTHC expressed its concern regarding the future of this transpor-



tation activity because of the many difficulties it now faces: red tape, the rationing of hydrocarbons, and trans-

port problems, especially to the big market of Chad.

The supply of certain depots to the northern part of the country by the Cameroon Petroleum Depot Company (SCDP) will likely not improve the situation for carriers. Consequently, *"some have turned to other activities when they go bankrupt,"* says the union. It is looking to the government and other organisations in the sector to intervene to solve these problems, which could cut dozens of jobs.

JM

# SCTM Controls Cooking Gas Market in Cameroon but Meets Only 60% of Demand

Official figures from the Ministry of Water and Energy (MINEE) suggest that the *Société camerounaise de transformation métallique* (SCTM), a cooking gas distribution company, controls close to 50% of the market. Total and Camgaz follow with 18% each, and the Aza Afrigaz brand sits at 11%. Newer brands – such as MRS and Kosan Chrisplaine (Glocal Gaz) – have 6% each. The Ministry has not yet determined the market share of Tradex, which has been on the market for only three weeks.

Speaking in an interview published in the April 18 edition of the *Cameroon Tribune*, the MINEE Minister, Basile Atangana Kouna, claimed that he thinks that there is still room for more cooking gas retailers, even though there are

currently seven brands on the Cameroonian market. An official statement from the Ministry says that only 60% of national demand for domestic gas is being met.

To conquer the market, the new brands (other than SCTM) are running ads in the media and putting up billboards across the country.

But SCTM is unwilling to change its strategy. The Director of Operations, Jérémie Dassié, claims: *"Given the current situation, we cannot develop a new marketing strategy, since only 60% of demand is being met."*

He explains that his company first wants to evaluate the practicability of the new

brands' offers, their conformity to Cameroonian standards and norms, and their value-added. JV



# More Cooking Gas Brands Means No More Price Hikes and Shortages

The liberalization of the country's hydrocarbons sector has ended the situation in which cooking gas was either scarce or available only at exorbitant prices.

*"Even during the holiday season (Christmas and New Year), gas was available at all the pumping stations. And it's still available now,"* says Njebusi Albert, a student at Yaoundé I University.

*"I don't need to trek through the city in search of gas anymore,"* he adds.

STCM, Aza Afrigaz, Kosan Chrisplint, Tradex, OiLibya, MRS, and Total Camgaz are the brands that currently supply the market.

But monthly demand keeps growing. In the period between 2008 and 2010, it stood at 4,500 metric tons (MT), but then increased to 5,500 MT between 2010 and 2011. In the 2011-2013 period, demand was estimated

at 6,500 MT, according to official figures from the Ministry of Trade.

To keep up with this rising demand, the Ministry of Energy (MINEE) is planning to increase the country's storage capacity.

In Douala, the current storage capacity (1,500 MT) is being increased to 3,000 MT, and Yaoundé's capacity will be doubled to 1,000 MT. Maroua's capacity is 105 MT, Ngaoundéré's is 95 MT, and Bafoussam's 171 MT. Bertoua's capacity will soon be 100 MT.

With Tradex Gas, a new distributor that began operating just before OiLibya earlier this year, our source at MINEE is confident that gas will always be available on the market and that artificial shortages are a thing of the past. Official MINEE reports claim that a floating stock of 20,000 MT is currently available in the city of Limbe. **JV**

## Well Test Results Please BowLeven



BowLeven, an Africa-focused oil and gas explorer, is pleased with the results of the first test at the IM-5 site, which was conducted under the Etinde permit, indicates *Stock Market Wire's* website.

Quoting BowLeven's Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Hart, the site reports that the company has performed a drill stem test (DST) on the Middle Isongo interval, and that preparations are now underway to test the Intra Isongo interval.

*"I suspect that it is probably the best well we have drilled in the seven years since we have been active. The results bode well for the planned phased development of Etinde. We now look forward to testing the results from the Intra Isongo site,"* Kevin Hart told *Stock Market Wire*.

In February, BowLeven's share price climbed by more than 5% after the company announced that it had found "liquids-rich" hydrocarbons off the shore of Cameroon, according to the BBC. **AE**





# Cameroon, First Automobile Market in Central Africa



Figures from the Ministry of Transport indicate that over 450,000 vehicles are in circulation in Cameroon. This makes it the first automobile market in Cen-

tral Africa, according to *Le Quotidien de l'Economie* of Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Most of these are used cars imported from Europe, Asia, and the United States.

Quoting a customs inspector named Adoum Mamat, the newspaper reports that Cameroon imported 39,093 second-hand vehicles last year, compared to 17,540 in 2006 – an increase of 44.8% in five years. In this period, over 34 billion francs CFA were paid in custom duties.

The paper also indicates that 3,257 vehicles are imported monthly, which is a rate of 814 vehicles per week.

According to Isidore Biyiha, General Manager of the customs “one stop shop” in Douala, Toyota vehicles are the most frequently-imported brand in Cameroon.

**JV**

## European Union “Foresees” Exclusion of Cameroon from ACP Countries Economic Partnership

According to *Le Messenger* of Tuesday April 16, 2013, the European Union (EU) will exclude Cameroon from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) free trade zone if the country fails to ratify the economic partnership accords it signed with the EU by 2014.

Citing the EU ambassador to Cameroon, Raul Mateus Paula, the paper said that Cameroon’s situation is being debated at the World Trade Organization, where the European Union is a major economic and commercial actor.

If Cameroon fails to ratify these accords, it will not be able to benefit from the advantages linked to the partnership. “Countries that have not taken the necessary steps to ratify the economic partnership accords by 2014 will lose access to the zero tax European market,” Raul Mateus Paula said.

If Cameroon is kicked out of the ACP Group, over 20% of its national businesses will lose access to the international market, he warned.

**AE**



EU ambassador to Cameroon, Raul Mateus Paula

# CFAF 9 Billion Scandal Unseats SODECOTON GM

The Supreme State Audit has found that Iya Mohammed is guilty of embezzling over 9 billion francs CFA from the Cotton Development Corporation (SODECOTON), and decreed that he cannot accept any public managerial position in Cameroon for the next 7 years.

According to the press release issued by the Financial Control and Budget Disciplinary Council of the Supreme State Audit of Cameroon, Iya Mohammed, who has served as SODECOTON's General Manager since 1986, committed 20 mismanagement errors from 2005 to 2009.

The Supreme State Audit ordered the GM to repay the money he allegedly embezzled, and to pay a special fine of 2 million

francs CFA.

The prohibition regarding employment would mean that Iya also has to leave SODECOTON, but this has not been clearly specified.

He is the third GM of public companies to be pinned this year for mismanagement, which has caused huge financial losses.

According to the Supreme State Audit, before him, Charles Metouck, the former GM of SONARA, and Celestin Ndonga, the former GM of EDC, had set the record for mis-



Charles Metouck

management with losses amounting to 27 billion francs CFA for both companies – of which 26 billion francs CFA are attributable to Sonara's ex-GM alone. **JV**

## LAST MINUTE UPDATE

A magistrate court in Limbe, South West region slammed a 9-year, 9-month jail sentence on Charles Metouck, the former General Manager of the Cameroon

Refining Corporation SONARA, for trespassing and destroying documents of the corporations.

# Stained by Corruption, Police Seize Iya Mohammed's Passport as he Prepares to Fly

On Tuesday April 2, police confiscated the passport of SODECOTON's General Manager at the Douala international airport, just as he was about to board a plane for France, where he was going to attend a meeting.

Iya, who is also the President of the Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT), said two policemen approached him saying they had instructions to stop him from leaving the country and to seize his passport.

*"No reasons were given for this. No details were given to me. They took*



*my passport and left,"* Iya claims. He then departed for his hometown, Garoua.

Iya Mohammed

On March 29, the Council of Budgetary and Financial Discipline

(Consupe), which audited SODECOTON, released a report indicating that Iya Mohammed had mismanaged funds that contributed to the company losing 9 billion francs CFA.

It remains unclear if this drama at the airport is linked to Iya's mismanagement record.

As the president of the country's football association, he is also not very appreciated because the national team has not won any silver medals since 2003.

**Jude Viban**

# Lom Pangar: Quota from Financial Partners Complete

After a one-day visit to the Lom Pangar work site on April 3, 2013, the General Manager of EDC, Theodore Nsangou, announced that financial partners were going to disburse their quota for the construction of the dam, contrary to other sources that had reported a lack of funds, according to the *Cameroon Tribune* of Monday April 8, 2013.

At the end of the visit, Theodore Nsangou expressed his overall satisfaction with the progress being made at the different sites, although he noted delays in some areas. "Work is progressing in the right direction," he told State radio, CRTV.

Spread over an area of 40 km<sup>2</sup>, more staff is needed to respect the deadline, according to the *Cameroon Tribune*. To this end, Nsangou announced the imminent arrival of 140 Chinese engineers and workers, as well as the recruitment of hundreds of Cameroonian workers to strengthen the current labour force.

According to engineers, the work pace will accelerate in the coming days with

the staff reinforcements in order to take advantage of the dry season to complete the first retaining walls before July.

In terms of staff welfare – and contrary to the claims of some workers – the price of a food platter is now 200 francs CFA

instead of 600, reports the *Cameroon Tribune*. "The platter actually costs 600 francs, but the worker pays 200 francs, and the remaining 400 are subsidised by the EDC," the paper reports, quoting a reliable source.

JV

## PM Announces "Imminent" Resumption of Compensation for Kribi Deep Seaport Victims



On April 5, 2013, the Prime Minister and Head of Government, Philemon Yang, told MPs that the government was going to resume its compensation scheme for the victims of the Kribi deep seaport. According to the *Cameroon Tribune* of April 8, he was responding to the concerns expressed by MPs regarding the government's termination of the compensation process.

Meanwhile, Martin Oyono, a MP from the Ocean Division (South region), stated his fears that the Douala-Yaoundé dual carriage road and the Wouri

Bridge could face the same compensation shortfalls experienced in the Lom Pangar, Mekin, Kribi deep seaport, and Mbalam iron ore projects.

In his view, the interests of locals could be defended if MPs were part of the project. To this end, Yang explained that MPs will be more involved in the management of infrastructure projects. He cited the case of the Minim-Martap bauxite project in the Adamawa region, where his office has requested that a local representative be appointed.

JM





# 600 Million Tons of Iron Ore North-West of Cameroon



Over 600 million tons of iron ore are located in Mayo Binka, Donga Matung Division, in Northwestern Cameroon, according to the *Herald Tribune* of Wednesday April 10, 2013. The local paper cites Emmanuel Tumi, the Division's Delegate for the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, who was in the area for an inspection tour.

BOCOM Company is exploiting iron at seven sites. According to the *Herald Tribune*, it has only drilled to about 200 meters, but iron deposits are suspected to exist at 1,000 meters deep. Emmanuel Tumi says the iron ore contains pyrite, magnetite, and hematite.

He adds that local residents were already exploiting iron some 100 years ago, as a principal component of the dowry. In addition to iron ore, Mayo Binka also has clay minerals, which are used in the fabrication of building bricks. **AE**

## Canada and China Show Interest in Mbalam-Nabeba Iron Ore Project after Hanlong Drops It

According to Serge Aso'o, Chief Executive Officer of Cam Iron SA, Canada and China have been rushing to position themselves since Hanlong Mining Investment Ltd dropped its bid to buy Sundance Resources' shares of Cam Iron SA, which owns the Mbalam-Nabeba project.

In the meantime, work will continue unperturbed at the site, reports the *Cameroon Tribune* of Tuesday April 16, 2013, citing the Managing Director of Sundance Resources Ltd, an Australia-based mining company.

The Mbalam-Nabeba project contains about 436 million tons of ore, 62.6% of which has been confirmed, according to the paper.

The project stretches from Cameroon to the Congo, which is why its name now includes Mbalam (Cameroon) and Nabeba (Congo).

Mbalam ranks among the top five mining projects in the world, and is ranked first in Africa in terms of its potential, says Cam Iron's CEO. **AE**

# **THE INVESTOR'S GUIDE**

## **STARTING A COMPANY IN CAMEROON**



Details on each procedure : <http://cameroun.eregulations.org>

## THE 16 MANDATORY STEPS

### Preparing your documents

- 01) Purchase tax stamps
- 02) Apply for notarised statutes and obtain a certificate proving that the company is in the process of being created
- 03) Open an account for a company in the process of being created
- 04) Deposit start-up capital at the bank
- 05) Obtain a receipt for the deposit
- 06) Sign notarised statutes
- 07) Retrieve notarised statutes and declaration of subscription and payment

### Registration of the application

- 08) Prepare the application for the CFCE (Centre des formalités de création des entreprises)
- 09) Obtain an accounts receivable card
- 10) Pay for the accounts receivable card
- 11) Pay registration fees at the *Registre du commerce* (Registry of Companies)
- 12) Submit the application to the CFCE
- 13) Retrieve documents attesting to the creation of the business

### Publication of incorporation in a legal journal

- 14) Submit the legal announcement for publication
- 15) Pay the fees for the legal announcement's publication

## WHAT'S THE COST?

- 27 500 XAF (for the RCCM registration fees – for an individual)
- 27 500 XAF (for the legal announcement)
- 15 000 XAF (for disbursements)
- 10 000 XAF (to start the application)
- 6000 XAF (for tax stamps and various tax fees)
- 5000 XAF per copy (of the declaration of capital subscription)
- 400 XAF (for the original and three copies of the declaration affirming the existence of a place of business)
- 4000 XAF (to submit the payment and subscription declaration to the Registrar)
- 4000 XAF (for the submission of the statute minutes to the Registrar)
- 3000 XAF (for the application and two copies of your police record)
- 2000 XAF (for tax stamps for the tax registration of the statute minutes, declaration of subscription and payment of capital)
- 1500 XAF (to declare revenue – accounts receivable)
- 1000 XAF per tax stamp (for certification of non-usage of personnel)
- 1000 XAF per tax stamp (for notarised copies of statutes)
- 2% XAF (for notary emoluments)

The estimated total cost of the procedure is **147,500 XAF**

## HOW LONG DOES THIS TAKE?

	Min.	Max.
Time waiting in line (cumulative):	1hrs 35	4hrs 25
Time at front office (cumulative):	2hrs	3hrs 20
Waiting time between steps (cumulative):	11,5 days	21 days
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 days</b>	<b>21 days</b>



# Statement by Paul Biya on the Occasion of the Release of French Hostages



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me, first of all, to wish you a warm and cordial welcome to Unity Palace.

Of course, I extend my wishes first and foremost to the MOULIN-FOURNIER family which has just gone through very difficult detention conditions.

The Cameroonian people and I feel greatly relieved and very happy that you are free.

I hail the presence of Mr. Fabius, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic with whom we worked closely to secure the happy outcome which we are celebrating today.

I am pleased to recognize the Chief Executive Officer of

GDF-Suez whose presence among us guarantees the sustainable continuity of its industrial activity in Cameroon. He has been with us throughout this crisis.

The happy ending to this incident is definitely the result of exemplary cooperation between the French, Nigerian and Cameroonian Governments. Their services showed remarkable efficiency and great discretion.

The main lesson I learn from this incident, as I speak to you, is that the security problems facing our continent will be resolved only through close international cooperation. Obviously, there is an urgent need to strengthen such cooperation.

For my part, I wish to reaffirm my determination to spare no effort

to ensure that Cameroon remains a land of hospitality, tolerance, stability, peace and progress.

To conclude, I would like to congratulate you, members of the MOULIN-FOURNIER family. You have shown great courage and composure.

You trusted us ... You believed in us ... right to the end... You have been well and truly free for a couple of hours now.

I have been informed that tonight, you are leaving for France. I wish you a safe journey I hope your stay in France will be brief and that in no time you will be returning to Cameroon, our home, your home, to carry on your activities.

Thank you.

# BUSINESS IN CAMEROON .COM

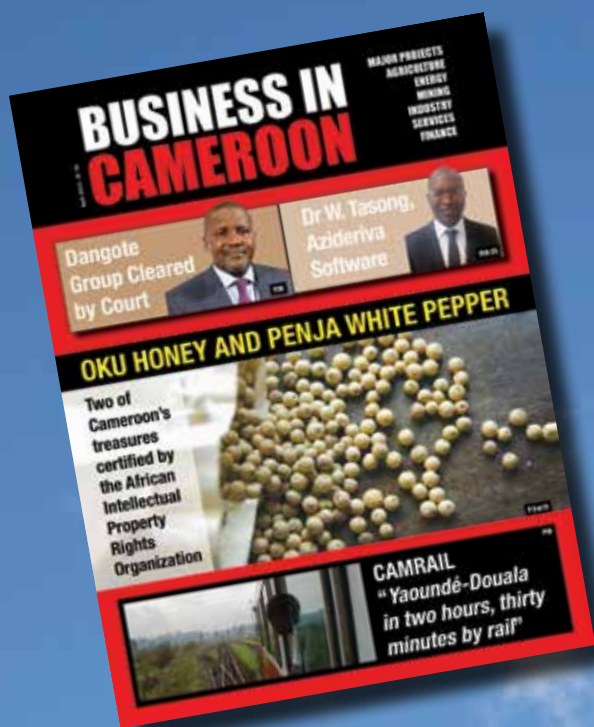
**Daily business  
news from  
Cameroon**



**IPHONE, IPAD, AND ANDROID APPLICATIONS (COMING SOON)**



# Be a part of building tomorrow's Cameroon



Each month, learn about Cameroon's economic progress



**The *Business in Cameroon* and *Investir au Cameroun* magazines are both free!**

- In Cameroon's embassies and diplomatic posts
- In airport VIP lounges in Paris, London and Brussels
- In Bourget company lounges
- In Business Class on Brussels Airlines and Camair-Co
- In Cameroon's business travel hotels and ministries

