

# BUSINESS IN CAMEROON

MAJOR PROJECTS  
AGRICULTURE  
ENERGY  
MINING  
INDUSTRY  
SERVICES  
FINANCE

**PAUL BIYA**

***“Cameroon is, above all,  
determined to encourage  
private investment”***



**IPA: 893 billion  
CFA franc of  
investments in  
the works**

**Aurion, first  
video game  
100% made in  
Cameroon**

# BUSINESS IN CAMEROON .COM

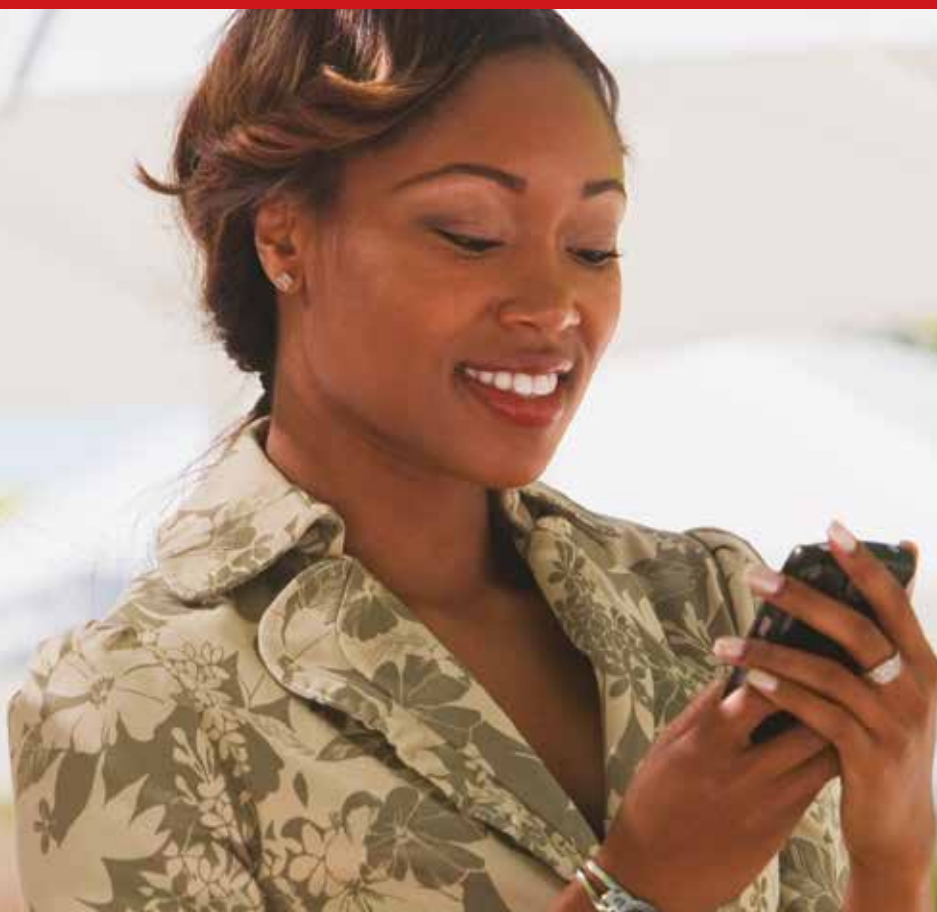
**NEW  
VERSION**

**Daily  
business  
news from  
Cameroon**

**Compatible with iPads,  
smartphones or tablets**



**IPHONE, IPAD, AMAZON, AND ANDROID APPLICATIONS**



Yasmine Bahri-Domon



## Camer, It's Nyanga!

**L**aunched in 2011, Investir au Cameroun and Business in Cameroon are the first free digital media and business magazine fully focused on Cameroon's economy. First, we developed the French version of the platform and as it rapidly sparked interest, we launched the paper version as well as the application, the following year.

It's been five years since our creation and we are currently celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> issue. And though this might seem insignificant to some, we are happy and believe it to be a significant milestone. For this, we would like to thank all our readers.

Now, more than 550,000 of you visit our platforms, [www.investiraucameroun.com](http://www.investiraucameroun.com) and [www.businessincameroon.com](http://www.businessincameroon.com), monthly. 6,482 of you have downloaded our application and more than 55,000 of you follow us on Facebook... We thank you for your trust and support.

Thanks also to our collaborators who allow us to operate efficiently in the country, to MEDIAMANIA's teams who are in charge of the edition and publication of our articles daily (5 new articles in French and English) on Investir au Cameroun and Business in Cameroon. Thanks to our sponsors whom we hope will grow in number so that we can also increase the number of copies distributed. Due to

your growing demand, we have increased the number of copies printed in order to provide a maximum satisfaction to partners, project leaders, development agents, etc. However, we hope to achieve more in the future. Meanwhile, your magazine is available and free to download, upon completion, and in its full version on the corresponding websites.

Finally, thanks to Cameroon's economy for improving daily. Yes, today, many investors eye Cameroon and this is shown in its performances. Who said nothing happens in Cameroon? Through our magazine, you can check and keep track of the progress made in the various projects implemented by the President, as well as of the various changes taking place within these projects.

We are honored to have been contributing, with the help of the President of the Republic, to Cameroon's macroeconomic development. Your magazine, according to us, is a tool to improve your decision-taking ability and economic analysis, but it is also a valued partner which guides you each and every day. It is therefore with honor, humility, and little pride that we support, follow and contribute to the development of the Cameroonian economy. To you we dedicate this 50<sup>th</sup> issue and thank you for all your encouraging and supporting letters and messages from all around the world.

# CONTENTS

## FOCUS



- 08 • Cameroon's attractiveness on display
- 09 • Paul Biya to investors: *"Cameroon is, above all, determined to encourage private investment"*
- 10 • An economic conference to attempt to raise FCfa 1,000 billion worth of funding
- 11 • Tony Elumelu pleads for investments in Cameroon and reaches out to the government
- 11 • For Jose Manuel Barroso, EPA rhyme with investment growth

## LEADER OF THE MONTH

- 34 • Olivier Madiba releases Aurion, first video game 100% made in Cameroon



## INTERVIEW



- 12 • Marthe Angéline Mindja : *"About FCFA893 billion of investments and 30,200 jobs to be created"*

## BUSINESS IN CAMEROON

### **Publisher**

Stratline Limited

### **Publication Director**

Yasmine BAHRI-DOMON

### **Contributors**

Brice R. MBODIAM, Mamadou CISSÉ.

### **Operator**

Médiamania Sàrl

[www.mediamania.pro](http://www.mediamania.pro)

Design : Jérémie FLAUX, Web : Christian ZANARDI,

Translation : Schadrac AKINOCHO, Bérénice BAH

### **Advertisement**

[regiepub@investiraucameroun.com](mailto:regiepub@investiraucameroun.com)

In Cameroon

Albert MASSIMB, [almassimb@yahoo.fr](mailto:almassimb@yahoo.fr)

Tel : 00 237 94 66 94 59 - 00 237 77 75 13 98

### **Printing**

Rotimpres, Aiguaviva, Espagne

### **Circulation**

Albert MASSIMB, [almassimb@yahoo.fr](mailto:almassimb@yahoo.fr)

Tel : 00 237 94 66 94 59 ou 00 237 77 75 13 98

Free – cannot be sold

[www.businessincameroon.com](http://www.businessincameroon.com) - [info@businessincameroon.com](mailto:info@businessincameroon.com)



## PUBLIC MANAGEMENT **P**<sup>16</sup><sub>19</sub>



## FINANCE **P**<sup>20</sup><sub>21</sub>



## AGRICULTURE **P**<sup>22</sup><sub>23</sub>



## INFRASTRUCTURES **P**<sup>24</sup><sub>25</sub>



## TRANSPORTS **P**<sup>26</sup>



## MINING **P**<sup>27</sup><sub>28</sub>



## INDUSTRY **P**<sup>29</sup>



## COMMERCE **P**<sup>30</sup>



## DIGITAL ECONOMY **P**<sup>31</sup><sub>32</sub>



## SERVICES **P**<sup>33</sup>



# THE CAST



## MARAFI HAMIDOU YAYA



The former General Secretary of the Office of the President of the Republic of Cameroon, who later became Minister of Regional Administration and Decentralisation, has just been sentenced to 20 years of prison without parole by the Supreme Court. This verdict issued in the early hours on 18th May 2016 follows an appeal plea made by Mr Marafa's counsels, after a first sentence of 25 years without parole by the Special Criminal Court (TCS) on 22 September 2012.

Arrested then jailed in April 2012, the former General Secretary, who has always protested his innocence and denounced a political score-settling, was found guilty of complicity in the misappropriation of approximately FCfa 24 billion by TCS. In practical terms, the Cameroonian Justice accuses Marafa Hamidou Yaya of "*intellectual complicity*" with Yves Michel Fotso, the former MD of the public airline, then mandated by the State to purchase a plane for the travels of the Head of State. The funds made available for this project disappeared and the presidential plane was never acquired.

## SRI MULYANI INDRAWATI



The General Manager of the World Bank, Sri Mulyani Indrawati, arrived in Cameroon on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016, this Bretton Woods institution announced in a communiqué published on 20th April. During her stay in Cameroon, Sri Mulyani Indrawati had meetings with the Cameroonian public authorities as well as representatives of the private sector and local civil society.

According to the World Bank Group, this work visit was meant to "*strengthen the partnership*" with Cameroon and "*discuss the priorities of the government: promote an inclusive growth and address regional poverty discrepancies, establish structural reforms for an accelerated growth, and improve the business environment for the creation of jobs*". Moreover, the General Manager of the World Bank Group seized the opportunity of this visit to exchange with the beneficiaries of the "*Social Safety Nets projects*", which the institution she leads has been financing in Cameroon since 2014 with FCfa 25 billion.

## NICOLAS OCIS



Passing through Cameroon to exchange with their local partners, to boost the volume of transactions between Cameroonian and French ports, the managers of the Haropa (Le Havre, Rouen and Paris) revealed having already entered into partnership with the brand new deep water port of Kribi, built in South Cameroon, and whose commissioning is announced for this year.

*"We have a partnership agreement with the deep water port of Kribi, through the port of Le Havre, which is a deep water port", indicated Nicolas Ocis, Managing Director of the port of Rouen. In practical terms, he specified, as part of the partnership, the French port of Le Havre "will provide technical assistance to the deep water of Kribi in its operational phase". According to the same source, the Haropa ports are already in partnership with the port of Douala, to whom they provide "engineering solutions".*

## CHANTAL BIYA



Chantal Biya, the spouse of the Cameroonian Head of State, Paul Biya, officially inaugurated on 6th May 2016 in Yaoundé, the capital of the country, the Endoscopic and Human Reproduction Research and Application Centre (Chracerh). In operation since last year,

the Endoscopic and Human Reproduction Research and Application Centre of Yaoundé is the first hospital of this type in Central Africa.

Created by a presidential decree in 2011, this health institution is officially tasked with *"carrying out research activities in the fields of endoscopy and human reproduction and provide top-level health services in the following areas: endoscopic surgery (laparoscopy and surgical hysteroscopy); human reproduction, particularly medically assisted reproduction IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation), ICSI (Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection) and any other equivalent technique; cosmetic and reconstructive senology; antenatal prognosis; high risk pregnancy care..."*

## EDWIN FONGOD NUVAGA



The Customs department (DGD) of the Cameroonian Ministry of Finance only managed to collect FCfa 175.7 billion during the first quarter of 2016, we learn from reliable sources. This performance, though in increase by 4% compared to the same period last year, is

however below the expectations of the government, the target set by DGD for the first quarter being FCfa 187 billion in revenues.

The Cameroonian custom officers explain that this situation is due to the drop in imports in Cameroon. Indeed, we learn, compared to the same period during the previous year, importations of goods, particularly those generating revenues such as vehicles, raw materials for the brewing industries, etc. dropped by approximately 30% during the first quarter 2016. As a reminder, the customs revenue forecasts in Cameroon for the 2016 budget are of FCfa 750 billion.

## MINETTE LIBOM LI LIKENG



During the International Conference "Invest in Cameroon, Land of Opportunities", which took place on 17 and 18 May in Yaoundé, the capital of the country, the Ministry of Posts and Telecoms opened, from 16 May, a digital village within the premises of the National

Museum. According to the organisers, 100 exhibitors took part in this national digital meeting, as well as over 5,000 visitors. In addition to the exhibition, the event was marked by a project fair, digital entertainment, ICT training workshops and B2B meetings.

For three days, this cultural space was transformed into an exhibition site of the Cameroonian expertise in ICT. *"The digital village is an android exhibition gathering different speakers and players of the digital economy, with the main objective of presenting the advantages of our country in this sector and more specifically to promote the know-how of Cameroonian start-ups and to support the youth on the digital path",* explained Minette Libom Li Likeng, the Minister of Posts and Telecoms.



# Cameroon's attractiveness on display

On the initiative of the Head of State, Paul Biya, Cameroon hosted on 17th and 18th May 2016 an international economic conference meant to showcase the opportunities available in this Central African country in terms of investment. Instead of the 500 attendees awaited at this investment meeting, Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital rather welcomed 800 people at the Palais des Congrès.

The mobilisation observed during this event is proof of the relevance of this initiative, which during two days transformed the Cameroonian capital into an investment market. On this occasion, the government, local authorities and private economic operators were able to present their projects to institutional as well as private contributors, among which the most representative made the journey to Yaoundé.

Indeed, in addition to the financial institutions such as IMF, AfDB, World Bank or Proparco, the international economic conference of Yaoundé gathered the biggest banking institutions of the continent, as well as renowned investment funds (KKK, ECP, etc.). A certain number of these financiers have shown interest for some projects seeking funding, while others did not hesitate to commit on the spot.

The international economic conference of Yaoundé was primarily an opportunity to present to the community of investors the range of measures set up by the government to promote private investment.



This is the case of the American firm William F Clark & Co LLP, who signed with Camtel, the historical telecoms operator, an assistance agreement to raise FCfa 150 billion to finance four projects from this public company. In the same vein, the Nigerian banking group UBA guaranteed financing for a project for the construction of low-cost housing in the Cameroonian capital to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

Incidentally, though it led to some positive effects, the international

economic conference of Yaoundé was primarily an opportunity to present to the community of investors the range of measures set up by the government to promote private investment. A targeted message, which will certainly modify the narrow view that a number of potential partners of Cameroon sometimes have with regards to the attractiveness of this country, which is also the gateway to a market of more than 300 million consumers.

**Brice R. Mbodiam**



# Paul Biya to investors: *“Cameroon is, above all, determined to encourage private investment”*

On 17 May at the Palais des Congrès of Yaoundé, the Cameroonian Head of State reiterated the commitment of the government to turn the private sector into the main driver of economic growth for the country.

While opening in Yaoundé the International Economic Conference centred on the theme *“Invest in Cameroon, Land of Opportunities”*, the Cameroonian Head of State, Paul Biya, wished for this event to be the breeding ground for the creation of a true *“investment market”*. *“Cameroon is, above all, determined to promote private investment”*, President Biya reminded, by mentioning the law on private investment incentives in Cameroon voted by Parliament in 2013.

Besides this legal framework (read the interview by the MD of API at the end of this feature), the Cameroonian Head of State presented to the investors, entrepreneurs and other bankers gathered in Yaoundé the multiple opportunities the country has to offer, as well as the strategic position of Cameroon to enter some markets in Africa.

Indeed, Paul Biya reminded, in addition to sharing a border of over 1,500 km with Nigeria, first econ-

omy of Africa and most populated country on the continent with over 150 million inhabitants, Cameroon is located *“at the crossroads of Central and Western Africa, at the intersection of the UEMOA and CEMAC zones”*. A geographic location which makes this country, according to experts, an appropriate launching pad to conquer a market of close to 300 million consumers.

The International Economic Conference, which concluded on 18 May in the Cameroonian capital, saw the attendance of a roster of investors and national and international financiers. Among them, Nigerian Tony Elumelu, President of the banking group UBA, Cameroonian Paul Kammogne Fokam, founder of the banking group Afriland First Bank, which gathers over ten other companies operating in areas as diverse as insurance, capital-risk, real estate, paper manufacture, etc. This Cameroonian investor is in particular at the head of the 2<sup>nd</sup> fortune in sub-Saharan francophone Africa, according to Forbes magazine.

Moroccan Mohamed El Kettani, CEO of the Attijariwaffa group, also came to Yaoundé. Majority shareholder in SCB Cameroon and Wafa Assurances Cameroun, the Attijariwaffa group has just launched in the



The Cameroonian Head of State, Paul Biya, wished for this event to be the breeding ground for the creation of a true *“investment market”*.

country two new companies meant to operate at the sub-regional level, specialised among other things in money transfer and asset management.

Ade Ayeyemi, MD of the Pan African banking group Ecobank, Donald Kaberuka, former President of AfDB, or Cameroonian Acha Léké from the firm McKinsey; complete the list of financiers who worked on investment opportunities in Cameroon from 17 to 18 May.

BRM

# An economic conference to attempt to raise FCfa 1,000 billion worth of funding

**The Cameroonian government presented to various investors 15 projects to fund, in addition to those sponsored by private economic operators and local authorities.**

*"We have a portfolio of projects which require important financing. Besides being a charm offensive, this forum is an invitation to invest".* On 17th May 2016, after the opening of the international conference labelled "Invest in Cameroon, Land of Opportunities", the Cameroonian government took steps to translate into actions the above-mentioned declaration by the Minister of Economy, Louis Paul Motazé, who was setting a few hours before, the context of the main investment meeting hosted in the Cameroonian capital.

In effect, we learned from reliable sources, immediately after the end of the opening ceremony of this conference, the government started meeting with some investors and other banks invited in the Cameroonian capital, in order to present them a list of 15 mature projects, for which the State is still seeking funding. The completion of these 15 projects, we learn from internal sources at the Ministry of Economy, requires a global financing of FCfa 1,000 billion, out of which the Cameroonian government was hoping to get commitments from the investors by the end of the Yaoundé investment conference.

According to our sources, these projects are essentially focused on the sector of road and energy infrastructure. For some projects, the Cameroonian government has already obtained partial funding. These are, for example, the construction of the Douala-Yaoundé motorway, valued at FCfa 300 billion, for which Eximbank of China has already made available FCfa 241 billion.

## KRIBI GAS PLANT, DAM ON THE MENCHUM...

This is also the case for the construction project of the Batschenga-Ntui-Yoko-Tibati-Ngaoundéré road, long of 346 km. This project

Mengong-Sangmélina (117 km for FCfa 58.5 billion), etc.

On the energy level, the Cameroonian government charmed the investors to finance, among other projects, the expansion of the Kribi gas plant, the construction of the dam on the Menchum, or the construction of a 225 KV power line between Memvé'élé (whose dam is under completion) and Yaoundé passing by Ebolowa, long of 285 km.

The office of the Mayor of Limbe, a sea resort in the South-West region, met investors with an urban development project of FCfa 60 billion. This is, we learned, about building

**Immediately after the end of the opening ceremony of this conference, the government started meeting with some investors and other banks invited in the Cameroonian capital.**

whose cost is of FCfa 230 billion has already benefitted from partial funding, jointly raised by AFD, AfDB and JICA.

For projects whose financing is yet to be fully raised, our sources cite the construction of the Olama-Kribi road (246 km for a cost of FCfa 148 billion), the construction of the Ring Road (358 km for a cost of FCfa 155 billion), the paving of the

over 35 hectares, a complex which will include a convention centre with a capacity of 2,000 seats, a shopping mall of 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>, a giant aquarium of 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>. At the same time, the Urban Community of Yaoundé, uber-city hall of the Cameroonian capital, was looking for partners to launch an urban transport company. Cost of the investment: FCfa 13.7 billion.

BRM

# Tony Elumelu pleads for investments in Cameroon and reaches out to the government



It was as a defender of the Cameroonian cause that Tony Elumelu, President of the Nigerian banking group UBA arrived in Yaoundé. *“As a long standing banker and entrepreneur, I have learned how to recognise a good investment and I can say today to all financiers and entrepreneurs that Cameroon is a suitable country for*

*investment”*, he declared during his presentation on 17 May at the Palais des Congrès of Yaoundé.

President of Heirs Holding, a firm created in 2010 and present throughout the African continent in the areas of finance, real estate, agri-business, oil and health; Tony

Elumelu then announced that he was ready to partner with the Cameroonian government to support youth entrepreneurship in the country. A way to make sure that, as the president of the UBA wished, many young Cameroonians in particular, and Africans in general, become the *“next Steve Jobs, Aliko Dangote or Tony Elumelu”*.

This Nigerian businessman moreover seized the opportunity of his invitation to Cameroon to meet with the fifty young Cameroonians selected last year as part of the Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Program (TEEP). This initiative sponsored by the foundation of this Nigerian billionaire is meant to support 1,000 African start-ups with financing worth a total of FCfa 50 billion over a 10-year period.

# For Jose Manuel Barroso, EPA rhyme with investment growth

The former president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, congratulated the Cameroonian government for the signature of an interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union. *“I believe that you have made the right decision with the EPA”*, he declared during his intervention at the international investment conference organised in Yaoundé. Indeed, Mr Barroso claimed, the EPA, which provide for the creation of a free trade zone

between African countries and member-states of the EU, are an important investment vehicle for the African party.

The interim EPA between Cameroon and the EU will come into force in August. It makes provision, for starters, for the entry of production equipment from Europe on the Cameroonian market free of duty. This agreement is highly criticised by academics and the local civil society, even though the EU and the

government present it as an catalyst for investments.

Besides the EPA, the path to investment growth in Cameroon also involves a higher regional integration, according to Mr Barroso. *“Look at the move in Europe! Our countries alone cannot do anything. It is with others that we can create a market which is attractive enough to attract investments and trade”*, the former president of the European Commission explained.

# Marthe Angéline Mindja : *“About FCFA893 billion of investments and 30,200 jobs to be created”*

Interview with the general director of the Investment Promotion Agency (API) providing a review of April 2013 Act for the promotion of private investment in Cameroon.

**Business in Cameroon:** In April 2016, it has been three years since the parliament of Cameroon has voted, under government's guidance, a law to promote private investments in the Republic of Cameroon. Could you tell us the key advantages of this law for investors?

**Marthe Angeline Mindja:** I would like to thank the “*Business in Cameroon's*” publishing director for allowing the Investment Promotion Agency, through me, to boost its visibility in Cameroon's business environment, but other countries' as well.

About what you asked, I would say that this is a revolutionary act which includes various measures to favor both local and foreign investors. These measures are divided into general and specific incentives. Regarding general incentives, we have: tax and customs incentives and financial and administrative incentives.

Fiscal and customs incentives are granted for fifteen (15) years, of which the first five (5) years for

the installation phase and ten (10) years for the exploitation. During installation, the measures comprise exemption of various taxes such as licence and VAT. At this stage, any firm installing itself in Cameroon has practically no charges to pay in terms of tax and duties during the first five years of its existence. During exploitation, measures include exemption or reduction of

gives the right to have in Cameroon and outside Cameroon, accounts in local and foreign currencies and to be able to proceed to transactions (free transfer of funds to investors' home countries). It also grants the right to receive and freely keep abroad funds or loans acquired and use it freely. Finally, it also is the right to directly pay non-resident goods and services providers, and

***“The most important thing for the investor is that he respects his commitments and not to use the incentives for other reasons than those he committed to.”***

tax and duties fees such as registration fees for loans, tax on revenue from assets, borrowing and current account advances, carry forward of operating deficits, etc. Regarding financial and administrative incentives, they are two distinct measures. A financial incentive

the possibility to pay foreign personnel in foreign currency, etc. Among administrative measures, there is the implementation of reception desks in Cameroon's main airports. I would in fact like to recall that the reception desks at Yaoundé and Douala airports are already op-





erational and allow foreign investors to easily obtain incoming visas. Still regarding administrative measures, there is the operationalization of formality centres for enterprise creation which are structure allowing an enterprise to be created within 72 hours.

**BC:** Besides general measures to promote investments that you just mentioned, you also spoke of specific measures. What are those concretely?

**MAM:** The 18 April 2013 Act includes specific measures for investment projects through which the

government will achieve its top-priority goals. Illegible firms benefit from the following advantages: exemption of VAT on investment programs; exemption of land tax for built or non-built buildings.

Moreover, existing firms that commit to increase their production capacity or create new jobs for Cameroonians, also benefit from specific advantages.

Also, besides the advantages mentioned above, there are specific codes and regimes also advantageous to investors. This includes the mining code, the oil code, and the public-private partnership agree-

*"Concerning recorded projects in order of importance, the most sought after sectors are agro-industry and manufacturing industry."*

ment regime which grants advantages specific to these sectors.

**BC:** What requirements should applying investors meet to benefit from these incentives?

**MAM:** The enforcement decree of 3 July 2014 sets the components of the application file for advantages granted by the 18 April 2013 Act to promote investment in Cameroon. Generally, an investor has to identify himself (organization statutes, national ID card, licence, tax identification numbers, etc.) and submit a five (5) year business plan.

**BC:** To date, what is the review of this Act, in terms of the number of illegible investment projects, projected jobs and volume of financing to inject in Cameroon's economy?

**MAM:** Let me recall that the act was voted in 2013 but started being implemented in September 2014 with

***"The 18 April 2013 Act includes specific measures for investment projects through which the government will achieve its top-priority goals."***



the first conventions signed. Since then, 66 firms have signed with the government conventions for about FCFA893 billion of projected investment and 30,200 permanent jobs to be created. We believe these numbers to be extremely encouraging, as we wait for results from field assessment.

**BC:** Could you provide us in detail, the various sectors of activities where the illegible projects are being implemented?

**MAM:** Concerning recorded pro-

jects in order of importance, the most sought after sectors are agro-industry with 25 firms, manufacturing industry with 17 firms. The chemistry, construction materials, steel and metallurgy, social housing, energy have also recorded some projects.

**BC:** Do you think that the selected projects correspond to the government's priorities considering that it seems to have focused on developing agriculture, commodities' processing and ICT?

**MAM:** Unfortunately, ICT seems to not be part of that list. However, we noticed that since the President's call regarding the importance that this sector holds in terms of job creation and for the development of e-commerce, investors have gradually been showing interest in the sector.

**BC :** Many conventions have been signed by investors and the government of Cameroon in the framework of this Act. How many projects have effectively been launched





*"All investors, new or existing, needs a favorable environment. Each country has to properly monitor the beneficiaries of these incentives and make sure of the positive impact of the projects concerned."*

to date and what is their state of development?

**MAM:** Like I said, the 2013 Act for the promotion of private investment is operational only since 2014. This law grants new firms, an installation period of five (5) years and ten (10) years for the exploitation phase, and for existing firms five years to implement their investment project. People seem to forget this detail.

So most of the firms concerned are still within the required deadlines, knowingly the five years corresponding to the installation phase.

They are thus being installed, though some have accelerated the process. Regarding concrete realizations on field, 30 to 40% of approved projects have already started their investment program, their implementation is progressive. Let me say that signing a convention represents an intention to invest.

**BC:** Are you satisfied with the pace at which projects benefiting from the custom-tax advantages provided by the 18 April 2013 Act are being implemented?

**MAM:** We are satisfied by this pace considering that presently, 40% of companies are installing themselves or already installed. Let's recall once more that the first agreements are barely two-years old and that firms benefit from a five-year installation phase. All these firms thus progress according to their specifications.

**BC:** Major industrial groups, whose activities are relatively prosperous in Cameroon, sought after and obtained agreements with State to benefit from this law to expand or diversify their business across the country. Don't you think that there are some investors who do not really need this law but applied to benefit from it?

**MAM:** All investors, new or existing, needs a favorable environment. Each country has to properly monitor the beneficiaries of these incentives and make sure of the positive impact of the projects concerned. In Cameroon, the government has understood this and did not exclude firms that kept putting their trust in the country, even through hard times.

Moreover, the decision to invest of these firms is nothing random. They invest either to diversify their production, or increase their production capacity. Whichever the case, it results in the creation of new jobs.

**BC:** Do conventions signed with economic operators have a validity period? In other terms, what does an investor declared illegible to benefit from the law to implement a specific project but who finally does not launch this project risk?

**MAM:** Incentives set in the April 2013 Act have specific targets. The most important thing for the investor is that he respects his commitments and not to use the incentives for other reasons than those he committed to.

Interview by Brice R. Mbodiam

## PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

## Cameroon: IMF estimates at 1 to 2% of GDP, the impact of the war against Boko Haram on public finances

In its report on the economic prospects of Sub-Saharan Africa at April 2016 ending, published this 3rd May, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) opens a section on the impact of the terrorist threat on certain African countries. We learn that in Cameroon, even though *“the threat of terrorism is concentrated in rural and poor regions”*, notably in the Extreme North, it has however *“caused an increase in security spending, with a budgetary impact of around 1 to 2% of GDP”*.

To put it plainly, financing the deployment of the Cameroonian army the length of the border with Nigeria in the region of the Extreme-North for almost

two years now, as well as its participation in the Multinational Mixed Force, made up of the armies of four states in the Gulf of Guinea facing attacks from the Nigerian terrorist sect Boko Haram, etc., have seriously strained the budget of the Cameroonian state.

Specifically, considering the IMF estimate mentioned above and the GDP of Cameroon, that the World Bank put at US\$ 32.05 billion in 2014, thus more than FCfa 17000 billion; the war against Boko Haram has already cost between FCfa 170 and 340 billion to the Cameroonian Public Treasury.

At the least, in addition to the loss of human lives officially estimated at more

than 1000 people since 2013, Boko Haram has already made the Cameroonian government spend more than the budgeted envelope of FCfa 163 billion necessary for the construction in the capital, of a 60,000-seats stadium for the matches of the 2019 AFCON.

The upper limit of the IMF estimate corresponds to more than 80% of the financing required (FCfa 400 billion) for the Cameroonian government to build, with its own resources, the Natchigal hydro-electric plant (in development in the Central Region) with a production capacity of 400 MW.

## Cameroonian Head of State pleads for elaboration of co-development projects with Nigeria

During the Nigerian visit he just ended, the Cameroonian Head of State, Paul Biya, invited his Nigerian counterpart, President Buhari, to work toward setting up co-development projects involving both countries. *“We know, in effect, that under-development, that is to say poverty and ignorance, facilitate the actions of terrorist movements such as Boko Haram. This is why, Mr. President, Dear Brother, I believe it would be useful, for starters, to elaborate co-development projects in our sometimes neglected border regions”*, pleaded Paul Biya, who was then responding to the toast given on 3<sup>rd</sup> May by President Buhari in his honor.



Continuing along the same lines, the Cameroonian Head of State indicated the sectors where this bilateral cooperation could be more beneficial for Cameroonian and Nigerian populations. *“We could consider doing agricultural and infrastructure projects together. We*

*would need in this view to connect our road networks (which is underway), provide electric power (which Cameroon will be able to do in the middle term) and set up social infrastructure”*, the Cameroonian Head of State specified.



## Cameroon: The Ministry of Employment compiles list of 58 illegal recruitment companies

The Cameroonian Minister of Employment and Vocational Training, Zacharie Perevet, has just published two lists of recruitment companies working fraudulently in the country. The first list is made of 44 companies with no valid authorisation or suspended from operation. Therefore, the managers of the companies using workers referred by these agencies are requested to cease all working relations with these unlawful staffing agencies.

The second list, which has 14 companies and staffing agencies, is for companies recently suspended for illegally offering staffing services to Cameroonian companies.

To the two above-mentioned categories of companies, Minister Perevet promised “*stricter*” sanctions provided for by

the current law, in case of non-respect of their suspension or their non-com-

pliance with the regulation on their activities in Cameroon.



## Cameroon: Ten members of the commission for the compensation of local residents of the deep water port of Kribi in jail

Since 5 May 2016, ten members of the commission for the identification and registration of the populations victims of expropriation as part of the project for the construction of the deep water port of Kribi, in Southern Cameroon, have been remanded in custody at the Kondengui central prison in Yaoundé, we learned from reliable sources.

Among those incarcerated, are Jean François Bilong, now retired former prefect of the Ocean department; the first prefectural deputy of this department at the time of the offence; the former deputy reeve of the Kribi 1 district as well as his deputy; André Joseph Eyebe Eyebe, who took office as the deputy reeve of the Bangangté district, in Western Cameroon, on 25 April 2016; and departmental employees of the Ministries of Lands and Agriculture.

All have been accused of tampering with the list of names of those to be compensated as part of the Kribi deep water port project. Indeed, during the distribution of compensations, some denounced the presence on said lists of unknown people, when a certain number of real local residents were omitted. At the same time, the populations denounced the unequal amounts to be paid to those to be compensated, as well as acts of corruption and favouritism ascribed to members of the registration commission.

To compound these denunciations, were the reservations expressed by the IMF, who considered exorbitant the total amount of the compensations presented to the project team: FCfa 20 billion. Investigations led to the observation that the names of some beneficiaries were

fraudulently added to the list of people to be compensated. Acts which were made possible through the use of fake land titles or land titles issued prior to the presidential decree declaring the site as public area, or the production of titles for lands located far away from the area concerned by the compensations.

In September 2013, while concluding the compensation process for residents living close to the Kribi port, which had been launched in 2011 then suspended due to the ire of the populations; the Minister of Lands, Jacqueline Koung à Bessiké, had announced that after investigation and tidying up of the list of people to be compensated, the government was finally able to save a total of FCfa 9 billion.

## **UNCTAD and Agence des PME launch a programme to spark entrepreneurial spirit in young Cameroonian**

Youth programme for the promotion of entrepreneurial spirit. This is the name of the brand new programme just launched by the SME Promotion Agency in Cameroon (APME), with the technical partnership of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). *“We are not looking for young project sponsors. We will encourage the youth to create, because there are entrepreneurs waiting to be awoken in the Cameroonian youth”*, Jean Marie Louis Badga, MD of APME, explained.

In concrete terms, as part of this programme launched conjointly with a trainers’ training to UNCTAD’s “Goal” methodology, the idea will be to develop within the Cameroonian youth behavioural responses based on entrepreneurial spirit skills development. According to its initiators, this programme should lead to a decrease in the number of young Cameroonians seeking employment or unemployed, through their transformation into business founders rather susceptible of generating jobs.



## **Cameroon: the public debt rising by FCfa 650 billion over a year and now at 26.8% of GDP as at end March 2016**

The outstanding public debt of Cameroon reached FCfa 4,502 billion during the first quarter 2016, which represents 26.8% of the GDP of the country, announced the Autonomous Amortisation Fund (CAA), the public organisation in charge of managing public borrowing.

Out of this global outstanding of the public Cameroonian debt, we learn, 77.3%, about FCfa 3,480 billion, represent the external debt, against 22.7% of internal debt, approximately FCfa 1,023 billion in

absolute value. On this last point, CAA points out that compared to the period of reference last year, the Cameroonian State has reduced its internal debt by 5%, which thus moved from 27.9% of GDP at end March 2015 to 22.7% during the first quarter of 2016.

With an indebtedness peaking at only 26.8%, Cameroon therefore has a sustainable debt, according to the current standard of the Cemac, which authorises an indebtedness equivalent to up to

70% of GDP.

Despite this situation, Cameroon has been subjected to criticism from the Bretton Woods institution for some months. While the IMF denounces a quick indebtedness of the country (after the 2006 PPTE initiative), mostly at non concessional interest rates; the World Bank, in a report dated April 2016, already listed Cameroon among sub-Sahara African countries showing a high risk of over-indebtedness.

## WB approves FCfa 70 billion financing for mother and child health in Cameroon

The administrators of the World Bank approved on 3 May 2016, a financing worth a total of USD 127 million (close to FCfa 70 billion), in order “to improve health services for reproduction, mother, new born, child and adolescent and nutrition services” in Cameroon, an official communiqué from this Bretton Woods institution.

This funding, the World Bank specifies, includes a loan of USD 100 million (approximately FCfa 55 billion) from the International Development Association (IDA), the concessional one-stop shop of the World Bank; and a donation of USD 27 million (about FCfa 14.8 billion) provided by the Fiduciary Fund of the Global Financing Facility (GFF).

The first phase of the project (2016-2018) thus financed, we learn, is meant to cover 36 districts of Northern Cameroon and specifically targets women, adolescents and children under five, as well



as displaced populations and refugees affected by the insecurity prevailing in this area of Cameroon. The project focuses on two components, which are enhancing the provision of health services and institution building to improve the results of the health system.

“The Cameroonian authorities, with six years of experience in financing based on results consider that it is essential to operate with this type of funding to strengthen

the efficiency of the allocation and use of resources meant for the health sector, improve the performance of health agents by increasing their motivation and satisfaction, and broaden the access of the population to essential health services by improving the quality of health services”, notes Elisabeth Hyubens, Cameroon Operations Director for the World Bank.

## Cameroon inaugurates endoscopic surgery and human reproduction research centre



Chantal Biya, spouse of the Cameroonian Head of State, Paul Biya, officially commissioned on 6 May 2016 in Yaoundé, the capital of the country, an endoscopic surgery and human reproduction research and application centre (CHRACERH).

Created by presidential decree in 2011, this health institute is officially in charge of “carrying out research activi-

ties in terms of endoscopy and human reproduction and provide high level health care in the following areas: endoscopic surgery (surgical laparoscopy and hysteroscopy); human reproduction, including medically assisted procreation IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation), ICSI (intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection) and another other equivalent technique; plastic and reconstructive senology; antenatal diag-



nosis; very high risk pregnancy management...”.

In operation since last year, the Yaoundé endoscopic surgery and human reproduction research and application centre is the first hospital of its kind in Central Africa. The first interventions in this establishment were carried out on 14 April 2015, we learn.



## FINANCE

## A Cameroonian engineer invents “Djangui”, an online application to manage tontines



“Djangui”. This local label for tontines in Cameroon is also the name chosen by Jules Guilain Kenfack, a Cameroonian computer and telecommunications engineer, to refer to the application he has just invented, and through which it is possible to manage tontines online. Through this application, its inventor explains, friends all around the world can meet all the requirements linked to a tontine.

In concrete terms, through “Djangui”, it is possible to securely pay for one’s contributions via Paypal, Orange Money and MTN Mobile Money; exchange with the members of the tontine through an instant message service; or-

ganise automatic lotteries; vote for the members of the board and have the minutes of the previous meetings, take loans from the tontine’s account, write the minutes of meetings which can also be done through videoconference, etc. According to Jules Guilain Kenfack, “Djangui” which is in the development phase in order to add more functions, is available in French and English. This application, says its creator, is already being used successfully in Germany, by four tontines with Cameroonian members living in Europe. This technological innovation will help to modernise the tontines, which are very much part of African cultures. Indeed, these

friends or family groups within which members make different transactions (cash deposits, loans, school savings, etc.) have become for some years now real traditional financial institutions.

According to the microfinance strategy document of Cameroon elaborated by the Ministry of Finance in April 2013, Cameroonian tontines operate globally with approximately FCfa 190 billion. This document moreover indicates that 58% of Cameroonians prefer tontines because the contributions generate more interest and access to loans is less restricted than with banks and microfinance establishments.



## Appointment of new MD puts an end to 7 years of provisional administration at Commercial Bank of Cameroon

A session of the Board of Commercial Bank of Cameroon (CBC) held on 6 May 2016 led to the appointment of Cameroonian banker Léandre Djummo as Managing Director of this banking institution under provisional administration since 2009.

The newly promoted MD is an ex-employee of the Central African States Bank (BEAC) and the Central African Banking Commission (COBAC), the regulatory body of the banking sector in the Cematic. Léandre Djummo was until his appointment Administrator at Afriland First Bank, first Cameroonian banking group.

The Board of CBC will be chaired by Alfred Tiki. Mr Tiki was also provisional Administrator of Amity Bank, another Cameroonian bank facing difficulties, which was finally bought by the Ivorian

group Banque Atlantique despite a decision from the Common Court of Justice of the Cematic denouncing this transaction with the Cameroonian government.

The re-establishment of the corporate bodies of CBC, whose new leaders will take function after ratification of their appointment by COBAC, thus puts an end to a period of provisional administration which lasted 7 years. This provisional administration was even punctuated by an ongoing complaint against the provisional administrator, Martin Luther Njanga Njoh, accused of misappropriating funds and having received salaries and benefits seen as outrageous or unmerited. The restructuring of this lending establishment, started on 28 January 2013 for a six-month period, was extended six times.

As a reminder, the bank created by the Cameroonian billionaire, Victor Fotso, was put under provisional administration in 2009, after a control by the Central African Banking Commission. The regulator of the bank sector in the Cematic had found gaps in the management of this credit establishment, particularly in the embezzlement of equity capital blamed on Yves Michel Fotso, son of the majority shareholder.

In April 2014, after two roundtables unattended by its historical shareholders, who kept denouncing “an expropriation attempt”, CBC was recapitalised with FCfa 12 billion, including approximately FCfa 10 billion injected by the Cameroonian State, who now owns 98% of the assets of this originally private bank.

## Facing stiff competition, the net income 2015 of Société des Eaux Minérales du Cameroun plummets by 40%

First company listed on the Douala Stock Exchange (DSX), the country's stock market, the Société des Eaux Minérales du Cameroun (SEMC) had a 2015 net result of FCfa 164 million, we officially learned. This performance is in decrease by almost 40%, compared to the net profit of FCfa 261.9 million taken in at the end of 2014.

However, this is the second time within 4 years that this subsidiary of the Société Anonyme des Brasseries du Cameroun posts a net profit, after the losses registered successively in 2012 (- FCfa 50 million) and 2013 (- FCfa 319 million), due to the ever increasing competition observed on the local market for mineral waters.

Moreover, after Semme Minerals Water



and Source du pays (“Supermont” mineral water and “Planète” fruit juice), two local companies who have taken away significant market shares (11% as at end June 2013) from SEMC (Source Tangui) over the past five years, the mineral water market leader must now also contend with NABCO among others.

Owned by billionaire Nana Bouba, this company until now known for its fruit juices marketed under the “Vigo” brand, has just moved into the production of mineral water under the “Opur” brand. All this, with the associated big publicity campaign.

# AGRICULTURE

## Ivorian Koné Dossongui creates Atlantic Cocoa Plantations to launch his agro-industrial project in Cameroon

Atlantic Cocoa Plantations SA. This is the name of the company through which Ivorian businessman Koné Dossongui will move into the production and processing of cocoa in Cameroon. With an initial capital of FCfa 10 million, the headquarters of this company are in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital, we learn in a legal notice.

The boss of the Atlantic group (Atlantic Télécom, Atlantic Financial Group...) already present in Cameroon through the bank of the same name, chairs the Board of this new company, while Georges Anatole Wilson is the Managing Director. The purpose of Atlantic Cocos Plantations SA is *"the establishment, development and operation of agricultural plantations; the marketing of all agricultural and food; the grouping,*



*training and management of small and medium farmers".*

As a reminder, it was on 29th July 2015 that this Ivorian economic operator revealed his project for the creation of an industrial cocoa consortium in Cameroon. Received by the then Minister of Economy, Koné Dossongui specified

that his agro-industrial would have three components being: the creation of cocoa farms in the country, the construction of a cocoa processing unit, and the establishment of a management structure for producers.

A project welcomed by the Cameroonian public authorities as it fits in with the cocoa and coffee sector stimulus plan, adopted by the Cameroonian in September 2014. This plan, implemented since early 2015, is meant to achieve a national cocoa production of 60,000 tons by 2020, against a current yearly average of 200,000 tons; and a bean processing volume equivalent to 70% of the national production, against 25% currently.

## Cameroon: Sodecoton paid over FCfa 78 billion to producers for the 2015-2016 season

The Cotton Development Company (Sodecoton), the leading agro-industrial company in northern Cameroon, bought slightly over FCfa 78 billion worth of cotton from producers during the 2015-2016 season, we learn from an official communiqué issued by the company.

According to the same source, the 250,000 producers this public company manages with the support of the National Confederation of Cotton Producers of Cameroon (CNPCC), each year receive loans worth approximately FCfa 38 billion for the purchase of inputs.

In order to facilitate the collection of the production from producers, we learn, Sodecoton maintains every year about 7,000 km of roads in northern Cameroon. This agro-industry also claims the creation of 26 km of track roads, again for the collection of the cotton produced.



## Varieties of cassava, sorghum, potato and maize from IRAD receive prize during the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva

The researchers of the Agronomical Research Institute for Development (IRAD) officially presented, on 10 May 2016 in Yaoundé, the four gold medals won during the International Exhibition of Inventions which took place from 13 to 17 April 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

IRAD was thus awarded prizes for varieties of cassava, maize, sweet potato and sorghum invented in its laboratories in Cameroon, and which help achieve much higher yields and resist against plant diseases.

*"This is the time for me to express the recognition of the Nation to the researchers who search and find"*, the Minister of Scientific Research, Madeleine Tchuinté, declared during the presentation of the prizes awarded to Cameroon during the Geneva Exhibition, which saw the participation of 695 exhibitors.



## The Cameroonian government revives the registration process for agricultural cooperatives

The Cameroonian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Minader), Henri Eyebe Ayissi, has just announced through communiqué, the restart of the registration process for cooperative societies in the agricultural sector.

Managers of these companies are thus invited to submit, starting from 9 May 2016, their applications to the departmental delegations of the Ministry of Agriculture spread throughout the country.

These registrations were suspended in 2013 due to, we learn, the coming into force in Cameroon of the Ohada common Act on cooperative societies. This act imposed new provisions which did not previously exist in the Cameroonian law.

The relaunch of this process is good news for the cooperatives, since most institutional financing granted to the agri-

cultural sector nowadays in Cameroon go through producers' associations.





# INFRASTRUCTURES

## Cameroon: Chinese Poly Group will carry out second phase of Yaoundé-Douala motorway in BOT mode

The Chinese firm Poly Group Corporation will carry out the works for the second phase of the project for the construction of a two-lane freeway between Yaoundé and Douala, the two main cities of Cameroon, the pro-government daily announced citing the management of this company headquartered in Beijing.

Contrary to the first phase, we learn from the same source, the works of the 2nd phase will be undertaken based on the Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model, through a public-private partnership to be signed between the State of Cameroon and Poly Group Corporation. In other words, the Chinese company will provide the necessary financing, will carry out the work, will manage the freeway for a certain period of time before returning the infrastructure to the Cameroonian State. The Yaoundé-Douala freeway will be 215 km long. The works of the first phase, covering 80 km, were awarded to the company China First Highway Engineering Company Limited (CFHEC). Financing was provided by Exim Bank of China, who released FCfa 241.4 billion.



## Chinese company She Yong wins contract for the construction of 3,200 low-cost housing in Cameroon

On 18 May 2016 in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital, the Minister of Housing and Urban development (MINHDU), Jean-Claude Mbwentchou, signed with the management of the Chinese company She Yong, a partnership contract to carry out a project for the construction of 3,200 low-cost housing units in Cameroon.

This partnership, according to our sources, is in reality the second phase of a project already started by this Chinese company, which is actually the conclusion of a site of 1,800 low-cost housing units in the capital of the country.

As a reminder, the deficit in low-cost housing in Cameroon is estimated to

more than 1.2 million units as at 2015. As a consequence, finding accommodation in the country is more and more expensive. From this point of view, industrial engineer Gabin Babagnak, who has been working for several years on this issue, claims that Cameroonians spend half of their income on housing.

## Minister of Employment commits to providing local materials in the construction sector



In the construction projects of the Public Training Centres, the Cameroonian Ministry in charge of Employment and Vocational Training will now prioritise the use of local materials, including stabilised clay bricks manufactured by the Mission for the Promotion of Local Materials (Mipromalo). This is what the partnership convention signed by these two public institutions stipulates.

This decision is in direct line with the government circular made public on 1st March 2007, prescribing the use of local materials in the construction of public buildings. A prescription which has however not yet led to a real boom in the number of public edifices built with bricks made by Mipromalo.

The partnership between Mipromalo and the Ministry of Employment for

the promotion of local materials also includes other components such as the development of vocational training standards in terms of production and use of local materials, outfitting the public training centres with tools for the production of local materials; capacity-building for the trainers by Mipromalo who will also make available its laboratories for practical workshops, etc.

## Two Chadian and Nigerian engineering firms win contracts worth FCfa 53.7 billion in Cameroon

The Cameroonian government has just awarded two road construction contracts to the Chadian and Nigerian companies Sner and Atidolf Nigeria, as part of the three-year emergency plan launched last year. The two contracts are worth a total of FCfa 53.7 billion. The biggest contract, of FCfa 34.3 billion, was awarded to the company Ati-

dolf Nigeria, for the construction of the Soa-Esse-Awae road, in the Central region of the country. The Chadian company Sner, created through the withdrawal of the Chadian State from the Société nationale d'entretien routier (National Company for Road Maintenance), won a contract FCfa 19.4 billion for the construction of Maroua-Bogo

road, in the Extreme-North region.

According to the communiqué from the Minister of Public Procurement, Abba Sadou, which made public the results of the restricted international call for tenders launched in this regard on 1 December 2015, the winning companies will have 24 months to deliver the completed projects.

# TRANSPORTS

## Increase in transit of Central African and Chadian goods in Cameroon despite insecurity at the border

According to the statistics revealed by the General Manager of the Douala Autonomous Port (PAD), Emmanuel Etoundi Oyono, the volume of Central African and Chadian goods which transited through the Douala Port during 2015 “went over the one million ton mark”. This volume, the MD of PAD highlighted, had decreased from 2013, due in part to the “insecurity” in Northern Cameroon, the region bordering Chad and Nigeria, and in the Eastern region, which shares a long border with CAR.

This traffic with Chad and CAR is however a tiny fraction of the import-export operations carried out at the Douala Port in 2015, a year during which the traffic in this port increased by 4%, to reach 11.3 million tons, Emmanuel Etoundi Oyono indicated.

This volume of traffic exceeds by over



one million tons the capacities of this port, estimated at 10 million tons in a report published on 7 July 2014 by the National Port Authority (APN). “*The Douala Port was created for a traffic of 10,000,000 tons. The current traffic surpassing this volume, the port is thus technically operating in sub-capacity*”, APN

noted relating to the 2013 traffic, which peaked at 10.6 million tons.

While awaiting the commissioning of the deep water port of Kribi, announced for this year, the Douala Port represents on its own 99% of the entire maritime traffic in the country, also note by APN in the above-mentioned report.

## Urban Community of Yaoundé seeks partners and FCfa 13.7 billion to launch urban transport company

The Urban Community of Yaoundé, the overall town hall of the Cameroonian capital, is planning to facilitate transport conditions for the 3 million inhabitants of the city by creating a new mass metropolitan transport company. The government’s delegate, Gilbert Tsimi Evouma, presented this project to investors gathered in Yaoundé from 17 to 18 May 2016, for the International Eco-

nomic Conference.

A major asset of this FCfa 13.7 billion project, as highlighted by Gilbert Tsimi Evouma, a site and offices are already available to host this new company, meant to take over the premises of the defunct Société des Transports Urbains du Cameroun (Sotuc).

It is on this same site that the moribund company Le Bus is currently operating.

A company created a few years ago as a joint-venture with American partners from Transnational Automotive Group (Taug), but which never managed to continue of the public company Sotuc. For some months now, the buses of the company Le Bus have been less visible on the roads of the capital city than on the premises of the company, which have now become a real scrap yard.



## MINING

## Chaos is rife in mining industry in Eastern Cameroon, according to Minister Ngwaboubou



Appointed as Minister of Mines in October 2015, Ernest Ngwaboubou has just had a brief experience of the realities in the mining operations in Eastern Cameroon. Between the reduction of the quantities produced by the companies in order to decrease their tax duties, nightly gold panning to hide the quantities produced, clandestine mining, the destruction of the environment by the gold miners, etc. Minister Ngwaboubou got a long list of the problems plaguing mining operations in the richest region in ore of Cameroon.

Despite the previous numerous warnings as well as the cleaning operations in the mining industry in the Eastern region, Ernest Ngwaboubou was able to notice that operators with simple search permits fraudulently moved into full mining operation, and that the transfer of permits to expatriates for traditional mining which is solely allowed for nationals is still an ongoing practice. *“There has been in the Eastern mining sector, it must be bluntly said, a sort of anarchy for some years now”*, the Minister of Mines confided

to the pro-government daily.

After reminding that Cameroon only has 5 operation permits in validity at the moment, Ernest Ngwaboubou announced that he would send a team on site in two weeks to clarify the quasi-chaotic situation in the mining industry in East Cameroon. *“With these conclusions, we will bring back order in the sector”*, indicated the Minister of Mines, whose predecessors had also announced reorganisation measures which never really succeeded in reversing the trend noted in the mining sector in the Eastern region.

## **Cemac wants to elaborate a single mining code for its member-States**



The Cemac Commission launched this 11 May 2016 in Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon, a study for the elaboration of a single mining code enforceable in the six member-States of this community: Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, CAR and Chad. This study carried out with the support

of the raw materials capacity-building Project in Central Africa, financed by the German cooperation; is led by a regional group of experts specialised in mining law, in association with experts from the member-States of the Cemac. According to the Cemac Commission, the study initiated on 11 May 2016 “will

help propose, based on the mining laws already in force in the Cemac, a communal mining code project adapted to the challenges of the sub-region and the international standards in terms of transparency, environment protection ...”. The final results of this study are expected at the end of this year.

---

## **The Cameroonian government approves mining exploration in the Memvé'élé dam area**

The Cameroonian government has just awarded to the group of consultancy firms made of Geovectorix and Cider Services, a mining exploration contract covering the catchment area of the future Memvé'élé dam, under construction in the South of the country. These exploration activities for which

the group of consultancy firms will earn a total of FCfa 292.5 million, we learn in a communiqué issued by the government, will take place over a maximum period of six months. Geovectorix is an engineering firm registered in Cameroon, whose services are essentially focused on mining geology,

cartography and space technologies. The mining exploration authorised in the areas covered by this energy infrastructure is probably meant to identify the ores which could be present in the area, in order to launch a salvage operation before the commissioning of this dam scheduled for June 2017.



## INDUSTRY

## Lafarge-Holcim resurrect project for the construction of a new 50,000 tons cement factory in Cameroon



The Cameroonian government and the Lafarge group, who recently merged with the firm Holcim, recently signed an investment agreement for the construction of a cement factory in the town of Nomayos, close to the Cameroonian capital.

This agreement between the Cameroonian State and Lafarge-Holcim will thus help to resurrect this project announced 5 years ago. Indeed, a cornerstone ceremony for this cement factory took place in September 2011 in Nomayos, just a few days after the start of the construc-

tion works for the Dangote cement factory in Douala, which started operating in 2015.

Justifying the delay in the installation of this new cement factory, Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo, Chairman of Cimenteries du Cameroun (Cimencam), local subsidiary of Lafarge, mentioned "the industrial procedures (which) are time-consuming". Before adding: *"Discussions are ongoing with the State on tax and administrative issues. The most important is that the project has reached maturation today and this agreement*

*signing will enable us to finally start the works, which should be completed by 2018"*.

Worth a total of FCfa 23 billion, this investment will finally benefit from the provisions in the private investment incentives Act in the Republic of Cameroon adopted by the Cameroonian Parliament in 2013, which grants important tax and customs exemptions to economic operators during the installation and production phases of their companies.



## COMMERCE

## After Dakar and Abidjan, Algeria will open an Algerian-Cameroonian trade office in Douala

According to the Algerian ambassador in Cameroon, Merzak Bedjaoui, an Algerian-Cameroonian trade office will be opened in the city of Douala in the coming months, to strengthen the economic cooperation between the two countries. This will be the 3rd Algerian initiative of this kind in Africa, after the Dakar and Abidjan offices, we learn. The details of the establishment of this trade desk, the Algerian diplomat explained to *Quotidien de l'Economie*, will be fine-tuned during the Algerian-Cameroonian Economic Partnership Days, which will be soon organised in Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon. But, while awaiting this event, we learn, 12 Cameroonian eco-

nomic operators will take part in the 5th edition of the Algérie Export Fair, which will take place from 27 to 30 May 2016 in the Algerian capital.

For some months, Algeria has been visibly committed to reviving the economic cooperation with Cameroon. At the Chancellery of this country in Yaoundé, the upcoming negotiation with the Cameroonian authorities of new partnership agreements is announced, including a trade agreement, an investor promotion and mutual protection agreement, as well as an aviation agreement which will open the Cameroonian airspace to the airline Air Algérie.

## French company Tati is considering comeback in Cameroon by first half 2017

The French chain store has just announced an expansion programme in Africa, through franchises given to local operators. This expansion plan makes provision for the opening of stores in countries such as Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

According to Pierre Havransart, International Development Manager for Tati, the launch of the stores of this French distributor in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and

Cameroon should take place during the first half of 2017.

In Cameroon, the pink and white checkered brand will actually be making a comeback, after a brief appearance in the 90's. Indeed, after some years of activities punctuated by repeated sales, the Tati shop built over 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> on the Ahmadou Ahidjo Boulevard in the Akwa borough, in Douala, had to close on 31 January 2004 due to difficulties at the parent company.

## Saidal group, leader in the generic medicine market in Algeria, is set to conquer the Cameroonian market

The Algerian pharmaceutical group Saidal has just signed a partnership with a partner whose has not yet been revealed, an agreement for the distribution of its products in 13 African countries, including Cameroon, we learn from good sources. The arrangements to make effective exportations of Saidal products to the affected countries "started in February this year", Mohamed Hamouche, MD of Saidal, highlights.

In Cameroon, this pharmaceutical group will try to win some shares in the medicine market representing over FCfa 200 billion, according to credible estimates. For several years now, this market has been largely dominated by European and American laboratories, despite a breakthrough by Asians and Indians, who are more present on the market for generics.

Saidal, in which the Algerian state owns an 80% shareholding, will also meet Tunisian competitors in the Cameroonian market. Indeed, the Tunisian group Kilani, through the Teriak laboratories, recently bought the pharmaceutical production plant of the Cameroonian company Cinpharm.

# DIGITAL ECONOMY

## Sukuloo, the platform made in Cameroon guaranteeing parents academic support for students

An online platform and mobile application allowing parents to have access, in real time via the web, to the grades achieved by their wards at school; the student's learning curve in the different subjects; the number of hours the student was absent from class; the details on all the homework; instant alerts on new grades, late arrivals for class, absences and test papers; or directly exchange with the school board on the student's behaviour, etc.

These are some of the features of Sukuloo (which means school in Cameroonian local languages), a platform for academic monitoring developed by the Cameroonian start-up Infosys Group. According to its sponsors, with Sukuloo, the educational community and parents now have at their disposition a tool through which they can interact to fight



“school failure and dropout”.

Finalist candidate during the first edition of Total Cameroun's Challenge Startupper with the platform Sukuloo, Infosys Group ensures the rollout of this tool in schools and trains personnel on its use. It is then the responsibility of the schools, high schools and other partner

universities to market this service to parents and enter the necessary information. In areas where there is no internet connection, the information can be sent to the parents via SMS, thanks to the call centre set up by Sukuloo's sponsors.

## Orange FAB will be launched in Cameroon in June 2016 to support the development of start-ups

Invited to the Economic Conference on Investment which ended on 18 May 2016 in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital, Bruno Mettling, CEO of the Orange group for Africa and the Middle East, announced that the Cameroonian subsidiary of this French telecoms group will launch Orange FAB in 2016. This is, he specified, a structure meant to support the development of local start-ups. In concrete terms, we learn, through Orange FAB, start-up sponsors in Cameroon

will benefit from a multi-dimensional support, with “*full respect to their autonomy*”, Bruno Mettling specified. This support, Elisabeth Medou, MD of orange Cameroun explained, will be in the form of technical, legal and financial support. Orange FAB, according to Bruno Mettling, testifies to the ambition of the Orange group to “*become a partner in the digital transformation of Africa*” in general, and Cameroon, in particular. This initiative, we learn, concretely en-

ables this telecoms firm to get more involved in the development of start-ups, going further than the simple awarding of prizes to start-ups offering innovative projects.

“*We have realised that many start-ups who received prizes were often not able to bring their projects to fruition. Our ambition is now to identify mature projects and transform these ideas into business opportunities, into companies*”, Elisabeth Medou highlighted

## MTN Cameroun deactivates 12,000 unregistered chips

The Cameroonian subsidiary of the South African telecoms firm, MTN International, recently deactivated 12,000 unregistered chips, we learn from sources within the company, who however specified that the chips taken out of service had been inactive for a long time.

The deactivation of these chips, ordered by the national telecoms regulator in case of non-identification of the users, comes a few weeks to the deadline (end June 2016) given by MTN Cameroun to its subscribers to confirm their registration. This, after the publication of the government decree dated 3 September 2015 giving mobile operators new directions in terms of user registration. According to the Telecoms Regulatory Agency (ART), over the 2014-2015 period, mobile operators operating in Cameroon had to suspend 6 million phone chips deemed “*suspicious*”.

Ongoing registration campaigns for mobile subscribers come in a context marked by the terrorist attacks committed by the Nigerian Islamist sect Boko Haram in Cameroon, attacks in which mobile telephones were sometimes used to activate the explosives carried by the kamikazes. At the same time, we learn from experts, Cameroon is facing an increase in Sim-box frauds, which lead to important losses for the mobile operators and the public Treasury.



## Portuguese group Prologica wants to establish a computer assembly unit in Cameroon

Cameroon could soon have its very first computer assembly factory. This is at least the ambition of the Portuguese group Prologica, whose management recently visited Cameroon to discuss the methods of implementation of this project with local authorities.

According to our sources, this project

should be carried out in partnership with the African Institute of Computer Science (IAI). With an assembling capacity of 6,000 computers per day, the factory which would help create 10,000 jobs would be a production covering the entire Central African market.

Founded in 1984, Prologica is presented

as one of the main players in the information technology market in Portugal. Aside from the IT services that the group develops through the company Iten Solutions, Prologica is also active in technologies targeting the development of education and healthcare.



# SERVICES

## The French business law firm Lefèvre Pelletier & Associés sets its sights on Cameroon

On 2 May 2016, the French law firm Lefèvre Pelletier & Associés (LPA), specialised in business law, officially announced having opened a branch in Douala, the Cameroonian economic capital, as well as a local branch in Yaoundé the capital of the country. The LPA office in Cameroon, which

has five lawyers, is led by Yves Moukory Eyoun, who previously worked for the financial audit firm EY (Ernst and Young). The Douala branch is the first bureau that this French law firm opens in sub-Saharan Africa, and the 3rd in Africa, after Algiers and Casablanca. LPA is the 2nd internationally active

business law firm to establish itself in Cameroon in less than a year. Indeed, in September 2015, Centurion Law Group announced the opening of a branch in Douala, with the ambition of providing services in areas such as arbitration, commercial disputes, corporate law, taxation and contract negotiation.

## First Canal Olympia cinema theatre of Cameroon to officially open on 14 June 2016



The Vivendi group has announced that the cinema theatre and performance hall labelled Canal Olympia, whose construction works are currently ongoing on the campus of the Yaoundé I University, in the Cameroonian capital, will officially open on 14 June 2016.

Reliable sources inform that, after Yaoundé, this company specialised in entertainment is planning, as part of its programme aimed at investing in the cultural industry in Africa, to build at least two other cinema and performance halls in the cities of Douala and Bafoussam.

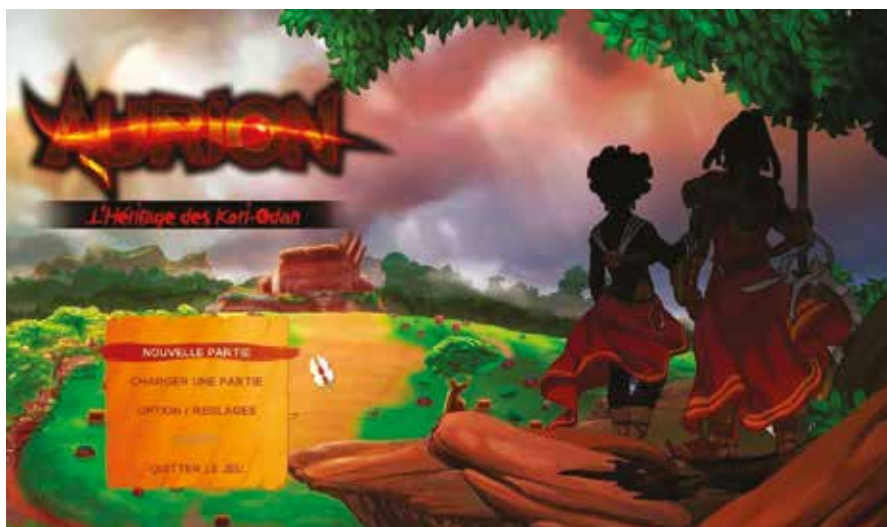
As a reminder, Cameroon no longer has a cinema since January 2009, when the Abbia Cinema in Yaoundé and the Wouri in Douala were closed. These two cinemas belonged to businessman Victor Fotso.

## Leader of the month

# Olivier Madiba releases Aurion, first video game 100% made in Cameroon

*"Aurion, the legacy of the Kori-Odan".* This is the title of the first video game made in Cameroon, which is being promoted since 14 April 2016 by the start-up Kiro'o Games, a company founded by the young IT engineer Olivier Guillaume Madiba, who recently won the 2nd prize of the very first edition of the Challenge Startupper organised by Total Cameroun.

Thanks to the determination and passion of this IT graduate, who launched with his college classmates (in 2007) the company Media Sarl, specialised in providing IT services; Cameroon has just made



its entry on the very profitable market of video games production.

The funding to produce *"Aurion, the legacy of the Kori-Odan"* was obtained through crowdfunding. This operation through which subscribers were invited to buy shares in the company to finance its first video game was closed in early 2015 with a total of FCfa 120 million raised, equivalent to € 182,504. According to the statistics compiled by Olivier Guillaume Madiba and his team, 74% of the subscriptions to this fundraising operation via internet were made by Cameroonians.

A 10-year old project, the first video game made in CAMeroon was inspired by the African culture and cosmogony. It is about, accord-

ing to its producer, the story of a prince victim of a coup organised by his brother-in-law on the day of his coronation and wedding. The royal couple is then exiled and decides to travel the world in the quest for support to regain access to the throne.

The achievement of Olivier Madiba seems to have inspired others. Indeed, in 12 to 14 months, a second video game made in Cameroon could hit the market. Dedicated to the Cameroonian football star, Samuel Eto'o, this game is developed by the company SDK Games Africa, who launched a crowdfunding operation on 13 April in order to raise the USD 25,000 (FCfa 14 million) needed to produce this video game.

BRM



The achievement of Olivier Madiba seems to have inspired others. Indeed, in 12 to 14 months, a second video game made in Cameroon could hit the market.

# 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, Brussels, Zurich, and Frankfurt
- In Bourget company lounges
- In Business Class on Brussels Airlines and Camair-Co
- In Cameroon's business travel hotels and ministries





# IL Y A DU SERVICE DANS L'AIR



La valeur n'attend pas le nombre des années. 2 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