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Cameroon fully engages in recycling and circular economy

In the past, while it was only practiced by minor artisans, and was ignored by local SMEs and SMIs, recycling now moves at a great pace in Cameroon's technical and industrial atmosphere. How many would have believed this some years ago? Only a few surely, but things have changed now. Now, people are aware that waste earns money. This caused a real boost in recycling, in a short period of time. The sector has organized so much to the point that it even attracts national investors. As a result, almost nothing is thrown away anymore, rather, everything, almost, is recycled, locally. Hence, government is paying particular attention to this activity in order to regularize it.

Recycling is interesting more and more people, especially since government passed in April 2014 a law prohibiting manufacturing and commercialization of non-biodegradable packaging, to preserve environment. And even if some are still playing deaf to this bill, it does not change the fact that recycling is still an appropriate solution, as readers will find out looking at our main dossier which is dedicated to the state of this sector in Cameroon.

Truth is used metals, plastics, old batteries, used mobile phones, damaged computers and other electronic gadgets now generate revenues, to the extent that recycling them has driven international firms to establish

themselves in the country, collecting and exporting products for recycling. Therefore, readers can deduce that plastic waste is recycled locally while electronic waste is recycled abroad. But actually, the latter could also be done in the country, costing less in terms of wages paid and operating charges, while respecting the law and environmental standards. Cameroon does not lack the required assets to achieve this; it has skilled personnel, trained and formatted mostly in the country's private and public schools.

Cameroon holds a great potential in regards to recycling and this explains the need for a boom in collection and industrialization.

In this regard, your magazine is both an instruction manual, a measuring and guiding tool to tap into the many opportunities offered by recycling in Cameroon. Many have built up wealth by collecting and recycling used objects. Local businessmen and heads of NGOs preceded foreign investors in this quite profitable sector. This should give rise to an interesting competition. Especially with the upcoming African Cup of Nations that Cameroon is expected to host, in 2019. The event indeed attracts many investors also, but how profitable will it actually be? That is another question which is answered in this edition of our magazine.

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Publication Director

Yasmine BAHRI-DOMON

Contributors

Brice R. MBODIAM, Sylvain ANDZONGO, Idriss LINGE.

Operator

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Design : Jérémie FLAUX, Web : Christian ZANARDI,

Translation : Schadrac AKINOCHO

Advertisement

regiepub@investirau cameroun.com

In Cameroon

Albert MASSIMB, almassimb@yahoo.fr

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Rumours, preconceived notions, clichés, superstitions,
urban legend: What is real? What is fake?

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THE CAST



**ABBAS
MAHAMAT
TOLLI**

After a difficult 2017 economic year marked by a negative growth of the GDP (-0.1%), the economy of the six CEMAC member States is gradually recovering.

"We are out of the danger zone. The economic environment is much better but the economies remain weak. This explains the various measures we are adopting", said Abbas Mahamat Tolli, governor of the Central Bank of Central African States (BEAC) at the end of the first session of apex bank's monetary policy committee on March 21, 2018, in Yaoundé.



**HENRI EYÉBÉ
AYISSI**

Establishing a territorial distribution of the lands according to their agro-ecological characteristics and to the agricultural products they are most suited to. This is the goal of the soils mapping which is being done at the ministry of agriculture. *"It is important to know the soils to be able to efficiently exploit them. The soils mapping will aid with decision-making process and assist the agricultural project promoters considering investments, regarding speculation",* explained the agriculture's minister, Henri Eyébé Ayissi, on March 5, 2018, during a workshop organized in the framework of that project. According to the experts who participated to the workshop, such tool is an effective to increase agricultural output in the country.

Let's note that despite 25% of the Cameroonian territory being arable, and the country having five distinct agro-ecological zones, the country is still a major importer of food products.



**BASILE
ATANGANA
KOUNA**

Dismissed from his position as Cameroon's minister of water and energy on March 2, 2018, Basile Atangana Kouna is now imprisoned at Kondengui Central Prison. He was brought back to Cameroon in the evening of March 22, 2018, onboard a special flight, following his arrest in Nigeria. Indeed, some days before his arrest, he was forbidden from leaving Cameroon, an order that he clearly defied.

The former minister is implicated in an embezzlement case which dates back to the time when he was the managing director of CAMWATER, the country's public water distribution company whose creation he had actually led after a briefly acting as the managing director of the now defunct Société nationale des eaux du Cameroun (Snec). To avoid being judged by the special court TCS, created to hunt down corrupt officials, he fled.



**JEAN PIERRE
MOREL**

On March 14, 2018, during the hearing at the correctional chamber of Eséka court, Jean Pierre Morel, current managing director of CAMRAIL said that after the railway accident during which 79 passengers died, CAMRAIL set an inquiry commission to determine what happened.

According to his statements, experts appointed to conduct this task concluded that at some point of the journey, the train was overspeeding. This is what caused the accident, they said. However, they did not explain the reason why the train suddenly revved up. The managing director said that because of this, an international independent expertise was needed to determine the real causes of the accident seeing that there was no sign of anomaly since the train left Yaoundé.



**JEAN LUC
PALLIX**

Material handling and equipment manager at Bolloré Transport & Logistics Cameroon since 2014, Jean Luc Pallix is the new managing director of Société d'exploitation des parcs à bois du Cameroun (SEPBC), a subsidiary of Bolloré group which is the concessionaire of the timber hub of Douala port, official sources revealed. He replaces Eric Gerbet.

Jean Luc Pallix has been working with Bolloré group in Africa for 34 years now. He has been the logistics manager of Peschaud in Cameroon, Saga in Gabon and in Côte d'Ivoire, Sdv/Saga in Togo and of Bolloré Transport & Logistics in Cameroon.

The new managing director also has great experience in wood handling in African ports. In that field, he worked with Société d'exploitation des parcs à bois d'Abidjan (SEPBA) at the port of San Pedro in Côte d'Ivoire. He also worked with Société nationale des bois du Gabon (SNBG) and Compagnie forestière du Gabon at Port Gentil.



**LUC MAGLOIRE
MBARGA
ATANGANA**

Cameroon's one-stop shop for external trade transactions (Guichet unique des opérations du commerce extérieur-GUCE) has recently launched an electronic platform to provide all the information importers and exporters need to facilitate their activities.

According to the trade minister Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, wherever the economic operators are, on www.cameroontradeportal.cm, they can get all the information they need for the transit, imports or exports of goods and services in Cameroon.

During the launch of this platform, he also invited the economic operators to take full advantages of the tool.

Recycling industry: Moving ahead, slowly but surely



Since April 1, 2014, producing, importing and selling non-biodegradable plastic packaging is officially forbidden in Cameroon.

Since April 1, 2014, producing, importing and selling non-biodegradable plastic packaging is officially forbidden in Cameroon. Indeed, to avoid the negative impact of these packaging on the environment, the Cameroonian government was led to take this decision in 2012, giving all economic operators two years to adhere to its move.

However, four years after the measure entered into effect, it appears that these packaging are still produced and sold in the country. This, despite the various sporadic operations carried out by agents of the ministry of environment and protection. The latter has in fact

revealed that 600,000 tons of plastic packaging are produced every year by companies and households in Cameroon, and often end dumped in streets, drains and watercourses all over the nation. In the face of this, the definitive solution to the issue is most likely recycling. Truth is not only plastic packages pollute the environment. There is also rubber and more and more electronic and electric waste, which, according to some experts, are even more dangerous for the environment than plastic. In this regard, actions of mobile operators such as MTN and Orange, to collect and recycle used phones, should be lauded.

However, regardless of these actions that aim partially to collect and export electronic waste, for export, and also process and recycle plastic waste locally, Cameroon still needs to have a real waste recycling industry; an industry that is a true source of opportunities, in terms of job creation, in other countries. In fact, proceeds from the 5CFA tax imposed two years ago to firms manufacturing non-biodegradable plastic bottles, could be very useful to develop an actual recycling industry in Cameroon.

Brice R. Mbodiam

Plastic waste used as input to make ecologic tiles and pavements



Eco-pavement which are said to be more resistant than those made with cement.

Already recycling car batteries to extract lead out of them, Bocom Recycling has started producing ecologic tiles in Cameroon. It does this by collecting and recycling plastic waste abounding in the streets, official sources revealed. According to the firm's top executives, the new eco-tiles are solid, waterproof and contain ambient temperature in

is nicknamed, has since 2015, with this association, established a plastic waste based pavement factory. What is particular about this facility is that it hires kids from the streets to help them re-socialize.

In about a little more than two years, this factory which employs 20 people permanently (and more than 300 indirectly through waste collection)

In Burkina Faso, the startup Teco2, created by cameroonian Calvin Tiam, aims to recycle 500 tons of plastic every year.

houses they cover, and most importantly are beneficial to the environment since they are made from recycled plastic waste.

Another interesting project is "Cœur d'Afrique", an association created by the African football legend Roger Milla. Indeed, the "Goléador" as he

processed nearly 51 tons of plastic waste into close to 1,300 cubic meters of eco-pavement which are said to be more resistant than those made with cement.

Actually, Roger Milla and his staff want to open a second factory this year in Douala, Cameroon's econom-

ic capital. Under their projections, this plant should in a near future expand its activities to external markets like Benin, Burkina Faso, Cœur d'Afrique.

In Burkina Faso, Roger Milla should join his fellow countryman Calvin Tiam, engineer in industrial processes and renewable energy, who created in the West African country Teco2, a startup that produces sheeting made with recycled plastic waste.

"Manufactured locally, this material is made with polyethylene plastic waste. For every square meter of Teco2 sheeting, about 10kg of plastic waste is used, and this corresponds to a reduction of 9kg equivalent CO₂ of greenhouse gases", the young engineer said. He aims to recycle 500 tons of plastic every year, and provide a roof to about 1,300 Burkinabe households and maybe even to Cameroonians, through expansion.

BRM

Pneupur to start recycling used tires in Bikok, in 2019



80% of used tires are abandoned in nature.

Cameroonian twin brothers Benjamin and Frédéric Belibi, passionate of automobile, who have in fact offered studies in this sector in France are preparing to launch a firm that will process used tires in Cameroon. The company, baptized Pneupur, which is hosted at the Ecole nationale supérieure polytechnique of Yaoundé, will open its first recycling unit in the country at the

beginning of 2019, sources close to the project said. The plant which will be built over three hectares in Bikok in Central Region will turn used tires in cover for outdoor flooring in homes, amusement parks, school courts. According to the firm's owners, a first coating will be done this year, to prove the concept. The plant which aims at creating

41 direct jobs and 150 indirect jobs over a period of three years, will first start processing 70,000 used tires, and scale this volume up to 150,000 in the third year of activity. The recycling facility will cost around CFA327 million (€500,000) which will be provided by private investors and investment funds.

A four billion CFA project to recycle electronic and electric waste in Douala and Yaoundé

Douala's urban community and French NGO la Guilde européenne du Raid, signed on January 23, 2018, a partnership agreement to develop the Weecam project which aims to recycle electronic and electric waste in the country.

Costing CFA4 billion and mainly funded by the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM), Weecam will extend over five years, and be implemented in Yaoundé, according to sources close to the project. By putting in place a waste collection

system in towns that are to host the project, as well as a recycling unit, Weecam aims at processing 5,000 tons of waste per year, including 3,900 tons locally.

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Kemit Ecology turns plant waste into ecologic coal



Despite the increasing use of cooking gas and electric ovens, charcoal is still the main source of energy of Cameroonian households, due to its extremely low price.

Since July 2014, when Kemit Ecology, a startup launched by two Cameroonian entrepreneurs, commenced its activities, Douala's households have access to ecologic coal derived from plant waste collected in markets and households themselves.

produce some kind of charcoal which are conditioned and sold in 1-40kg bags", one of the project's promoters explained.

This process allows the Cameroonian startup to produce up to one ton of ecologic coal per month. This output, according to Kemit Ecology's

Ecology's product is mainly to protect the environment, by avoiding the destruction of Douala's mangrove. Indeed, this mangrove is the primary input used to produce the 90 tons of charcoal consumed every month by Douala's households.

Let it be recalled that despite the increasing use of cooking gas and electric ovens, charcoal is still the main source of energy of Cameroonian households, due to its extremely low price. It is even more used in the northern part of the country, and other rural areas.

To reduce the negative impact of charcoal on the environment, the government is presently discussing with Canadian partners regarding the installation of an ecologic coal production plant in Cameroon. If this project comes through, it will add up to Kemit Ecology's initiative.

Kemit Ecology produces up to one ton of ecologic coal per month and this output could reach 20 tons per month, if the company gets funding to accelerate its activities.

These wastes are collected and "dried at 105°C then carbonized in an oven. Next, dark ashes obtained through that process are combined with water and a kaolin-based material, to

promoters, could reach 20 tons per month, if the company gets funding to accelerate its activities. Less expensive and twice less polluting than traditional coal, Kemit

Babissakana:

“The organization of CAN can be a growth driver and a catalyst to economic activities”

Since he took office as chairman of the African football confederation (CAF) in March 2017, the Malagasy Ahmad Ahmad repeatedly stressed that Cameroon cannot succeed in organizing the next African cup of nations (CAN) in 2019, though the country well organized the Women's CAN in 2016.

Despite Cameroonian authorities' efforts, who continue developing projects launched in the framework of the championship, to ensure its

vendetta on Cameroonian Issa Hayatou, who was CAF's chairman for 29 years. Indeed, during his presidency, Mr. Hayatou withdrew the organization of a junior CAN from Madagascar (Ahmad's country), on the basis of several pessimistic reports from CAF inspectors frequently sent to the country.

However, beyond this perception of a revenge, organizing a CAN involves huge marketing and especially economic challenges. This is the



“CAN can be a growth driver and a catalyst to economic activities, through the mobilization of important financial resources for many sectors such as infrastructure, transport, accommodation, tourism, catering, etc.”

“It is not the organization of the CAN itself, which is expensive. It is rather the skills, methods and techniques used that can create additional costs due to general management failures.”

complete success, and satisfaction of the first inspectors from the office appointed by the confederation to assess the works' progress; CAF's president seems not to be convinced. According to some African football fans, like Pape Diouf, former president of Olympique de Marseille, Ahmad Ahmad is leading a personal

only fact that justifies competition between various countries to host the event; silent battles for a change in decision (as is the case currently); or even the actual determination of Cameroonian authorities to keep the right to organize the football competition.

In order to identify various eco-

nomic stakes surrounding the CAN, Business in Cameroon interviewed Babissakana, a financial engineer well known for his iconoclastic stances.

Business in Cameroon: According to you, what are the main motivations for a country to want to organize a competition like the African Cup of Nations (CAN)?

Babissakana: The African Cup of Nations (CAN) is considered as a major sport event, gathering at least 50,000 persons including at least 20% foreigners. Specifically, any big event has huge economic and territorial and also a great media impact

that profits the host country and particularly communities directly concerned. Therefore, in order to reap the benefits of these positives impacts on progress and growth, countries compete to organize big events like CAN.

BC: What tangible opportunities organizing the 2019 CAN could offer a country like Cameroon?

B: Opportunities that this event has to offer a country like Cameroon are multiple. They can be grouped into four categories. First, CAN can be a growth driver and a catalyst to economic activities, through the mobilization of important financial resources for many sectors such as infrastructure, transport, accommodation, tourism, catering, etc. Next, this competition could fast-track tourist and commercial



"According to some African football fans, CAF's chairman Ahmad Ahmad is leading a personal vendetta on Cameroonian Issa Hayatou, who was CAF's chairman for 29 years."

activities as well as foster innovation and valorize knowledge and skills in various trades. Moreover, the CAN can also be a strategic promotional tool and as such can thus help create value, boost social cohesion and improve Cameroon's image through a strong media coverage - via internet, to, social networks, specialized and general written press, etc. - and diplomatic reinforcement. Finally, the African Cup of Nations can also be a key factor for the development of cities and local communities that will host the matches as



"Cameroon well organized the Women's CAN in 2016."

many infrastructures will be built in these places.

BC: Many often claim that the organization of such an event is very onerous, especially for poor countries. In purely economic terms, would the organization of a CAN be completely unproductive?

B: Regardless of the size, any country that wants to enhance its attractiveness to host major events and leverage on those to boost its economic activities, must develop and implement a specific and sustainable strategy.

The organization cost stems from the technologies used for project and event management. When these technologies do not comply with required international standards, the country will pay for the absence of quality or poor quality resulting. It is not the organization of the CAN (ed.: or any other event of the sort) itself, which is expensive. It is rather the skills, methods and techniques used that can create additional costs due to general management failures. As far as the international standards for major event management are concerned, the one required is ISO 20121 responsible management systems for event activity - implementation requirements and recommendations, published in June 2012. In addition, there are project

and program management standards that can be used for more efficiency. Unfortunately, our structures charged to organize the CAN do not seem to resort to the ISO 20121 standard.

BC: Still according to you, what are the key economic indicators that can be influenced during the organization of such competition?

B: Usually, there are four main economic indicators which are: the frequency of visitors going to hosting towns; organization expenditures including application spending; direct, indirect and induced economic benefits (turnover of the business segments, GDP, taxes, etc.); and impacts on the image of the country and on territorial development.

BC: How can Cameroon capitalize the various benefits of the CAN 2019 that it is going to organize?

B: Only an efficient organization that minimizes, as much as possible, failures and shortcomings, can help take full advantages of the possible positive impacts of the CAN. Given the constraints and risks associated with the multiple elections scheduled in 2018 in Cameroon, a strong discipline is required to meet deadlines, costs, quality of infrastructure under construction and other requirements.

Interview with Brice R. Mbodiam

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

China donates more than CFA400 billion to Cameroon following Paul Biya's state visit



During Paul Biya's state visit in China on March 22-24, 2018, Cameroon secured five cooperation agreements. These are namely an economic and

technical cooperation agreement between China and Cameroon, a MoU on the development of human resources and one for an increased

cooperation as far as infrastructures are concerned as well as a framework agreement between the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (NDRC) and Cameroon's ministry of economy. There is also a CFA50 billion concessional loan agreement for the second phase, a project to supply drinking water in nine Cameroonian towns.

According to the economy minister's statements reported by Cameroon Tribune, thanks to these cooperation agreements, this year, Cameroon will be granted donations of CFA334 billion. Another CFA84 billion will be granted over the three coming years. Let's note that China is actually Cameroon's leading commercial partner. This country is also the leading investor for the realization of development projects. In 2016, the volume of bilateral trades reached a record CFA1,510 billion.

The budget revenue was CFA4,451.9 billion in 2017

Cameroon's ministry of finance reveals that during the 2017 fiscal year, the country's budget revenues stood at CFA4, 451.9 billion. Compared to the volume generated during the previous year, this represents an increase by 22.7% (CFA822.4 billion). The finance ministry explains that the internal revenues as well as the loans and donations has been the basis of this increase. Indeed, as far

as loans and donations are concerned, by end December 2017, they stood at CFA1, 394.8 billion against CFA791.2 billion by end December 2016; an increase by CFA603.6 billion (+76.3%).

According to this ministerial department, the increase of the loans and donations was mainly due to the exceptional financial support from development partners to assist the

implementation of the economic and financial programme concluded with IMF. It was also due to an improvement of the project loans' disbursement.

All-in-all, the ministry notes that the 2017 budget revenues exceeds the CFA4,373.8 billion target and represents a 100.8% realization rate.

Government's confidential documents' leakers will be sanctioned



On March 29, 2018, Philémon Yang sent a circular to the decentralized territorial units' officials and to the managing directors of public institutions and companies.

In the circular, he revealed that in defiance of the rules in force, government institutions and companies' confidential document and information were regularly disclosed to an unauthorized public. He further informed that because of the vulgarization of the internet and

new electronic communication tools, the dissemination of this info was accentuated.

According to the minister, apart from compromising the efficiency of public actions, this constitutes serious harms to the security of the state which is increasingly confronted with multifaceted security threats. Also, to put an end to this, the minister advises the officials to ensure that public agents respect the professional discretion required by

the civil service regulation. This, until the government's data platform and privacy policy, is finalized.

Moreover, Philémon Yang asks to bring the public agents suspected of violation of the professional discretion obligation to the competent disciplinary commission. He also advised them to place only people with an unquestionable probity in their services' mail processing chain.

Forged customs documents could be the reason of Adamaoua customs' poor performance

Forged customs documents could be the reason why the Adamaoua customs office did not generate the expected revenues (CFA1.1 billion) in 2017.

"Forged documents allow the user to bypass customs clearance. There are

many bikes with forged documents in our country (...) because of this, our performances decreased in 2017 (CFA740 million) as we have detected about 1,000 of these bikes in the region", revealed Norbert Ahidjo, interim customs chief in Adamaoua,

during a meeting on March 16, 2018. Let's note that motorcycles are well-valued in the northern region. Therefore, Adamaoua is one of the hubs where motorcycles (imported from Nigeria, fraudulently) are mainly sold.

China to cancel part of Cameroon's debt



On the Cameroonian presidency's website, it is revealed that the Chinese government has promised to cancel part of Cameroon's debt. Even though the amount to be cancelled is not disclosed, this announces an improvement of the China-Cameroon relation. Indeed, during the visit of Yu Jianhu, Chinese deputy commerce minister, from November 29 to December 2, 2017,

Cameroon's minister of economy revealed that the relation between the two countries was confronted with considerable challenges which were roadblocks to these relations. Particularly, he indicated the non-compliance to the contractual terms by Cameroon and delays in the payment of the outstanding debt such as the loan for the construction of Kribi deepwater port (CFA544.74)

as well as acquisition of the three MA60 (CFA36.43 billion) in July 2012. Yet, since 2007, China is presented as Cameroon's leading funder with fundings estimated at about CFA3,000 billion granted as loan or donations via the government, Export-Import Bank Of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank Of China, Bank of China...

The Cameroonian, Roger Nkodo Dang, is candidate to his own succession for the Pan-African Parliament

In an exclusive interview published on March 26, 2018, in Cameroon Tribune, Roger Nkodo Dang, the Pan-African Parliament's outgoing president announces that he is a candidate to his own succession. *"So far, we have been in contact with about thirty head of chambers on the continent to emphasize on our works, as the stint of our country [Cameroon] at the realms of this institution of the African Union has*

been coroneted by many successes. So, we think that we can renew our mandate", he declared. According to him, all the countries in the Central African sub-region support Cameroon's candidacy and other sub-regions through the heads of chambers also committed to doing so. Let's remind that the Pan-African Parliament will be renewed on May 7-19, 2018 in South Africa.

Considered as the African Union's parliament, this institution is an assembly of 256 deputies from the 53 AU member countries' national assemblies. During the last election, the Cameroonian Nkodo Dang won with 85 votes ahead of the Mozambican Eduardo Joaquim Mulémbwè (70 votes), and the Tunisian Mongi Rahoui (9 votes).

Many prominent people banned from leaving Cameroon

It's an unprecedented situation in Cameroon. Many prominent people have been banned from leaving the country.

Indeed, in a statement signed on March 19 by the chief superintendent Jean Marie Ndie Ngah, it is revealed that upon instructions from the delegate general for national security Martin Mbarga Nguete, the chancellor of Yaoundé II University, Adolphe Minkoa She is banned from leaving Cameroon.

The same statement reveals that Jean Jacques Ndoudoumou, the former General Director of the Regulatory Board for Public Procurement, Lazare Atou (the renowned owner of an audit cabinet in Yaoundé) and Louis Max Ayina Ohandja, a former secretary of state at the ministry of public works and transport, have also been asked not to leave Cameroon. The list goes on to mention Magloire Ondo, dean of the faculty of political and juridical science of Yaoundé II university, Jean Calvin Abaâ Oyono (former president of the media-tion boards commission 'CPMC')



and Edmond Mballa Elanga (the current president of CPMC). Let's note that this is the third round of personalities asked not to leave Cameroon because of legal problems. Indeed, on March 2, 2018, David Nkotto Emame and Richard Maga,

respectively managing director and deputy managing director of CAMTEL, as well as 6 of their collaborators were also asked not to travel out of the country. Some days earlier (February 7), Basile Atangana Kouna also fell under this prohibition.

CEMAC's economy is out of the "danger zone", according to BEAC's governor

After a difficult 2017 economic year marked by a negative growth of the GDP (-0.1%), the economy of the six member CEMAC countries is gradually recovering.

"We are out of the danger zone. The economic environment is much better but the economies remain weak. This explains the various measures we are adopting", said Abbas Mahamat Tolli, governor of BEAC at the end of the meeting of the monetary policy committee on

March 21, 2018, in Yaoundé. According to the governor, the slight improvement of the economy is due to the increase of commodity prices on the international market and of the production of crude oil. It is also due to the implementation of the economic, monetary and financial reforms prescribed in the Programme des réformes de la Cemac (Pref-Cemac) and of the programmes concluded with IMF by four member countries namely

Cameroon, Chad, Gabon and Central Africa.

This year, BEAC forecasts a 2.1% of the GDP, against the -0.1% recorded in 2017. In the same document, it reveals that the inflationary pressure should stand at 1.8% against a community standard of 3%. As far as the external coverage rate of the currency (whose fall led to fears of depreciation some months ago) is concerned, it will rise to 64.2 %, from 57.5% in 2017.

FINANCE

Société Générale Cameroon to launch its mobile money service soon

Abbas Mahamat Tolli, governor of BEAC has just signed a decision authorizing Société générale Cameroun (SGC), to provide mobile money services.

This time, SGC partners with Yup Cameroun, a network of third-party service providers (gas station, retailer, etc...).

In the decision, Abbas Mahamat Tolli informs that Société générale Cameroun is allowed a deadline of six months from the decision's signing date, to comply with the regulatory framework and send the statistics on its activities to BEAC.

Let's note that SGC submitted the authorization request on September 22, 2017. Thanks to this service, users can now withdraw, deposit and transfer money. They can also buy airtime or pay for goods and services. Unlike Afriland, BICEC and UBA which partner with MTN, Orange, and VIETTEL respectively, SGC does not rely on a telecommunication operator. This is not the first time either. Indeed, according to BEAC,



on December 31, 2014, the bank suspended its service Monifone because of the competition and recurring conflicts with some telecommunication operators.

For the record, 'Yup Cameroun' is accessible via an extended network of distributors equipped with

appropriate terminals. Offered in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, the Yup service comprises of more than 30,000 e-wallets opened with about 600 agents.

This year, Société générale expects to launch its mobile money services in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Togo.

BICEC's total balance sheet registered an 11% increase during the 2017 fiscal year

BICEC informs that on March 23, 2018, in Douala, its general assembly approved the financial result of the 2017 fiscal year.

The bank informs that the volume of its activity increased in 2017. Indeed, during the year under review, the total balance sheet was CFA765 billion while in 2016, it was CFA690 billion; an 11% increase. The bank

also reveals that the net banking income is CFA59.6 billion, an increase by 17%. The gross operating income has risen by 39% to stand at CFA28 billion. In addition, during the period under review, the net income was CFA9.5 billion.

The Cameroonian subsidiary of the French group BPCE estimates that it is trusted by clients because, in 2017,

the deposits rose by 10%, crossing the CFA600 billion threshold.

The bank further presents itself as a socially responsible financial institution since its investments in Cameroon's economy by December 31, 2017, stood at CFA548 billion. This represents an increase by CFA11 billion compared to the volume of that same investment in 2016.

CMF cautions the population to beware of “Adam E-Business Space” services

Cameroon’s financial market commission CMF informs that on March 20, 2018, it was alerted about the activities of a Yaoundé-based investment entity called “Adam E-Business Space”.

According to CMF, this company has been offering financial services to

particulars and promising attractive returns for some months now. The commission further disclosed that Adam E-Business Space has already collected more than CFA10 million.

CMF reminds that the activities carried out by this investment

company are regulated. However, so far, it has not submitted a licensing application nor was it granted one. Consequently, the financial market commission invites the population to beware of the investment opportunities offered by Adam E-Business Space.

CMF authorizes Douala Urban Community to raise CFA10 billion during an IPO



On March 13, 2018, the panel of Commission des marchés financiers (CMF) presided by Jean Claude Ngbwa, authorized Douala urban community (CUD) to launch an Initial Public Offering to constitute the share capital of Société d’investissement de Douala (SMID) which is CFA10 billion.

This IPO, whose offering period has not been set, is addressed to local and international legal entities as

well as physical persons who wish to acquire SMID’s shares. EDC Investment Corp will lead the operations and will submit the detailed report of the IPO to CMF, eight days maximum after the operation. The fund raised will be kept at Ecobank Cameroon. “*SMID will be listed once it meets the listing requirements*”, CMF informs.

This authorization is the concretization of Douala Urban community’s

dream to create a SMID whose initial target was CFA1,400 billion. The fund will help build infrastructures such as the Centre international des conférences de Douala (CFA12.4 billion), gare routière multimodale de Bonabéri (CFA1.9 billion), the urban forest of Bessékè (CFA2.29 billion), Douala exhibition center (about CFA8.5 billion), etc.

AGRIBUSINESS

Cameroon to import 100,000 tons of palm oil in 2018 to supply refiners



Cameroon has authorized the imports of 100,000 tons of palm oil this year, in order to guarantee the product's availability to refining industries. This was revealed by internal sources at the country's association of oleaginous refiners ASROC. This volume is up by 4000 compared to the one authorized in 2017.

According to the operators, the imports are mainly aimed at filling the deficit which having stood for sometimes at a yearly volume of 100,000 tons is now 130,000 tons. This is due to the investments made by many refiners to increase their production capacity (so far, 3 refiners have invested CFA30 billion for this purpose) while the local palm oil production is stagnating. Moreover, they accuse SOCAPALM of working against their interests.

Indeed, during a press conference in Yaoundé on March 22, 2018, the general secretary of ASROC expressed the operators' surprise to notice that SOCAPALM supplied 76,845 tons of the product, to CRFHP, in January, February and March 2018, to be distributed to secondary processors while the global volume distributed in July and September 2017 was 28,020.

According to the refiners association, this sudden availability of palm oil at SOCAPALM in 2018 (while it was scarce in July and September) reveals that SOCAPALM hid the quantity which was available because it expects to increase its price by 30%. Effectively, on May 11, 2017, the producer submitted a request to the government to increase the price. The government however rejected

the request during an inter-ministerial meeting in November 2017, authorized sources reveal.

Even so, SOCAPALM rejects these accusations. During a meeting of the sector's regulatory body on March 6, 2018, in Yaoundé, SOCAPALM's representative said that the abundance is due to an increase of the production which is subsequent to the progressive development of new plantations.

On March 8, 2018, the regulatory body concluded that in view of the previous figures (of 2017 mainly) the production gap during the period under review is so large. This *"gives the sudden production increase an ambiguous and confused nature which can only be explained by the reasons provided earlier"*, the statement reads.

TRANSPORTATION

Chinese aircraft manufacturers woo Cameroon

On March 24, 2018, during the state visit of Paul Biya in China (March 22-24), He Dong Feng, chairman of the executive board of Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd (COMAC) presented three aircrafts (AJ 21, CR 929 and C 919) to Cameroon's president and his entourage in Shanghai.

He Dong Feng explained that these aircrafts constructed by his company can compete with those built by world giants like Boeing and Airbus. Also, on March 23, managers of AVIC International were granted an audience with Joseph Fouda, Paul Biya's special adviser. According to indiscretions, the two parties discussed

the possibilities of a collaboration as far as aviation security is concerned. Let's be reminded that in July 2012, with the Chinese government's support, AVIC supplied three MA60 aircraft to Cameroon. Two are being used by CAMAIR-Co and one by the aviation military.

Camair-Co gets the exclusive rights to sell Russia 2018 airline and stadium entrance tickets within Africa on Behalf of Mondial Tours

"Mondial tours, contracted by the organisers of the coming World Cup, visited us because we have been granted the exclusive right to sell the airline and stadium entrance tickets as well as every other ticket related to hospitality during the 2018 world cup within the Central African region." This was the explanation provided by Ernest Dikoume, CAMAIR-Co MD during a meeting with Mondial Tours' managers in Douala last week. So, thanks to this partnership between the tour operator and CAMAIR-Co, the Cameroonian public airline company, which is gradually recovering from the difficulties it has confronted since it launched its activities, will improve its results. According to Mariama Satina Diallo, CEO of Mondial Tours, the package offered to the supporters willing to attend the matches of Russia 2018 include, "access to the stadiums



and to the best seats. The packages also grant access to the parking and meal services three hours before the matches, two hours after a match

starts and one hour after the end of the match. So, you will spend six hours at the stadium in the company of the hostesses and the entertainers".

ENERGY

Eneo to construct 100,000 additional electrical connections in 2018



In a newsletter published last month (February 2018), ENEO revealed that in the framework of its 2018 Action plan, it would construct 100,000 new electrical connections to grant half a million people access to electricity. For that purpose, the electricity

provider set an investment budget of CFA37.5 billion for 2018. According to the company, 50% of this budget will be used to renovate, modernize and extend the distribution network. The company's officials explain that this investment is crucial since due

to the commissioning of Lom-Pangar dam (6 billion metric cube), the power generated is sufficient to reduce the electricity shortages but these shortages are now caused by the multiple incidents along the distribution network.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The road network was extended from 5240 km to 6760 km within 6 years



During the cabinet council held on March 29, 2018, in Yaoundé, Emmanuel Nganou Djoumessi, Cameroon's minister of public works informed that the linear density of the national road was increasing at a satisfying pace. According to the official, between 2010 and 2016, this density increased from 5240 km to 6760 km, on a target of 9558 km by 2020.

The minister also revealed that the roads infrastructures being currently constructed cover a linear density of 2883 km of national and communal roads for a total cost estimated at

CFA1,650 billion. He further explained that this will substantially increase once the roads inscribed in the 3-year urgency plan are constructed.

During the council, Emmanuel Nganou Djoumessi pointed out that the main difficulties to the realization of these infrastructures are the delay in the vacation of the spaces they are to be constructed on, the counter-performance of companies chosen for the works, the late payment of invoices...

As far as the highways are concerned, it was revealed that Cameroon, un-

der the aegis of the minister of public works, has initiated the construction of Yaoundé-Douala and Kribi-Edea highways. Yaoundé-Douala highways will be constructed in two phases. The first phase (the 60-km Yaoundé-Bibodi itinerary with express lanes) is 60% constructed. As for the second phase (the 140-km Bibodi-Douala section), the technical studies are being conducted. Finally, the Kribi-Edea highway (realized at 79%), will be partially commissioned in June 2018.

In partnership with CIMENCAM, Cameroon could set purchasing offices to minimize social housings' cost



On March 16, during the designated question time in plenary, Jean Claude Mbwentchou, the minister of housing announced that the government was exploring ways to minimize the cost of the social housings' construction.

In that regard, the minister explained, Cameroon has initiated discussions with CIMENCAM, a

subsidiary of LafargeHolcim, to set purchasing offices in order to reduce the cost of building materials and consequently make the social housings affordable to modest income earners.

To justify the ongoing discussions, Jean Claude Mbwentchou indicated that for the time being, the housing construction costs are onerous for

many reasons. For instance, he said, there is the shortage of government's lands and the compensations for the lands taken for the construction are high. Moreover, the building materials (cement, iron, steel sheets, etc...) are expensive and the tax burden is high. In addition, there is the fact that materials are produced and transported on a small-scale.

Cameroon's tax directorate to auction Sinoma International's equipments

On March 28, 2018, the general directorate of tax of Cameroon's ministry of finance will auction the equipment of Sinoma International Engineering Ltd Cameroon, specialized in construction and engineering works. This was revealed in an auction no-

tice signed by Pierre Paul Evina Eya, the SMEs tax collector of Bonanjo on March 16, 2018. According to the notice, the equipment to be sold are a crane, containers, dump trucks, cement mixers, tractors, flatbed vehicles, etc...

According to an internal source at the tax general directorate, this regulatory practice which is however not usually done in Cameroon is aimed at recovering taxes and other duties owed by companies.

INDUSTRY

Agro-industry can boost Cameroon's economy, Emmanuel de Tailly says

During the first edition of the international business and trade fair (FIAC) organized on March 26, 2018, in Douala, Emmanuel de Tailly, managing director of SABC, presented the group's strategy called "l'Océan bleu" (blue ocean).

The ultimate goal of this strategy is to help them exit the 'l'océan rouge' (Red ocean), a world of fierce and ruthless competition (hence the name 'red ocean') on the products and services that costs roughly the same," he explained. He then said that everyone's

in sectors like cassava, rice, plantain, pineapple, tea, coffee, cocoa, palm oil, etc... and these potentials were only waiting to be exploited. However, he pointed out that such development would be done without an incentive framework namely, a



According to him, thanks to agro-industry, Cameroon can be a reference in African Economy the same way countries such as Costa Rica did by prioritizing excellency in the biodiversity sector, Ethiopia with training or Morocco which favored sectors with high added-value.

"Nowadays, every company is on the lookout for the 'l'océan bleu' strategy.

wish now is to move from the red ocean to the blue ocean by standing out from the crowd, following the way to excellence, offering unique and exceptional products and services, and being a reference.

He then suggested agro-industry as the blue ocean of Cameroon.

According to him, Cameroon has an incredible potential for agro-industry

stable tax framework that considers the use of the country's agricultural raw materials, energy, rigorous control and the mandatory labeling. He assured that such measures would result in the renovation of roads and bridges, the construction of schools and hospitals, a consolidation of the sector and job creation.

Vegetable oil refiners invested CFA30 billion in the sector between 2016 and 2017

The vegetable oil producers, SCR Maya, Azur and SCS-Rafca invested CFA30 billion to increase their production capacity between 2016 and 2017. This is thanks to the incentives provided by the 2013 law on private investments incentives. According to Cameroon's oil refiners' association ASROC which revealed the information during a press conference organized on March 22, 2018, in Yaoundé, these investments were supported by four commercial banks namely, BICEC, the Commercial Bank of Cameroon, Ecobank Cameroon and Société générale Cameroon. ASROC informed that those four banks lent about CFA18 billion to the above-mentioned producers. The association also revealed that it was difficult for those producers to maximize those investments because imported vegetable oils (which does not respect the standard prescribed by public officials) flood the Cameroonian market.



Some batches of Paul Prédault branded ham are contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes, André Mama Fouda warns

In a mail dated March 19, 2018, sent by André Mama Fouda, Cameroon's health minister, to the heads of health centers along the country's borders, the minister invites his collaborators to be more vigilant and take appropriate measures to strengthen the surveillance of all the

processed meat products. According to the mail, they should avoid the introduction, on Cameroon soil, of Paul Prédault branded hams because some of them are contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes. The mail also revealed that on February 20, 2018, the minister of

farming, fisheries, and animal husbandries informed this brand's ham distributors and importers that the import, distribution, and commercialization of some batches were prohibited since they are dangerous for the population.

TELECOM

BEAC to elaborate a legal framework supervising mobile money activities within CEMAC



On March 21, 2018, at the end of the meeting of the monetary policy committee, Abbas Mahamat Tolli, governor of BEAC revealed that the bank was elaborating a new legal framework to supervise mobile money activities within CEMAC. According to the governor, this new framework

will integrate the fight against money laundering.

Let's note that in a report about the state of electronic payment within CEMAC in the period 2011-2016, BEAC revealed that 95% of the financial transaction conducted electronically, were via mobile money during

the period under review. However, despite the mobile money being a financial inclusion tool, some legal provisions such as the impossibility to transfer money from a CEMAC member country to another via mobile money affected its optimum development.

COMMERCE

Cameroon was the 6th largest champagne importer in Africa in 2016

Figures from The Comité Champagne reveals that in 2016, 155,431 bottles of champagne were imported in Cameroon for a total of CFA2.6 billion (a bit more than €4 million).

Even though that volume represents a net decrease compared to the 187,404 bottles imported by the

country in 2015 (a year during which the country realized the highest volume of imports since 2013), Cameroon was the 6th Champagne consumer in Africa during the period under review.

Let's note that during the period under review, the 5 African largest champagne importers were

Mauritius, the 5th with 183,106 bottles, Morocco the fourth with 192,241 bottles, Côte d'Ivoire, the third with 243,317 bottles, Nigeria, the second with 475,726 bottles and South Africa, the first with 855,770 bottles.

Hermès launches a collection (Ndop) inspired from the Cameroonian traditional attire

Ndop, the traditional attire worn during major events by people of the Western part of Cameroon is now appealing to people outside the country.

Indeed, on its website, Hermès, the luxury items manufacturer, announced that it had launched a collection baptised *Ndop* because it was inspired by the blue traditional attire adorned with white designs.

"In Cameroon, the Fondation Jean-Félicien Gacha holds an important collection of Ndop textiles. Their characteristically rich, decorative style is the inspiration for this carré by Anamorphée. Produced by the Bamileke people of the Cameroonian savannah, in central Africa, Ndop textiles use cotton woven into narrow strips. This first stage takes place in the north of the country, near Garoua, after which the Bamileke women use raffia thread to apply the designs, reserve-dyed in indigo", Hermès wrote.

Let's note that the 90 cm x 90 cm scarf is sold at €360 (about CFA236,000).



SERVICES

38 Cameroonian startups selected for the 2018 Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme



This year, in the framework of the 2018 Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme (TEEP), 38 Cameroonian startups have been selected. This year's selection is a record compared to the number of startups se-

lected during the 2015 (19) and 2016 (25) editions. This is attributed to an increase in the number of startups selected for this edition (1250 instead of 1000) thanks to partnerships with Red Cross, UNDP, and Indorama.

For the record, the Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme (TEEP) is an initiative "to identify and empower 10,000 African entrepreneurs" with a \$100 million commitment over a 10-year period.

The Pan-African PMC on 23-25 May 2018 in Yaoundé

From May 23 to 25, 2018, the second edition of the Pan-African Project Management Conference will be held in Yaoundé under the theme "Successful Preparation of Bankable Projects in Africa", official sources revealed.

The Pan-African Project Management Conference is a

platform formulated and organized as a means to facilitate and stimulate the transfer and acquisition of project management technologies in Africa. The conference which is renowned worldwide was launched by Prescriptor, a Pan-African consulting firm based in Yaoundé. According to the organizers, this

conference is aimed at solving the technology gap in Africa and accelerate the continent's economic industrialization and transformation. It is important to note as well that the conference is in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The communication minister asks editors to comply with the law of December 19, 1990 on the right to social communication



On March 27, 2018, Cameroon's minister of communication, in a statement, said that newspapers produced or published in Cameroon were not regularly sent to his services as it should be.

According to the law of December 19, 1990, on the right to social communication, news editors have to send 2 copies of their newspaper not later than two hours after they are published, to the central or decentralized services of the communication ministry. As far as the newspapers produced outside but being distributed inside the country are concerned, two copies have to be sent to the Communication ministry at least 24 hours before they are distributed in Cameroon.

Issa Tchiroma Bakary thus invites editors and newspaper distributors to comply with that prescription. In that regard, informs the minister, a public register has been opened at the private media development and advertisement department of the communication ministry. He further informs that those who will not comply will be sanctioned according to the rules in force.

Is Serena Williams really from Cameroon?

FALSE



Two days ago, a Facebook user rephrased Serena Williams' biography. In that revised biography, she is no more Serena Jameka Williams but Tatchim Makuaté Serena Maguerite from West Cameroon.

To illustrate it, this user posted images from the match the US player played against the Slovak Martina Sucha during the Roland-Garros on May 29, 2002. Indeed, during the match, she wore a green dress with yellow edging, red shorts with matching yellow shoes and socks. All these attires remind curiously of the Cameroonian football team's jersey at the time.

Even though today many people find the claim of Serena Williams being from Cameroon very amusing, in

2002 when the rumor sparked for the first time, many people believed it. Let's remind that it was during the 2002-2012 period that the lineage of many celebrities such as Eddy Murphy and Spike Lee were published online.

Unfortunately, for those who would still like to believe the claim, Serena Williams is not from Cameroon. Her outfit in 2002 was an idea of her then outfit provider Puma which is, by the way, the outfitter of Cameroon's football team. Serena Williams further revealed *"Cameroon is the best team in Africa. I met them in Sydney when they were the Olympic champions. I'm their fan."*

So far, nobody can tell the African country Serena Jameka Williams and

her sister Venus are from because no research to trace their origin has been published. Nobody even knows if they requested it. However, there were rumors about a possible Nigerian descent. The evidence used for these rumors is their late sister's first name "Yetunde" which is a Nigerian first name. On October 31, 2012, Venus Williams (Serena's sister) cleared those rumors when they were in Lagos in the framework of the "Breaking The Mould" initiative organized by Octagon and Connect Marketing Services Ltd. *"This is another country that we would love to come from but we are from the United States and are proud to be from there as well"*.

Is it true that some Cameroonians alter their birth dates?

TRUE



Kumba, this is how the practice is called in Cameroon. It consists of altering one's birthdate and it is not a fiction. Indeed, in the night of March 31, 2018, the youth minister Mounouna Foutsou invalidated some candidacies because those people had multiple birthdates. According to the invalidating deci-

sion signed by Mounouna Foutsou, a candidate from the central region Mengue Olama Elie was born on March 13, 1979, on September 13, 1984, on March 13, 1983, and on March 13, 1987. In the East, Ipando Makaya Patrick was born on July 16, 1984, and on July 16, 1987.

In the Northwest, Ngen Yves Riyuh was born on October 21, 1978, on October 21, 1985, and on October 21, 1986.

In the South, Onguene Essama Cyprien Parfait has three different birthdays namely, September 16, 1982, September 16, 1984, and September 16, 1986.

LEADER OF THE MONTH

UBA Group appoints Ché Martin as the head of UBA CEMAC



Ché Martin supervises the management of the banking group's subsidiaries in Gabon, Cameroon, Chad and Congo.



another Cameroonian; Vincent Ngimbock that is. His compatriots Asu Ellis, Marcel Bitang and Dominique Mahend, are respectively appointed as managing directors of UBA Benin, UBA Congo UBA Cameroon.

The top management of the group's subsidiary in Cameroon, which has been UBA's most profitable subsidiary in French-Speaking Africa during the first half of 2017, is once again entrusted to a Cameroonian. This, after the competitor Société Générale Cameroon, poached Georges Wega years ago.

Now, it means that two Cameroonians are heading UBA Cameroon. Indeed, apart from Dominique Mahend, a former student of Buéa University, the group also appointed another Cameroonian in the person of Marguerite Fonkwen Atanga as the subsidiary's deputy managing director.

Brice R. Mbodiam

During the last restructuring of its subsidiaries, the UBA banking group appointed five Cameroonians as managers of various subsidiaries in Central and West Africa, and even at the top of a regional pool in

of UBA CEMAC, a sort of top managing director who supervises the management of the banking group's subsidiaries in Gabon, Cameroon, Chad and Congo. Formerly, this native from of North-west Cameroon

The UBA banking group appointed five Cameroonians as managers of various subsidiaries in Central and West Africa.

French-speaking Africa, according to internal sources.

Among those Cameroonians, Ché Martin is the one who was promoted to the most important position. Indeed, he is positioned as the head

was the managing director of UBA Congo.

To replace the man who had also been the Head of Corporate Banking of UBA Cameroon, the top management of UBA Group appointed

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