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BUSINESS IN CAMEROON

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Top 20 Cameroonian start-ups

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**According to Laurent Serge
Etoundi Ngoa, handicraft
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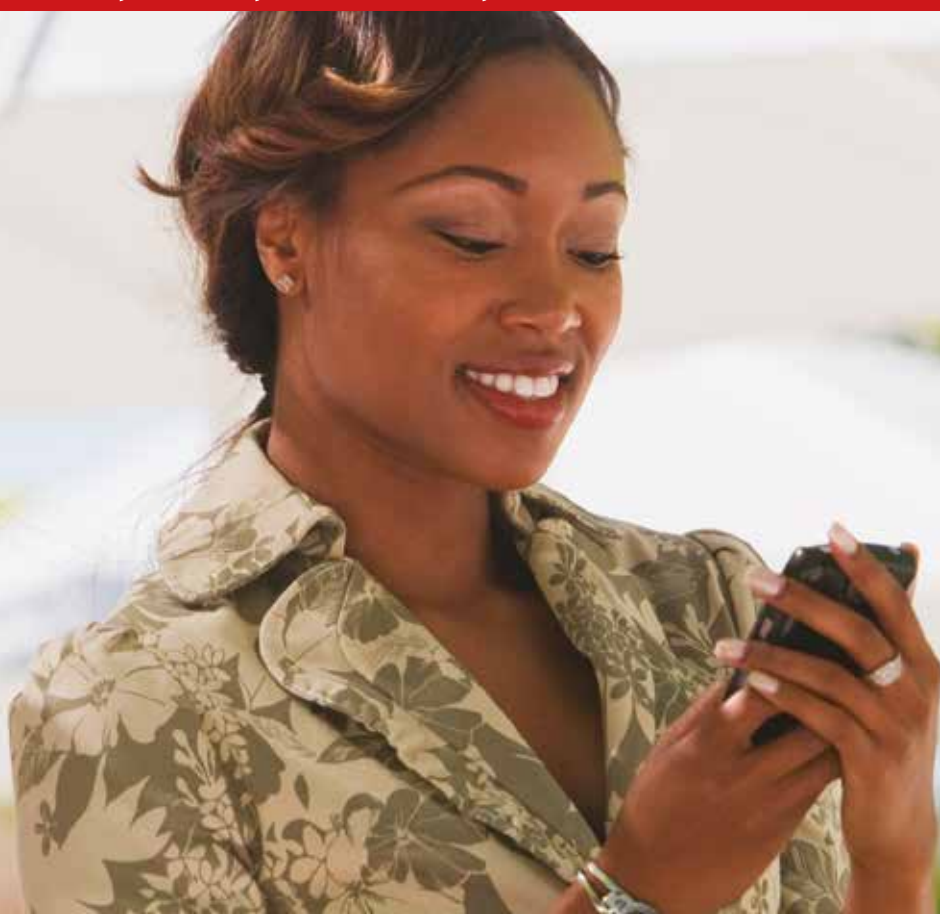
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IPHONE, IPAD, AMAZON, AND ANDROID APPLICATIONS



Yasmine Bahri-Domon



www. Made in Cameroon

Two-point question: Does the name, Jerry Chembé tell you anything? It rings no bell I would bet (or if it does then you are quite good). This young Cameroonian established Meviance, a start-up which specializes in the development of applications to pay electricity bills from microfinance offices, as a counter measure against long queues at the power utility.

For example, did you know that GiftedMom was a Cameroon-made App? It was developed by a revolutionary start-up. The app sends an SMS to pregnant women in rural areas, reminding them of dates for pre-natal visits at the hospital. This app drove the number of deaths related to childbirth down in areas where the project was implemented, in addition to increasing the rate of pre-natal visits to partnering health centers by 35% in two years. What about lalala.com which allows, with a simple click, farmers in remote areas to easily access markets and sell their products, from a simple tablet even?

Other platforms are presented in this edition of *Business in Cameroon*. Start-ups are full of brilliant minds, but are just waiting to be supported so as to expand at the industrial scale. The digital ecosystem in Cameroon is booming and there are many opportunities to cease.

Some years ago, who would have thought that the digital world would have flourished so much and given birth to so many innovations? Cameroon moved a step further as its digital sector, while industrial sector advances sluggishly, moves at an incredible speed. It might bring the answer to on-field challenges, as its development is quite cheaper. However, it requires most of all, human skills, will and development means. This sector responds to specific needs, an existing demand which fits the market. Moreover, according to some, it improves the lives of Cameroonians.

William Elong, Bruno Sofo, Olivier Guillaume Madiba... are some names to retain. There is also Arthur Zang who received various global prizes for its Cardiopad invention. It is the first African medical tablet, a revolution and a major contribution in cardiology. These youth are building the Cameroon of tomorrow.

Far from start-ups, but still within the register of Made in Cameroon, you will discover in this issue an interview with the minister of SMEs, Social Economy and Handicraft who talks about the various benefits of investments in arts and handicraft, a gateway to the Cameroonian culture, and the strategy of the social and craft economy.

CONTENTS

FOCUS



8-17 • Cameroon, the start-ups saga...

INTERVIEW



18 • Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa : *"Today, the Cameroonian arts and crafts industry is a leading authority"*

LEADER OF THE MONTH

66 • Cameroonian Georges Wega becomes the 1st African MD of Senegalese subsidiary of Société Générale

INTERVIEW



22 • Loic Mpanjo Essembe : *"Our stock market makes sure to generate no extra cost, for the exporter or the seller"*

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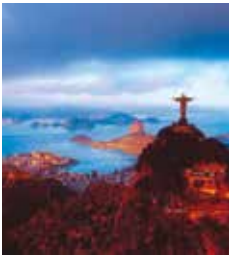
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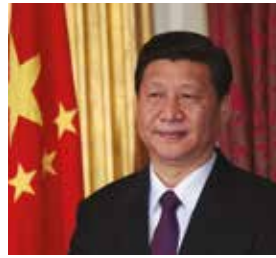
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PUBLIC MANAGEMENT P 26
32



FINANCE P 33
36



DIGITAL ECONOMY P 37
39



ENERGY P 39
41



AGRIBUSINESS P 42
50



TRANSPORTATION P 51
53



INFRASTRUCTURE P 54
59



INDUSTRY P 60
61



MINING P 62
63



SERVICES P 64



RIGHTS & LAW P 65



THE CAST



PHILÉMON YANG



Logging companies operating in Cameroon took over the maintenance of 7,663 km of track roads during 2015, we learned at the end of a session of the National Road Council (Conaroute) chaired on 31st May 2016 in Yaoundé by the Prime Minister, Philémon Yang.

This contribution from the logging companies to conservation of the roads in Cameroon represents however less than 10% of the national track roads network, officially 100,000 km long.

At the same time, we learned during the same meeting, the public administration maintained in total only 1,000 km of paved roads, “*due to various technical and procedural constraints*”, the communiqué issued by Conaroute highlighted. As a reminder, less than 10% the Cameroonian road network is maintained. According to officials, this situation is the consequence of the insufficiency in financial resources and the high cost of maintenance per kilometre, which is among the most expensive in Africa, according to experts.

CAVAYE YÉGUIÉ DJIBRIL



At the opening of the 2nd session of the Parliament on 2nd June 2016, the President of the Lower house of the Cameroonian Parliament, Cavaye Yéguié Djibril, was worried about the situation of Cameroon Airlines Corporation (Camair Co), the public airline. In

his speech, PAN described this company as “seriously sick”, and in need of an “*uncompromising*” diagnostic.

Cavaye Yéguié was thereby referring the audit of the company recently undertaken by the American firm Boeing Consulting who, at the end of its service, is also called to issue proposals for the recovery of this company facing many financial difficulties since the launch of its activities in 2011. Officially, this airline which is managed by its 5th managing director since its creation 10 years ago, has a total indebtedness estimated at FCfa 35 billion. Since the maiden flight in early 2011, Camair Co has been surviving thanks to financial help from the State.

EMMANUEL ETOUNDI OYONO



According to statistics revealed by the Managing Director of the Autonomous Port of Douala (PAD), Emmanuel Etoundi Oyono, the volume of Central African and Chadian goods which transited through the port of Douala during 2015 “exceeded one million tons”.

This volume, the MD of PAD highlighted, started dropping from 2013, due in part to “the insecurity” in northern Cameroon, which shares a border with Chad and Nigeria, and in the eastern region, which has a long border with CAR.

This traffic with Chad and CAR however constitutes just a fraction of the import-export operations carried out at the Port of Douala in 2015, a year during which the traffic in this port increased by 4%, at 11.3 million tons, the MD of PAD indicated. This volume of traffic is in excess by one million ton compared to the capacities of this port infrastructure estimated at 10 million tons in a report published on 7th July 2014 by the National Port Authority (APN).

MODESTE MOPA



The Tax Office Directorate of the Cameroonian Ministry of Finance has just announced that it launches, starting from 1st June 2016 in the cities of Douala and Yaoundé, the electronic tax declaration for real estate transactions. This reform, as stressed by the Tax Office General Director, Modeste Mopa Fatoing, “follows the recent recommendations of the Cameroon Business Forum (CBF)” and “will help to simplify the procedures for taxpayers and secure the revenues of the State”.

For several months now, in addition to an administrative reshuffle which among other things led to the creation of the Tax Centres for medium companies, the Cameroonian Tax administration undertook several reforms to secure tax revenues. This is the case for the introduction of payment via mobile telephone, experimented at first on the land tax, and which is currently being extended to other tax services.

RÉMY RIOUX



Having hardly taken office as MD of the French Development Agency (AFD), on 2nd June 2016, Remy Rioux landed a week later in Cameroon, for the first stop in his African tour. During this trip, which also took him to Senegal, the new MD of AFD

exchanged with the Cameroonian authorities on AFD’s portfolio in the country, and mainly on the 3rd C2D which carries an envelope of FCfa 394 billion.

This 3rd debt reduction and development contract will then bring to FCfa 960 billion the global amount of the C2D in favour of Cameroon (since it reached the completion point of the HIPC Initiative in 2006), a country in which China has been increasingly interested, and whose economic co-operation with all the emerging countries is growing year on year. According to official statistics, the commitments of AFD in favour of Cameroon were estimated at approximately FCfa 1,000 billion over the 2006-2013 period; while the investment portfolio of China, India and South Korea in the country peaked at FCfa 1,200 billion.

MOHAMADOU BAYERO BOUNOU



A former Regional Manager of the Société de Développement du Coton (Sodecoton – Cotton Development Company) who then worked for the European Union, Bayero Bounou was promoted to the position of Managing Director of the flagship of the

agro-industry in northern Cameroon. This was at the end of an extraordinary Board meeting held on 20th June in the Cameroonian capital. An ordinary Board meeting of this parastatal company, announced for 16th June, had already been postponed.

This cancellation opened the door to doubts within the general public, considering the difficult situation in which this company managing over 250,000 cotton producers in the north currently finds itself. Indeed, we learn, over the 2014-2015 period, Sodecoton registered losses valued at slightly over FCfa 22 billion, due to bad weather, the drop in the world prices for cotton, etc. To get back on track, the company submitted several months ago a FCfa 30 billion investment plan to the government.

Sukuloo, the platform which guarantees to parents the monitoring of students

An online platform and a mobile application enabling parents to have, in real time via internet, the different grades of their wards in school; the learning curve of the student in the different subjects; the number of hours of absence from class; details on all homework; instant alerts for new grades; late arrivals in class, absences and tests; or direct exchange with the school management on the student's behaviour, etc. These are some of the features of Sukuloo (which means school in several local Cameroonian languages), an educational monitoring platform developed by the Cameroonian start-up Infosys Group. According to its sponsors, the academic community and parents now have a tool through

which they can interact to fight "failure and dropping out of school". A finalist in the first edition of the Challenge Startupper organised by Total Cameroun with the platform Sukuloo, Infosys Group take charge of the roll-out of this tool in schools as well as training the personnel on its use. It is then the duty of the schools, high schools and other partner universities to market this service to the parents and feed in the different necessary information. In areas where there is no internet connection, the information can be sent to the parents through text messages (SMS), just like they can be called in case of emergency, through the call centre set up by the sponsors of Sukuloo.



Maviance puts all the stakes on instant bill payment



A start-up specialised in the development of payment applications launched by Cameroonian Jerry Cheambe, Maviance plans to put

an end to the troubles linked to the payment of bills. Only three years after the launch of its Smobilpay in the country, this firm already has a

network of 400 collection points in Cameroon, we officially learned. This quick deployment was made possible through a partnership with Eneo, the public electricity service concessionaire, for whom this start-up with a workforce of about ten people is facilitating collections. Through the 40% in bill payment fees it pays back as commission to the managers of the microfinance establishments which act as its collection points, Maviance helps to boost the revenues of its partners. After the payment of electricity bills, the sponsors of Maviance announce that this start-up, which is currently in negotiations with a mobile telephone company, is getting ready to launch an application to facilitate the purchase of airtime and internet credit.

GiftedMom uses ICT for the benefit of mother and child health



How a young IT engineer seized the opportunity of mobile penetration in Cameroonian customs, to become an icon in social entrepreneurship.

The Cameroonian subsidiary of the oil company Total awarded, on 1st April 2016 in Douala, the economic capital of the country, the prizes for the first edition of the Total Challenge Startupper. The first prize of this competition dedicated to young entrepreneurs, handed over by André Siaka, patron of Challenger Startupper 2016 and former Head of the Cameroonian employers' association, went to Alain Nteff, founder of GiftedMom.

This start-up developed an applica-

tion through which text messages are sent to pregnant women in rural areas, to remind them of the dates of their appointments for antenatal check-ups at the hospital. Thanks to this service, we learn, the number of deaths after delivery considerably decreased in the areas where the project has been implemented and the partner health centres have registered an increase of 35% in 2 years in the rate of antenatal appointments.

The winner, whom the MD of Total Cameroun, Imrane Barry, called a true "serial winner", due to the number of awards he has already won internationally; will moreover benefit from "tailored support from some Grandes Ecoles and consul-

The ingenuity of this young Cameroonian, but even more so the social impact of his initiative, have attracted admiration to him.

tancy firms". Additionally, Alain Nteff and GiftedMom have been benefiting for several weeks now from a major communication campaign to give more visibility to this project, which revealed this young Cameroonian IT specialist to the world in 2014.

TRANSFORMING AFRICA

Indeed, that year, Alain Nteff was among the laureates of the Anzisha Prize, an international competition at the end of which prizes are given to young African entrepreneurs aged 22 or younger, and who have developed or implemented innovative solutions against social challenges, or who have started successful companies within their communities.

The win at the Anzisha Prize enabled the young sponsor of the start-up GiftedMom to take part, in 2014, in the World Economic Forum (WEF), the ultimate gathering of economic operators from the world over. During this meeting, he was able to establish a partnership with the food industry firm Nestlé, who became the "first client" of his start-up, he specified.

The ingenuity of this young Cameroonian, but even more so the social impact of his initiative, have attracted admiration to him. Including from personalities in the business world. "Despite all I have gone through in my life, I am still very impressed with a genius like Alain Nteff. I am sure that you will be one of the players in the transformation of Africa", André Siaka declared while congratulating the young IT engineer, for whom the victory in the Total Challenge Startupper in April 2016 had a special meaning. "This is the first direct financing I receive in my country", he specified.

BRM

This start-up developed an application through which text messages are sent to pregnant women in rural areas, to remind them of the dates of their appointments for antenatal check-ups at the hospital.

William Elong's Will & Brothers makes more accessible the use of civilian drones



In the early evening of 17th May 2016, contortionists are showing off their skills on the esplanade of the National Museum, which has been hosting since the day before an exhibition on digital economy. Above the heads of the spirited dancers, a technological marvel is hovering: a little bird made of iron, equipped with a camera, which is filming the scene in a wide-angle shot. Upon viewing the images, the depiction is impeccable. One could easily believe that you are watching one

of these colourful scenes like can only be found in films produced by American studios.

However, this technological prowess is very much of Cameroonian origin, and the product of Drone Africa, the name of an application developed by the start-up Will & Brothers led by young William Elong. He explains: the iron bird is a drone which, through the Drone Africa application, helps to offer the very "first civilian drone service" in Cameroon.

According to its sponsors, far beyond the entertaining aspect it provides at first, the Drone Africa concept will radically transform many things. This is the case for the promotion of tourism, through the possibility of taking new images; producing, at reduced cost, maps of mining and urban development projects; better coverage of major events such as fairs, cultural events or football competitions; collecting images in disaster zones or areas difficult to access, etc.

Thanks to this technological innovation, start-up owner William Elong is featured in the 2016 ranking of 30 most promising young African entrepreneurs, compiled every year by the famous American magazine Forbes. In the seventh position in the list, he is even the only Cameroonian and first Central African (with Gabonese Mark Doumba, co-founder of Klikafrik Group) in this ranking dominated by Kenyans, South Africans and Ghanaians.

With a click, lalala.com allows farmers to find outlets in the world

Which Cameroonian does not know about the infrastructure difficulties that local farmers face in bringing their produce to the towns? Well, to remove this thorn from the foot of Cameroonian farmers, and in order

cently launched the platform lalala.com, created by the start-up with the same name in the Cameroonian capital.

Thanks to this digital platform, the producer of tapioca of Ngouléma-

in the north; can, with an internet connection, propose their products to buyers throughout the world.

In short, lalala.com, an expression meaning speed in Cameroonian slang, allows farmers and other craftsmen to find outlets at the speed of a click. In less than six months since its launch, explains one of the four employees in the company, more than 100 farmers and craftsmen have signed up to lalala.com, which offers them for free, for the moment, outlets in the entire world.

lalala.com allows farmers and other craftsmen to find outlets at the speed of a click.

to promote products made in Cameroon two young entrepreneurs Armel Djidjou and Guy Simo, re-

kong, in the south; the washer of Ndolé from Bomono, on the coast; the seller of foléré of Ngaoundéré,

Himore Medical has perfected Cardiopad, the first African medical tablet

This technology innovation has received several international awards allowing its creator to start another new pioneering project.

It is certainly the most renowned Cameroonian start-up in the world. Quite normal! Since it is through Himore Medical that the young Cameroonian computer engineer, Arthur Zang, developed Cardiopad,

Arthur Zang developed the Cardiopad, unanimously presented as the first African medical tablet.

unanimously presented as the first African medical tablet. A revolution in the field of cardiac examination that has an impact throughout the world. To the point of being worth rewards in spades for the inventor.

Arthur Zang received the latest award to date on 26 May 2016 in the Tanzanian capital. It is the gold medal of the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation, organised by the UK Royal Academy. This medal includes a reward of GBP 5,000, about FCfa 23 million.

The Cameroonian engineer was chosen among 900 nationals from 42 African countries. *“Very often, products conceived by Africans are ignored at the expense of European products. I needed to prove to the entire world that Cameroonian engineers in par-*



Marketed since the beginning of the year 2016, 300 copies of this medical equipment have already been assembled.

ticular, and African in general, have as much talent as those in the West”, he confided after obtaining his medal.

Before this, the inventor of Cardiopad had been acclaimed during the “2014 Rolex Prize for entrepreneurial spirit”, among 1,800 candidates; and at the Forum Africa Development held in Casablanca in Morocco in 2015, an event at which the trophy for entrepreneurship in the category of “Innovation” was awarded to Himore Medical.

FOCUS ON PRODUCTION OF MAGNETIC CARDS

Having achieved this international acclaim, the Cardiopad, allows for the running of a patient’s cardiac parameters and transmits them at distance to a specialist for interpretation, thus redressing the shortage of cardiologists in hospitals; was displayed at the Health Forum of Geneva, in Switzerland, from 19 to 21 April 2016.

Marketed since the beginning of

the year 2016, 300 copies of this medical equipment have already been assembled. According to Arthur Zang, a graduate of the École Polytechnique of Yaoundé, 53 samples of this device that costs FCfa 2 million per unit, have already been sold, of which 25 to Gabon and more than 10 to Nepal. The proceeds of these first sales will permit, we learn, to set up a factory to produce magnetic cards in the Cameroonian capital.

ZNG Smart Card Factory is the name of the company through which the Cameroonian Polytechnique engineer will develop this new project. It will create 150 direct jobs as soon as it is launched, it is highlighted. But, in the meantime, Arthur Zang and his team are working to find funding to clear 600 tons of equipment currently stocked at the port of Douala, in the economic capital of the country.

BRM

“Djangui” allows subscribers scattered all over the world, to manage tontines online

“Djangui”. This local name for tontines in Cameroon is also the name chosen by Jules Guilain Kenfack, Cameroonian computer and telecommunications engineer, to designate the application that he has just developed, and that allows tontines to be managed online. Thanks to this application, the designer explains, friends scattered all over the world can fulfill all the conditions tied to a tontine.

Definitely, through “Djangui”, it is possible to pay all of one’s tontine dues in a secure manner via Paypal, Orange Money and MTN Mobile Money; have discussions with other members of the tontine thanks to an instant messaging service; have

automated raffles; vote for Bureau members and have reports of previous meetings, take loans from the tontine account, compile reports of meetings that could be held by video-conference, etc.

According to Jules Guilain Kenfack, “Djangui” which is in the development phase with a view to integrating several other functions, is available in French and English. This application, its developer explains, has already been successfully tested in Germany, by four tontines of Cameroonian nationals living in the West.

This technological innovation allows tontines which are very pres-

ent in African culture to be revolutionised. Indeed, these groupings of friends or family within which members make different transactions (cash deposits, loans, educational savings, etc.) have become real traditional financial institutions for years.

According to the Ministry of Finance, Cameroonian tontines are worth a total envelope of around FCfa 190 billion. The same source specifies that 58% of Cameroonians prefer tontines because investments in them are very profitable and access to credit less restrictive than in banks and micro-finance institutions.

Kwiizi develops Wikipedia made in Cameroon

Cameroonian start-up Kwiizi has just achieved the feat of reducing the world of literature and documentation to a box : the Kwiizi box.

A digital encyclopedia recalling well known Wikipedia, the Kwiizi box has the special feature of allowing access to tons of documents and

other information without internet connection.

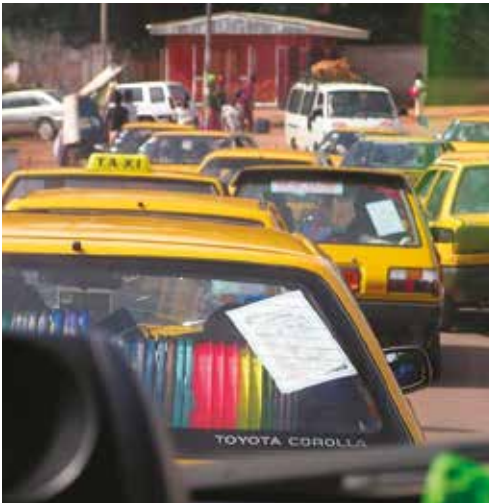
It is set up in such a way that its content can be shared, exactly like a wifi connection. Thanks to the documents, books and videos it contains, this box facilitates research for students and teachers, and significantly contribute to the reduction in budgets for documentation for individuals, universities and schools.

With a search engine to ease access to the selected document, the Kwiizi box has been marketed since 2015, after two years of development. This tool actually interested giant Wikipedia, who, we learn, intends to develop its highly African content and make available for its own users, more documentation and information on Africa.



A digital encyclopedia recalling well known Wikipedia, the Kwiizi box has the special feature of allowing access to tons of documents and other information without internet connection.

Novazen develops first application for taxi reservation in Central Africa



CarDispo. This is how, Bruno Soufo, young sponsor of the Cameroonian start-up Novazen, has called his discovery. It is an application that allows users to book taxis based on location, from a mobile phone or on the internet. It is, the developer of Novazen specifies, the very first application of this type in Cameroon and in the region of Central Africa overall.

Fares charged by the Novazen taxi network are almost identical to those approved by Cameroonian public authorities. That is to say FCfa 3,000 and FCfa 5,000, depending on whether one hires or is

dropped off by an ordinary taxi or a so-called VIP vehicle. According to Bruno Soufo, CarDispo services officially started at the end of 2015 in the two main Cameroonian cities of Yaoundé and Douala.

According to Novazen, which aims to extend services to the whole country of Cameroon and is eyeing all the Central African region, a new version of the application is actually being developed. We learn that it will provide information to users in real time, about traffic in different towns in the country. This will allow them to avoid roads paralysed by traffic jams.

Ease Travel Services launches application MyAirport Cameroon to disseminate flight schedules



Thanks to MyAirport Cameroon, a mobile phone application, that Cameroonian start-up Ease Travel Services has just launched, the general public has free access in a simple click to flight schedules of airline companies in all the airports in Cameroon.

In addition to informing passengers, about their flight schedules, airline companies can equally, through this application available for download on Google Play Store, advise changes in flight times or even ongoing promotion opportunities on airfares, send urgent messages etc., the developers of MyAirport Cameroon explain.

In short, thanks to Ease Travel Services' discovery, family members and friends of travellers can henceforth avoid hours of waiting in airports, as well as travellers themselves activating an alert to be instantly informed about all changes in the status of their flight.

Ease Travel Services is a Cameroonian start-up operating in the transport and travel area. It is particularly specialised in booking cars with drivers in the cities of Douala, Yaoundé, Paris and Brussels. In these 4 cities, Ease Travel Services web developed application allows users, we learn, to have a fleet of 120 rental vehicles of all categories at competitive prices at their disposal.

Kiro'o Games put Cameroon on video game high-tech market



Sponsor, Olivier Guillaume Madiba, aims to produce 200,000 DVDs of the first game developed locally to be distributed on the African continent.

Cameroonian start-up Kiro'o Games, founded by the young Olivier Guillaume Madiba, an IT enthusiast, has, on 14 April 2016, officially launched "*Aurion: The Heritage of the Kori-Odan*", the first 100% made in Cameroon video game. Two months after this launch, which has allowed Cameroon to

ly looking for partners to produce 200,000 DVDs of the game, to distribute on the African continent. Each copy will be sold at a minimum price of FCfa 10,000 (about \$17). Thanks to this relatively affordable price, it will be possible for this start-up to achieve sales revenues of FCfa 2 billion, some \$3.4 million.

The game is already known throughout the world, and is more-over available for download on the American platform Steam, since

CROWD-FUNDING TO COMPLETE FINANCING

First video game production studio in Francophone Africa, Kiro'o Games intends to work with partners capable of ensuring the production of DVD support and distribution in at least five African countries, who are bridgeheads in the area of ICT on the continent.

As a reminder, it is at the beginning of the year 2016 that the young Cameroonian studio was able, through crowd-funding, to complete an operation to raise €182,504 (FCfa 120 million) to finance the production of its first video game. "*Aurion: The Heritage of Kori-Odan*" is inspired by African culture and cosmogony.

The project seduced the jury of Challenge Startupper 2016 organised by Total Cameroon, which awarded it the second prize of the very first edition of this contest targeted at promoting young entrepreneurs. The prize included a cheque of FCfa 7.5 million.

Kiro'o Games wishes to adapt the distribution of its product for the African market in a form most requested by gamers: playable direct on DVD or via e-commerce.

join the very lucrative world video game market, Kiro'o Games wants to move on to another stage in distribution.

Indeed, we learn, the young start-up installed in Yaoundé is current-

ly looking for partners to produce 200,000 DVDs of the game, to distribute on the African continent. That is to say propose it in a form most requested by gamers: playable direct on DVD or via e-commerce.

BRM

Amla Metrics sets to perfect application to combat smuggling

Cameroonian company Amla Metrics is presently finalising a digital application, on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce, aimed at detecting smuggled or fake goods. Such an agreement was signed between the two parties on 19 February 2016 in Yaoundé.

According to Amla Metrics explanations, this application should ensure the traceability of products commercialised on the Cameroonian market, from a server set up in the Ministry of Commerce. On this server, we learn, will be pre-registered bar codes and vignettes of all products legally entering the Cameroonian market.

In this way, even from one's mobile phone, each consumer, can easily verify the authenticity of a product found on the market. By the same mechanism, every Minister of Commerce inspector, will easily be able to ascertain if any given product has entered the Cameroonian market fraudulently or is a counterfeit.

This new device will first be rolled out in the sector of wines and spirits, in which the level of smuggling

Even from one's mobile phone, each consumer, can easily verify the authenticity of a product found on the market. This new device will first be rolled out in the sector of wines and spirits,



and counterfeit often represents 60% of the products marketed, the Ministry of Commerce indicates.

In addition, wines and spirits produced locally or imported are subject to stamping since June 2012, which should facilitate the recording of these products in the server

designed by Amla Metrics. But after the wines, this mechanism of digital tracking of smuggled and fake goods will be applied to other products such as school textbooks, vegetable oils, cosmetic products or even domestic gas.

Two Cameroonians launch a social network to promote local talents

The application "Onjoss", which means "discussion" in Cameroonian slang, has the particularity of helping each person to better sell their talents. It is available on the platform Onjoss.com. It is the fruit of the imagination and creativity of two young Cameroonian developers: Pejd and Tchiks.

"Onjoss allows promotion of local talents and detects young people who wish to stand out, who do not have the means and do not know how to

use technology to add value to their activity", explains Pejd. It all started with an observation: in Cameroon, many young people filled with talent do not know how to make the best of themselves, because they do not have the financial means and have not mastered ICT.

The platform Onjoss.com operates in fact like a social network. One only needs to sign up to have the possibility to showcase one's talents or even sell one's products

thanks to the option "Onjoss market". The subscriber can go beyond the framework of his own promotion to speak about activities and achievements linked to his environment. It is also possible to connect with friends to share opportunities. This platform, the developers underline, is meant to be a Cameroonian social network 100% against unemployment.

Orange rewards three young start-up sponsors with ICT projects integrating its API solutions



As part of the “API Challenge” competition, the mobile operator Orange Cameroun, has just awarded prizes to three young Cameroonian with projects in the ICT sector, which integrate the “Applications Programming Interface (API)” solutions developed by the telecommunications company. The best project, called “Echelon Fast Travel”, was presented by Franklin Fofé, and consisted in setting up an application through which it is possible to purchase travelling tickets via Mobile Money or through internet. The other two projects, we learn, are respectively an online private tutoring service called “Smart’s Cool”, and an application for securing and managing vehicles presented by start-up Kiama Electronics.

X-Net, first mobile telephone designed by Cameroonians

Under the leadership of Benjamin Lekoua, who initiated the project, expatriated Cameroonian engineers (in Germany and USA) designed a mobile phone, X-Net. Assembled in china, the device was marketed in Cameroon by Lekoua et Fils (L&F), an computer products and accessories distribution company.

X-Net has an alphanumeric keypad and a backlighted screen supporting photos and videos. With two SIM cards, it is equipped with a digital camera (as an option), an MP3/MP4 player, a radio and a torchlight. To make it even more original, its designers had a Cameroonian artist create its ringtones.

Local start-up sets up online real estate



Put an end to the schemes of dubious realtors who often disappear with the money of accommodation seekers, and facilitate the search and access to housing through the opportunities offered by internet and mobile phones. These are the main goals of lamudi.cm, a sort of online real estate agency set up by young Cameroonians. This digital platform which has been operating for over a year now, we learn, directly links up landlords and possible tenants, even sellers and potential buyers of real estate

throughout the country. Through pictures posted on the platform, the potential buyer or tenant can have an idea of the requested accommodation, and directly get in touch with a real estate agent approved by the platform, to discuss the terms of an eventual transaction. In addition to facilitate the search for accommodation and real estate transactions, lamudi.cm is also enhanced by practical advice in terms of real estate, for the sellers, buyers as well as the tenants.

Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa : “*Today, the Cameroonian arts and crafts industry is a leading authority*”

Overview of the challenges to development in this sector in Cameroon with the Minister of SME, Social Economy and Arts and Crafts.

Business in Cameroon: the 5th edition of the International Arts and Crafts Fair took place from 31st March to 9th April 2016. Two months later, what are your impressions on its progress and the first resolutions which have already been implemented?

Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa: Well! The Fair you are talking about has already had some preliminary report plans. I simply want to stress that this Fair, according to all who took part whether as an artisan, sponsor of arts and crafts or as a visitor, had a high attendance. You could find items of an obviously higher quality there. This was a Fair during which the full artistic and cultural potential of our country was displayed.

I would also want to say that the Fair inspired others beyond our borders. Those that we now refer to as the subscribers of the Fair come from very far, particularly from the Indo-Pakistani area, from the Middle East, from South America,

Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa:
 “The Head of State estimated that to develop the art sector, it is first necessary to develop a framework in which the artisan can operate.”





Europe, etc. We can still recall these two artisans who came from Madagascar and who have participated in three editions. One of them even decided to settle in Cameroon to promote the expertise of the Malagasy artisans. To do so, she requested to have a permanent stall at the Arts and Crafts International Centre of Yaoundé.

Globally speaking, two months after the Fair, we are confident that the Cameroonian Arts and Crafts industry is moving. As the Guinean State Minister in charge of Tourism, Arts and Commerce said, Cameroon went to Ouagadougou in 2006 to see what was being done at the International Arts and Crafts Fair of Ouaga. The country decided to do something specific, but very easily Cameroon took the lead in the African arts and crafts sector. This is what the Guinean State Minister said.

But for us, there is no perfection in what we do, there are just improvements. I believe that we have to continue working to remain among the best, and most importantly so that this work will benefit our arts sector, in order to enable those in this sector to make a living from their work.

BC: *The theme for this edition was: “Cameroonian arts and crafts against the challenges of standardisation and competitiveness”. Have you got the impression that in the policies you carry out, you are succeeding in professionalising these artisans who are for the most part in the informal sector?*

LSEN: I would want to first clarify some ambiguities. Arts can be viewed in three ways. First is the arts and crafts way. That is for the artist, who from an abstract source, designs and then materialises what he designed. This art form has difficulty integrating a rigorous standardisation. Originality and culture are better expressed in this art form. Then, there is production craft-

Laurent Serge Etoundi Ngoa:
“I would also want to say that the Fair inspired others beyond our borders.”



work. In this form, people request for what the artist designed in large quantities. There is therefore the need for mass-production. There is nothing to do about this, because the law of supply and demand will apply. For example, you can be told that your sculpture was done with the left side sagging, but in China, it is more advisable to have the right side turned-down and the right side lifted. In this case, you follow the Chinese standard. Standardising implies that you have to follow the instructions of those who dominate in the market. Because if you practise art to make money, the client must be satisfied.

Finally, there is art for services. In this instance, one produces as a favour, and there again standardising can either occur or not. But the rule remains the same: standardisation and competitiveness go together. You cannot be competitive if you have not standardised your products according to the conditions imposed by demand.

BC: *The government took the commitment to build ten arts and crafts villages in the country. What led to the establishment of this in-*

frastructure and how is that being rolled out practically?

LSEN: Right! I will give you only one image. About 8 or 9 years ago, you could see art in a representative manner in cities like Maroua, a little bit in Garoua, Douala and Yaoundé; where there were burgeoning arts spaces. Some of these spaces date back to the colonial era. So, artisans at that time were people on the side of a street, in the corner of a workshop. The Head of State estimated that to develop the art sector, it is first necessary to develop a framework in which the artisan can operate. This was the genesis for the law on arts promulgated in 2007. A whole set of regulatory texts were created based on this law which enabled us to get all that we have today.

After this legal framework, it was necessary to set up an infrastructure policy. This is how come we thought that it was necessary to create spaces where one can find artisans at all times, independent of the location of their workshops. Places where the artisan can exhibit the fruits of his labour. Artisanal villages and centres were born from this policy. These structures are clearly defined

in the law on arts and crafts and a decree from the Prime Minister organises their functioning. Not long ago, the President of the Republic turned them into structures under the purview of the Ministry of SME, Social Economy and Arts and Crafts. Which enables their management to be part of the Civil Service.

BC: Can we say today that there is a Cameroon brand in terms of arts and crafts?

LSEN: I would not say a brand. I would simply say that today Cameroonian arts and crafts is a leading force. The Cameroonian arts and crafts sector indeed exists and it reflects our cultural heritage. Indeed, when we organise shows, we always express this aspect first in the installation, décor. We have what we refer to as regional stalls, representing the different types of environments in each region of the country. We think that with the new organisation in the arts and crafts sector, our cultural heritage will be consolidated, in the sense that we will now be able to sell this heritage to those who are inclined to appreciate it. We have, in this view, become great supporters of virtual galleries. This means that we could have online sales. We therefore have an arts and crafts sector which opted to become Android, connected.

This being said, we still have a lot to do in terms of improvement. Proof of this, when we see the situation of the Eastern arts and crafts industry (China, Japan), which is done with material that we also have in Cameroon, we notice that this industry is halfway between arts and crafts and industrialisation, which has a production that is not only massive but also modern. We still have to make efforts to reduce the difference between us and them, even though from the originality standpoint we are slightly ahead.

BC: Do you think that Cameroonians consume their art, to turn it into a vehicle for economic growth?

LSEN: I would like to inform you right away that all the furniture in my office is made locally by Cameroonian artisans. Even within the government, it was requested that we purchase locally-made furniture. We think that the arts villages which are being set up will showcase local arts and crafts products. Especially as the fairs we have organised up to now have been proof of the local consumption of Cameroonian art. In other words, it means it is of quality, and this was even acknowledged almost unanimously during the last fair.

BC: In Cameroon, an American company named Taylor Guitare produces guitars with a type of local wood which has the reputation of producing particular sounds. In this case, we are in a situation where foreigners are using our local wealth. Is this not a problem?

LSEN: Yes and no! It is a problem for me because national pride would dictate that, like those who are perhaps not preservationist but “conservatiste” (traditionalist, someone who may want national resources to be only used by locals), that our wood which is a wood with a very musical sound should be used in priority by us. We should be

“The Cameroonian arts and crafts sector indeed exists and it reflects our cultural heritage. Indeed, when we organise shows, we always express this aspect first in the installation, décor.”

producing these guitars ourselves or we should shape the wood to be sold to these guitar manufacturers. This would create an added value for us.

Right now, we have chosen in Cameroon to be a liberal economy, and this economic liberalisation does not allow us to run with this conservatism. We will not breach these rules that we chose ourselves.

We simply think that we should make more efforts to be in a position to do what others are doing and which are well accepted on the market.

BC: The International Arts Centre of Yaoundé was commissioned during the last fair. Do you have a timetable for when this space will start operating effectively?

LSEN: Artists have been in place for some weeks. The coordinators who are administrative extensions of the State in these spaces promoting the arts have just been appointed. Departmental heads will follow and the Head of State allocated a budget for this space to operate. The process of implementing this allocation is underway.

BC: You are the Minister of SME, Social Economy and Arts, three sectors which overlap. How do you associate these different sectors to the ambition of Cameroon aspiring to be an emerging country by 2035?

LSEN: Cameroon will never be an emerging country without this sector. It represents what we refer to as the foundations of an emerging State, because it gathers the largest proportion of those

who work, whether in the formal or informal sector. This sector, which has 90% of the production units of the country is the one which will enable the Cameroonian economy to transform itself. We believe that emerging will also be a result of the modernisation of this sector.

Interview conducted by
Business in Cameroon and Kalak FM

Loic Mpanjo Essembe : “Our stock market makes sure to generate no extra cost, for the exporter or the seller”

The founder of the Mel Commodities Exchange which eyes Cameroon’s cocoa and coffee sectors, explains here how his platform works, and mentions challenges to the implementation of a commodities stock exchange in Cameroon.

Business in Cameroon: Last April 15th, you met in Douala, Cameroon’s economic capital city, with local importers and exporters and invited them to join your Mel Commodities Exchange (MELX), which is based in Cote d’Ivoire. What is it all about concretely?

Loic Mpanjo Essembe : First, I would like to thank Business in Cameroon and the Ecofin Agency for the quality of their work, their pertinent and specific content that provides a rational approach to the country’s risk amid global economic turmoil. So, we decided to start promoting our stock market in Cameroon, namely by offering export contracts. Our choice was driven by a simple fact: Cameroon is a cocoa-coffee producer with a significant growth potential and challenges to export which are most

representative of other markets. We are a structured commodities stock market with many indexes that allow us to provide import and export commodities contracts that are more competitive and profitable than those offered by other world-known reference markets.

We targeted commodities which are already being exported and which are more profitable for sellers than producers, without altering the value chain or prices for the final buyer. Our offer thus brings the market closer to the product and provides a safe and optimized transaction environment for both the seller and the buyer. This is similar to what does a market manager, an intermediary platform and a commodities exchange. Once one is able to conform to our protocol, he signifi-

cantly boosts his value but also that of the buyer interested in his stock.

BC : How did economic operators respond to your offer and what are the concrete returns from the Douala meeting so far

LME: Most exporters and importers that we have met were charmed by our offer, which reduces the market to a simple contract backed by a safety net involving both parties. Regarding cocoa, exporters that we target - those that can hold a stored stock of commodities – are impatient to receive our rates and most of them understand our safety protocol

There are also those who have no interest in joining a stock market and who, obviously, will not join us. However, the initiative is in



Loic Mpanjo Essembe : *"Our offer thus brings the market closer to the product and provides a safe and optimized transaction environment for both the seller and the buyer."*

progress as most have noticed. In a commodity value chain, a singularity such as sub-traders cannot exist for long. Either it becomes a trader or it will vanish. Creating value in our system means establishing optimized and transparent sales and purchase conditions at each stage of the value chain.

BC: How could the commodity importer or exporter profit by conducting his business through the MELX ?

LME: For an exporter, there is always a variety of choices : either you sell directly to a firm which is one of your customers at conditions set based on negotiations regardless or not of the market; or you sell in a structured market, where price elasticity based on supply and demand is permanent.

For those who will benefit from joining the market, there is no need to tell them about the advantages of this market. It is one of the oldest institutions in the world. So why shouldn't the tomato-seller for example open his own shop, but rather subscribe a placement in a market? It all depends on his business model. The real concern however is to know if there is a market which is accessible to this trader. That done, it comes to the trader to make the choice that suits him most.

We aim to create supply and demand concentration conditions in our reference system and let exporters know. Depending on rates, they will personally choose the best platform to achieve their performances. All we do is pick pertinent indexes, create supply and demand concentration conditions, and make all transactions and related deliveries safe for the parties involved. We also structure or help structure actors with a potential for export, such as cooperatives, so they can join the market if they so will.

BC : You claimed to be interested in Cameroon's cocoa and coffee. Why only these two products?

LME: Our feasibility study led us to choose among products exported in Africa, those that can be traded in a market. Here, buyers and sellers can meet on the same platform and generate fluctuations which will help optimize or not participants' margins. Being based in Cote d'Ivoire, it was only natural for us to think of the close to three millions tons shared by Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon and of coffee also, almost a million tons, amid global rising demand.

BC : Is there any other product in Cameroon that could be traded on your platform ?

LME: For our export contracts, we eye wood an cashew. For import, we already have rice and palm oil on two highly competitive indexes. However, we must also learn how to develop this market and develop a system with characteristics that correspond to our sub-regions.

BC : Since you said you will not develop a fully-fledged commodities exchange in Cameroon, how do you intend to operate in the country?

LME: Markets are subject to specific scientific rules which can be hardly evaded. When creating a retail market, you look for an accessible zone of residences. When creating a wholesale market, you look for an isolated zone of warehouses, close to a border and with an excellent service potential to serve wholesalers.

A stock exchange however is a mere Carrefour where buyers and sellers meet. It can thus be implemented either with the biggest buyer, or the biggest seller. Any other setting would be extremely fragile. In the case where your cocoa is traded in Douala and Abidjan also trades its, supply in Abidjan will be greater than in Douala, so Cameroonians might finally sell at Abidjan's prices. This would decrease the value of Douala's market, and reduce it to a mere extension of the Abidjan market.

It is nothing special. This is why we wanted to list all three most sought after African cocoa markets in the same reference system. Obviously, there has to be one in Abidjan also. Thus, exporters will benefit from a common index, more pertinent in regard to demand. So, we directly contact exporters and structured cooperatives and provide them our rates while explaining our protocol.

BC : In September 2014, Eleni LLC which created the Ethiopia commodities stock exchange carried out, for Cameroon's government,



a feasibility study for the establishment of the Cameroon Commodities Exchange (CCX). Based on your experience in Cote d'Ivoire and on the success recorded by the Ethiopia Commodities Exchange, what do you think are the opportunities that such a project holds in Cameroon?

LME: Let me reassure you that developing a stock market is always positive both for a country and a region. I think Cameroon has a lot to gain in controlling its internal demand and exports as they constitute a sig-

nificant share of the gross domestic product (GDP). However, it would be a mistake to think that supply is more important than demand. Both must remain in balance for the market to be sustained. There is thus a need to standardize what needs to be and make exceptions or at least take them into consideration when doing so can boost the competitiveness of local products.

The problem is that the model of the Ethiopia stock market is in itself already an exception when it comes

to markets as it resembles a modernized stabilization system where the market stores physical stock in a warehouse and sell it itself in the stead of the seller. I understand this practice as it answers the risk of non-delivery, but the market cannot act as the seller, buyer, warehouse operator, certifying body and banker even. Operations become heavy and much expensive; this in turn cuts exporters' margins.

However, this is not an absolute truth. It could work perfectly. I remain con-



vinced that the market manager must do his job and let other members of the market chain do theirs. The main role of a market is to serve as a bridge between sellers and buyers so they can make their transactions. When there is only one buyer for many sellers or vice-versa, it is a shop not a market. Once again, let me recall that it is not an absolute truth.

BC: According to you, what could be the barriers to the implementation of such a project in Cameroon?

LME: You are asking me to be the censor of a project for which I am neither the recipient nor the censor. You must look into its feasibility study which should give you information about some of its limitations. My opinion might not be very objective given my position and culture. However, if such a project is implemented, it could increase the value of our system as our stock market makes sure to generate no extra cost, for the exporter or the seller.

Loic Mpanjo Essembe :
"I think Cameroon has a lot to gain in controlling its internal demand and exports as they constitute a significant share of the gross domestic product (GDP)."

BC: How can this type of project lead to agricultural development in the country?

LME: If you improve, considerably, agricultural exports, you develop niches and producers will obviously expand their operating zones to create more value. In short, you increase wealth considering that increasing production will increase exports which will in turn increase the country's gross domestic product. Of course, prices must be profitable both for producers and exporters.

Interview by Brice R. Mbodiam

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The master plan for industrialisation will prioritise the agro-industry, energy and digital sectors

The future industrialisation policy of Cameroon, whose roadmap will be prescribed by the industrialisation master plan (PDI) currently being elaborated by the government, will be fundamentally based on three sectors. These are the agro-industry, energy and digital sectors which, considering the impact their development could have on the rest of the economy, were qualified as real industrial “*havens*” by the experts in charge of establishing the PDI.

The directions of this plan espouse the prescriptions of the Cameroonian Head of State who, in his address to the nation in December 2015, highlighted the opportunities available in the agriculture and digital economy in terms of contribution to speeding up the growth.

According to the public Cameroonian authorities, PDI is meant to increase the contribution of the industrial sector in the creation of GDP in the country.



Indeed, this contribution is officially at 13% currently. The PDI should help bring it to 24% at least by 2035, a deadline that Cameroon set itself to become an emerging country.

We can remember that in 1982, Came-

roon had already adopted an industrialisation master plan. Approved by 1989 to be implemented, this plan could unfortunately not be carried out due to the major economic crisis experienced by the country.

40% of the highly qualified Cameroonian workforce works abroad

Cameroon is strongly hit by the brain drain, which contributes to hold back the development of the country. Indeed, we learned on 7 June 2016 during the opening of the 3rd edition of the international conference of the PK Fokam Institute for Excellence in Science and Technology, approximately 40% of the highly qualified Cameroonian workforce works abroad. Particularly in European countries and in the USA.

Putting this thesis forward during the above-mentioned conference, Lazare

Kaptué, an associate Professor of Medicine who manages the Université des Montagnes, located in Western Cameroon; revealed for example that over 12,000 Cameroonian engineers work for big companies in Germany.

This export of talents is however not the prerogative of Cameroon, since it is also a reality in developed countries such as the USA, China or other developing nations such as South Korea. “*What is most interesting for a country like China, is that even while staying abroad, Chi-*

nese continue to work for their country, because they have been instilled with the value of nationalism”, Paul Kammogne Fokam explained.

Therefore, this economist and banker, who maintains that diasporas are important in the development process of their respective countries, invited Cameroonians to reclaim the value of nationalism. According to him, this is a fundamental value to fight against the drain of talents, to contribute to the development of the origin countries.

The Institute of Economics and Peace ranks Cameroon among least peaceful countries in Africa

37th out of 50 in Africa. This is the ranking of Cameroon in the “*Global Peace Index 2016*” published on 10th June by the Institute of Economics and Peace, an Australian think tank. Basing its work on 23 indicators evaluating mainly three components, being the level of security of a society, the spread of internal or international conflicts and the level of militarisation of States; the “*Global Peace Index 2016*” lists the most peaceful and most dangerous countries in the world. By ranking among the 15 least peaceful countries in Africa and 130th in the world (out of 163 ranked countries), Cameroon is certainly paying the price for the attacks that the Nigerian Islamist Sect Boko Haram is multiplying on its soil for over a year now. These attacks have already led to the death of over 1,000 officially, and at least three kidnappings of expatriates in the Extreme-North region of Cameroon.

In the CEMAC zone, Cameroon is out-ranked by Equatorial Guinea (10th in Africa and 62nd worldwide); which features among the 10 most peaceful countries in Africa; Gabon (18th and 79th); the Republic of Congo (28th and 114th). According to the “*Global Peace Index 2016*”, the most peaceful country in Africa is Mauritius, ranked 23rd at the global level, ahead of countries such as Italy, the United Kingdom, France or the USA.



Cameroon in top 20 most prosperous countries in Africa, according to Legatum Institute

According to the London think tank Legatum Institute, who published the “*Africa Prosperity Report 2016*” on 1st June 2016, Cameroon is the 18th most prosperous country in Africa. Out of this ranking of 38 African States, Cameroon is the leader in the CEMAC zone ahead of the Republic of Congo (28th), then Chad and Central African Republic who are the last two in the ranking. In the CEEAC area,

Cameroon is second behind Rwanda. The most prosperous country in Africa, according to this report, is South Africa. The Rainbow Nation is followed by Botswana and Morocco, who complete the top 3 of the “*Africa Prosperity Report 2016*”. Egypt, who has just taken the spot of 2nd economy of the continent away from South Africa is 13th in this ranking, while Nigeria, first African economy, grabs the 26th

spot. A full eight positions behind Cameroon.

Legatum Institute establishes its ranking based on the levels of GDP per inhabitant, as well as 89 factors grouped in 8 main categories. These include economy, availability of entrepreneurship opportunities, governance, education, health, security, individual freedom and finally social capital.

Cameroonian Parliament approves Paris agreement in climate change



The Cameroonian Head of State is now authorised, within fifteen days, to issue a decree on the ratification of the Paris agreement on climate change, adopted at the end of the COP 21, which took place last year in the French capital, and which was signed by Cameroon on 22 April 2016. The Cameroonian Parliament decided as such on 10th June 2016.

We can remember that during this important meeting on climate in Paris, Cameroon, small polluter whose greenhouse gas emissions are marginal, however took the commitment of reducing by 32% its gas emissions by 2035, based on the reference date of 2010.

Speaking at the rostrum of the Paris conference, the Cameroonian Head of State, who had recalled “*the urgent necessity of eliminating the destructive effects of climate change*” on the planet, also invited his peers to remain firm in their commitment against this phenomenon. “*Our conclusions, our commitments, to be credible, will need to be binding. The task is not insurmountable. Let us simply be guided by the need of human solidarity and a true appreciation of the urgency of the situation. We do not have the right to fail*”, Paul Biya claimed.

PM orders “urgent” launch of a programme to open up production areas



At the end of the session of the National Road Council which he chaired on 31 May in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian Prime Minister, Philémon Yang, ordered to the Minister of Public Works to “*urgently launch the programme to open up large agricultural and livestock production areas and tourist sites*”, we learn in an official communiqué.

According to Cameroonian traders, the dilapidated state of rural roads is the main reason for the high cost of agricultural products in the main cities of the country, with the farmers having a lot of difficulties in sending their production to the cities.

Interviewed in June 2015 in Parliament on the reasons for the impractical nature of the roads leading to production areas, the then-Minister of Public Works, Patrice Amba Salla, had pointed out the under-provision of the rural roads maintenance fund. “*The budget allocated to the maintenance of rural and harvest track roads is approximately FCfa 10 billion for a network, whose inventory reveals that it has over 100,000 km of roads*”, he revealed.

Based on the calculations of this former member of the Cameroonian government, this budget corresponds to an allocation of FCfa 60,000 per kilometre of road to be maintained, in a country where the cost price for the maintenance of one kilometre of unpaved road is estimated at FCfa 2 million.

The Cameroonian State will transfer maintenance of 30,000 km of roads to local authorities as part of the decentralisation

As part of the decentralisation process which has been ongoing for some years in the country, the Cameroonian government is planning to transfer to 360 municipalities of the country, the maintenance of approximately 30,000 km of roads, Moubain Matapit Issofa, the permanent Secretary of the National Road Council, reveals.

According to the same source, the transfers of financial resources which accompany this government decision will be in excess of FCfa 10 billion. This, as we learn that in addition to the transfers from the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, the Ministry of Public Works for its part will transfer FCfa 28 million to each municipality.

Despite the advantages it provides in terms of local development, the decentralisation, as implemented in Cameroon, does not yet satisfy the local elected officials. They are lamenting that this transfer of financial resources, though announced in official statements, has



not yet materialised. Indeed, we learn, though the services have been transferred at the administrative level, the procurement of contracts remains the privilege of the central

administration. Similarly, the corresponding financial resources are made available to them through budget lines managed by the Treasury Department, who pays the contractors directly.

Cameroon takes first steps in public contract bidding via internet

Since January 2016, the Cameroonian Ministry of Public Procurement has published eight calls for tenders on its platform labelled Cameroon Online Electronic Procurement System, accessible through the website of this ministerial department. However, as Jacques Ayé'e, Head of the Information Systems Division of this ministry, laments, no economic operator has yet tried to submit their application to these calls for tenders via internet.

Well, the applicants are slow to take

ownership of this innovation and continue to favour the paperwork route. According to Jacques Ayé'e, interviewed on the subject by the pro-government daily, this reluctance can be explained by the fears of the economic operators interested in the offers, to have their applications viewed by other applicants with whom they are in competition.

Doubts quickly dispelled by the Head of the Information Systems Division of the Ministry of Public Procurement, who specifies that the system has been set to

be used with a key to be purchased at the price of FCfa 20,000 from the National ICT Agency, in order to secure and guarantee to each applicant the confidentiality of their offer.

Bidding for public contracts via internet is the result of a project called e-Procurement, financed with the support of the Republic of Korea. It is meant to equip the country with a more efficient public procurement system, in particular through reducing delays and corruption.

Cameroon-Brazil trade exchanges totalled FCfa 720 billion over 2000-2015 period



The trade cooperation between Cameroon and Brazil is not the most dynamic. This is the observation made in Douala, the Cameroonian economic

capital, by officials from both countries, at the end of a day of exchanges on business opportunities between Brazil and Cameroon. Indeed, we learned, between

2000 and 2015, trade exchanges between the two countries peaked at FCfa 720 billion, corresponding to an average of FCfa 47 billion of transactions per year. Additionally, over this 15-years period, Cameroon had only FCfa 59.5 billion in exports towards the largest South American country, who for its part had FCfa 660 billion in exports to Cameroon, over the period under consideration.

In addition to lacking dynamism considering the existing potential, we learn, trade between Cameroon and Brazil is not diversified. While Cameroon imports from Brazil products such as sugar, aluminium, chemicals and industrial equipment, Brazil essentially imports rubber, wood and its derivatives.

However, this cooperation could soon be extended to the transport sector. In effect, these past months, the management of Brazilian companies Marcopolo and Embraer have been regularly seen in Cameroon, in order to generate the interest of the government for the establishment of projects such as the urban transport network via BRT or the purchase of aircraft for Camair Co, the national airline.

Cameroon wants to launch a livestock farming development project financed with FCfa 50 billion in funding from World Bank

The Cameroonian Minister of Livestock, Dr Taïga, presented to bankers and other managers of microfinance institutions gathered in Yaoundé, the capital of the country, the livestock development project (Prodel) being drawn up by his ministerial department.

This government member was thus planning to convince the financial establishments to become partners of this project for which, we learned from reliable sources, the World Bank has already

made a financing commitment of FCfa 50 billion in total.

The idea will be to connect every farmer to a financial establishment through Prodel, which plans to impact 600,000 people in the stockbreeding sector, some say at the Ministry of Livestock. The objective being to be able to meet as much as possible the financing needs of the agricultural and livestock operators, as part of the development of their activities.

Between March 2015 and March 2016, Cameroon paid FCfa 81 billion worth of interest on its public debt

According to official statistics from the Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement (CAA - Autonomous Amortisation Fund), the public organisation in charge of managing the loans of the Cameroonian State, the interest fees paid by the government on the public debt are of approximately FCfa 81 billion over the March 2015-March 2016 period. For the first quarter of 2016 only, we learn, these interests peaked at FCfa 29 billion, an increase of FCfa 8 billion compared to the same period in the previous year. The sharp increase in the interest fees

comes from the fact that these past years, as noted by the IMF in several reports, Cameroon preferred non concessional loans, particularly on the local banking market and the public stock market of the Central Bank of the CEMAC States. These loans have the particularly of carrying higher interest rates.

In its note on the economic situation on the public indebtedness at end March 2016, CAA even revealed that even more than 70% of the external public debt of the country is subjected to an interest rate between 2 and 3%, which is far su-

perior to the concessional rates offered by some other lenders, and which are generally inferior to 1%. In 2015, for the first Eurobond in his history, the Cameroonian public Treasury raised FCfa 350 billion at a record rate of 10.75% for a maturity of 10 years.

Interviewed on this preference for non concessional loans, the Cameroonian authorities always mentioned the plethora of conditions to which are subjected concessional loans from some international lenders.

AFD new MD chooses Cameroon as first stop in African tour



No sooner had he taken office as MD of the French Development Agency (AFD), on 2 June 2016, than Remy Rioux landed in Cameroon a week later, for the first stop of his African tour. During this

journey, which also led him to Senegal where he arrived on Sunday, the new MD of AFD exchanged with the Cameroonian authorities on the portfolio of AFD in the country, and mainly on

the 3rd C2D with an envelope of FCfa 394 billion, to be signed in this month of June between France and Cameroon. This 3rd debt relief and development contract will then bring to FCfa 960 billion the global amount of the C2D in favour of Cameroon (since reaching the point of completion of the HIPC initiative in 2006), a country increasingly attracting the attention of China, and whose economic cooperation with all the emerging countries is intensifying year on year.

For example, according to the statistics of the French embassy in Yaoundé, AFD's financial commitments in Cameroon were estimated at approximately FCfa 1,000 billion per year. At the same time, the Cameroonian Ministry of Economy was announcing a portfolio of investments worth FCfa 1,200 billion for three emerging countries, namely China, India and South Korea.

With roughly 70% of foreign direct investment (FDI) received by Cameroon over the 2000-2014 period, China has become the main investor in Cameroon, according to the Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of Economy.

Cameroon-Italy: towards the mutual rescinding of visas for diplomatic and service passport holders



The Cameroonian Parliament has just been called to authorise the Cameroonian Head of State, Paul Biya, to ratify the agreement signed on 17th March 2016 between Italy and Cameroon, to exempt from visas nationals from both countries holding diplomatic or service passports.

This agreement concluded during the first visit in Cameroon by the Italian Head of State, Sergio Mattarella, thus authorises holders of passports in the above-mentioned categories, to freely move between both countries, for visits of maximum 90 days. As a reminder, the Cameroonian stu-

dent community in Italy, with 4,000 members, is considered as the first in Africa and 5th worldwide. These past years, Italy has intensified its economic cooperation with Cameroon, in particular with the establishment of some companies and various service offers made to the government.

FINANCE

National Credit Committee launches data collection platform to improve financial transparency

The Cameroonian Minister of Finance, Alamine Ousmane Mey, chaired on 23 June 2016 in Yaoundé, as President of the National Credit Committee, the official launching ceremony of an integrated platform for the collection, analysis, synthesis and dissemination of data on the operations of banks, microfinance establishments and activities of companies in the financial market.

“This platform will help substantially

improve financial transparency in Cameroon and risk-taking in the financing of companies and clients. This is also a tool to monitor and assess this sector, to enable it operate in the most rational way” Alamine Ousmane Mey claimed. The initiative is also commended by bankers. With this platform, affirms Alphonse Nafack, President of the Cameroonian Bankers Association, *“we will be able to reduce credit risk, through the visibility*

on clients this tool will provide”.

However, banks and microfinance establishments in Cameroon will have to fully cooperate, by regularly transmitting and within the statutory deadlines, the information to be fed into this platform. The Ministry of Finance elegantly indicates that the establishments who will fail in their obligations to this platform will be severely sanctioned.

Cameroonian Customs and Inland Revenue will now exchange information to maximise revenue collections

The lack of collaboration between the Inland Revenue and the Customs Offices is officially identified as a stumbling block to maximise the collection of tax and customs revenues in Cameroon. To reverse this trend, the Cameroonian Minister of Finance, Alamine Ousmane Mey, has just sponsored the signing of a partnership agreement between the tax and customs administrations.

In practical terms, through “Fusion”, a collection, sharing and data analysis IT system, the Inland Revenue and Customs Offices will now share their data, to optimise the collection of revenues. This tool, we learn, is the result of the cooperation between Cameroon and dGIZ, the German cooperation organisation.

According to the public Cameroonian authorities, this tool is all the more



efficient as it will help, for example, in avoiding the losses registered until now during the collection the value added tax (VAT), a tax representing over 30% of the national budget.

This partnership between the Cameroonian Customs and Inland Revenue

offices comes in a context of decreased oil revenues, which represent 25% of the country’s budget. Therefore, to meet its financial needs, the Cameroonian State is having recourse to loans and maximising the collection of customs and tax revenues.

UCITS soon available on the Cameroonian financial market

The Cameroonian Parliament has been ruling in June on a government bill governing the undertakings for collective investments in transferable securities (UCITS). This is a clear indication of the upcoming availability, on the Douala Stock Exchange (DSX), the Cameroonian stock market, of these securities brokers who are generally public limited or fund companies, whose activity consists in managing a portfolio of financial securities.

According to experts, there are two categories of UCITS. First, there are the open-ended investment companies (Sicav in French), who issue shares on a financial market and whose buyers become shareholders. Then, there are trust funds (FCP in French), whose subscribers are rather labelled unitholders, who do not benefit from the rights granted to a shareholder.

UCITS have at least two main advantages for investors. Indeed, in addition to being managed by professionals, their portfolio have the particular feature of holding various shares (obligations and shares), which provides more flexibility. Moreover, the investment risk is shared in an UCIT, since the saver only owns a portion of a portfolio shared by many investors.



With the diversification of financial products they confer, the flexibility and the level of risk sharing they offer, UCITS could help to further boost the Cameroonian financial market. For over 10 years, this market has listed only

three companies and seems to essentially rely on the bonds which are regularly issued by the States (Cameroon and Chad) and financial institutions such as IFC, BDEAC, etc.

IDB strengthens cooperation with Cameroon by appointing local representative

Mr Abakar Abdoulassoul is now the representative of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Cameroon, the Minister of Economy, Planning and Land Development (Minepat), Louis Paul Motazé, announced in an official communiqué.

According to this government member, the main missions of the local representative of IDB are: “*working to promote the cooperation relations between*

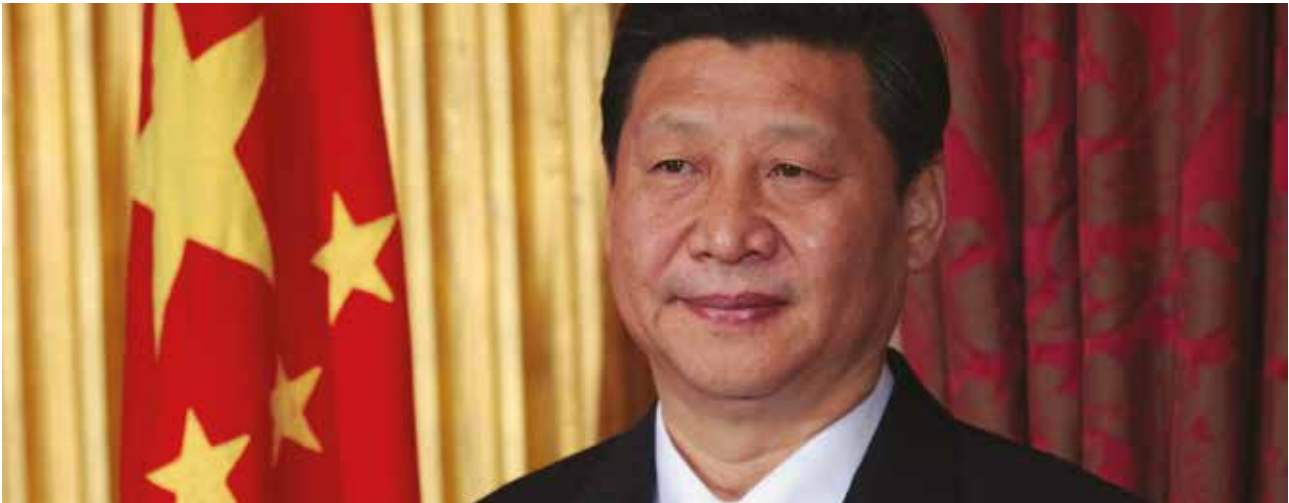
IDB and Cameroon in general, at with the management units of the projects financed by IDB in particular. Moreover, the local representative will have to regularly monitor the projects of this institution, in order to ensure their effective implementation”.

Through the recruitment of a local IDB representative, the Cameroonian government believes that “*the partnership with this institution has just been*

strengthened”, which could “*also contribute toward speeding up the progress of development projects financed by this partner*”.

For several years now, IDB is among the main financial sponsors of Cameroon. The interventions of this financial institution in the country are more visible in the sectors of agriculture and livestock, followed by the construction of road infrastructure.

Cameroon was the 9th top destination for Chinese loans over the 2000-2014 period with FCfa 1,540 billion



Out of the USD 86.9 billion (FCfa 47,795 billion) in loans granted by China to African States, banks and companies over the 2000-2014 period, Cameroon received a global envelope of USD

2.8 billion, equivalent to approximately FCfa 1,540 billion, as revealed by a study entitled “China Africa Research Initiative (CARI)”, published in mid-June by the American university John Hopkins.

At the continental level, Cameroon is the 9th top destination for Chinese during the period under consideration. The country comes far behind Angola with USD 21.20 billion, Ethiopia (USD 12.3 billion), Sudan (USD 5.58 billion), Kenya (USD 5.19 billion), the Democratic Republic of Congo (USD 4.91 billion), Congo (USD 3.7 billion), Nigeria (USD 3.5 billion) and Ghana (USD 3.1 billion).

Statistics compiled as part of this study moreover reveal that for 2012 only, Cameroon borrowed USD 1.5 billion (FCfa 825 billion) from China. This amount represents more than half of the Chinese loans envelope in favour of Cameroon for the period under review, and close to three times the debt (FCfa 311 billion) contracted in China in 2011.

Upon observation, it was during the 2011-2012 period that China released approximately 80% of its loans to Cameroon. Which is all the more understandable considering that this period corresponds to the launch of large infrastructure projects in Cameroon (Lom Pangar and Memvé'élé dams, deep water port of Kribi, etc.); projects which were all financed in majority by Exim Bank of China and undertaken by Chinese companies.

Banque Atlantique Cameroun internationalises money transfers from its automatic teller machines

The Cameroonian subsidiary of the Ivorian banking group Banque Atlantique has now available to its clients automatic teller machines (ATM) which can offer more services such as transfers or change of PIN code for the client's magnetic card.

The novelty is however in the fact that, we officially learn, this new equipment enables a client holding an account in Cameroon to make money transfers to other accounts “held in any of the 8 countries in the Banque Atlantique network” in Africa, being: Benin, Burkina

Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

As a reminder, Banque Atlantique debuted on the Cameroonian market in 2010, after buying out Amity Bank, a local institution in difficulty. Since 2011, a decision until now ineffective from the Common Justice Court of the CEMAC questioned this transaction between the Cameroonian government and the Ivorian banking group, following a referral order by the shareholders of Amity Bank.

Douala Stock Exchange only sold slightly over 50% of the shares offered by Sonara on its over-the-counter market

Out of the 69,212 shares offered by the Société National de Raffinage (Sonara) on the over-the-counter market of the Douala Stock Exchange (DSX), the stock market of Cameroon, only 36,321 shares were effectively sold during the bidding period which ran from 31st May to 6th June 2016. The communiqué just made public by the MD of the Cameroonian financial market, Pierre Ekoulé Mouangué, does not specify the final amount

raised by Sonara, out of the FCfa 69 billion requested.

The MD of the Douala stock market however notes that the operation initiated by the public refinery was a resounding success in terms of mobilising investments. Indeed, we learn, the eight investment service providers (PSI in French) who took part in this zero-coupon bond investment transaction (OTZ in French) by Sonara received no less

than 69,502 requests in total.

The remaining 32,891 shares unsold at the end of the bidding period could soon be available again on the market, the pro-government daily reveals, citing an internal source at the stock market. This especially as, we learn, about 15,800 shares were not offered only because the successful bidders wished for them to be used as pledge securities for the refinancing operations carried out with the central bank.

Paul K. Fokam launches prize to foster applied research and innovation in entrepreneurship in Africa

PK Fokam Awards for Science and Technology. This is the African prize officially launched on 7 June 2016 in Yaoundé by Cameroonian banker Paul Kammogne Fokam, to promote applied research in Africa and innovation in entrepreneurship. The announcement was made during the 3rd edition of the international conference of the PK Fokam Institute for Excellence in science and technology. The competition will award prizes every two years to the Africans who will submit for the jury's consideration the best innovations in terms of business projects and the best Africans in the applied research field.

In the first category, the creator of the best business project will receive FCfa 10 million, as well as funding for his business plan; while the winner of the second prize will receive FCfa 2 million and funding for their business plan. The 2nd category will award FCfa 10 million to the inventor of the best applied research, while the runner-up in this category will receive

FCfa 2 million.

According to Paul Kammogne Fokam, economist and founder of the banking group Afriland First Bank, which has about ten companies operating in Cameroon and the African continent, but also in Europe and Asia; this prize is his contribution to the rise of a generation of Africans who have the ability to support the black continent towards excellence. This especially as, he stresses, *"there is a direct correlation between fundamental research, applied research and the distribution of wealth in the world"*. Moreover, this industry leader, who maintains that it is today necessary for Africa to *"position research as the main activity in the economic life"*, announced the upcoming launch of a *"digital research grant"*. This is, we learn, about an online platform, where researchers, research sponsors and investors can exchange, for a more fruitful and more efficient collaboration in the service the development of Africa.



DIGITAL ECONOMY

Forbes class Cameroonian William Elong among 30 of most promising young African entrepreneurs

William Elong, developer of the Cameroonian start up Will & Brothers, specialised in economic intelligence and technology innovation, appears in 7th position of the top 30 most promising young African entrepreneurs in 2016, just published by the famous American magazine Forbes.

This young 23 year old Cameroonian, youngest graduate of the Economic War School of Paris at the age of 20, is the first and one of two Central African nationals (with Gabonese Mark Doumba, co-founder of Klikafrik Group) in a list dominated by Kenyans, South Africans and Ghanaians. Will & Brothers, that is run by the young William Elong has notably developed the application DroneAfrica, which enables, we learn, the offer of the very “*first civilian drone service*” in Cameroon. Indeed, thanks to this application, a drone with a miniaturised camera can be remotely piloted, in order to capture unique images over very vast areas. Last 16 to 18 May



in Yaoundé, the discovery of this Cameroonian start-upper was one of the principal attractions in the Android village set up in the plaza of the National Museum initiated by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. This was during the international economic conference designated “*Invest in Cameroon, land of attractions*”.

According to its developer, well beyond the sensation of entertainment that it

seems to afford at first sight, the DroneAfrica concept comes to revolutionise many things. It is so for the promotion of tourism, notably thanks to the capture of unusual pictures; the mapping, at reduced costs of mining and urban development projects; more efficient coverage of major events, such as fairs, cultural events or football tournaments; collecting images of disaster areas or simply difficultly accessible areas, etc.

Moroccan group Intelcia buys Clienteos to extend to Cameroon

The Cameroonian company Clienteos is no more. According to a legal notice, it will now be called Intelcia Cameroun, after the arrival of the Moroccan company Intelcia specialised in customer relationship, in its shareholding. The new entity which is thus created will have as CEO Cameroonian Jean-Yves Maurice Kotto Ekambi, and will have a capital of FCfa 131 million, a substantial

increase compared to the FCfa 26 million of Clienteos.

We can remember that in January 2016, the Moroccan Intelcia had officially announced that it would open starting from March in Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon, a platform of 500 call centre representatives, on the demand of a mobile operator whose name was not revealed.

Intelcia, already present in Morocco and France is therefore expanding for the first time in sub-Saharan Africa. This company, which presents itself “*as a major player in the outsourcing industry and is today among the 10 top francophone outsourcers on the customer relationship segment*”, already has in its portfolio clients such as Orange, Inwi and SFR.

Minister of Telecoms : unidentified mobile chips deactivated past 30th June



The Cameroonian Minister of Posts and Telecoms has come to the fore to denounce the continued existence of non-identified subscribers in the identification databases of all the mobile operators operating in Cameroon. This is, according to her, “*of a serious nature*”, she indicated in an official communiqué made public on 14th June 2016.

Therefore, Minister Libom Li Likeng announces that all unidentified and activated mobile chips in Cameroon past 30th June 2016 will be simply deactivated. This date corresponds to the deadline given by some mobile operators to their subscribers, to enable them rectify the situation.

We can recall that in April this year, the Telecoms regulatory body had already ordered the mobile operators in the country to systematically deactivate unidentified chips or those where the information on the identity of the owners are incorrect. Officially, over the 2014-2015 period, mobile operators in Cameroon had to suspend about 6 million mobile chips deemed “*suspicious*”. The consecutive mobile user identification campaigns noted these past months in Cameroon come in a context marked by the terrorist attacks committed in Cameroon by the Nigerian Islamist sect Boko Haram, attacks in which mobile telephones are sometimes used to activate the explosives carried by the kamikazes.

Erdem-Somaf consortium to build headquarters of Telecoms regulatory agency, for FCfa 13.5 billion

The Cameroonian government has just awarded a contract worth FCfa 13.5 billion to a consortium of companies gathering the company Erdem and the civil engineering group Somaf, for the construction of the headquarters of the Telecoms Regulatory Agency (ART). According to the official communiqué

made public on this subject by the Cameroonian Minister of Public Procurement, Abba Sadou, this contract will be executed over a 24-months period starting from the date of notification of award.

Initiated since 2011, the project for the construction of the headquarters of

ART will finally be implemented, after five years of negotiations between the telecoms regulatory body and the Ministry of Public Procurement, particularly on the regularity of the procedures and technical aspects of the tendering file.

Orange Foundation offers wells to Cameroon's Extreme-North populations, facing Boko Haram threat

The populations of the towns of Fotokol, Waza and Mozogo, all located in the Extreme-North region of Cameroon, have just become the recipients of the Orange Foundation's support, who offered them wells to lessen their burden in accessing drinking water. According to the local authorities, approximately 208 families will thus be relieved by this donation. The above-mentioned towns, we learn, have the particularity of suffering from

the shortage in groundwater levels, a reality which led to the failure of most of the village water projects initiated in this area. Additionally, there is the desert encroachment which further complicates the access to drinking water for the populations.

According to the management of the Orange Foundation, this donation of wells confirms the commitment of this structure to the populations in the Ex-

tre-North, "*subjected to the certainly insidious encroaching desert and the crimes of the terrorist sect Boko Haram*".

This terrorist organisation has indeed increased the attacks in this part of Cameroon in the past two years, leaving the local populations in an even more vulnerable situation, with some travelling several kilometres every day to search for drinking water.

ENERGY

Electricity: French RTE will provide expertise for the operation of Sonatrel in Cameroon

As part of the operation of the Société nationale de transport de l'électricité (Sonatrel - National Electricity Transport Company) of Cameroon, the government laid claims to the expertise of the company RTE International, fully-owned subsidiary of RTE, the company managing the French power grid network.

The Ministry of Public Procurement has just awarded to this effect, a contract worth a total of FCfa 2.9 billion to a consortium led by this French company. The service will last 17.5 months, we officially learn.

Also in this consortium in charge of getting Sonatrel back on track is the international audit and accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), who will certainly take care of the financial



aspects; as well as the firm Nodalys Conseil.

This consultancy firm is specialised in infrastructure and public services in developing countries. It operates mainly in the energy, transport, water and sanitation, waste management and urban development.

A public company created by presidential decree on 8 October 2015, Sonatrel, who manages the power grid in Cameroon, was equipped with corporate or-

gans at the end of a Board meeting held in Yaoundé on 9 February 2016. Civil Administrator Mbemi Nyankga thus became its very first MD.

Talking on 18 January 2016 to the press, the Minister of Economy, Louis Paul Motazé, revealed that the Cameroonian government received an agreement in principle from the World Bank, who is ready to support the launch of the activities of this company through financing worth approximately FCfa 660 billion.

SCDP is planning to build an oil products depot on the Bakassi peninsula



The Société Camerounaise des Dépôts Pétroliers (SCDP – Cameroonian Company of Oil Depots) is planning to extend its installations to the Bakassi peninsula, a territory which has been at the centre of a long border conflict with Nigeria, between 1994 and 2002. The revelation was made in a communiqué from the Conseil d'Appui à la Réalisation des contrats de Partenariats (CARPA – Support Council for the Completion of Partnership Contracts), which lists three projects recently approved through this financing and project completion mechanism.

The ambition of SCDP to build a storage unit for oil products in this area in South-West Cameroon is part of the development of this area, which the Cameroonian State is consistently developing and on which it is encouraging settlement by nationals (the majority of the population is Nigerian). These actions have been taking place since the decision by the Hague Tribunal on 10 October 2002 acknowledging the sovereignty of Cameroon over this land.

SCDP is the second public company with plans on this peninsula reputed to be very rich in oil and halieutic resources. Indeed, Pamol, a public company operating in the palm oil sector in the South-West, is currently developing a project for the expansion of its farms (500 hectares) in Bakassi, in order to be able to create about 5,000 jobs.

According to the statistics from the Coordination and Monitoring Committee of priority projects on the Bakassi peninsula, steered by the Office of the Prime Minister, the State of Cameroon has already invested over FCfa 20 billion in the construction of basic infrastructure on this peninsula.

Golar LNG sets up an office in Cameroon to better monitor the gas liquefaction project off the Kribi coast



Golar LNG Ltd, a company listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange, created Golar Cameroun SA, its Cameroonian subsidiary, with a capital of FCfa 10 million, we learned in a legal notice published on 7 June 2016. Golar Cameroun is managed by Andreas Lie, while its Board is chaired by Robert Hingley-Wilson.

The purpose of the company indicated that it will take part in any natural gas liquefaction project in the country, like the one in development off the coast of Kribi, in South Cameroon; on which this global methane vessel owner and operator is in partnership with Perenco and Société Nationale des Hydrocarbures (SNH).

As a reminder, this project meant to build a gas liquefaction plant in Kribi, will be in a first phase about setting up a gas liquefaction floating unit off the coast of this seaside city, in order to anticipate the production and export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Cameroon from 2017. The floating unit will have an annual production capacity of 1.2 million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

FCfa 14.4 billion call for tenders at Sonara, for the construction of a loading station for tankers

The Cameroonian Ministry of Public Procurement has launched an international call for tenders, for the recruitment of a company for the construction of a new tanker loading station at the Société Nationale de Raffinage (Sonara – National Oil Refinery Company). The service which will have to be completed within 24 months will cost

FCfa 14.4 billion, we learn.

Companies interested in this tendering process, who are invited to submit their bids at the Ministry of Public Procurement latest by 12 August 2016, will have to ensure they add a collateral worth in total FCfa 242.6 million.

As a reminder, Sonara, the only refinery of Cameroon, has been for several years

in the process of expanding and modernising its equipment, which first phase should be completed within the current year. The long-term objective is to increase its production, and foremost, to acquire a hydrocracker to refine the local crude oil.

In Cameroon, the oil revenues dropped by 17.3% over the first four months of 2016



FCfa 82.4 billion. This is the amount transferred to the Cameroonian Treasury between January and April 2016 by the Société Nationale des Hydrocarbures (SNH), as oil revenues. According to this company who operates as the secular arm of the Cameroonian State in the oil operation, these revenues have decreased by 17.3% compared to the same period in the previous year, due to *“the drop in the price of crude oil”*. Indeed, SNH highlights, compared to the January-April 2015 period, *“the average price of Dated Brent which is used as reference for the fixation of the price of the Cameroonian crude decreased by 35.22%”* during the first four months of the current year. We can recall that the sluggish situation of the crude barrel had already led to a net loss of Fcfa 66 billion in oil revenues at end 2015 (FCfa 378 billion), compared to 2014 (FCfa 444.7 billion).

For 2016, Cameroon is planning to get a total of FCfa 397.2 billion in oil revenues. A forecast which is not a given, considering the results obtained during the first four months of the year, and the level of fluctuation of the price of crude oil on the international market.

AGRIBUSINESS

Cameroonian Hope Sona Ebai vies for the position of Executive Director of ICCO, the world cocoa organisation



In September, Cameroonian Hope Sona Ebai will be among the three candidates to the position of Executive Director of the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO). He revealed himself his candidacy during a meeting granted to him by the Minister of External Relations, Lejeune Mbella Mbella, from whom he requested the support of the Cameroonian public authorities and to discuss his future election campaign strategy.

Former Managing Director of the National Cocoa and Coffee Council (ONCC), Hope Sona Ebai has close to 30 years of experience in the cocoa economy in Cameroon, in Africa and in the world. After ONCC which he managed for 7 years, this grandson of a cocoa producer occupied, during 11 years, the function of General Secretary of the Alliance of Cocoa Producing Countries, which represents 75% of the world co-

coa beans production.

From this position in Copal, Hope Sona Ebai, a native of the South-West region of Cameroon, was the major force behind the organisation of the Summits of Heads of State of African cocoa producing countries in Abuja in 2006, and Accra in 2007. He is also credited with the organisation of four international conferences on cocoa research.

Since his departure from Copal, he found a new home at the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), an international organisation formed by the 100 biggest companies in the cocoa industry worldwide, and of which a main financier is American billionaire Bill Gates through his Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Within this organisation representing 80% of the world cocoa industry, Hope Sona Ebai, a graduate in Economy from the Ohio State University, USA, steers

the African Cocoa Initiative (ACI). Implemented in Cameroon, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, this programme with a budget of approximately FCfa 7.5 billion over 5 years, seeks to establish as institutions efficient models to support the sustainable growth of the productivity and the improvement of food security in cocoa farms.

Among the accomplishments of the African Cocoa Initiative in Cameroon, we can cite support to the financing of the New Generation programme devised by the Cocoa and Coffee Inter-professional Council (CICC), which is meant to bring down the average age for producers and cocoa farms alike in the country; and funding for the implementation of a 15 hectares plant nursery, with the support of the Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD).

Imports of milk in Cameroon cost FCfa 31 billion in 2015

Cameroonian economic operators spent FCfa 31 billion in 2015 to import milk, revealed Gildas Bertrand Ayi, Head of the Dairy Industry department at the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries; a ministry which, in January, declared 2016 as being the “*year of the milk*”.

This revelation was made on 15 June 2016 in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital, during the opening of a forum with the theme: “development challenges in the local dairy production”. This meeting was set up, we learned, to explore the ways and means to boost the dairy production in the country.

Indeed, according to recent statistics, Cameroon has a production deficit of over 170,000 tons per year, as the na-

tional production peaks at approximately 125,000 tons only, for a demand estimated at 297,000 tons. At the roots of this situation, experts highlight, is the low yield of the species of cows reared by producers, better access to the main production areas, etc.

With the deficit registered in the local dairy production, and considering the high costs of imports, local processors are exploring new solutions. At Camlait, for example, FCfa 3 billion were invested in setting up a soy-based yogurt production unit.

According to Paulin Toukam Zuko, CEO of Camlait, the production costs of soy-based yogurt are 50% less than those made from conventional milk. Therefore, this food company is relying



on these locally-produced soy-based products, to achieve 65% of its turnover for the mid-term.

Spanish Tomsa Destil will build a plantain processing unit in Cameroon

The Société d'actions prioritaires intégrées de développement agricole au Cameroun (Sapidacam – Integrated Agricultural Development Priority Actions Company in Cameroon) and the Spanish agro-industrial firm Tomsa Destil signed on 10th June 2016 in Yaoundé, the Cameroonian capital, a partnership agreement for the construction of a plantain processing unit in the country. The project, which has a plantain product component, plans to set up farms from which will be harvested 500,000 tons of plantains on a yearly basis. The plant for its part will be producing 200,000 tons of chips, 300,000 tons of plantain flour, 1.2 billion litres of ethanol. Through the biomass, the project is also planning for the production of 200 megawatts of electricity and 120,000 m3 of biogas, we officially learn.

Sapidacam is already sponsoring a plantain production agropole in the town of Mpagne, in the Eastern region of Cameroon. As part of this project launched in 2015, with an investment of FCfa 1.8



billion, this Cameroonian company was planning to create farms covering 2,700 hectares in total and develop 20 km of roads.

As a reminder, in addition to a production insufficient to meet the demand of the consumers, the plantain is only valued to up to 30% in Cameroon according to experts, most of its by-products

being unknown to the public and Cameroonian producers.

In order to reverse this trend and take advantage of the benefits in the plantain sector, the Cameroonian government launched in 2005, the plantain sector re-conversion programme (Prebap). Eleven years later, Prebap has not really been implemented yet.

Agropoles project to triple fish production in South-Cameroon region, to 1,500 tons per year

FCfa three billion. This is the financing that the Cameroonian government is looking to commit to the Agropoles Project, and fish farmers in the Mvila and Ntem Valley departments, in South Cameroon, in order to boost the production of freshwater fish in the two production areas.

Thanks to a support representing 35% of the global amount of investments, we learned on 10 June 2016 during the signing of an agreement between the different parties, this project steered by the Ministry of Economy plans to bring the fish production in the Southern region from a little over 420 tons currently to 1,500 tons, with 800 tons in Ntem Valley and 700 tons in the Mvila.

Created by the government to boost the local production and limit imports of foodstuffs on the Cameroonian market (fish imports officially cost approximately FCfa 100 billion per year), the Agropoles Project is also meant to create income-generating activities in the rural areas of the country. Since its launch, several maize, pineapple, fish, egg, pig, honey, soya, etc. production agropoles have been initiated in Cameroon.



Cameroonian SME Gariland International launches Nextcoffee, an organic and diet coffee

An improved coffee, enriched with local spices and labelled Nextcoffee. This is the latest finding of Gariland International, a Cameroonian SME specialised in agricultural products processing, and which just received an award in Gaborone, Botswana, for bringing innovation to cassava processing.

Indeed, after tapioca juice (Garilight), Gariland International developed Gari plus, a wholefoods kit, made of fortified organic Gari (local name for tapioca), pre-sweetened with Stevia, then en-

riched with no less than 15 dried fruits and vegetables, reports Quotidien de l'Economie.

Gariland International already made headlines during the agricultural and livestock show of Ebolowa in 2011, during which the Cameroonian Head of State himself was amazed by the pastas made by this local SME. Labelled “*mi-ondoninini*”, these pastas are made from cassava, potato, macabo, etc.

On 11 December 2015, during a mini-fair organised on the cocoa theme,

Gariland's stand was again highly popular. One could taste there “*date-coated cocoa beans*” (sold under the Perles noires brand) in which date pits are replaced with cocoa beans; or “*filled cocoa beans*” (sold under the brand Pralines), in which the dried beans are inserted in a type of cake made from potato flour.

All these products are made in a small factory with semi-rudimentary processes, set up a few years ago in the city of Mbalmayo, located in the Central region.

CICC launched the Cameroonian coffee tasting days in the public administration services



On 29th June 2016, the esplanade of the “Immeuble Rose” in Yaoundé, a building housing the offices of five ministerial departments, was the premise for the launch of the Cameroonian coffee tasting days in the public administrative services of the country.

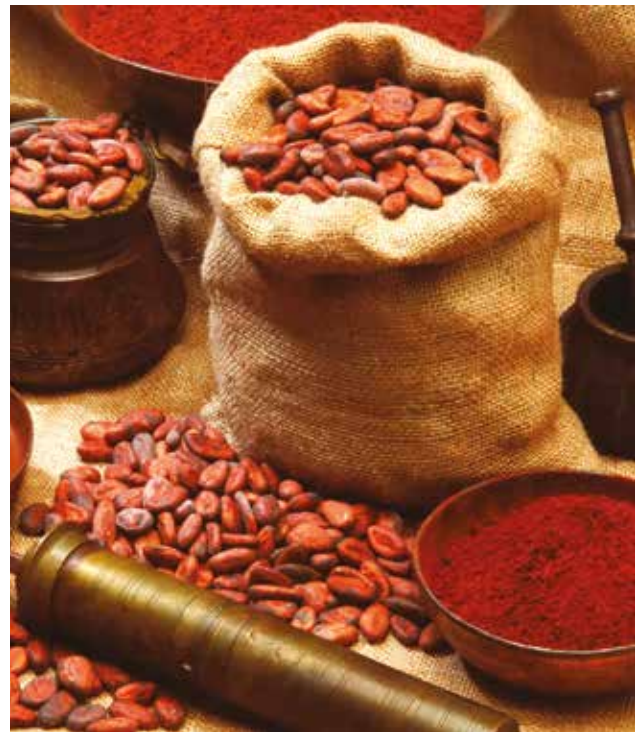
Through this tasting day, the Inter-professional Cocoa and Coffee Board (CICC) puts into action a recommendation made during the latest edition of the Cameroonian International Coffee Festival (Festicoffee 2016), which is meant to establish coffee breaks in public administration services in the country, to promote the consumption of local coffee.

According to CICC, these tasting days will take place once every month. Each time, the event will take place at the Ministry of Trade and in another ministerial department or public company. With the goal of serving between 1,000 and 4,000 cups of coffee each time.

As part of this operation to promote the consumption of local coffee in the Cameroonian public services, one can hear at CICC, local coffee grinders have already sent requests to some administrative services, to make available areas to set up coffee stands.

According to official statistics, the Cameroonian civil service has approximately 260,000 employees, who could thus become consumers of coffee and an interesting market for local coffee grinders, whose talents and expertise are more acknowledged outside than in the country.

Farm gate prices for Cameroonian cacao climb up again, at FCfa 1,500 per kilogram



Since 15th June 2016, farm gates prices for cocoa in Cameroon climbed back up to FCfa 1,500 per kilogram on average. The price of one kilogram of this cash crop increased by FCfa 260 compared to the average price of FCfa 1,240 noted during February.

According to statistics compiled by the Sector Information System (Sif), a project steered by the National Cocoa and Coffee Council (Oncc) and which consists in communicating on a daily basis via text messages the different prices (Fob, Caf, farm gate) to producers; cocoa is even sold at up to FCfa 1,580 per kilogram in some production areas.

The new rise on cocoa prices in Cameroon is explained by the scarcity of the product on the market due to the mid-season, with the new season expected to start from August. Moreover, the rainfall currently registered in some production areas make them inaccessible to buyers.

This scarcity of cocoa on the market is even influencing the country's global exports, which fell in May, reaching only 3,205 tons; against 5,780 and 7,610 tons, respectively in April and March 2016.

Eric de Foresta is the new Managing Director of Safacam

Eric de Foresta will replace Yannick Ver-net as Managing Director of the Société Africaine Forestière et Agricole du Cameroun (Safacam – African Logging and Agricultural Company of Cameroon), an agro-industrial company listed on the Douala Stock Exchange (DSX), the Cameroonian stock market.

This is what revealed a draft resolution which will be submitted for the approval of the shareholders during the Mixed General Meeting of this company an-

nounced for 23 June 2016; resolution which suggests to the Safacam shareholders to approve the contract of the new MD.

The shareholders are also invited to give the green light to the proposal of distributing a global dividend of FCfa 1.4 billion (at the rate of FCfa 1,164 per share) out of the net profit of FCfa 1.8 billion recorded in 2015.

According to the financial records of Safacam, despite a sluggish market situ-

ation for rubber prices, which decreased by 13% in 2015 compared to 2014, this company managed to stabilise its net result, in part due to the relative improvement noted in the palm oil sector.

Indeed, in addition to a production which increased by 311 tons, moving from 13,828 tons in 2014 to 14,139 tons last year, Safacam's palm oil was sold at FCfa 478.1 per kg in 2015, against FCfa 445 a year before, an increase of FCfa 33.

Cameroon: panic on swine fever leads to shortage of pork in Adamaoua

Since the end of March, it has been difficult for populations in the Adamaoua region, located in northern Cameroon, to consume pork. According to the pro-government daily who revealed this information, this situation follows the discovery of a swine fever outbreak in the Mbé district.

Therefore, the administrative authorities had to take measures to restrict the sale of pork, measures which today impact on the whole Adamaoua region, we learn. According to livestock breeders in this part of Cameroon, pork could soon become a rare commodity on markets in southern Cameroon, with cargo coming from the three northern regions incapable of going through the veterinarian checkpoints set up since the discovery of swine fever outbreaks in March in the Mbé district.



Cameroonian state injected FCfa 6 billion in Sodecoton in 2015, to avoid reduction in purchase price for producers



With an estimated cost price of cotton at FCfa 858 per kilogram, Sodecoton recorded a deficit of FCfa 35 on each kilogram of cotton exported, the world price

of this raw material being around FCfa 823 only. In order to prevent a reduction in the producer purchase price of cotton (FCfa 265 the kilogram), which would

have allowed the agro-industrial company to lower the deficit imposed by the world price decrease, the Cameroonian government has had to pay a subsidy of FCfa 6 billion in 2015 to Sodecoton, in order to balance its accounts, the government daily revealed.

However, if this subsidy allowed the deficit of FCfa 4.1 billion recorded on cotton exports to be narrowed, the government assistance has not however entirely balanced the accounts of this company, flagship of agro industry in the northern part of Cameroon. Indeed, in 2015, we learn from the same source Sodecoton lost FCfa 10 billion as a result of bad weather that damaged part of the production, to which must be added a total loss of FCfa 8 billion recorded in 2014.

Calculator in hand, over the period 2014-2015, Sodecoton recorded losses estimated at more than FCfa 22 billion, of which only FCfa 6 billion were covered by the subsidy from the state. To stay afloat, we learn, the company has submitted a FCfa 30 billion investment plan, whose delay in implementation is due to the indebtedness of the company.

In Cameroon, the cost of imported sugar is 45% less than the local product

Financial motive. This is, according to the Cameroonian Minister of Trade, Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, the main reason justifying the continued imports of cargo of sugar in Cameroon, despite an official ban issued by the government.

Indeed, Minister Mbarga Atangana revealed in an interview to the pro-government daily, after costing approximately USD 800 per ton (about FCfa 400,000) over the 2010-2012 period, a ton of imported sugar in Cameroon is only FCfa 280,000 nowadays. Quick cal-

culatation, imported sugar is 45% cheaper than the local product.

As a consequence, the imported product, whose market price is more competitive, is more in demand at the expense of the sugar made in Cameroon. This especially since, through various more or less legal mechanisms, importers often manage to get, if not customs exemptions, at least to prevent their products from being liable to the payment of the deterrent reference value to which is subjected the import of sugar in the country.

The spectre of a new collapse in the poultry industry looms over Cameroon



After being wiped out by the massive imports of frozen chicken until 2005, then by a national psychosis created by the discovery of the avian flu virus on a duck carcass in the Extreme-North in 2006, the Cameroonian poultry sector is again on the verge of collapsing.

On 3 June 2016, the public authorities announced that the avian flu epizooty declared in the city of Yaoundé a week earlier, has spread to the Western region.

This news is even more serious for the local poultry sector considering that the Western region represents, on its own, approximately 80% of the national production, according to the operators' statistics.

In other words, with the ban on the sale of chicken in Bafoussam, mainly, and the whole Mifi and Koung-khi departments, where two outbreaks of avian flu were diagnosed, the Cameroonian poultry sector finds itself without any

market. And this, whether on the local or sub-regional level.

Indeed, at the local stage, the market is supplied from the city of Bafoussam, meanwhile to conquer the sub-regional market (Gabon, one of the main markets, has even banned imports of chicken from Cameroon), the poultry production from West-Cameroon transits through Yaoundé, the capital of the country in which the sale of chicken has been banned for a week now. This ban

follows the death of 24,000 birds from avian flu at the Mvog-Betsi Avian Complex, which thus lost 75% of its flock.

TARGET OF 50 MILLION CHICKENS IN 2016 SEEMS COMPROMISED

These bans which hit the poultry market have negative consequences on the cash flow of the farmers and hatchery operators, who now have to stock their products for longer (the disinfection of the Yaoundé markets could last a month, according to the Ministry of Livestock), with additional production costs (poultry feed and veterinarian treatments, for example).

But above all, the local production will decrease. Indeed, with the current situation, the poultry sector will have difficulties making available the 50 million chickens announced for 2016 by the Poultry Trade Organisation of Cameroon (Ipavic). Especially due to the loss of 33,000 adult poultry at the reproductive state (24,000 dead following the avian flu and the remainder slaughtered as a preventive measure) in the Mvog-Betsi Avian Complex, 4th hatchery of the country.

According to the figures communicated to RFI by the engineer agronomist Ber-

nard Njonga, who was at the forefront of the fight against imports of frozen chicken in Cameroon, 1.3 million eggs to hatch were also destroyed in this poultry farm (equivalent to as many potential chicks), as well as approximately 1.4 million chicks who were killed (equivalent to as many potential broilers). In the western part of the country, 300,000 chicks produced per day will remain unsold due to the ban on the chicken trade, if they are not simply slaughtered by the hatchery operators to avoid creating additional production costs.

In 2006, a psychosis following the discovery of the H5N1 virus on a duck carcass led to losses estimated at FCfa 3 billion in the Cameroonian poultry sector. In 2016, with a minimum of 3 outbreaks of avian flu already declared in the main production areas and markets of the country (Yaoundé, Bafoussam and Bayangam), the bill might prove hefty for this sector employing approximately 400,000 people and weighting 3.3% in the GDP.

CAMEROON WILL NOT AUTHORISE CHICKEN IMPORTS

The Cameroonian Minister of Livestock, Dr Taïga, has just put an end to

the doubts of the local poultry farmers, who feared that the government would authorise imports of chicken based on the devastating effects currently brought on to the local poultry sector by the avian flu. *“There are enough chickens in the country. Apart from the outbreaks of avian flu, the local market is rather well supplied. There will therefore be no imports. Especially as the health problem seems to be heading towards a positive resolution”*, he reassured.

Imports of chicken on the Cameroonian market were banned in 2005, after a petition to the public authorities by local poultry farmers and the Citizen Association for the Defence of Public Interest (ACDIC in French), who denounced the collapse of the local poultry sector due to massive imports of chicken. When the sector was picking up with the support of over FCfa 2 billion in subsidies given to the poultry farmers by the State of Cameroon, in 2006, a hysteria born out of the discovery of the avian flu virus on a duck carcass in Maroua, Extreme-North, further weakened the sector.

Brice R. Mbodiam

POULTRY SECTOR LOSES FCFA 10 BILLION

Since the discovery, at the end of May 2016, of an outbreak of bird flu in the Mvog-Betsi poultry farm complex in Yaoundé, the 4th hatchery in Cameroon, whose virus H5N1 has decimated 75% of flocks and caused the destruction of the rest of production; the national poultry industry has already lost around FCfa 10 billion.

This figure was revealed on 20th June 2016 in Yaoundé by François Djonou, President of the Poultry Inter-profession of Cameroon (Ipavic). It was during a meeting of poultry sector operators with the Committee of competitiveness, a body placed under the authority of the Ministry of Economy. These losses are especially plausible since for one month, the trade in poultry is officially forbidden in the Cameroonian capital, principal transit area for exports to neighbouring countries such as Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The latter has moreover forbidden imports of Cameroonian poultry to its territory as soon as the bird flu outbreak was discovered in Yaoundé.

This ban on poultry trade in the capital was extended from 3rd June 2016 to the towns of Bafoussam and Bayangam, both located in the Western region, which alone accounts for about 80% in national poultry production, according to operator statistics.

Indeed, experts in the sector claim, the Western region in Cameroon produces about 300,000 chicks on daily basis which had to be slaughtered for the past three weeks to avoid additional costs to hatcheries (feed, veterinary products, etc) due to the market paralysis.

Western Cameroon also represents 500,000 tons of maize (for a value of around FCfa 110 billion) consumed annually, of which a good part by the producers of feed; and about FCfa 8 billion of expenses annually for veterinary products used in breeding. All figures that have been affected these last weeks, due to the appearance of bird flu in the large basin of chicken production.

Cameroon : onslaught of more than 6000 fishermen on fish-filled waters of Lom Pangar dam

Since its partial damming in September 2015, with a holding of more than two billion cubic metres of water out of the 6 billion cubic meters expected during the definitive impoundment in August 2016, Lom Pangar dam is highly coveted by fishermen in activity in Cameroon.

Since last September, we learn from reliable sources, they come in their hundreds each month to dedicate themselves to their fishing activities in the dam waters. Based principally in Ouami, a town located around 10 kilometres from the dam, there are now more than 6000 people in this village and its surrounding area. These figures are communicated by EDC, the public company in the energy sector, which is managing the development of the Lom Pangar hydro electric project.

A number of these fishermen, we learn, left the Lake Chad region where fishing has become a dangerous activity due to the murderous incursions of the Nigerian Islamic sect Boko Haram, or even the area around the Lagdo dam, in the Northern region of the country, as well



as three other dam reservoirs in the country, namely Mbakaou, Bamendjin and Mape, where the waters are no longer as fish populated as they used to be.

Indeed, EDC experts stress, that thanks to an ecosystem full of nutrients highly prized by the fish, Lom Pangar dam waters are particularly filled with an abundance of fish. The dynamism of fishing activity around this infrastructure is such that EDC estimates that the fisher-

men of Lom Pangar will have revenues of FCfa 30 billion during the year 2016. However, our sources highlight, instead of helping to narrow the shortage of fish production from which Cameroon suffers, Lom Pangar catches are exported to neighbouring countries and even West African countries (Nigeria, Mali, Ghana, etc), whose fishermen are in the majority in activity around this dam built in the Eastern region of the country.

In 2015, agro-industrial group Somdiaa generated over 34% of its revenues in Cameroon

Out of the seven African countries (Cameroon, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Congo, Gabon, CAR) in which it has offices, Cameroon is the most dynamic market for the French agro-industrial group Somdiaa, which is mainly in the sugar (67.2% of the group's turnover), flour (31.7% of the turnover) and poultry sectors.

Indeed, we learn from the official figures of the group, the Société Sucrière du Cameroun (Sosucam – Cameroon Sugar Company), its subsidiary in the country, represented on its own 34.1%

(approximately FCfa 110 billion) in the global turnover of the Somdiaa group in 2015 (€ 489.7 million). With this share in the global turnover, Cameroon represents more than Côte d'Ivoire (19.1%) and Gabon (16.5%) combined, the other two most dynamic markets of the group on the continent.

The contribution of Cameroon in the turnover of this agro-industrial group should grow in the coming years. Indeed, in addition to the implementation of a FCfa 110 billion investment program started since the 2013-2014 season

to increase Sosucam's production by 50,000 tons in 2017 (to reach 170,000 tons), Somdiaa is planning to go into the poultry business in Cameroon from 2017, we learn from credible sources.

In effect, this agro-industrial group is actually planning to duplicate in Cameroon its Gabonese experience, a country in which its subsidiary, Société Ménière et Avicole du Gabon, which until recently was producing eggs and flour, went into the production of one-day old chick from 2009. It now produces 350,000 chicks per year.

TRANSPORTATION

Cameroonian Pierre Salomon Mbella Mbella will vie for the position of MD of ASECNA

In November 2016, Pierre Salomon Mbella Mbella, an aeronautical engineer, will defend the Cameroonian colours during the election for the position of managing director of the Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA).

The information has just been revealed

by the Cameroonian Minister of Transport, Edgar Alain Mebe Ngo'o, who specified that this compatriot, who currently works as Special Advisor to the MD of Asecna in Dakar, claims 34 years of experience in the safety and aerial navigation sector.

Created in Saint Louis, Senegal on

12 December 1959, ASECNA is an international public establishment. It is tasked with ensuring the safety and aerial navigation over an area covering 16,100,000 km². Which represents an area corresponding to one and half times the entire European continent.

In Cameroon, taxi owners in the capital are ordered to renovate their vehicles in the run-up to the 2016 AfCON

One month. This is the deadline that the Regional Transport Delegate for the Central region has given to owners of city taxis operating in the Cameroonian capital, to renovate their vehicles, we learn in an official communiqué. After this deadline, the offenders will have their vehicles impounded, this regional manager from the Ministry of Transport stresses.

Josué Meyoua, who in his communiqué was very specific on the different repairs to be made on the taxis in the city of Yaoundé, reveals that this measure is meant to prevent giving a bad image of the Cameroonian capital during the Africa Women Cup of Nations football tournament, which will take place between November and December 2016 in Yaoundé and Limbé.

For the moment, the taxi drivers or owners' union have not yet officially responded to this injunction. But, in the background, some of them are applauding the initiative of the regional delegate, considering, they claim, the increasingly dilapidated state of several taxis operating in the Cameroonian capital.



Camair Co creditors can stop its operation at any moment, according to Minister of Transport



The Cameroonian public airline company, Camair Co, is far worse off than it might seem.

The Cameroonian Transport Minister, Edgar Alain Mebe Ngo'o, describes a company that is almost in agony. "Our national airline company is facing undeniable problems. Its costs are greatly above its operating revenues and the operating

loss is around FCfa 1.5 billion monthly", he reveals.

But the more serious problem, continues Minister Mebe Ngo'o, is the company's supplier debt "which is extremely huge", since it is today "estimated at about FCfa 35 billion". This debt is all the more worrying as, the government member stresses, a large proportion of the debt is claimed by "blocking suppliers

whose debt is due in the short term and whose non payment can stop operation at any time. This is notably the case for aircraft rentals, suppliers of fuel, ground service assistance, air navigation services". Having recalled that "just like the Indomitable Lions and the Cameroonian army, Camair Co constitutes a true national cause which Cameroonians should not be indifferent to", Edgar Alain Mebe

Ngo'o however refuses to believe that this spells the end of the company which was launched only some years ago. "If the health of Camair Co is very troubling, our national company is far from being condemned to die", he claims ; in citing notably the audit ordered by the government, as well as the recovery plan of the company being drawn up and assigned to Boeing Consulting.

In its first recommendations to the government, the consulting firm indicates that if Camair Co wishes to compete in an air transport marketplace that is more and more competitive in Cameroon, it must acquire a fleet of 14 aircraft, against the current 5 aircraft. This will require new investments and above all substantial financial means, in a context of recurring pressures on public funding.

**CAMEROONIAN AVIATION
AUTHORITY EXCLUDES
EUROPEAN ZONE**

A few days ago, Camair Co, the Cameroonian public airline, lost the right to serve the European continent, particularly France which it was flying to

until now. This was the decision of the Cameroonian Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA), who restricted the air operator certificate granted to the company by excluding the European zone.

break any law, regulations and other texts, which govern the civil aviation operation in Cameroon".

Tempers are again flaring between Camair Co and CCAA. In December 2015,

A few days ago, Camair Co, the Cameroonian public airline, lost the right to serve the European continent, particularly France which it was flying to until now.

This measure, according to Paule Assoumou Koki, MD of CCAA, is the result of a "state of unpreparedness" of the company to an audit conducted by AESA which compromises the operational perspectives of Camair Co in Europe. Mme Koki moreover estimates that the conclusions of this audit are likely to "damage the credibility of the entire Cameroonian aviation". Arguments refuted by Jean Paul Nana Sandjo, Managing Director of Camair Co, for whom the airline under his leadership did "not

a brief Board meeting of CCAA had already led to the dismissal of Pierre Tamkam, then MD of this institution, for refusing to grant certificates to the Chinese MA 60 acquired by the Cameroonian State on behalf of Camair Co, under the pretext that these aircraft did not offer the strongest guarantees in terms of security.

However, despite these new tensions between CCAA and Camair Co, we are far from the December 2015 scenario.

A "SICK PATIENT" WHO DESERVES A "CANDID" ASSESSMENT

At the opening of the 2nd session of the National Assembly on 2 June 2016, the President of the Cameroonian Lower Chamber of parliament, Cavaye Yéguie Djibil, expressed his concern about the situation of the Cameroon Airlines Corporation (Camair Co), the public airlines company. In his speech, the President of the National Assembly described this company as a "sick patient" requiring a "candid" assessment. Cavaye Yéguie was alluding to the audit of the company recently awarded to the American firm Boeing Consulting

which, to conclude has also been invited to make proposals to reorganise this company facing enumerable financial difficulties since the launch of its activities in 2011.

Officially, this airlines company which is under its 5th managing director since its creation 10 years ago, has accumulated debt estimated at FCfa 30 billion. Since its maiden flight at the beginning of 2011, Camair Co survives thanks to cash injections from the state.

Cameroon: Bolloré Africa Logistics became Bolloré Transport & Logistics on 1st July 2016

On the 1st of July, the Cameroonian subsidiary of the French logistics company Bolloré Africa Logistics changed its name and became Bolloré Transport & Logistics Cameroon.

This change follows the decision taken by the management of this group, to

merge its activities in the transport and logistics sectors under a unique brand, we learned in an official communiqué published on 30th March 2016. "Bolloré Transport & Logistics has four components, each with its own expertise: port, logistics, railway and energy", the com-

munique specified.

With approximately 700 employees in Cameroon, the Bolloré group holds several port concessions (Douala and Kribi) in the country. Through Camrail, it has also been managing the Cameroonian railway for 15 years now.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Two Turkish and Italian companies win the biggest infrastructure contracts for AfCON 2019 in Cameroon

The Turkish company Yenigün Construction Industry should set up on the construction site of the future Omnisports stadium of Douala-Japoma, in the suburb of the economic capital of the country, we learned at the end of a mission sent by the government to Douala. Indeed, it was this company that the State of Cameroon chose for the construction of a stadium of 50,000 seats in Douala, as part of the AfCON tournament that the country will organise in 2019. The costs for the works of this sports infrastructure are estimated at FCfa 166 billion, to be financed by Eximbank Turquie. The Japoma stadium will also have two training pitches with bleachers, an open gymnasium of 2,000 seats, an Olympic swimming pool of 8 lanes and 1,000 seats, etc.

Construction of the Douala-Japoma stadium is the second major contract, since the beginning of the year 2016, to elude the Chinese, the country whose companies are actually carrying out the quasi-totality of the big ongoing projects in Cameroon. Indeed, before



the above-mentioned stadium, the Cameroonian government revealed, in March 2016, having chosen the Italian company Piccini, to build a 60,000 seats stadium in Olembé, in the suburbs of the capital, also for AfCON 2019. Contract amount : FCfa 163 billion.

With these two contracts, the aforementioned Turkish and Italian companies are the big winners of the market for infrastructure for AfCON to be held in

Cameroon in February 2019. Pending are rehabilitation contracts of Garoua and Douala stadiums. Sodevi International, a Canadian consortium, has already expressed its interest in this last project. At the same time, Cameroon has already received offers of services from Brazilian and Algerian companies, who are mainly eyeing the market of mass transportation for this football competition.

Tunisian Soroubat wins FCfa 38.2 billion contract for the construction of the Ekondo Titi-Kumba road in Cameroon

The Cameroonian government has just awarded to the Tunisian company Soroubat a contract worth FCfa 38.2 billion, to carry out the construction works for the Ekondo Titi-Kumba road, in the South-West region. These works under-

taken as part of the three-year emergency plan implemented since last year, will be executed over a period of 24 months, specifies the communiqué made public by the Minister of Public Procurement, Abba Sadou.

Soroubat operates in the civil engineering sector, particularly road constructions, sewage works, construction of civil engineering structures and buildings. This Tunisian company has subsidiaries in Côte d'Ivoire, Algeria and Libya.

Cameroon awards FCfa 13 billion contracts to Tunisian and French technical engineering firms, to supervise road works

Cameroon Ministry of Public Procurement has just awarded five contracts for a total amount of FCfa 13 billion to French and Tunisian technical engineering firms, for the purpose of monitoring road construction works within the framework of the three-year gov-

ernment Emergency Plan being implemented since last year.

The highest contract, for a total amount of FCfa 3.1 billion has been awarded to the French engineering firm Louis Berger, to supervise the construction work of the Sangmélima-Oveng road, in the

south of the country.

French company Egis, as well as Tunisian engineering companies Etudi International and Scet Tunisie have been awarded contracts of amounts between FCfa 2.6 and 2.9 billion. All the works should last 52 months, we learn.

After the deep water port, Chinese CHEC builds a motorway of 38 km between Kribi and Mboro

In addition to the paved road of approximately 33 km, which currently serves the deep water port of Kribi, built in the region of South-Cameroon, accessing to the largest port infrastructure of the country will be also possible via a 38km freeway, starting from 2018.

This is the deadline set by the management of the Steering and Monitoring Committee for the construction of the industrial port complex of Kribi and the company China Harbour Engineering Corporation (CHEC), to complete this motorway whose works are currently in the general earthworks phase. All "financing has already been finalised", the Cameroonian Minister of Economy, Louis Paul Motazé, specified.

This government member revealed the information on 10 June 2016 in Kribi, on the fringes of the signature of a financing agreement of FCfa 29 billion between the Cameroonian State and Belfius bank of Belgium, for the supply in drinking water of the industrial port complex of Kribi (CIPK).

While waiting for these supply works to CIPK and the new town to be created around this infrastructure to be carried out, we learn, the deep water port of Kribi has a water intake and treatment unit providing it with a production autonomy of 200 cubic meters of water per day. The port, which awaits its commissioning announced for 2016, also has a mini-power plant with a capacity of 6 MW.



Belfius bank of Belgium and Aspac International find fertile ground in drinking water sector



On 10th June 2016, the Cameroonian government, through the Minister of Economy, Louis Paul Motazé, signed a FCfa 29 billion financing agreement with Belfius bank of Belgium (previously Dexia Bank), for the supply in drinking water of the industrial port complex of Kribi. The works will be undertaken by the Belgian company Aspac International.

While awaiting the signing of a new financing convention of FCfa 26 billion under negotiation, which will help in carrying out water distribution system projects in 13 Cameroonian cities; the 10th June agreement brings to FCfa 80 billion the amount already injected by Belfius bank in the drinking water sector in Cameroon since 2009, date of its first interventions in the country and

the African continent in general, we officially learned.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Economy, Belfius bank's investments in Cameroon represented, during the 2009-2014 period, 93% of the investment budget of Camwater, the public company in the drinking water sector.

The Cameroonian authorities explain that the repeated recourse to financing from this Belgian bank to fund drinking water distribution system projects in the country, through the "flexibility of the funding mechanism" and above all "the quality of the services provided" by the group of Belgian companies Aspac International and Balteau, who carry out all the projects financed by this banking institution in Cameroon.

In 2015, logging companies maintained 7,663 km of unpaved roads in Cameroon

The logging companies operating in Cameroon maintained 7,663 km of unpaved roads during 2015, we learned at the end of a session of the National Road Council (Conaroute) chaired on 31st May 2016 in Yaoundé by the Prime Minister, Philémon Yang. This contribution from the logging companies to preserving roads in Cameroon however represents less than 10% of the national network of dirt roads, officially approximately 100,000 km long.

At the same time, we learned during this same meeting, the public administration maintained only 1,000 km of surfaced roads, "due to various technical and procedural constraints", as specified in the communiqué issued by Conaroute.

As a reminder, less than 10% of the Cameroonian road network is maintained. According to officials, this is due to the lack of financial resources and the high cost per kilometre, which is among the most expensive in Africa, according to experts. In order to reverse this trend, a government decision taken on 9 April 2016 by the Prime Minister, established the use of five new products in the nomenclature of surfaced and dirt roads maintenance (only where Carboncor is concerned) in Cameroon, to, we learn, decrease the global expenditure of this activity, and make up for the insufficiency of laterite quarries in the country.

Limbe borough seeking FCfa 60 billion to build 35 hectares urban complex

The delegate of the government of the City of Limbe, in South-West Cameroon, arrived at the investment conference organised in Yaoundé on 17 and 18 May 2016 with a huge project in his kit. Indeed, Andrew Monjimba Motanga tried to capture the interest of the various investors gathered in the Cameroonian capital to finance the “Downbeach urban project”, meant to build a com-

plex over 35 hectares in the coastal city of Limbe.

Based on the details given to the investors by the Mayor of Limbe, this complex which requires a total financing of FCfa 60 billion will host a 2,000 seats convention hall, a shopping mall covering 10,000 m², as well as the biggest aquarium of Central Africa, which will cover an area of 5,000m².

A marina is also scheduled to be built for tourists flocking to the beaches of this city, a hotel complex, as well as a modern restaurant on stilts with a capacity of 400 people.

In addition to contributing to the development of urban planning and the promotion of tourism in Cameroon, this infrastructure will help create thousands of jobs, the project sponsors claim.

British company NMS Infrastructure interested in a project for the construction of 10,000 accommodations in Cameroon



The Cameroonian Minister of Urban Development and Housing, Jean Claude Mbwentchou, recently met with a delegation of managers from the British company NMS Infrastructure. According to our sources, the two parties talked about the project for the construction of 10,000 low-cost housings in Cameroon, for which this British company and the

Cameroonian government have already signed a MoU.

As part of this project, we learned from credible sources, the government will have to make available the land carry out the construction, as well as setting up the related infrastructure, such as access roads or electricity and running water connections, etc.

In addition to real estate, NMS Infrastructure also provides services for the design and completion of health and energy infrastructure, drinking water and sewage water treatment, etc. This firm is present in African countries such as Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, Zambia, Libya or Gambia.

Chadian engineering companies Sotcogog and Encobat win 3 contracts of FCfa 35.3 billion in Cameroon

The Cameroonian government has just awarded three contracts worth a total of FCfa 35.3 billion to the Chadian engineering companies Sotcogog and Encobat, to develop hydro-agricultural areas in the Extreme-North region.

According to the official communiqué made public on 3 June 2016 by the Minister of Public Procurement, Abba Sadou, out this global envelope, FCfa 27.1 billion will go to the group gathering the companies Sotcogog Sarl and

Sotcogog SA, while the company Encobat wins two contracts worth a total of FCfa 8.2 billion.

With these new contracts, the Chadian companies thus strengthen their position on the civil engineering market in Cameroon. Indeed, a few months ago, two groups of Chadian companies, in this case Geyser SA-Sotcogog SA and SRGM-ETRA, had already been selected at the end of an international request for bids, for the rehabilitation of irrigated

areas and the Maga & Logone and Mayo Vrick dykes, all in the Extreme-North. Total amount for the two contracts: FCfa 62.1 billion.

The latter works are meant to protect over 10,000 hectares of rice paddies from floods, in which approximately 78,000 Cameroonian rice farmers managed by the Société d'Expansion et de Modernisation de la Riziculture de Yagoua (Semry) work.

Camwater bets on tarpaulins to supply areas not connected to distribution network in water

The Cameroon Water Utilities (Camwater), public company in the drinking water sector in Cameroon, will erect 50 tarpaulins in the city of Douala, particularly in the areas not connected to the distribution network. According to the management of this public company, this temporary solution will help to reduce the difficulties in accessing drinking water in several areas of the Cameroonian economic capital.

The 50 tarpaulins announced by Camwater, we learn, are a type of giant plastic tanks, which can each help stock 5,000 litres of water. In total, 25,000 litres of drinking water will thus be made available to the populations in Douala who are still disconnected from the Camwater network. This operation does not however overshadow the water shortage which has grown worse in the big cities of Cameroon these past months. A situation which led to the dismissal of Camwater's MD, Jean Williams Solo, and his replacement by Alphonse Roger Ondoa Akoa, who had announced the end of the water shortages in the Cameroonian capital for March 2016 in vain.

Frustrated by these continuous water



shortages in the country, the Cameroonian Head of State, after dismissing the MD of Camwater in February 2016, recently instructed the Prime Minister to

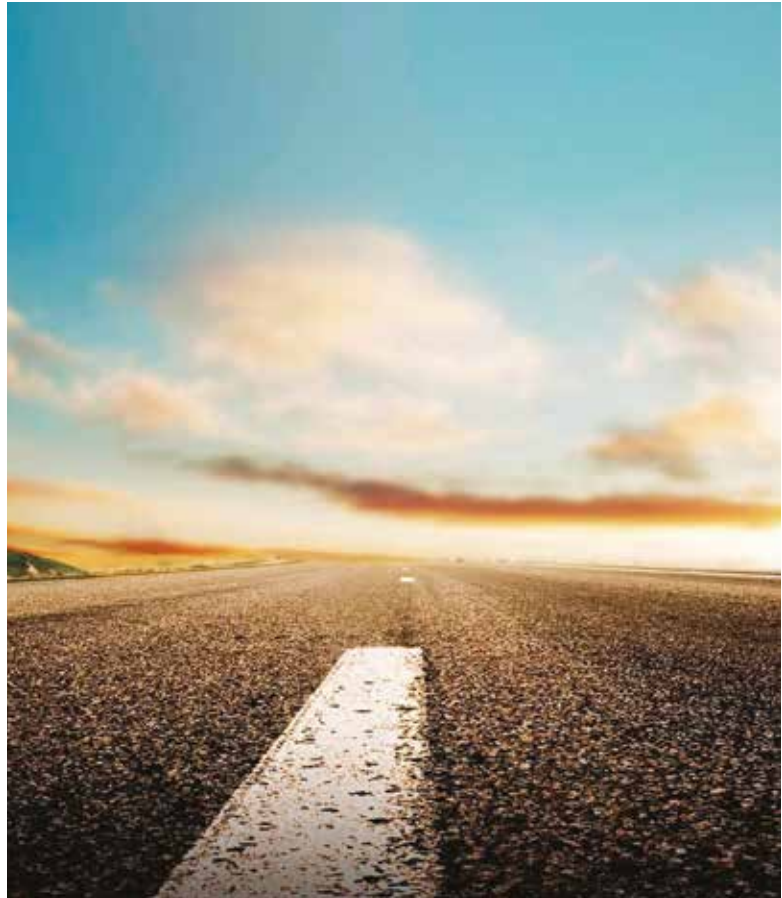
work toward the non-renewal, in 2017, of the lease contract signed the Moroccan company Onep, who owns the Camerounaise Des Eaux (CDE).

FCfa 810 million to start compensating locals as part of the Yaoundé-Nsimalen motorway project

The Cameroonian government has just made available to the populations of the Mfoundi department (Central region), whose properties were on the outline of the Yaoundé-Nsimalen motorway, an envelope of FCfa 810 million as compensations. *“The government has chosen to gradually make payments, depending on the availability of funds but also the progress of the work”*, the Mfoundi Prefect, Jean Claude Tsila, specified. The Yaoundé-Nsimalen motorway, which will stretch over 20 km between the centre of the capital and the Yaoundé-Nsimalen international airport, will cross three departments in the Central region. Only the populations of the Mfoundi department, where the capital is located, remain to be compensated.

The launch of the payments for the compensations of the Mfoundi populations to be expropriated as part of the above-mentioned motorway project, comes only a few weeks after the imprisonment, in two stages, of about twenty people who managed the compensations file of the populations living on the site hosting the deep water port of Kribi.

They are accused of having falsified the list of people to be compensated as part of this infrastructure project. Indeed, at the moment of paying the compensations, several people stepped up to denounced the presence in said lists of unknown people, when many of the true local residents were forgotten.



Canadian Sodevi International eyes 2019 AfCON infrastructure marketplace

A consortium of Canadian companies led by Sodevi International has expressed its interest, to the Minister of Sports and Physical Education Pierre Ismaël Bidoung Mkpatt, in the rehabilitation of the Douala Reunification Stadium, in the country's economic capital. This will precede the organisation of the African Cup of Nations football competition that Cameroon will host in 2019. This

Canadian consortium, we learn officially, is sponsored by the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), a state body whose mission is to lead to international opportunities for companies. CCC moreover proposes to ensure the necessary business plan to secure funding, in the event that the rehabilitation of Douala Reunification Stadium is awarded to the Canadian consortium.

Before the Canadians, there were Turkish and Moroccan companies who landed in Cameroon with construction projects for AfCON 2019 infrastructure. More discreet in this, Italian company Piccini has already won a contract for the construction of a 60,000-place stadium in Yaoundé, while a Chinese company has been awarded a contract to construct similar infrastructure in Douala.

INDUSTRY

Zng Smart Card Factory is the company through which Arthur Zang will manufacture magnetic cards in Cameroon

We now have a little more information about the project on which Cameroonian engineer Arthur Zang is currently putting the finishing touches, after the success of his Cardiopad, the first African medical tablet, which continues to win more awards throughout the world. The inventor of the Cardiopad has indeed just revealed that the new company specialised in the manufacture of mag-

netic cards, which he is getting ready to launch in the Cameroonian capital, is called Zng Smart Card Factory. It will help generate, Arthur Zang repeats, 150 direct jobs.

According to the future CEO of this magnetic card factory, the premises are already available. There is only the need now, we learn, to proceed with the customs clearance of the 600 tons of equip-

ment currently stocked at the Douala port, in the economic capital of the country. An operation which could be hardly made possible the FCfa 23 million prize just won by the Cardiopad, at the end of the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation organised by the Royal Academy of Engineering of the United Kingdom.

Swiss company Buhler to assist Producam in the installation of a cocoa processing factory in Kékem

FCfa 9 billion. This is the amount of the investment that Producam will make in the town of Kékem, in the Western region of Cameroon. The foundation stone of this factory, which will be built thanks to the expertise of the Swiss company Buhler, was laid on 16 June 2016. With an estimated processing capacity of 30,000 tons of cocoa beans a year, the Kékem factory aims to produce 12,000 tons of cocoa butter and 6,000 tons of cocoa powder annually. The project benefits from a Cameroonian government financial assistance of FCfa 1.3 billion, as well as significant tax and customs exemptions.

According to the Minister of Economy, Louis Paul Motazé, who presided over the foundation stone laying ceremony of this factory, the Kékem example will soon be duplicated in the town of Mbal-mayo, in the Central Region.

As a reminder, Cameroon which has



produced on average 200,000 of cocoa over the past 5 years, only processes around 25% of its production locally. The recovery plan for the sector aims to

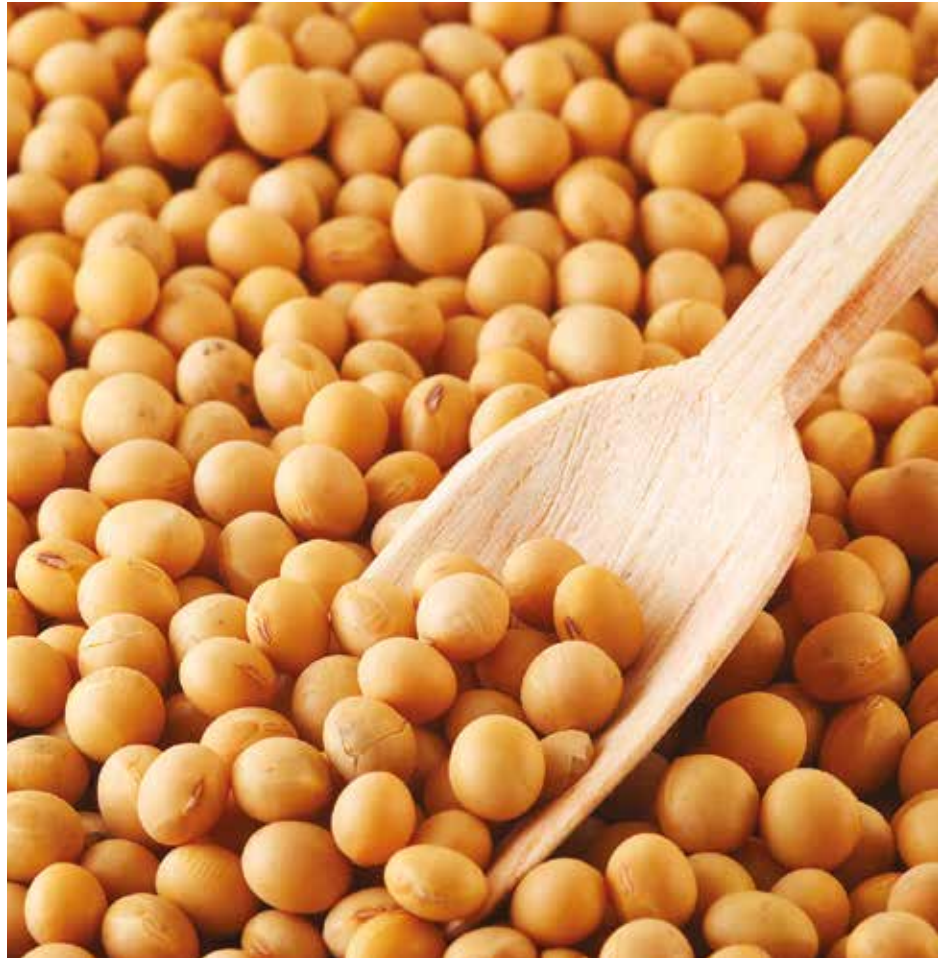
raise this level to 50% by 2025, by which time the country proposes to produce 600,000 tons of beans.

SOPROICAM seeking FCfa 7 billion for Yato Soya processing unit

Out of the FCfa 12 billion in investments required for the construction of its soya processing unit in Yato, located in the Littoral region in Cameroon, the company Soybeans Processing Industry of Cameroon (Soproicam) has already raised close to FCfa 5 billion, including FCfa 3 billion in shareholders' equity, we learned from reliable sources.

The sponsors of the project are therefore actively seeking funding worth a total of FCfa 7 billion for the development of this agro-industrial unit. To achieve this, discussions are currently underway with the National Bank of Economic and Social Development of Brazil, as according to our sources, a Brazilian company could be on the verge of signing a joint-venture with the Cameroonian sponsors.

As a reminder, based on current forecasts, the Yato agro-industrial unit is planning to produce 50 tons of soybean oil per day. The same quantity of soya press cake will also be produced on a daily basis, our sources indicate.



FCfa 900 million contract to be won at Sodecoton, to supply cotton packaging

The Cameroonian government has launched a bid solicitation to recruit providers able to deliver in two batches, a cargo of 500,000 stockings to package cotton. The contract is worth FCfa 900 million, we learn.

According to the communiqué of the Minister of Public Procurement regarding this bid, the services must be carried out within 90 days after notification of

the market. Bidders have up to 1st August 2016 to submit their offers, with a deposit of FCfa 9 million.

Parastatal company that is considered the flagship of agro-industry in the northern part of Cameroon, Sodecoton is currently facing financial difficulties marked by cumulative losses of more than FCfa 20 billion over the last two campaigns.

But, in February 2016, in order to finance the 2016 cotton season during which it expects an estimated production of 267,000 tons, Sodecoton, that now has a new managing director ; has succeeded in raising FCfa 35 billion on the local banking market, in order to finance the current campaign.

MINING

Feldspar deposit discovered at foot of Mount Tinguelin, in region of North Cameroon

The town of Bogou, located at the foot of Mount Tinguelin, around 15 kilometres from Garoua, capital city of the North Cameroon region, hosts an important deposit of feldspar. The information is revealed by the government paper *Quotidien*, which quotes the local director of the Mission for the Promotion of Local Materials (Mipromalo). Achille Balo Madi however did not specify the capacity of this deposit. With this discovery, the manager of Mipromalo is dreaming of manufacturing toilets and floor and wall tiles locally, construction materials imported up until now. Indeed, a European Association of Feldspar Producers' document states that this raw material "is the most important ingredient in the production of ceramics, after clay". As well as being used in the production of tiles, WCs, glasses, plates and other ceramic objects, feldspar we learn, is also used in the manufacture of welding electrodes and their coating, latex foam, and even aggregates for road surfacing.



Turkish company Yenigün Construction creates subsidiary in Cameroon, with sights on mining industry

Yenigün Construction Co Cameroun. This is the name of the Cameroonian subsidiary of the Turkish company which recently won a contract for the construction of a stadium of 50,000 seats in Japoma, in the suburbs of Douala. Apart from civil engineering,

this company which creation has just been announced through a legal notice broadened its field of expertise in the country.

Indeed, its scope reveals that it is planning to also invest in housing, mining industry, construction of major infra-

structure such as dams and dykes, or getting lands ready for large-scale farms. With an initial capital of FCfa 10 million, the Cameroonian subsidiary of the Turkish company Yenigün Construction is managed by Ali Baru Alsirt, as CEO.

Giulio Casello, CEO of Sundance Resources: “the Mbalam iron project is the best mining project in the world currently”



“The financial model of the Mbalam iron project was done with a price estimate for iron higher than USD 100 per ton. At the height of the crisis, the price dropped to USD 39 per ton.”

Giulio Casello, CEO of Sundance Resources and President of the Board of Cam Iron, the Cameroonian subsidiary of the junior Australian mining company who is steering the project for the operation of the Mbalam-Nabeba iron deposit, just visited Cameroon and Congo, the two countries involved in the above-mentioned project. In Yaoundé, we officially learned, Mr Casello also met the Prime Minister, Philémon Yang.

This tour by the CEO of Sundance Resources, an official note from Cam Iron reveals, was meant to “reaffirm the desire of the Australian group to develop the Mbalam iron project”. Because, Mr Casello claims, “the Mbalam iron project is at the moment the best mining project worldwide, at least where iron and associated substances are concerned. It is not even thinkable, he continued, to consider abandoning such an important project, especially with the constant support of the highest authorities in Cameroon and Congo in this difficult period. No-one

has been spared by the current crisis, but with the support of the public authorities we are sure to overcome this hurdle”.

It is based on the importance of this project that, Cam Iron highlights, “the Sundance Resources group started a daring costcutting strategy, to keep its Cameroonian and Congolese subsidiaries profitable”, at a time when «several other mining project sponsors in the world are closing down their operations, due to the international environment on the commodities market».

“PERIOD OF GREAT TROUBLES”

Regarding this gloomy international environment for raw materials, including iron, Cam Iron reminds that “the financial model of the Mbalam iron project was done with a price estimate for iron higher than USD 100 per ton. At the height of the crisis, the price dropped to USD 39 per ton. Today, prices have stabilised around USD 50 per ton”.

Therefore, the Cameroonian subsidiary of Sundance Resources claims that

“Cam Iron is going with success through this period of great troubles which has not spared any player in the mining sector for close to two years now”; this especially as, the mining company continues, “today, experts in the sector agree to say that the worst is behind us, the iron one industry is stabilised”.

MARKET CONDITIONS

As a reminder, the project for the operation of the Mbalam iron one, sitting astride Cameroon and Congo, is currently stumbling on the the signature of an agreement for the financing and construction of infrastructure (500 km railway and one terminal in the deep water port of Kribi) linked to the project. Scheduled for December 2015, this agreement signing was postponed sine die, the company China Ghezouba with whom the government was about to sign this agreement having requested a deferral, while it stresses, “market conditions improve and the finance seeking process is further advanced”.

Brice R. Mbodiam

SERVICES

Vivendi opens first Canal Olympia cinema and performance hall of African continent in Cameroon



The Cameroonian Prime Minister, Philémon Yang, has commissioned on 14 June 2016 on the campus of the Yaoundé I University, in the capital of the country, the first Canal Olympia cinema and performance hall built on the African continent. This cultural space is the work of the Vivendi group, owned by French industrialist Vincent Bolloré, who arrived in the Cameroonian capital on 13 June 2016 with members of the Vivendi Supervisory Board.

The Canal Olympia performance hall of Yaoundé, which should be duplicated in the city of Douala before the end of this

year, as we were able to learn from credible sources, will help in among things projecting films, organising concerts by local and international artists and serving as a stage for stand-up comedians.

In addition to ensuring the outreach of young Cameroonian talents through the international network of the Vivendi group, the Canal Olympia hall, which has a capacity of 300 seats indoors and over 4,000 seats outdoors; first and foremost puts an end to 7 years of no cinema halls in Cameroon, after the closure of the cinemas Abbia (Yaoundé) and Wouri (Douala) in January 2009.

Built in two months by the Cameroonian company Kalfrelec, this cinema and performance hall in which the Vivendi group invested approximately FCfa 2.5 billion, according to our sources, is fully powered by solar energy. This energy is captured through 720 m² of solar panels, then stocked through Lithium Metal Polymer (LMP) batteries developed as part of the Bolloré Blue Solutions programme; which already enabled three electric buses to transport students on the campus of the Yaoundé I University since May 2014.

RIGHTS & LAW

A new attack blamed on Boko Haram leaves eleven dead in Cameroon's Extreme-North

A young kamikaze detonated his charge on 29th June 2016 close to a mosque in the town of Djakana, located on the border with Nigeria in the Extreme-North region of Cameroon, we learned from military sources. The attack which resulted in eleven deaths was attributed to the Nigerian Islamist sect Boko Haram.

According to our sources, the kamikaze took advantage of a gathering of Muslim's under a tent, after the prayer marking the end of the Ramadan fasting day, to activate his explosive belt. This is the first Boko Haram suicide in Cameroon after several weeks of calm. This is also the first time a young boy

is the perpetrator of a suicide-attack in the country. Indeed, since the change of modus operandi of Boko Haram, who now favours suicide attacks to armed attacks, young women have been used as human bombs.

A Chinese ship boarded and searched for illegal fishing on the coast of Limbe, in southwest Cameroon



A Chinese fishing vessel christened Yang I was boarded and searched by agents of the Cameroonian navy and a team from the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (Minepia). This was off the coast of the town of Limbe, a seaside town located in the south-western region of the country, we learned from credible sources. In addition to being in a position of illegal fishing, this vessel, according to the Cameroonian authorities, was using nets which do not comply with the regulation in force in the country in terms of fishing. The cargo of 5 tons of fish seized in the vessel, we learn, was auctioned, and the crew was sentenced to pay a fine of fca 7 million to the Treasury.

The Cameroonian coasts are sought by illegal fishermen. Indeed, according to statistics revealed by the technical committee of the Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), who met in Yaoundé on 14 April 2016, no less than 12 fishing vessels belonging to foreigners have been boarded and searched in 2015 off the Cameroonian coasts, for illegal fishing. A year before, 10 vessels were caught, through the patrols of the Cameroonian army.

Leader of the month

Cameroonian Georges Wega becomes the 1st African MD of Senegalese subsidiary of Société Générale



Pending for validation of his appointment by the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO in French), his promotion will take effect in August 2016.

A graduate of the University of Quebec in Canada, Georges Wega is well acquainted with the financial world.

The French banking group Société Générale has put Cameroonian Georges Wega at the helm of Société Générale de Banques du Sénégal (SGBS). The latter, who was until this promotion deputy MD of Société Générale Cameroun, will take office in August of this year, after the validation of his appointment by the regulatory body of the banking sector in CEDEAO.

The promotion of Georges Wega to the SGBS is considered a “small



revolution” by the Senegalese press, saying for instance that the bank “is finally promoting an African at the helm, against its traditional conservative attitude in the higher ranks of its management team.”

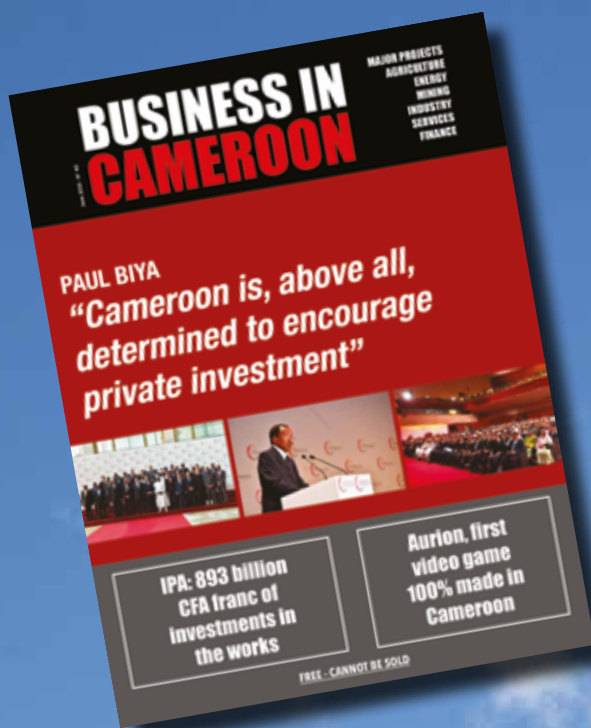
Poached from UBA Cameroun in June 2014, where he was Administrator Managing Director, Georges Wega, who took charge of the operational side of Société Générale Cameroun in July 2014, seems to have been sent on a mission in Senegal. Indeed, in the West African country, this Cameroonian industrial engineer will inherit

a subsidiary of Société Générale which, we learn, “broke the record of provisions due to a poor approach in risk management”.

A graduate of the University of Quebec in Canada, Georges Wega is well acquainted with the financial world. He successively worked for the financial branch of General Electric in Brussels and Amsterdam; Barclays Bank in London; then UBA, the Nigerian banking group whose Cameroonian subsidiary he led for 4 years, before joining Société Générale.

Brice R. Mbodiam

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