



CAMEROON: A LAND OF PEACE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Cameroon has a key role in maintaining peace and stability in Central African sub region thanks to its vibrant diplomacy. The Head of State, H.E Paul BIYA has always been present in the major Rendez Vous involving the cause of the African Continent. He proved it by attending the US- African Leaders Summit with his wife Mrs Chantal BIYA from 5th to 6th August in Washington DC.

The President of the Republic made an important contribution during the session discussions in which he explained that the future of Africa can only be with peace and security. Two important values for the development of the continent and Cameroon.

Below extracts of the statement of the Head of State during the work session under the theme "Investing in Cameroon, the time is now" read by the minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development.

It's Time to Invest in Cameroon

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First and foremost, I would like to thank President Obama for initiating this US-Africa Summit, the very first in the history of our relations.

It is within this context and as a prelude to the Summit that this maiden Cameroon/USA Economic Forum is taking place.

My country feels honored by it.

Cameroon is here to invite you to participate in the development of its potential. In many respects, my country is indeed a land of opportunity.

In a word, note that:

- Cameroon is a stable country which enjoys a peaceful democracy;
- Its growth rate is rising: it currently stands at 5.5% in 2014, up from 4.6% in 2013;
- Major infrastructure projects are underway in sectors such as energy, ports, roads, agro-industry, mining, etc.
- We have huge potential in the areas of energy, agriculture, forestry and mining;
- Our tourist industry is worth developing.

Investment opportunities abound in Cameroon. Incentives meeting international standards have been put in place.

Our business environment is the focus of an ongoing public-private dialogue. In short, investing in Cameroon is a good risk through joint ventures, or by setting up your businesses in developed and serviced economic zones.

Therein, you will enjoy accompanying measures."



Unity, Solidarity and Peace

On the occasion of the solemn ceremony marking the 50th Anniversary of Reunification of Cameroon in Buea, February 2014, H.E. Paul BIYA stated in his speech that “Unity in diversity is one of the most important assets of Cameroon”.

Indeed, it is! The big challenges of the country are to maintain its cohesion in the face of a mosaic of more than 200 ethnic groups with varied socio cultural differences. Nevertheless, Cameroonians are showing the entire world that unity can easily overcome challenges.

The popular mobilization of Cameroonians last February 22 in the 10 Regions of Cameroon and in all its Diplomatic Missions abroad, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Reunification is testimony of these achievements. The same fervor was perceptible during the celebration of our National Day on 20may 2014.

Diversity enriches creativity. Cameroon is a country that births talents in varied sports disciplines. These last two decades Cameroon distinguishes more in soccer with The Indomitable Lions who have been part of the biggest world football Rendez vous seven times.

Viewed as a promised land, thanks to her human and geographical riches, Cameroon is ruled by a man who has Great Ambitions, and is fully committed to the ideals of peace and social stability; whose wisdom and statesmanship has made Cameroon an example to follow in Central Africa.

The Ambassador
H.E IYA TIDJANI

SPECIAL 42nd NATIONAL DAY IN RIYADH

The celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the unitary State of Cameroon presided over by H.E IYA TIDJANI and Mrs Hermine TIDJANI took place in Riyadh on 20th May 2014 at the Residence of the Ambassador of Cameroon in Saudi Arabia. H.E ABDALLAH AL QARNI, Assistant Secretary of State of the Governorate of Riyadh was representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the ceremony.



CORPS DINNER

The Defense Attaché of the Military Mission at the Cameroon Embassy, Colonel ABBA YAGANA organized a Corps Dinner on May 23.

The event which took place at the Chancellery was attended by the Cameroonian Ambassador, H.E IYA TIDJANI, the General Consul of Jeddah, Mr. ISSA OUMAROU, all military staff, OTHER Defense Attachés, guest invited and Cameroonian families of Riyadh.



POLITICS

PAUL BIYA AWARDED « PEACEFUL RESOLUTIONS OF CONFLICTS » PRIZE

The Pan African Lawyers Union Prize for Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts was handed to the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA by former South African President Thabo MBEKI at a brief ceremony that took place at Unity Palace on June 06 2014. The lawyers delegation and consisted several officials including the President of Transparency International, Huguette LABELLE attended the ceremony.

In the important speech made at the occasion, President Paul BIYA expressed his gratitude to the Pan African Lawyers Union for giving him such a prestigious price.

The Head of the State had praises for those who contributed to the peaceful resolution of the border crisis between Cameroon and Nigeria, especially the former President of Nigeria, OLUSEGUN OBASANJO and the successive Heads of State of Nigeria, the former Secretary General of the United Nations KOFI ANNAN and his successor BAN KI-MOON, as well as the representatives of the four witness countries of Green Tree Agreement: Germany, the United States, France and the United Kingdom.

President Paul BIYA expressed the wish that the use of force should be abandoned definitely as a mean to settle differences between States. This can only be possible if States recognize the primacy of international law and the preeminent role of the United Nations.

The involvement of the Head of State at different summits security reflects once again his personal unwavering commitment in the search for solutions to multifaceted crises in Africa.

For this purpose, President Paul BIYA accompanied by his wife Mrs Chantal BIYA visited the French capital to attend the "Paris Summit on Security in Nigeria" on May, 17.

The summit gathered together around the French President François HOLLANDE, Heads of States and Government of neighboring countries of Nigeria like Chad, Niger, Benin and Cameroon.

Security issues rose by the presence of the Boko Haram group whose activity threatens the stability of Nigeria and has repercussions on neighboring countries.

On June 2013, Cameroon also hosted the "Yaoundé Summit on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea".



ELECAM : Dr FONKAM AZU'U VISITED SAUDI ARABIA

The President of Electoral Board of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM), Dr FONKAM AZU'U, paid a visit to the polling stations of Jeddah and Riyadh from 8 to 12 august. He was accompanying by Mr Mohamadou BOUBAKAR, member of the Electoral Board and Mr Jean Paul NTSENGUE, head of President's office.

The delegation came to Saudi Arabia to control and supervise the biometric re-compilation of electoral registers started at Cameroon embassy in Riyadh and at the Consulate of Cameroon in Jeddah six months ago.

The biometric registration consists in enrolling Cameroonians of Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Mecca, Medina and those of other Saudi cities in age to vote by using biological elements such as the fingers prints and digital image in the registration process.



Dr Fonkam with Registration's Staff

ECONOMY

CAMEROON COFFEE : THE TASTE OF REVIVAL

Cameroon enjoys very favorable agricultural conditions that make her one of the best primary commodities economy in the sub Saharan Africa region.

The cultivation of coffee, which is one of the Cameroon's principal cash crops, takes place in the country's western highland region.

There are two types of coffee grown in Cameroon: the Arabica coffee and the Robusta Coffee. Cameroon is one of the few African countries to grow Arabica and Robusta coffee.

Robusta coffee is grown in seven regions namely Adamawa, Center, East, Littoral, South, Southwest and West, while Arabica Coffee is grown only in the Northwest and West regions.

Production of these species in Cameroon has declined in quality and quantity; drop ping from 90,000 tonnes in the early 1990's to about 35,000 tonnes in 2009.

In order to revive the coffee farms program which falls within the framework of the project to support to the production and distribution of coffee vegetal equipment and the coffee seed project, the actions carried out to the multipliers have enabled the distribution of about 730,015 young Arabica coffee trees to cover 608 hectares, and 693, 132 young Robusta coffee trees to fit 577 hectares.

In the same stride, the government is currently distributed insecticides, fog generators and sprayers to farmers to help them to maintain and rehabilitate the coffee farms.

During the first half of 2012, about 1, 2 million young Robusta coffee trees were distributed; covering 1,381 hectares moreover seed fields were rehabilitated, maintained or created. So far 23 hectares of Robusta coffee and 21,2 hectares of Arabica farms have been created.

The financial support granted by FODECC (Cocoa and Coffee Development Fund) has enabled the growing and distribution of about 1,5 million young Arabica coffee trees to farmers' organizations.



YAOUNDE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE FESTIVAL

The 2nd edition of the International Coffee Festival known as « FESTICOFFEE » took place on May 29 to 31st in Yaoundé. Coffee, one of the main export produce of Cameroon, plays a significant role in the socio- economic life of Cameroon.

FESTICOFFEE was jointly organized by the Cocoa and Coffee Interprofessional Council (CCIC) on the national association of producers of both sectors. This event was placed under the theme "Coffee: the revival".

On the occasion of this festival, the main coffee production centers of the country held ceremonies, conferences and tastings. In Yaoundé, there was a trade fair, a research symposium on Robusta coffee and an awards ceremony.

FESTICOFFEE marks the beginning of the coffee harvesting season in Cameroon.

ECONOMY

THE KRIBI INDUSTRIAL PORT'S PROGRESS

The Kribi industrial port complex is one of the most important construction works in Cameroon.

Located at about 200km in south east of Douala, Kribi deep sea port is one of the biggest infrastructural projects in recent years by the Government. This port will be endowed with a special terminal to transport minerals since the country's economic context is characterized by industrial and mining projects of aluminum, bauxite, iron, cobalt, nickel etc.

This gigantic project comprises four components: the port, the industry, the infrastructures and the town planning. It will have the necessary facilities, mechanical and auxiliary installation: control, communication, navigation, lifting and handling systems (gantries and cranes), vehicles and towboats.

The Kribi industrial port project is split into three phases to be executed entirely by the China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC).

The first phase which is underway involves General works, the construction of the container terminal with an annual capacity of 350,000 TEUS and the multipurpose terminal with an annual capacity of 1, 5 million tons.

The second phase will be the construction of specialized terminals (gas, ore, hydrocarbons...). At the end of the third phase, the port will have 20 terminals.

Deepwater facilities are being put in place at Mboro (30 km south of Kribi), where the general port and several terminals (container, aluminum, hydrocarbon, and multipurpose) will be built while at Lolabé (4 km south of Mboro) the iron ore carrier wharf is under survey.

Several private operators will build specialized piers under the BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) concession system, for the export of specific products.

Annual traffic forecasts are put at 250.000 to 400.000, 20-feet equivalent containers, 35 million tons of iron ore, 3.5 million tons of liquefied natural gas, 2 million tons of alumina, 1.5 million tons of aluminum, 1.5 million tons of various inputs, 3 million tons of hydrocarbons, and 3 million tons of assorted goods.

The Kribi deep sea-port construction will accommodate huge commercial vessels with a capacity of up to 100.000 tons, and a draught of 15 to 16 meters. This is expected to greatly ease congestion at the Douala port.

The project also concerns the creation of industrial and tourist areas, the development of roads as well as road and railway, energy and telecommunications infrastructures.



TOURISM

BUEA: A Historic Landmark

Buea is a town located on the eastern slope of Mount Cameroon, which is found in the south-western part of Cameroon. The town is situated at an elevation of 3000 feet (900meters) above sea level. It is one of the biggest towns in the English speaking zone of Cameroon.

Buea is the capital of the South West Region. The town has a very long and rich history. It was the capital of German Kamerun from 1901 to 1919. In 1922, Buea became the seat of the British Commissioner for Southern Cameroon.



Due to this legendary past, Buea is considered as the cradle of Cameroon's history. The town recently hosted the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Cameroon's reunification presided over by the Head of State himself. A monument for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of reunification was constructed in Buea to mark the occasion.

Also, several historic sites of the early missionaries and colonial periods have been preserved, and include: the Prime Minister's Lodge (1902), the Old Secretariat, the Bismarck Fountain, the Native Authority School (1902-1904) and the German Burial Ground (1911).



Buea Palace

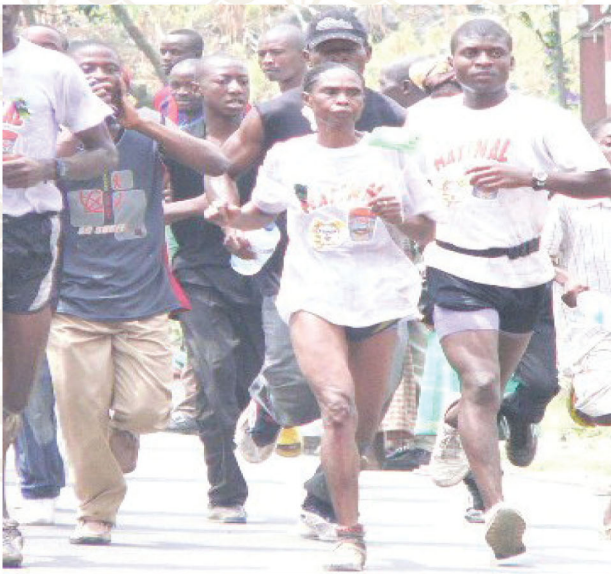


The Monument of Reunification in Buea

TOURISM

The town hosts one of the best universities in the country, having seven faculties, and with an estimated student's population of about 12000.

This historic town is built on the flanks of mount Cameroon which is the tallest mountain in the whole of West and Central Africa. Because of its location on the slopes of Mount Cameroon, the climate in Buea is relatively cold and humid. Abundant rain falls, characterized by incessant drizzles that can last for weeks, are common during the rainy season.



Buea is host to The Mount Cameroon Race of Hope (in French la Course de l'Espoir) which is an international foot-race that covers 38 km, run annually in the month of January or February. The first edition of the Race of Hope was held in 1945.

This cultural and sporting event pulls over 5000 visitors each year. Traditional authorities always perform rituals of blessing for the race before its commencement. The rituals are conducted by the Paramount Chief of Buea, Chief Endeley Mukake.

Buea is less than half an hour drive from the sea-side town of Limbe and about an hour from Douala. There exist a good number of standard Hotels, which are amongst the best in the country. Prices of rooms of hotels and of menus in restaurants are very affordable.



Haj 2014 Around The Corner

As part of preparations for the 2014 Haj, and on the invitation of the Saudi Ministry of Haj, a Cameroonian delegation arrived in Saudi Arabia on the 3rd of March 2014, where it held several working sessions with Saudi officials from the 4th to 16th of March, 2014. The delegation, made of 9 persons including some members of the National Haj Commission of Cameroon, consular staff and the Consul General of Cameroon in Jeddah, was led by Cameroon's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, H.E. IYA TIDJANI.

At the end of deliberations, a general agreement concerning Cameroonian pilgrims was signed with the Deputy Secretary of State for Haj, the Mouassassa institution, and housing officials.

Despite the renovation works on the Grand Mosque in Makkah, the quota of Cameroonian pilgrims was maintained at 4500. As has been the case for 4 years running, all Cameroonian pilgrims will land at Madinah, and depart from King Abdul Aziz Airport in Jeddah.

On housing, the delegation negotiated and signed contracts maintaining the same prices as last year; that is 550 SAR per pilgrim in Medinah with Al Tawoon Group, and 3500 SAR in Makkah with Dar El Mehrab Establishment.

Saudi authorities have planned many innovations for this year's Haj. Some of these innovations include:

The establishment of an electronic coloured bracelet with personal pilgrim's data (for example Cameroonian pilgrims will wear orange colour);

The introduction of an electronic system that will check all the pilgrims;

The availability of individual folding beds in Mina.

The introduction of all these facilities may provoke a significant increase in the cost of the 2014 Haj.

DIPLOMACY ON THE MOVE

OIC Foreign Ministers Council

H.E IYA TIDJANI, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) attended the 41st Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC in Jeddah on 18th June and participated to the 39th annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Group as Alternate Governor to IDB.

Jeddah Economic Forum

The Ambassador of Cameroon took part in Jeddah Economic Forum (JEF) from 18 to 20 March and in the 2nd Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers held in Jeddah on March, 17.

OIC's Executive Committee on Central African Crisis

The Head of Cameroon Mission in Riyadh attended on February, 20 to the OIC's Executive Committee meeting in Jeddah on the situation prevailing in the Central African Republic.

IDB's Regional Forum in Dakar

Cameroon participated on January, 26, among 17 African countries to the 3rd High Level Regional Forum organized in Dakar by the IDB Group.

Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency

The Ambassador IYA TIDJANI took part in the Fourth Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi on January, 18.

PRESS DINNER

On the 15th of May, 2014, the Cameroon Ambassador to Saudi Arabia held a Press Dinner in his Residence.

It was a unique occasion for Saudi journalists to meet and have friendly exchanges with the staff of the Cameroon Embassy.

On this occasion, H.E IYA TIDJANI briefed Saudi Medias on Cameroon's economy, culture and tourism. He handed to them a guide to the general procedures for investment in Cameroon.

