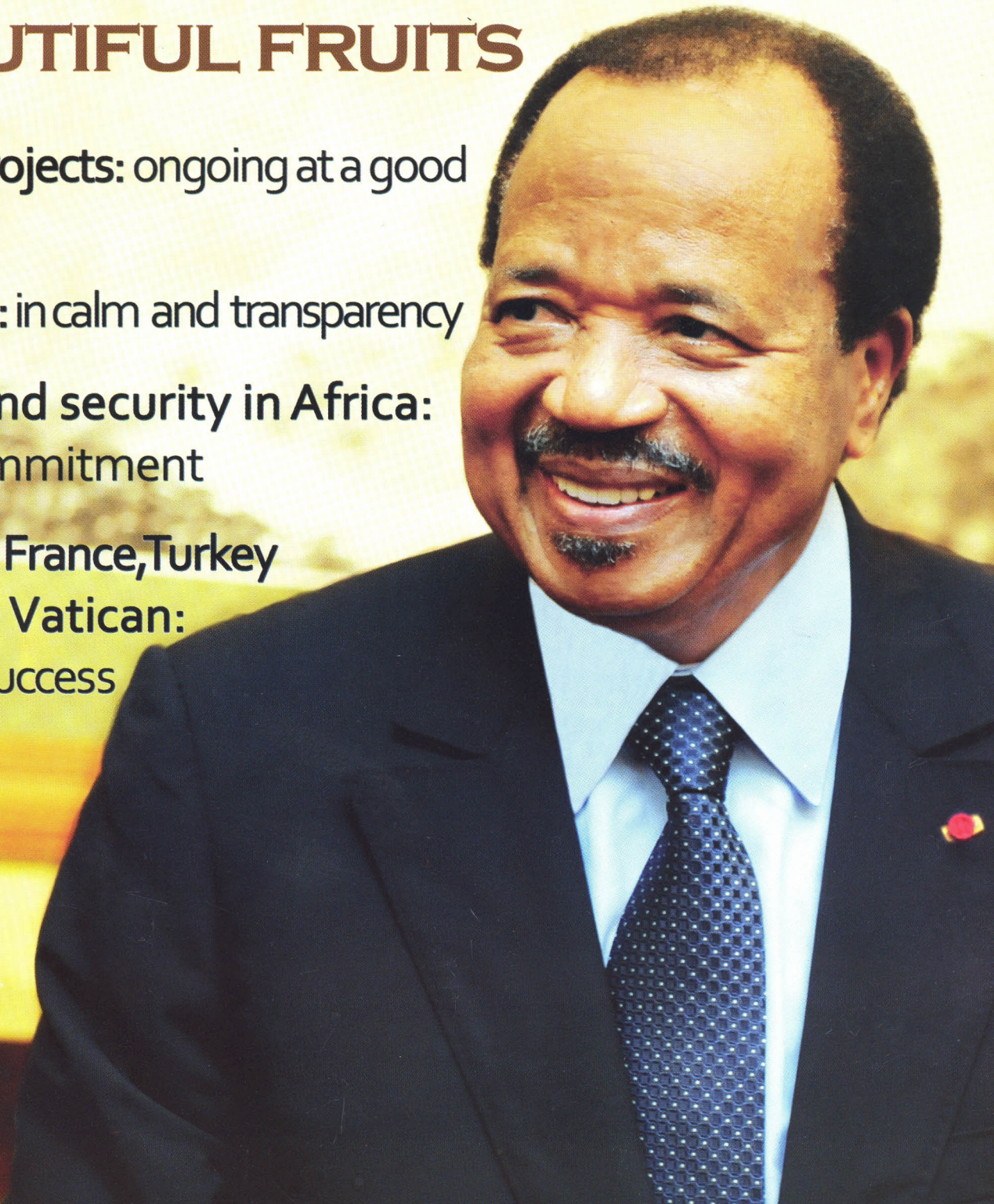


# THE PRESIDENT'S YEAR

2013

## BEAUTIFUL FRUITS

- **Major Projects:** ongoing at a good pace
- **Elections:** in calm and transparency
- **Peace and security in Africa:** total commitment
- **Visits to France, Turkey and The Vatican:** brilliant success







# C Contents



**Major projects**



**Elections**



**Visits abroad**



**Social action**

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# Editorial



Martin BELINGA  
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Minister, Director of  
the Civil Cabinet

## Paul BIYA: The Architect, The Artist

A man is seen the way he presents himself. And so are Statesmen. Paul BIYA, the President of the Republic is no exception.

Throughout 2013, various pundits were able to air or revise their opinions about the Head of State, as circumstances and events in the President's busy and tight schedule unfolded.

**THE PRESIDENT'S YEAR** revisits the venues, events and circumstances that shaped his persona. It would be difficult not to be excited, as is often the case, by a personality of such stature.

The same year, Cameroon successfully held three elections, in April and September, thus demonstrating eloquently that it is a land of elections for peaceful democracy. The person behind such a great and wonderful job, and why not admit it, such an exploit that

thrilled all observers, aware that in Africa and sometimes even elsewhere, elections are not necessarily calm, transparent and fair; the maker of such a masterpiece is an artist. He is the architect of the beautiful institutional edifice which Cameroon has built and which will be completed imminently with the putting in place of the Constitutional Council.

The foundation stone laying ceremony of the second bridge over the Wouri River, in Douala, on 14 November revealed an aspect of his aesthetics skills. Paul BIYA translated into concrete, visible and tangible reality, the wildest development dreams of an entire people. The bridge under construction afforded him the opportunity to call on Cameroonians to reflect profoundly on the symbolism of the bridge, "*It helps to link the two banks of a river or an arm of the sea, to span a valley or a cliff... it is a means devised by man*

*to control nature. But ... also a landmark on a map that identifies with a particular city, like the Tower Bridge in London or the Pont Neuf in Paris. Before concluding that: "In more recent times, bridges have become engineering structures that reflect technological progress, for instance the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco or the Tancarville Bridge over the Seine".* The vision of the President of the Republic embodies the expectations of his people and embellishes his dream and legitimate aspiration for beauty and refinement.

On the hot sand dunes in the northern part of the country, infested with armed bandits who have been operating there for some time now in quest for hostages, the artist displays his unparalleled magical skills, developed following the complex situations endured by other hostages in Africa or Latin America notably. An entire







family abducted. And barely a few months later, a catholic priest taken hostage, all of them of French nationality. It definitely takes a real alchemy of politics, diplomacy and security actions to obtain, unopposed, as if by magic, the release of hostages. On two occasions, the second more speedily than the first, Paul BIYA secured, most discreetly, but always tactfully and efficiently, the release of the Moulin-Fournier family and of Father Georges Vandenbeusch. It was noticed on these occasions how much the First Lady, Chantal BIYA, always present, always radiant and generous, fascinates Cameroonians and perhaps even more, foreigners. There is not a shadow of a doubt that Cameroon, a land of peace and dialogue, is a land of generosity and hospitality to all, whether nationals or expatriates. The country's stability does make it a land of promise for investors.

It is therefore with the natural skills of an orator, for which he is well known, that the President of the Republic addressed the business community to

promote the Cameroonian destination during the visits of the Presidential Couple, first to Paris, in France, from 28 January to 7 February and to Ankara and Istanbul, in Turkey, from 25 to 28 March. The artist captivated, seduced and convinced. Investors are jostling for good positions to support Cameroon's bid for economic emergence.

The fine diplomat, in the traditional sense of the term this time round, left his stamp on the high level negotiations on maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea. This was during the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States), ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), and the GGC (Gulf of Guinea Commission) in Yaounde, from 24 to 25 June.

The plan to combat insecurity adopted in Cameroon's capital city greatly inspired deliberations at the Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa, from 5 to 7 December, in the presence of President Paul BIYA.

During this watershed year that saw the complete and final handover of Bakassi to Cameroon by Nigeria, after protracted and complex but peaceful negotiations, it is precisely as an apostle of peace and dialogue that Paul BIYA visited the Vatican, accompanied by the First Lady, for a historic meeting with Pope Francis, on 18 October. That crowned his very hectic year.

And along with him, we rallied behind the Indomitable Lions who qualified for the final phase of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the country of King Pele, the living legend of football.

Only great minds meet. A premonitory sign – there is reason to believe in it – contained in his Message to the Nation on 31 December. An unclassifiable speech readily viewed by some as iconoclastic and unanimously accepted due to the relevance of the issues raised and the appropriateness of the diagnosis made, to rid Cameroon of the burden of self-interest and the setbacks in its final bid for economic emergence.







## Major Accomplishments Indeed

On 8 October 2011 in Kribi, the Head of State laid the foundation stone of the deep sea port. This rare and historic act was the beginning of the putting into action the policy of “**Greater Accomplishments**”. It was also an indication of the will, the determination and the commitment of the Head of State, which he spelt out in September that year, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> ordinary congress of the Cameroon People’s Democratic Movement (CPDM) to transform the country : *«As from January 2012, Cameroon will become a vast construction site! Major Accomplishments»*.

Cameroon has since become a vast construction site with the launching of several major projects in the domains of energy, transport, agriculture, social housing, etc. In the month of June 2012, the Head of State took on the mantle of chief builder as he laid the foundation stone of the Memve’ele hydroelectricity dam at Nyabizan. In August he went to Lom Pangar for the same exercise in that locality. Other major projects for the production of energy have also been under construction, such as the Mekin hydroelectricity dam and the Kribi thermal electricity station that is already functional. In November 2013, the Head of State went to Douala to lay the foundation stone for the construction of a second bridge over the Wouri River and also to inaugurate the natural gas plant at Ndogpassi.

In his speech to the Nation on 31 December 2013, the Head of State was reassuring: *“Regarding our major projects, those of the first generation are, as you know, either ongoing or in the start-up phase. Concerning second-generation projects which will be implemented as from 2015, the related studies and financing are currently under negotiation”*.

The update presented here on the construction work at the Kribi deep seaport and the hydroelectricity dams at Lom Pangar, Memve’ele and Mekin, seek to inform the public on the state of the work on the major development projects.







## Kribi Deep Seaport to be Ready by June Next Year



After the laying of the foundation stone by the Head of State on 8 October 2011, construction work started immediately and has been progressing normally. The works are expected to be completed by the end of June 2014.

### State of the progress of the work

In the month of December

2013, the construction work on the Kribi deep seaport has reached the level of finishing touches of the first phase of the main port and the construction of the access road to the port.

Construction of the port

The works started in February 2012 and comprise:

- An embankment of 1355m;

- An access channel and a turning basin;
- Landing wharfs capable of receiving ships with 15m draught capacity;
- Two terminals, one polyvalent and one container terminal;
- Administrative buildings;
- Internal service roads;
- Logistic zone behind the port.







The cost of the work is 567 706 048.65 US Dollars, that is 283 853 024 325 FCFA. Financing of the project has been provided by a preferential loan from EXIMBANK of China (85%) and 15% by the State of Cameroon.

Construction work is carried out by China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) by EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction). The works are to last for 36 months.

The state of progress of the construction work was estimated

on 10 December 2013 at 75.58%.

The rate of progress for the different edifices is as follows:

- embankment: 83.57%;
- backfilling/compacting: 84%;
- dredging: 99.5%;
- container terminal: 78.02%;
- polyvalent terminal: 44.60%;
- North embankment: 78.90%;
- buildings: 53.13%;
- digging and filling with concrete 78.9%;
- installation of equipment: 67%;
- roads and pavements: 51.94%.

The main task on the embankment has been completed (the length of the first phase of the embankment is 1355m). The production of chine-epodes of five and eight tons is also completed. The installation of the chine-epodes is continuing. According to the plan of the company, work on the embankment will be completed by 15 March 2014.

Surfacing works started in July 2013 and will be completed in February 2014.

The construction of internal







roads and the pavements is going on normally. It will be completed on 8 February 2014.

The 33 caissons of the terminals have been installed and filled with sand. The wharfs are soon to be completed. The work is slated to be through by 5 May 2014.

Backfilling and compacting will be completed on 1st February 2014.

Dredging in the turning basin and access channel is almost completed. It is expected to be finished by 5 February 2014.

Bookings have been made for all equipment. The supply and installation is ongoing. Most of the working equipment will be supplied as from February 2014, such that trial operations will be done on the spot (cranes, towing machines, etc.).

All the foundations of the buildings have been built, as well as the different accessories. These buildings will serve all those involved (ports authorities, customs services, law and order officers, etc.).

Technical studies for the instal-

lation of basic necessities (portable water, electricity, drainage...) are soon to be completed. Polythene pipes have already been brought in from China.

While waiting for the construction of pipe-borne water for the port, water bore holes are being dug by the Chinese company. As for electrification of the port, generators using light fuel are envisaged in case of a delay in the installation of the national grid.

Meanwhile, as concerns the displacement of electricity





lines during the construction works on the access road to the Kribi deep seaport, AES SONEL was requested to submit a bill for the construction of a new high tension line to supply the port, keeping in mind that the network should be operational by March 2014 so as to enable the testing of the handling machines, which should be installed by February 2014.

As concerns telecommunications, the site on which the telecommunications tower will be implanted has been identified.

#### *Construction of the Access Road*

Rehabilitation work on the access road to the port has already been started. In view of the amount of work to be done on this road and also the urgency due to the fact that the port has to be operational by June 2014, the work on the access road was divided into two sections.

**Section 1:** from the bridge on the Kieké River to the end of grand Batanga, which is about 12.5 km, including the rehabilitation of the bridges on the Kienké and Lobe rivers, the rehabilitation of about 15.295 km of tarred roads and about 6.2 km of un-tarred roads in Kribi town. This work is being done by RAZEL.

**Section 2:** from the end of grand Batanga to the port, which is about 21 km of existing road, the opening of 6 km of new road and the construction of a bridge of about 60 m at Eboundja. This work is being done by China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC).

The two companies started work in the month of September 2013. The rate of execution by December last year was 15% because of the long rainy season in the area. Digging of the roads has started. Surfacing of these roads will start at the end of March 2014.







The date for the completion of the two sections has been scheduled for May 2014.

The Kribi deep seaport is one of the main components of the Kribi industrial complex which has four components: the port component, the industrial component, the urban component and the infrastructure component.

The seaport has been designed to handle traffic generated by industrial development based on the exploitation of the natural resources of the nation. The first installations of the port are situated in Lolabé, a locality which is about 30 km south of Kribi.

An area of 26 000 hectares has been reserved for the port infrastructure, industrial installations and the required urban infrastructure.

Traffic at the seaport as envisaged today is as follows:

- Container terminal: 400 000 FT as from the first phase, 800 000 FT by the end;
- Aluminium terminal: 1.5 million tons of alumina and 1.5 million tons of various entrants, to which should be added about 2 million tons of alumina from Ngaoundal and Mini-Martap;
- Hydro-carbons terminal: 03 million tons;

- General terminal : 02 to 03 million tons ;

- LNG terminal: 03.5 million m3 of Liquefied Natural Gas (Project by NHC and GDF-SUEZ);

- Mineral terminal: 35 million tons per year of iron from Mballam and Les Mammelles.

- To this traffic should be added transit traffic of about 200 000 FT.

In conclusion, the work on the construction of the deep seaport in Kribi is going on normally and the Chinese company intends to hand over the first phase on schedule in June 2014.





## The Memve'ele Hydro-electric Dam Work Going on Normally



In the heart of the luxuriant equatorial rain forest, between the multiple arms of the Ntem River with its black and deep waters, Cameroonian and Chinese technicians demonstrate knowledge of engineering in the construction of the Memve'ele Hydroelectric dam. The Construction work on this major project, following the laying of the foundation stone in June 2012 by the Head of State, started effectively in December 2012 and should last for 54 months. The first diversion of the Ntem waters took place on 3 January 2013.

The main embankment is 1850 m long. Work on the first phase

concerns 750 m. It is going on normally as planned. The structure needed preliminary work to level the base surface on a submerged rock that has big cracks. The excavation and digging up of these rocks is completed and the concreting of the base for the foundation is ongoing.

Excavation of rocks at the production unit is ongoing. At the evacuation of used waters, excavation is also completed, giving way for concrete filling and injection so as to solidify the foundation. Works on the channel through which water will flow are ongoing. The role of

this channel is to get water from the Ntem and to direct it to the hydro-electricity production unit, which is located about 4 km away. The channel is capable of regulating the flow of water to 450 m<sup>3</sup>/second in all seasons.

The state of the execution of the first phase of project is as follows:

- The implantation of the project site is executed at 97%;
- The construction of offices and lodging facilities is completed;
- The setting up of the laboratory to test the project is completed;
- The construction of two stations for the treatment of various ma-







materials and workshops for metal and mechanical works and the fuel reserve are completed;

- Deforestation, clearing and preparation of the site is completed;
- The excavation of rocks using explosives at the production unit is executed at 63%;
- The excavation by digging of the base of the main embankment is completed;
- The concrete filling of the main evacuation passage of used water is finished;
- Injection to solidify the foundation of the main passage of used water is executed at 52%;
- Concrete work on the main slap of the main embankment is executed at 17%; work on the levelling of the foundation of the main embankment at 83% and work of the excavation of the water catchment structure at 99%.

Work on the production unit and the secondary embankment will start as soon as the excavations and levelling are completed.

Despite the geological handicaps which necessitated a lot of supplementary work on the main evacuation passage of used water, the completion of the hydroelectricity dam is still slated for 2017. Work on the second phase of the project will start in January 2015.

As concerns financing, the operation of the loan convention signed by Cameroon and Eximbank of China is going on normally. Payments to the Chinese company Sinohydro Corporation Ltd, which is carrying on the construction, are done regularly.

Access roads to the project site have been completed. All the works, including access and drain-

nage facilities are completed. The road from Meyo-centre to Nyabizan which passes through Ma'an is open to traffic since November 2013. The tarring of this road is to be done this year following instructions to that effect from the Head of State. The acquisition of material for the construction of the dam and the production unit is ongoing continually and intensively.

The Memve'ele hydroelectricity dam is one of the big projects of the "Major Accomplishments" policy, with a total cost of about 400 billion Francs CFA. The dam will have a production capacity of 201 MW. Energy will be carried by a 225 kilovolts line for a distance of 300km from the production unit at the foot of the dam to an interconnection centre in Yaoundé, with a transformation and interconnection centre in Ebolowa.





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## Lom Pangar Hydroelectricity Dam 2017 Targeted for the Completion of Construction



L'état d'avancement des travaux ci-après a été réalisé au 10 janvier 2013.

S'agissant du barrage hydroélectrique proprement dit, la dérivation s'est achevée avec succès le 9 juillet 2013. Les batardeaux (digues) de deuxième phase ont été solidement confortés. Les travaux de construction des murs de soutènement au niveau de la rive gauche du fleuve sont achevés, tandis que ceux de la rive droite ont été exécutés à 50%. Les travaux des digues latérales sont entamés

; le taux de réalisation de la digue de transition rive gauche aval du fleuve ont été évalués à 15%. Les travaux de fouille de la digue en remblai rive gauche étaient en cours.

Les travaux de fondation du barrage sont en cours. Ainsi, le nettoyage des fondations pour une meilleure adhérence du béton compacté au rouleau était dans sa phase terminale ; les excavations en fouilles étaient achevées au niveau de la section de l'évacuateur des crues et du mur de soutène-

ment rive droite du fleuve. La planche d'essai du béton compacté au rouleau, entamée au mois de septembre 2013, était achevée.

Les travaux de la digue col étaient réalisés à environ 80%. La livraison aura lieu au cours du mois de février.

En conclusion, les travaux du chantier de Lom Pangar évoluent normalement. Au cours de cette année 2014, les responsables du projet prévoient, entre autres, l'accélération des travaux de construc-







tion des deux digues en même temps que ceux du lit central du fleuve ; le recrutement de l'entrepreneur en charge de la construction de l'usine à pied ; l'achèvement des travaux de la digue col et la mise en œuvre du plan de gestion environnementale et sociale.

L'objectif poursuivi demeure la mise en eau du barrage en juillet 2015, la mise en eau de l'usine à pied d'ici la fin de l'année 2016 et la fin des travaux en 2017.

Outre les travaux du barrage proprement dits, des travaux préparatoires ont conduits avec succès et livrés entre 2009 et 2012. Il s'agit

notamment de la cité du maître d'ouvrage, de l'aménagement de la route d'accès Belabo-site de Lom Pangar ; de la construction du pont de chantier sur le fleuve Lom ; de la mise en œuvre du plan d'indemnités et de réinstallation des populations affectées par le projet. Sur ce dernier point, il convient de relever que les indemnités ont été payées à 95%, tandis que le déménagement et la réinstallation des populations sont soit achevés, soit en cours.

Enfin, les installations de l'entrepreneur ont été réceptionnées le 25 mai 2013.

Le barrage hydroélectrique de Lom Pangar est situé à 117 km de la ville de Bertoua, région de l'Est, à la confluence des rivières Lom et Pangar. Les principales composantes techniques de ce barrage sont les suivantes : la construction d'un réservoir d'eau de six (06) milliards de m<sup>3</sup> capable de réguler à moyen terme le débit du fleuve Sangha et d'augmenter la capacité de production des centrales existantes en aval comme Edéa et Song-Loulou ; l'implantation d'une usine à pied de 30 mégawatts de puissance pour l'électrification de la région de l'Est et une ligne de transport haute tension de 90 KV sur 120 km.





## Mekin Hydroelectricity Dam More Time Needed



Instead of next December, the construction work may be completed by the first semester of 2015. As at 10 January 2014, the progress of the work stood as follows:

**The Main Embankment.** The main structure to retain water (490 m long, between 9 and 10 m high), which is situated on the right bank of the Dja River, been 80% done. The remaining work is to make fi-

nishing touches on the waterproofness of the upper side and to prepare its joining with the hydroelectricity production unit.

**The Production Unit.** Construction work has already been 90% done. This includes the structures to carry the turbines (three in all), those for the evacuation vanes (also three), the command rooms,

ventilation and cleaning openings, etc.

**Elevation Unit.** Work began with the construction of an elevation wall at the exit of the turbines and on the right flank of the river.

**Transportation line.** Over 70 pylons out of 140 have been mounted. These are pylons that will







transport electricity generated to the interconnection centre installed in the locality of Njom-Yekombo, about 33km from the dam.

**Access Road.** Work on the access road to the hydroelectricity production unit is about 70% done. What is left to be done includes the two crossing points, enlargement of the road to 7 metres and the tarring of the road.

**Workers' Camp.** This consists of administrative buildings, a refectory and 28 living rooms. Work is 90% completed. What is left to be done is drainage and all sorts of networks.

Generally, the work on the Mekin project is at about 60%. The completion of the work, initially scheduled to be next December, will be moved forward. It may now be completed by the first semester of next year. Those in charge of the

project think it will be in May 2015.

The Mekin hydroelectricity dam is being constructed on the flanks of the Dja River, at the confluence of the Lobe and the Sabe, in Meyo-messala Sub-division, Dja and Lobo Division of the South Region. With a capacity of 15 megawatts and an energy transportation line of 33 kilometres, the dam will reinforce the South interconnected network.





## Douala Landscape to be Embellished with a New Bridge

The President of the Republic made the historic trip to Douala on 14 November 2013 to lay the foundation stone of the second bridge over the Wouri River, a bridge for the economic and social development of Cameroon, a bridge to link the peoples of the Central African sub-region with those of the West Africa. The long awaited infrastructure that will see the day in this city will not only be a bridge, but will be a significant artifact in the landscape of Cameroon's economic capital. As President Paul BIYA emphasized in his speech at the occasion: "a bridge is also a landmark on a map that identifies with a particular city, like the Tower Bridge in London or the Pont Neuf in Paris. Nowadays, bridges are engineering structures that reflect technological progress like the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco or the Tancarville Bridge over the Seine".

Funding for the construction of the bridge, at a total cost of 120 billion Francs CFA, is provided by the French Development Agency and the Government of Cameroon, a fact that demonstrates the strengthening of the friendly and economic cooperation between the two countries. Construction works that are expected to last 36 months will deliver a bridge that is expected to ease the flow of traffic, promote economic growth, reinforce security in the city, serve as a tourist attraction and help preserve the environment by reducing urban pollution.







Minister of State Laurent ESSO, on behalf of the elites of the Littoral region who reaffirmed their attachment to the Head of State.



Some members of the Diplomatic Corps present at the ceremony.





Presidential Couple flanked by State dignitaries keenly listened to various speakers at the occasion.



French Ambassador Christine ROBICHON and others look on as the President of the Republic lays foundation stone.





## Natural Gas Invigorates Energy Sector

The inauguration of the Ndogpassi natural gas plant by the President of the Republic on 15 November 2013 came to consolidate the energy production of Cameroon and to put Douala at the centre of our march towards economic emergence. The Head of State by his presence to personally cut the ribbon and turn open the flow of gas into the pipelines confirmed his commitment to the “Major Accomplishments” policy, which he has initiated to ensure the economic development of our country.

President Paul BIYA defined energy as “the Queen of economic development and of progress”, a sentiment which is certainly shared by the 18 companies that run their production factories with the natural gas produced at Ndogpassi. The British company RODEO Development Limited and the National Hydrocarbons Company promised to boost the natural gas production on this site, which currently employs over 150 Cameroonians, and to extend the distribution network to Bonaberi where it is expected to serve many other companies.





President Paul BIYA advancing to inaugurate the natural gas plant at Ndogpassi.



Traditional rulers of the Ndogpassi neighbourhood present cultural artefact as symbol of their gratitude to the Head of State.







## 20 May 2013

### Peace and Unity for the Emergence of Cameroon

The Cameroonian people, who have always taken pride of the distinctive cultural and linguistic diversity that shapes our personality, celebrated with pomp and pageantry the 41st edition of the National Day on 20 May 2013. Cameroonians expressed their unity and determination to emerge through songs and messages that were displayed on banners.

Celebrated under the theme “The Army and the Nation, working together to meet the security challenges for Cameroon’s economic emergence” 20 May 2013 was another occasion to hail the determinant role played by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA in the preservation of peace and national unity.

POLITICS





THE PRESIDENT'S YEAR

2013



President BIYA greets the Speaker of the National Assembly.



A view of the Diplomatic Corps in the grand stand during the march past.







On the invitation of the Head of State, a detachment of the Nigerian Army participated in the march past.



Elements of the Rapid Intervention Brigade display marching skills.





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The Army is the bedrock of Cameroon's unity.



What men can do, women can also do.







Sophisticated marine equipment was part of the parade.



President Paul BIYA commends General MAHAMAT AHMED, the commander of the troops, for a job well done.





Primary school children exhibited a high sense of belonging to the nation.







Students of the School of Administration showcase their patriotism.



All institutions of Higher Education in Yaounde took part in the march past.







The CPDM displayed political weight in numbers during the march past.





# Elections

## Cameroon's Democracy Takes a Great Step Forward

The year 2013 was a watershed year for Cameroon's budding democratisation process, as it witnessed the smooth organisation of senatorial elections in April, to be followed later in September with the legislative and municipal elections.

The election of Senators on 14 April 2013 was a milestone with so many innovations. This was the first time senatorial elections were taking place in Cameroon. The voting proper was done by municipal councillors, as it was by indirect suffrage. The maiden Senate that was set up after the election came to solidify and complete the parliamentary structure of Cameroon, and to solidify our democratic institutions.

Meanwhile the legislative and municipal elections that were widely acclaimed as calm and transparent also saw the introduction of another new element: the biometric registration of voters. The personal intervention of the Head of State to ensure the use of this new technology permitted Elecama to organise a hitch-free election that was widely acclaimed by all international observers.





The Head of State going through election formalities.



The First Lady accomplishing her civic responsibilities.







## Paul BIYA's Passion for Sport

*"You have qualified for the finals of the FIFA World Cup 2014 in Brazil. We want you to follow in the footsteps of your illustrious predecessors during their glorious campaigns in Spain in 1982 and Italy in 1990. Make us vibrate again. Cameroonians are with you".* It is in those words that President Paul BIYA addressed the Indomitable Lions during his December 31 message to the nation after the brilliant qualification of the Lions for the FIFA 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

President Paul BIYA has, since 1982, remained faithful to his commitment of developing and encouraging Cameroonian sportsmen and women in all sporting disciplines. The qualification of the Indomitable Lions for the FIFA 2014 World Cup is thanks to the President's personal involvement in resolving the crisis between FIFA and FECAFOOT. In 2013, 163 medals were won by Cameroonians in all the sports disciplines and the feast at the Yaoundé Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium was grandiose. Yong Sports Academy of Bamenda emerged the 2013 champions.





Welcome Mr. President on behalf of the sports community.



Handing over trophy to winner of a sports discipline.







Football trophy was handed to captain of Yong Sports Academy of Bamenda.



Trophy for winner of another winner.



## Gulf of Guinea

### Cameroon at the Service of Peace and Security in Africa

Twenty Heads of State and Government meeting in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013 adopted a plan of action against maritime insecurity in the sub region. This is probably the most significant diplomatic event hosted by President Paul BIYA and Cameroon in 2013.

The Heads of State and Government of ECCAS (Economic Community of Central Africa), ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and CGG (the Gulf of Guinea Commission) met in Yaoundé for an unprecedented summit, focused on safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea. The level of participation observed was remarkable- 12 heads of state (including President Paul BIYA) and 12 other representatives of International organizations gathered at the Yaoundé Conference Centre to deliberate on the issues. An action plan was adopted, calling on states to act without delay.

The leaders equally adopted a common regional strategy aimed at intensifying the fight against this scourge.







President BIYA accompanies his Congolese counterpart Denis SASSOU NGUESSO.



A view of the packed hall that witnessed the opening of the summit.





Madam Chantal BIYA granted audience to Constanca MANGUE DE OBIANG.







Heads of State during the execution of the national anthem.



Presidential couple receive guests at dinner

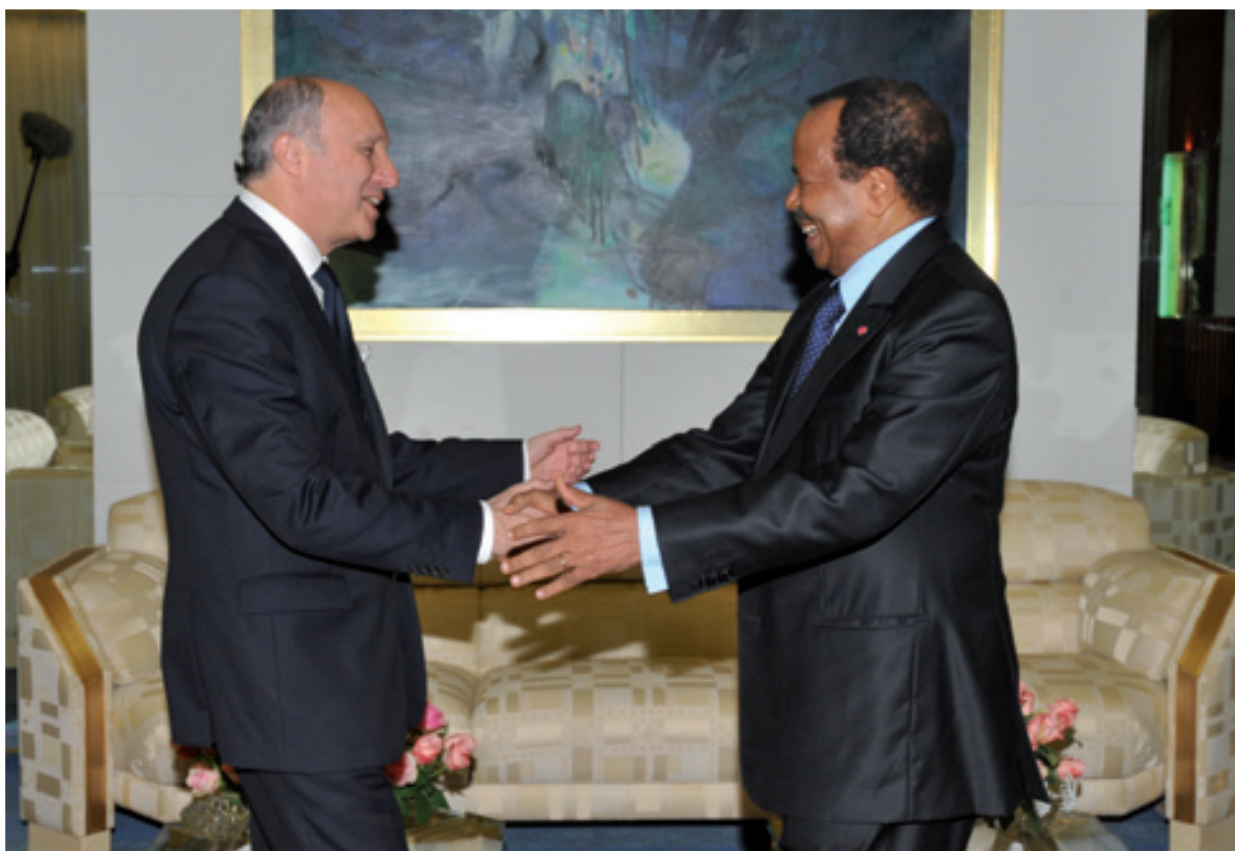


## Liberation of Hostages

### The Discretion and Effectiveness of Paul BIYA

On 19 April 2013, President Paul BIYA was presented the 7 French hostages of the MOULIN-FOURNIER family kidnapped by members of the Boko Haram in February 2003 amid expressions of joy and gratitude towards the Cameroonian, Nigerian, and French authorities. Beyond this family reunion was the consecration of the professionalism of Cameroon's security forces, the effectiveness of her diplomacy, and the frankness of a statesman, President Paul BIYA, who masterminded the happy ending for this French family. Through this act, Cameroon confirmed its reputation as a land of hospitality, stability and peace. It also created a forum for co-operation between President BIYA and the new French authorities, notably their Foreign Minister, Laurent FABIUS, which helped to recalibrate the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Like in December 2013 with the liberation of Father Georges VANDENBEUSCH, the happy ending of the MOULIN-FOURNIER family in February 2013 marked a historic breakthrough in negotiations with hostage-takers from which lessons could be drawn.







President Paul BIYA took discreet action to liberate the Moulin-Fournier family...



... And Father Georges Vandenbeusch, with the collaboration of French and Nigerian authorities.





## Heads of Diplomatic Missions Accredited to Yaoundé Present their Letters of Credence to the Head of State at Unity Palace



H.E. Ndoa Fall, Ambassador of Senegal.



H.E. Anastasio Asumu Mum Munoz, Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea.







H.E. Jan de Bruyne, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium.



H.E. Muhammad Bin Soulayman al Mashar, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



H.E. Christine Robichon, Ambassador of the French Republic.



H.E. Claude Altermatt, Ambassador of the Swiss Republic.







H.E. John Brian Olley, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

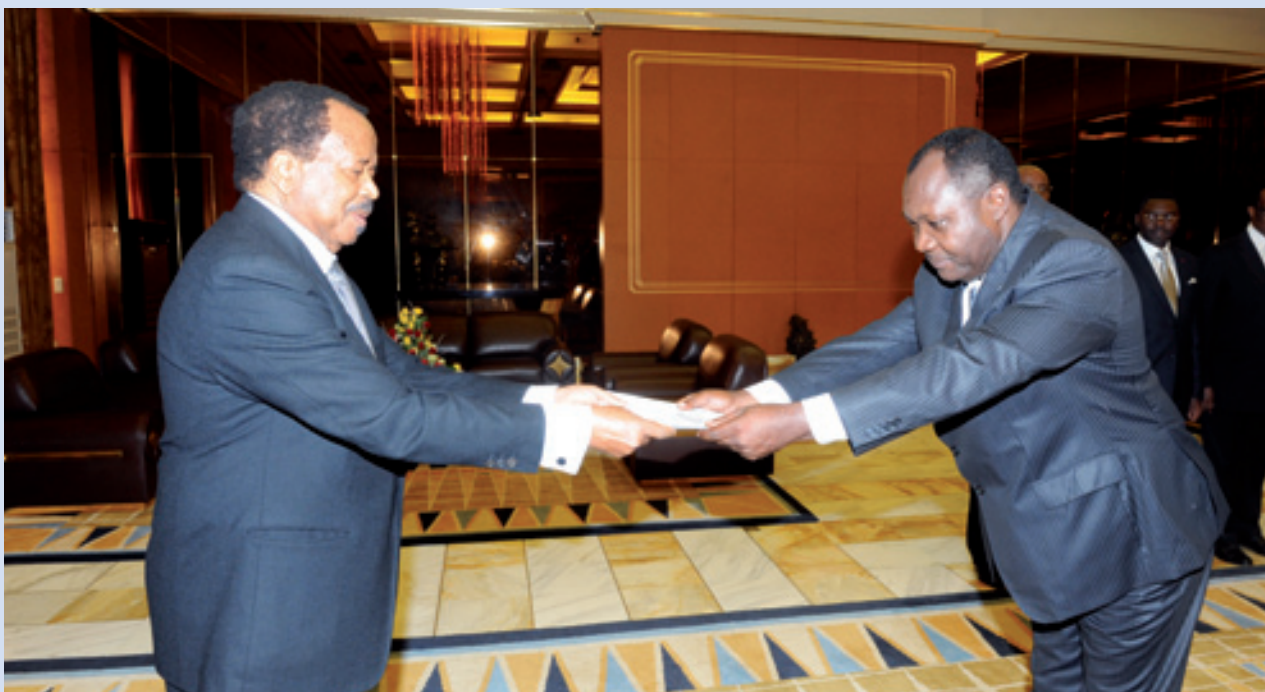


H.E. Zanale Makina, High Commissioner of South Africa.





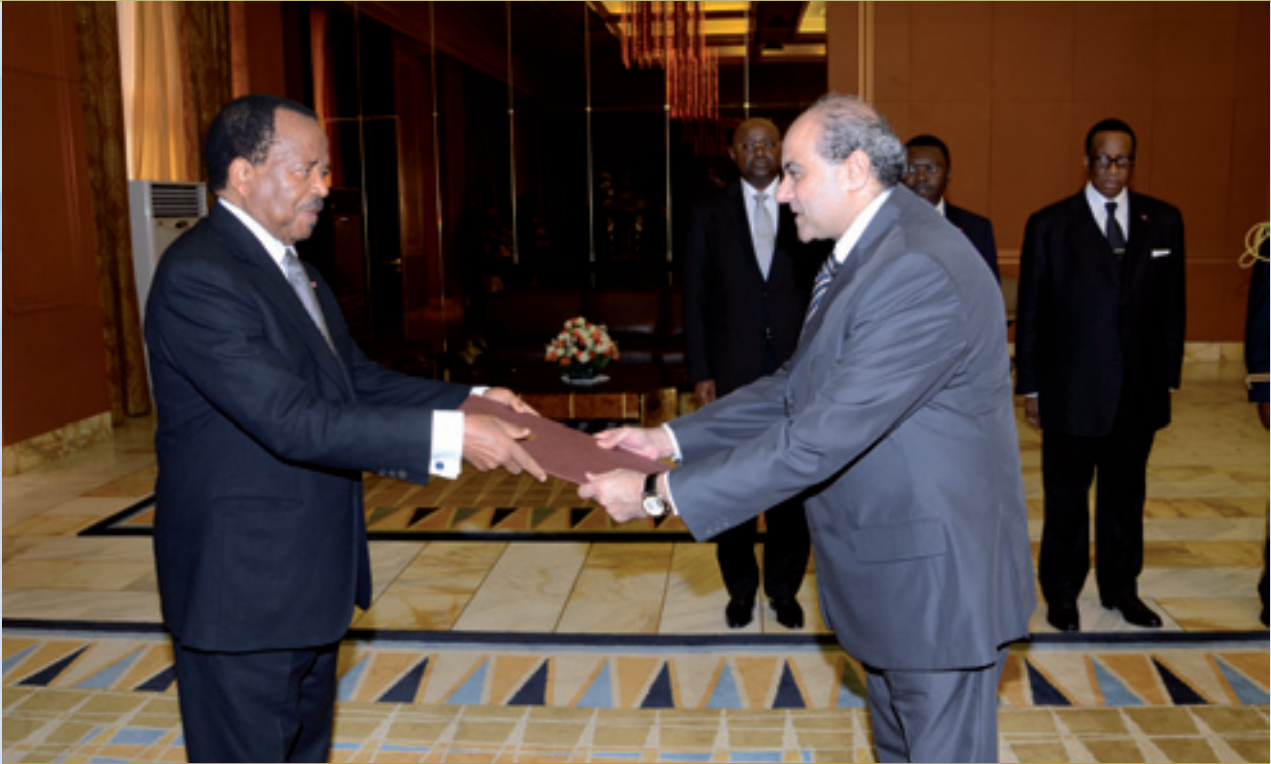
H.E. Nei Futuro Bitencourt, Ambassador of Brazil.



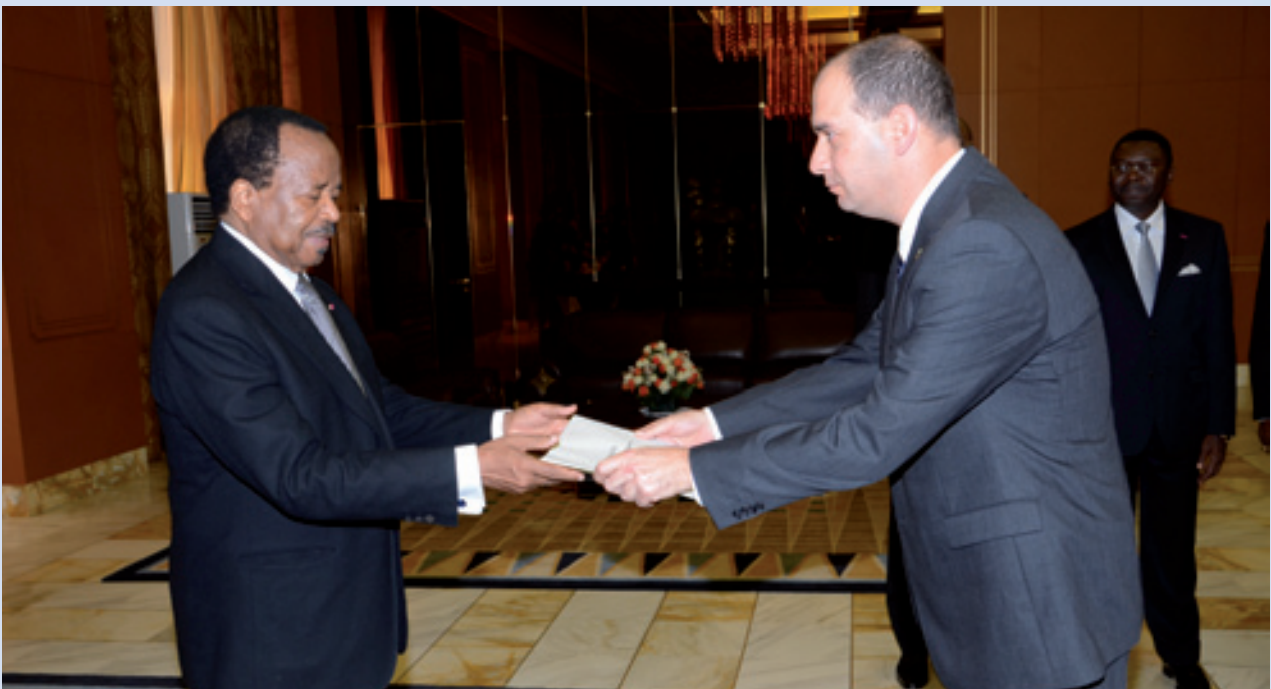
H.E. Paul Patrick Biffot, Ambassador of Gabon.







H.E. Sherif Salah Ellethy, Ambassador of Egypt.



H.E. Nadav Cohen, Ambassador of Israel.





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Letters of Introduction of the Head of the European Union Delegation in Cameroon, Ambassador Françoise Collet.

## At the end of their mission...



Suresh Bharat Joshi, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.







Robert P. Jackson, US Ambassador.



Miki Arbel, Ambassador of Israël.

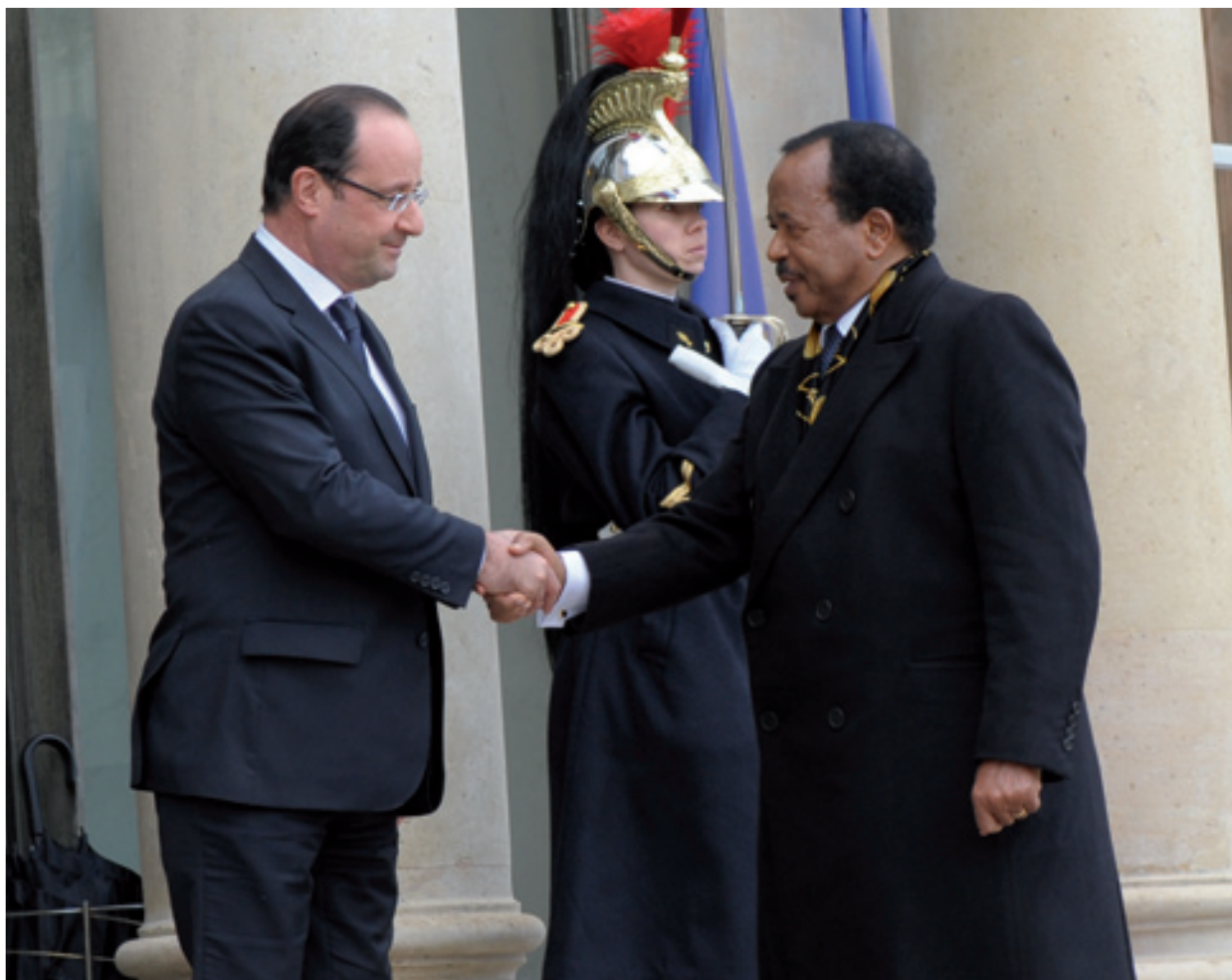




## Official Visits To France

On the invitation of the French President, François HOLLANDE, President Paul BIYA paid an official visit to France from 28 January to 7 February 2013 at the head of a delegation of Government Ministers and businessmen. Although both Presidents had earlier met in Kinshasa on 13 October 2012 at the sidelines of the 14th Summit of the OIF, the 45-minute BIYA-HOLLANDE meeting of 30 January 2013 at the Elysée is generally considered their first official encounter.

The next day of 31 January 2013, President BIYA attended an economic forum on Franco-Cameroonian relations organised by MEDEF, which brought together over 100 French businessmen, during which he appealed to French businessmen to invest in Cameroon on the basis of a “win-win partnership”. President BIYA also granted a number of audiences to influential French political elites and economic operators during this trip.







President Paul BIYA answered questions from the international media at the exit of the Elysée during which he addressed the following issues :

- ▶ **On discussions with François HOLLANDE** : they had very cordial discussions, relating to maritime security, the situations in Mali and the Central African Republic.
- ▶ **On his longevity in power**: it is the decision of Cameroonians, who chose him out of 20 to 30 other candidates.
- ▶ **On human rights in Cameroon**: there is no human rights problem in Cameroon.
- ▶ **On double national**: we are reflecting on what to do.
- ▶ **On homosexuality**: it was a crime in Cameroon even before I became President. It is still a crime in Cameroon.





## French Businesses Called to Invest in Cameroon

President Paul BIYA made closing remarks at a forum with the French business community under the auspices of MEDEF on 31 January 2013, in which he presented the new structure of the Cameroonian economy which is growing steadily and therefore has positive potentials for French investors. He equally talked on the economic environment in Cameroon which is undergoing reforms so as to improve governance and fight against corruption.

President Paul BIYA announced the imminent setting up of a more friendly investment code that is being reviewed with the participation of the private sector. The President equally thanked the French Development Agency (AFD) for their handling of the debt rescheduling mechanism known as "C2D". In conclusion, the Head of State called on them to become practical and do things, as that is the expectation of the population.

Earlier, the Vice President of MEDEF, Michel ROUSSIN, gave a summary of the discussions at the forum and saluted the high quality of exchanges between the Cameroonian and French delegations. He declared that France will not miss any opportunity and was sure that to most businesses, Cameroon was a good risk. Three testimonies from French companies already operating or about to set up in Cameroon, viz: the group Lafarge, which operates CIMENCAM, GDF-SUEZ, and the hotel company Hotelier Onomo International, also gave testimonies about their successful businesses in Cameroon.







President Paul BIYA speaking to the French business community...



... The audience listening keenly to his call for more investments in Cameroon.



Visit of an exposition stand at the MEDEF business forum.



Parting chat with Michel Roussin.







## The Elysée Summit on Peace and Security in Africa

On the invitation of the French President Francois HOLLANDE, President BIYA participated actively in the Elysée Summit on Peace and Security in Paris from 4 to 7 December 2013, which brought together 53 African delegations and representatives of International, European, and African organizations. The summit was preceded by an economic forum on Africa-France partnership on 4 December 2013 at Bercy, which brought together some 600 participants, including Heads of State, and a roundtable on 5 December 2013 on the fight against poaching and the trafficking of endangered species in which President BIYA participated. The Summit's final Declaration highlighted French commitment to support the peace and security programmes of the African Union, the proposals of the June 2013 Yaoundé Summit on Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea through technical assistance and lobbying at the European Union and UN circles. President BIYA recommended a *"common and concerted action (...) on common interest by Africa and Europe on the basis of a win-win partnership"* as a condition for success.





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Family photo to symbolise unity in the face of insecurity.



President Paul BIYA was Cameroon's voice at the summit.







First Ladies hurdled over issues on violence against women.



The First Lady was a remarkable presence at the summit.





## To Turkey

President BIYA and the wife, Madam Chantal BIYA paid a state visit to Turkey on 25-28 March on the invitation of President Abdullah Gul who had earlier visited Cameroon on 16-17 March 2010 and as a follow-up to their of 24 September 2008 in New York at the margins of the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly.

The visit included an official lap in Ankara on 26 March where President BIYA held talks with his Turkish counterpart, followed by a joint press conference and the signing of seven new cooperation agreements. President BIYA equally met the President of the Grand National Assembly, the Prime Minister, and the President of the Ankara Chamber of Industries as well as visited the 1000-ha Organised Industrial Zone (AZO).

The Presidential couple left for Istanbul on 27 March 2013, where they had a memorable reception by the Cameroon Community and a meeting with over 400 business leaders in an Economic Forum of this country which is the 7th economy in Europe and the 15th in the world. This was followed by visits to historic sites before they returned to Yaoundé on 28 March 2013.









Turkish authorities welcome Presidential Couple to Ankara



A brief chat with Turkish Minister at airport lodge.







President Abdullah Gul gave full military honours to the Head of State.



President BIYA respects Turkish tradition by greeting the soldiers :  
« Merhaba Asker» (Goodday Soldiers).





Their two Heads of State watch the signing of cooperation agreements.



And they show their approval with applause.







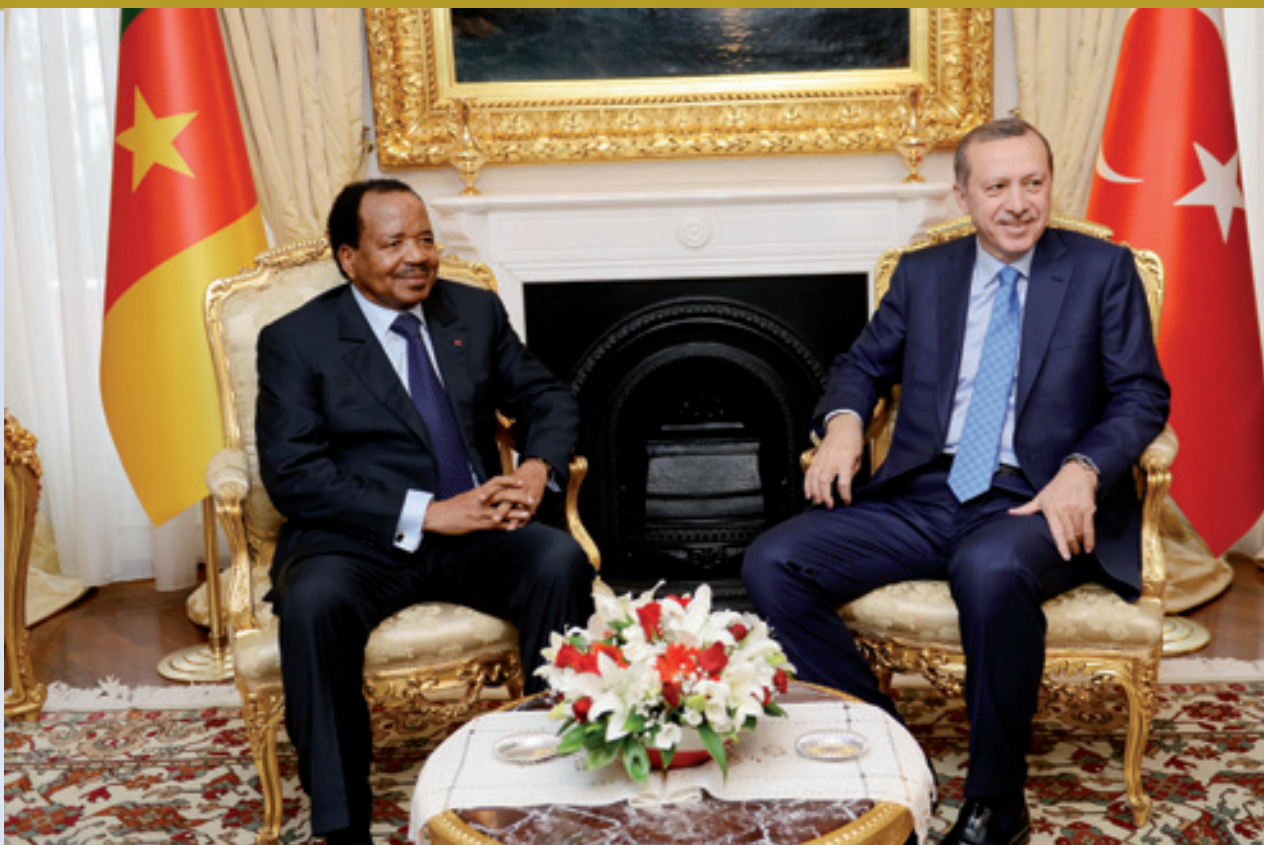
Brief exchange of remarks at the Turkish national assembly.



Paul BIYA and Cemil Cigek with close collaborators in more intimate discussions.







Audience with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



A brief working session in the Prime Minister's office.







The two Heads of State at banquet offered by Turkish Presidential Couple.



President Abdullah Gul pronouncing a toast at the banquet.





Madam Chantal BIYA tries her hand in painting.







President BIYA at the Ataturk Mausoleum, which honours founder of modern Turkey.



Family picture at the foot of the Ataturk Mausoleum.



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Presidential Couple arrive Istanbul on the second leg of their official visit to Turkey.



The rostrum of the Tuskon economic forum in Istanbul where President Paul BIYA called for a win-win partnership.







In the name of Cameroon – Turkish friendship.



A view of the exposition stands at the economic forum.







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Presidential Couple visit the Blue Mosque in Istanbul.



Cleric explaining ancient text to the Head of State.







At the Topkapi Museum with many old artefacts.



The Sainte Sophie Mosque, a relic of the religious evolution of turkey.





## To The Vatican

On Friday 18 October 2013, President Paul BIYA, accompanied by the First Lady paid an official visit to the Vatican where he met with Pope FRANCIS, head of the Roman Catholic Church and Head of State of the Vatican in the private library of his Apostolic Palace. Upon receiving honours from a 12-man Swiss detachment, President BIYA and his official delegation were led into the Apostolic Palace in a colourful protocol procession, where he held discussions with the Pope for 20 minutes on international and African crises notably in Syria and the Central Africa Republic, the need for international solidarity, the fight against poverty, and the contribution of the Catholic Church to Cameroon's development. Both leaders agreed to sign a framework agreement, while Pope FRANCIS accepted an invitation to visit Cameroon.

At the end of the meeting, President Paul BIYA presented the members of his delegation, which was followed by an exchange of Papal blessings and rosaries as well as gifts by the Cameroon delegation, comprising mostly the statue of St. Francis of Assisi, founder of Pope FRANCIS' congregation and that of a virgin child.

President BIYA was also invited to a working session by Mgr. Pietro PAROLIN, Secretary of State (Prime Minister) of the Vatican and Mgr. Dominique Mamberti, the Secretary of the Relations with States (Minister of Foreign Affairs) assisted by Ambassador Antoine ZANGA. President Paul BIYA is the 37th Head of State to be received by Pope FRANCIS since his election and the 4th African Leader.







With Pope Francis in his library.



View of President's delegation with Vatican officials.





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## Social Action of the First Lady

The Wife of the President of the Republic spent an intense year 2013. On 14 November 2013, the First Lady of Cameroon, Chantal BIYA, celebrated the fifth anniversary of her appointment as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Education and Social Inclusion.

The year was also marked by her advocacy on sexual violence against women in Africa at the Orsay Museum in Paris. Mrs. BIYA also accompanied her husband during his official visits to Turkey and the Vatican. At home she graced the International Women's Day on 8 March 2013, and presented several gifts to children in Yaoundé during her traditional end of year Christmas activities.











Expressing the joy of the day.



The United Nations system brought out their women in numbers.







Amongst women, there is no discrimination.



The First Lady cheered at all the groups.







With a group of artists at the east Wing of Unity Palace.







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## End of Year Activities...

The General Assembly of the Circle of Friends of Cameroon (CERAC).











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## Chantal BIYA Foundation

The First Lady attended to 250 children hospitalised at the Mother and Child Care Centre on Monday 23 December 2013 for the ceremony of the Christmas tree at the Chantal BIYA Foundation. A new centre to detect children with sickle cell anaemia was launched at the occasion.







Madam Chantal BIYA launching the sickle cell anaemia laboratory.







## Christmas Tree at “Les Coccinelles” of Unity Palace





## New Year Wishes to Head of State

Members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Yaoundé lined up on 9 January 2013, led by their Dean, Chadian Ambassador YOOSSEM-KONTOU to present their New Year wishes to the Head of State. In a similar manner, the national constituted bodies took turns one hour later to greet the President of the Republic in a show of reverence to his high office.

In response to remarks made by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, President Paul BIYA saluted the signing of an new agreement at the WTO, but decried the lack of solidarity in the international community: *"With the agreement reached by the WTO following years of negotiation, there is every reason to hope for the facilitation of trade, agriculture and development. Under these circumstances of uncertainty though, it is not surprising that each State or group of States which is fortunate to have been spared by bankruptcy or recession should prefer to address the most urgent needs in a bid to restore equilibrium and growth. It seems such a long time ago since globalization heralded harmonious economic and financial development worldwide! Indeed, it has been a long time since solidarity ceased being the watchword in relations between industrialized and developing countries"*.







New Year wishes from the Diplomatic Corps.



A view of some members of the Diplomatic Corps.





A close chat with some Cameroonian dignitaries.



The judiciary also had the attention of the Head of State.







The presence of the military officers was highly remarkable.



Happy New Year Mr. President dixit the Assistant Director of the Civil Cabinet, Joseph LE.





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## New Year Wishes to the First Lady



Sharing the joy of a new year.



Cheers and smiles all the way.







Family pictures that make the day memorable.







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Smiles and more smiles for everyone.



New Year wishes from Madam Linda YANG, wife of the Prime Minister, Coordinator of CERAC.







Madam Marie NIAT NJIFENJI (above) and Madam Fadimatou CAVAYE (below) spouses of the Senate President and the Speaker of the National Assembly.







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Happy New Year.

