

# Success Story

About Talented Cameroonians at Home and Abroad

N° 005

JANUARY 2008



*Dr Chris  
Fomunyoh*

*A  
Cameroonian-born  
Apostle of  
Democracy*

*Ozong Agborsangaya-Fiteu*

*Richard Bona*



*Nya Weds Armstrong*

# Readers of the Month

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*Impressive!... It seems as if I am having a double dose from Africa as I am equally impressed about a very positive article in December 2007's **Ebony** monthly magazine with title "**The Africa You Do Not Know**" and **Success Story**. It is about time we Cameroonians and Africans write about our own positive stories. It is refreshing to see these positive stories that strengthen people, communities rather than stories of diaspora with less hope. It is said that a great visionary is not only one who has a vision but more importantly the desire to see their vision and dreams through. How does one subscribe (six months or yearly) to your publication? Keep the great work as your positive and successful stories will positively reinforce hope and positivity back home.*

*ERIC ENONE, Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A*

*Fabulous e-zine... I especially like the strong focus on women's achievements*

*Clementine Burnley, Italy*

*I read your E-mag everytime with a lot of keen interest. Apart from a few rough edges which need some smoothing out, i'd say, **IMPRESSIVE** and **COMMENDABLE**. Keep doing it!!*

*Navoma Umenei, Leicester, UK*

*I just saw this wonderful edition of your e-magazine a few minutes ago... Fantastic Job ... It is a great effort... Happy New Year... I am sure the festive season was great, as always, in Cameroon. We miss it so much especially during the cold season.*

*Eric M. Tande, MI, Chicago, USA*

*Hi ... just to note that your magazine has a lot of interesting stuff to learn, read and know. I wish you people continue with this same inspiration so that more and more good ideas will come in the lime light. Once again more grease to your elbows.*

*Enow Ako, Yaounde*

*Wow! those pages look wonderful... **Felix Lancaster, Project Manager, Limbe Wildlife Centre***

*This magazine looks interesting...*

*Ann Scarboro, President, Mosaic Media , Boulder, Colorado, USA*

*Nice Work... Happy New Year and Success to you.*

*Dr. Ralph Thomson, Board Chairman, TAug Inc. Los Angeles, USA*

*...Your work is great, and it's a good spirit to keep, in order to always make a difference ... Bravo!!*

*Jespa Ajereboh, Yaounde*

Thanks!  
Please e-mail your comments to:  
The Editor in Chief  
SUCCESS STORY E-MAGAZINE  
[succes.story@yahoo.com](mailto:succes.story@yahoo.com)

# PEACE !

**C**heers, Dear Readers! 2008 brings peace, hope and joy to all hardworking Cameroonians. Our hearts are warmed by your encouraging letters and suggestions. We expect more as we continue to publish your favourite E-Magazine.

In the midst of conflicts and violence in Africa, Cameroon is blessed and privileged to be a land of Peace. Peace, a treasure that all must endeavour to keep as we strive for sustainable development. Together, like our dear indomitable lions, we will score victories against all sufferings linked to underdevelopment.

Despite progress in several countries, we watch with concern the difficulties still faced by some African countries to achieve democratic governance. Kenya is just another addition to the existing cases. For this issue, we rush to Washington DC to get hold of two Cameroonian-born success stories who have been working tirelessly for almost two decades in the areas of democratic governance and conflict management in Africa. **Dr. Chris Fomunyoh** is the Regional Director for Central and West Africa at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington DC, while **Ms. Ozong Agborsangaya-Fiteu** is the Senior Program Manager for Africa at Freedom House in Washington DC. Both have contributed significantly to transition in some African countries.

We also praise another hardworking Cameroonian musical talent **Richard Bona**, now famous around the world.

Our Home News pages take you across recent happenings in Cameroon that might affect our economy positively in the near future. We join in celebrating the performances of the **Indomitable Lions** in the MTN African Cup of Nations in Ghana. We can't hide our admiration for **Tiko United Football Club** that is putting up a laudable performance in the MTN Elite One Football Championship in Cameroon.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to **Nya and Armstrong** as both celebrate their wedding. A look into matters arising in relationships brings out reasons that would make a man to marry and what often happens if his woman treats him nicely. A rise in **BabyMoons** in the West brings us back to how our mothers cross oceans just to pamper their daughters as the latter bear babies.

We give our support to the **Limbe Wildlife Centre** as it rehabilitates endangered wildlife. We also praise **AFRICAPHONIE** for releasing educative telefilms that touch on topical social issues like Female Genital Mutilation and HIV/AIDS. We invite married couples to register for the upcoming **Married Couples 3-Days' Event** scheduled for Seme Beach Hotel in June 2008. We also invite our readers to keep on voting for the nominees of the Success Story Readers' Award 2008.

Do join us at the **FLAVOURS RESTAURANT** for a meal of **ACHU**



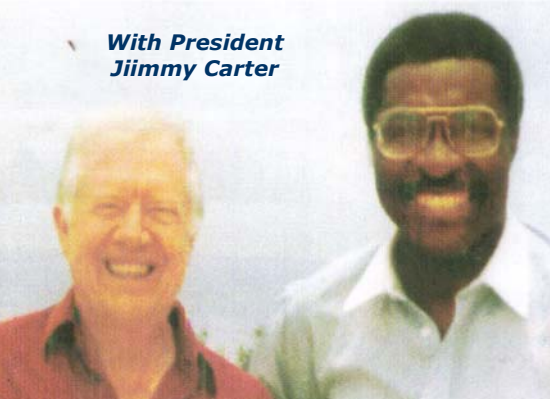
**Tonge B. Ebai**





**NDI President Kenneth Wollack (left) and NDI Chair Madeleine Albright (Centre), Justice Yvonne Mokgoro of South African Constitutional Court (right) Dr Chris Fomunyoh (Behind) present NDI Statement in Abuja after April 2007 Elections**

**With President Jimmy Carter**



## **Dr Chris Fomunyoh** *The Cameroonian-born Apostle of Democracy*

**T**owards the end of the eighties, the wind of change that blew across eastern Europe and led to the rise of democratic regimes, reached Africa. Despite difficult experiences in several states, Africa's transition to democracy has been a success story.

At the forefront of the struggle for democratisation is one of Cameroon's talented sons, Dr Chris Fomunyoh, whose efforts, talent and mastery of the African continent have placed him as an authority in Africa's democratisation process. His omnipresence has been felt by Heads of States, Governments, Civil Society organisations throughout Africa, a continent that has begun to accept that democracy and democratic institutions ensure sustainable peace, security, economic growth and the social well being of citizens.

A son of Guzang village in the North West Province and known by many Cameroonians, irrespective of their political camps, as a well informed, knowledgeable and no-nonsense apostle of democracy, Dr. Chris is often consulted by press to comment on controversial issues related to the growth of Cameroon's democracy. He was honoured during the Leadership Awards organised by CAMSA-USA on Saturday 21 August 2007 in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Chris Fomunyoh is currently Senior Associate for Africa, and Regional Director for Central and West Africa at NDI. NDI is a non-profit, nongovernmental organization, established in 1983 by an Act of the United States Congress to strengthen and promote democratic institutions and pluralistic values in new and emerging democracies around the world.

He has organized and advised international election observation missions to Benin, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria and

**With Vice President Al Gore**



**With John Bolton US Former Ambassador to the UN**

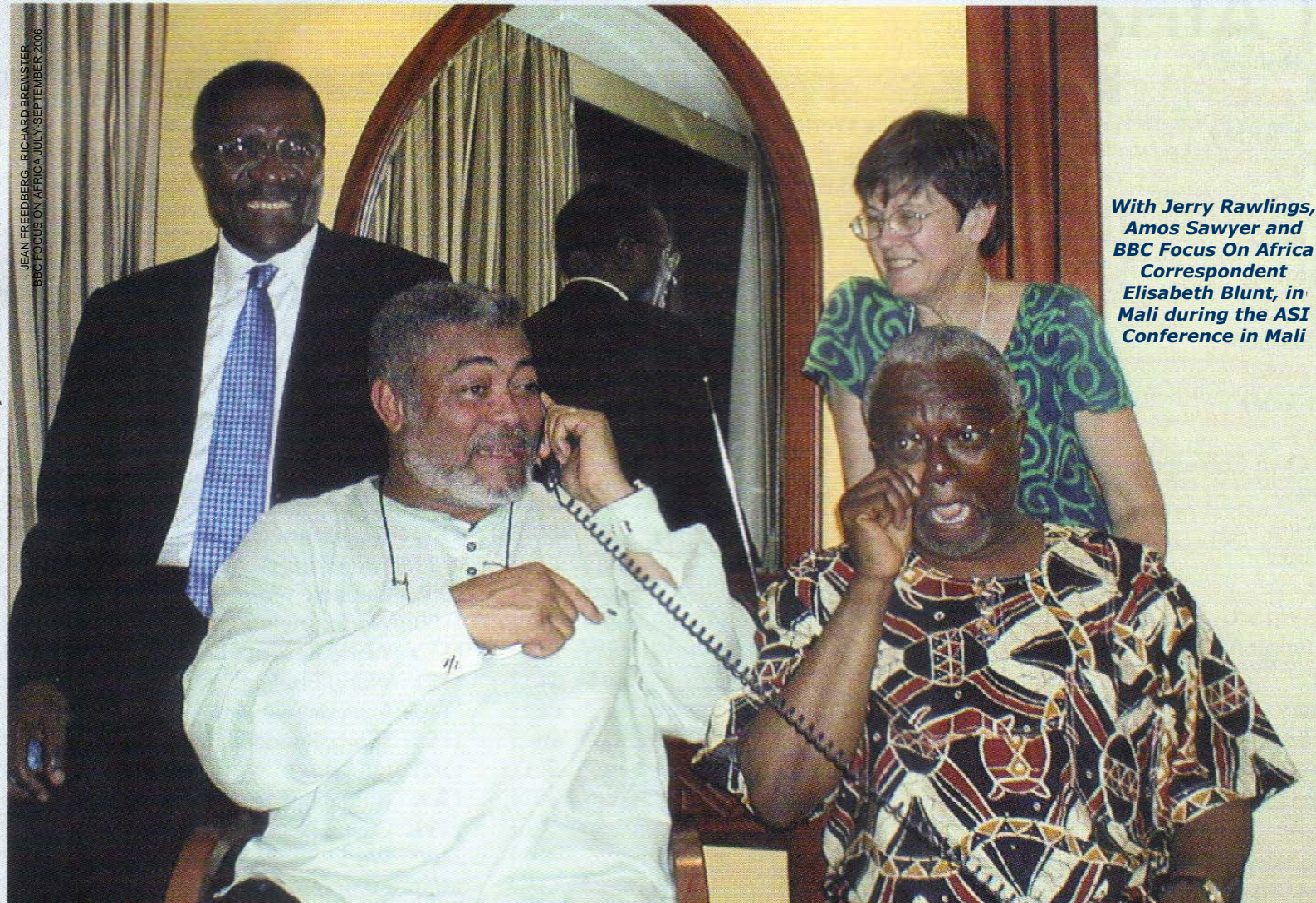


**A Mastery of Africa's Situation**

**With the NDI Team**







**With Jerry Rawlings, Amos Sawyer and BBC Focus On Africa Correspondent Elisabeth Blunt, in Mali during the ASI Conference in Mali**

Sierra Leone. He has also designed and supervised country specific democracy support programs with civic organizations, political parties and legislative bodies in Benin, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, The Gambia, Senegal and Togo.

In the course of his work, Dr. Fomunyoh interacts regularly with heads of state and government, cabinet ministers, elected officials and political and civic leaders. He recently designed and helped launch the African Statesmen Initiative (ASI), a program aimed at facilitating political transitions in Africa by encouraging former democratic Heads of State to stay engaged in humanitarian issues, conflict mediation, public health and other key sectors of political, economic and human development on the continent.

As an expert on democratization in Africa, Dr. Fomunyoh makes frequently guest appearances on major radio and television networks including CNN, BBC, NewsHour, National Public Radio, Voice of America, and Radio France Internationale, and provides interviews for major national and international newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, Washington Times, Le Monde and International Herald Tribune. He has published a number of articles in academic journals on African politics and democratization.

Dr. Fomunyoh has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe and North America, and is perfectly bilingual in English and French. He holds a Licence en Droit from Yaoundé University in Cameroon, a Master's Degree (LL.M.) in International Law from Harvard Law School; and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Boston University. Dr. Fomunyoh is an adjunct faculty at the African Center for Strategic Studies and a former adjunct professor of African Politics and Government at Georgetown University. He also is the founder of a non profit organization *The Fomunyoh Foundation* interested in supporting democracy and humanitarian causes in Cameroon.

He resides in Washington, DC with his wife, Mary Anne, and their two sons Franklin Tah and Brian Forgwe and daughter Christiana.

**With the NDI Team**



**With Keith Jennings, Ayo Obe and Clement Nwanko in Nigeria**



**With NDI Delegates in Abuja during Nigeria's April 2007 Elections**



**With President Laurent Gbagbo**



**With Hon. Cheikh Cissokho, Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal in 2000**





**“...I am thrilled that one of the main candidates for President of the United States, Barack Obama, is of the Harvard Law School class of 1991, as he graduated two years after me.”**

**Success Story:** It goes without saying that you are a SUCCESS STORY in the USA and an inspiration to many Cameroonians and Africans abroad, what advice would you give to other immigrants who hope to make their own story a success story too?

**Dr. Chris Fomunoyoh:** Thanks for your kind words. I must admit I am humbled by your characterization. I think I still have some distance to travel on the success path, but I'm pleased to know that I can inspire other Cameroonians and Africans as they feel their way through the USA. This is truly a land of opportunity. Of course, like every society, the US has its challenges too, but overall if you work hard and perform well in your profession, you get recognized and appreciated for it. You also must play by the rules. There is scarcely a second chance for those that lack discipline and respect for the rule of law. In short, I would say to every Cameroonian and African living in the USA: think big, work hard, play by the rules and do not allow the traditional complexes that are so prevalent in our communities of origin hold you back.

**So, how did you get to where you are today? I mean your academic itinerary?**

Well, like many Cameroonians of my generation, I am a product of Ngoa Ekélé -- I mean, of the **University of Yaoundé**, which in my time was the only University in the whole country. And I start with Yaoundé to underscore the message to the thousands of young Cameroonians graduating from our universities today, that there are doors that can still open up to them at home and in other horizons too. Of course, before Yaoundé University, I studied in **CPC Bali** -- the school that is dearest to my heart -- and **CCAST Bambili**, two institutions that prepared me and many others for the competitive world in which we live today. After Yaoundé, I worked briefly for SNEC and then much longer for Cameroon Airlines before proceeding to Harvard University, Boston (USA) where I obtained an LL.M. in international law at the Harvard Law School, and later a Ph.D. in political science from Boston University.

**How do you explain your interest in democratic processes, especially in Africa?**

It is a matter of conviction, and the desire to contribute to the wellbeing of my people. As you can imagine, I grew up in the one party days, and saw the very pervasive influence of the state in people's lives and on the common good at a time when Africa was flooded with authoritarian and military regimes. And as I traveled across the continent, even before going to the USA, I saw how much of the God given talent and potential was being lost or wasted in Africa because of the very limited political space in nondemocratic regimes at the time. Later in life as I studied the fundamentals of democratic societies and the institutions and practices that explain their success, I became increasingly convinced that there is no alternative to a fundamental shift in our societal framework so as to bring out the best entrepreneurial skills of our people. Democracy has the added merit of putting in place systems that can foster transparency and accountability in government so that even less wealthy nations can manage more efficiently the human and socio-economic resources that they have. Africa needs the voices of its democrats more than any other continent, and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to give back in a way that impacts positively on people's lives.

**Has Democracy not brought only civil wars and social divisions in Africa instead of Peace and Prosperity?**

Very good question and I am glad you give me the opportunity to clarify the false argument used in some quarters that Africans don't know better than civil wars and social division, and so are not deserving of democratic governance. Democracy is the one form of government that allows citizens of a country to put in place systems and processes to manage better the diversity of our societies. It is the one form of government that allows citizens to choose freely who gets to govern and also to contribute to the making of decisions that impact their daily lives. Democracy therefore creates avenues for citizens to channel their grievances appropriately and to get justice and redress without resorting to violence. The wars and social divisions that we see in parts of Africa today are most unfortunate; but they are the works of political elites that have failed to meet the expectations of their people in terms of institutionalizing democratic principles and practices. You can see that the African countries that guarantee sustained peace and prosperity are those that have succeeded in the transition to democracy. You can contrast today's South Africa with the war and social strife of South Africa in the apartheid years, and you can compare democratic countries such as Benin, Botswana, Ghana, and Mauritius with what is happening in Sudan or Somalia. As Africans, we must not allow the failures of a few elites to become the measuring rod by which we all as a people are judged.

**When you look at the race for president in a democratic country like the USA, and you compare it with the continuous fight for power in Africa, Kenya being the most recent example; do you think democracy has any future in Africa?**

It is fascinating to watch the presidential election in the US, the level of citizen participation in primaries and caucuses, the ability of the media to share information about candidates and their platforms thereby helping citizens make informed choices, the policy debates among candidates, the transparency of the vote counting and tabulation process; all of these actions should reinforce everyone's belief in the democratic process. Indeed it is refreshing and very uplifting to see this renewal of political leadership every four years for president, every two years for congressmen and women, and every six years for senators. Invariably, that explains the country's progress because every new leader at the national, state and local level wants to perform better than his or her predecessor, and that contributes to the



**“...what we see in Kenya is shameful and reinforces the terrible image that some people already have of Africa – big men stealing elections and young men and women dying in the process. The violence is unacceptable, and the root cause of the dispute which is the nontransparent management of the electoral process is deplorable. Kenya is giving all of us Africans a black eye at this time, yet I remain optimistic about democratic prospects for Africa, especially in the countries with a new generation of leadership.”**

overall development of the country. It is rejuvenating too, because now I am thrilled that one of the main candidates for president of the United States, Barack Obama, is of the Harvard Law school class of 1991, as he graduated two years after me.

In contrast, what we see in Kenya is shameful and reinforces the terrible image that some people already have of Africa – big men stealing elections and young men and women dying in the process. The violence is unacceptable, and the root cause of the dispute which is the nontransparent management of the electoral process is deplorable. Kenya is giving all of us Africans a black eye at this time, yet I remain optimistic about democratic prospects for Africa, especially in the countries with a new generation of leadership. We all can draw meaningful lessons from the Kenya debacle. The silver lining for Africa is that for every Kenya where the electoral outcome is in dispute and violence has erupted, there is a Tanzania, a Mali, a Benin, a Sierra Leone and several other countries where transparent and credible elections prevail, with the losers congratulating the winners and the winners being magnanimous in victory.

**Doc, you are always on the move, how often do you take time off to rest and what do you do for leisure?**

That's kind of you. Perhaps it would be easier to make time for leisure if I worked on Asia, Latin America or other continents, but working on African issues is more than a job -- it is my past, my present and my future -- and so I have to give it all I can while I still have the energy and wherewithal to contribute, however modestly. I used to play table tennis and chess for leisure, but now I try to squeeze time to read a little; and like every Cameroonian, have maintained my fascination with soccer.

**Interviewed by Mabel Alioh Etuge  
Journalist,  
Success Story Correspondent, USA**







**In Bamenda  
at the JONATHANS HOUSE,  
The Fomunyoh Foundation's partner**



## ***The Fomunyoh Foundation***

**T**he Fomunyoh Foundation (TFF) is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 by Christopher Fomunyoh and a dedicated group of Cameroonians and advocates in the international democracy community for charitable causes and to assist and support individuals and movements involved in the enhancement of democracy and human rights in the Republic of Cameroon. The Fomunyoh Foundation will partner with philanthropists and democratic and human rights constituencies within Cameroon as well as internationally to improve the well being of Cameroonian people, and institutions and human rights in Cameroon.

The Fomunyoh Foundation has its headquarters in Washington, DC and a Section 501 (c) (3) non-profit, organization under the laws of the United States.

The Fomunyoh Foundation is dedicated to the memory of Bah Agwo Fomunyoh, grandfather of TFF's founder and a man of courage and wisdom who lived through German, English and French colonization, and in his time sought to right the wrongs inflicted on ordinary citizens.

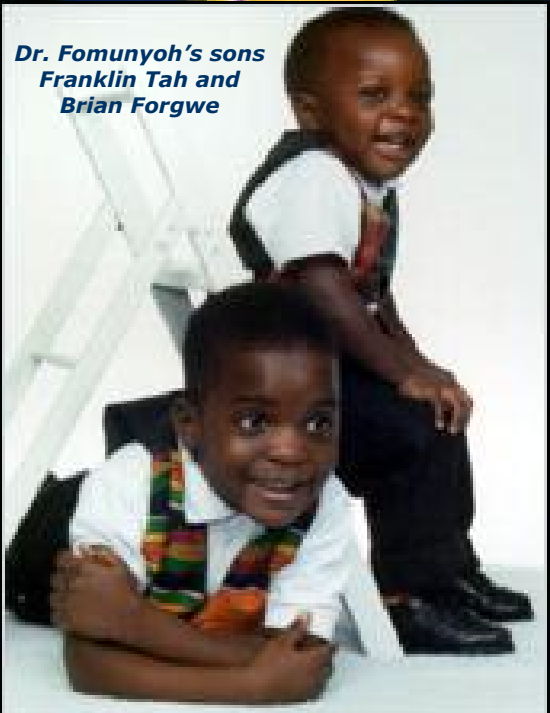
The Fomunyoh Foundation's mission is to undertake charitable causes that can improve the quality of life of the Cameroonian people, and to assist and support people and organizations dedicated to the promotion of democracy and human rights in the Republic of Cameroon.



**TFF Workshop for  
Journalists**



**With Chief Dr. Maise  
Ikollo'a NDOUMBE and  
Queen Jacqueline Ikollo  
of BONENDALE II**



**Dr. Fomunyoh's sons  
Franklin Tah and  
Brian Forgewe**



**With TFF Staff**



**Honoured as SUFO  
by Chief of FOTO,  
Dschang**



# MARRIED COUPLES PARADISE IN CAMEROON 2008



**"Give a rebirth to your Marriage"**

Just imagine you and your partner far away from the city in this wonderful paradise.

Books 'N Things, USA and Buea Metropolitan Library in Molyko- Buea, are inviting 100 married couples to spend a romantic weekend of 3 days and 2 nights in Hotel Seme Beach in Limbe , Cameroon.

WHO: Married couples

WHEN: June 13th to 15th 2008

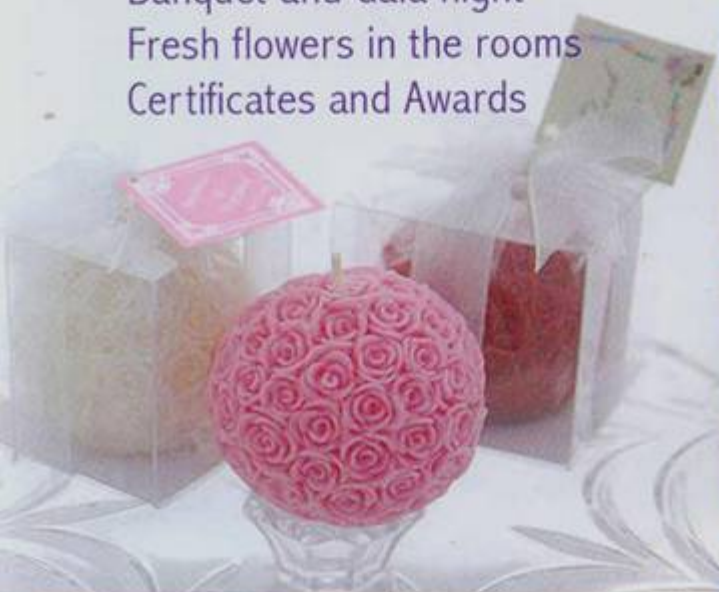
WHERE: Hotel Seme Beach Limbe, Cameroon

Professional photographs

Banquet and Gala night

Fresh flowers in the rooms

Certificates and Awards







## JOIN US OR SPONSOR YOUR PARENTS OR FRIENDS TO ENJOY THE TREAT....

• Live music will be provided by the famous Cameroonian musician **TATA KINGE** during the Saturday night Gala. Formal banquet on Friday night. We cover Hotel Room for 3 days and 2 nights! All meals/drinks: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Enjoy horse back riding in the beach, swimming in the cool freshwater pool, tennis, kayaking, spa, etc. All activities include equipment and transportation

• The total cost: only \$399.00 per couple

## MARRIED COUPLES

## PARADISE IN CAMEROON

### COME AND EXPERIENCE ONCE AGAIN THE POWER OF LOVE....

Fako Division holds honorable places in the history of Cameroon. As a port of entry and a seat of government during colonial times and early independence there are many relics, historic buildings and monuments to see. Not only we will be learning about history, but also we will be having a once in a lifetime experience while stepping into the past. Some of the places we will visit are: Limbe Botanica and Zoological gardens, The Saker Monument, built in 1858, The Castle of Puttkamer, built in 1900, The Nightingale light, built in 1903, Saker Baptist College, The 1999 lava flow in Bakingili, The church of Bonjongo, The Idenau harbor, SONARA, Mount Cameroon, Dibuncha, The University of Buea, The banana, rubber, palm and tea plantations, Sasse College, Bishop Rogan Cathedral, Prime Minister Lodge, Bismarck Fountain, and Buea Metropolitan library.

- Visit Books 'N Things in Molyko, Buea for all your books, office supply, computers, lap tops, cosmetics, children furniture, beddings, beds, American mattresses, kitchen items, CDS, Videos, luggage, shoes, children items, toys, wheel chairs, medical supply, greeting cards, Avon products, Band uniform, etc. We sell only American products.

### CONTACT in Cameroon:

Mr. Peter Forikik (237) 7543-1842 • Mr. Ephraim Betekong (237) 7764- 0197  
Chief Jerry Forka (237) 7581-8585 • Mrs. Beatrice Nangmenyi (237) 7764- 0073  
Ms Florence Fotoh (237) 7585-9697

Contact in USA; Dr. Mike Fonge 281-451-9640 • Email: [Mfonge2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Mfonge2000@yahoo.com)

Make your reservation and payments, today



*...She contributed to the design and management of programs to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Liberia.*



## **Ozong Agborsangaya-Fiteu**

***Experienced and Talented in Conflict Management and Peace building in Sub-Saharan Africa***

**O**zong Agborsangaya-Fiteu is a brilliant and talented Cameroonian who has been working on sub-Saharan Africa for *fifteen years*, specializing in conflict management and peace-building in conflict-affected countries. She is currently the Senior Program Manager for Africa at **FREEDOM HOUSE** in Washington DC. Until recently, she served as the Director, Sub-Saharan Africa Programs at **Search for Common Ground (SFCG)**, where she contributed to the design and management of programs to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation in *Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Angola.*

Prior to working with SFCG, she worked as a Senior Program Officer at the **National Democratic Institute (NDI)**, where she developed and implemented programs to support peace processes in the *Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Sierra Leone and Liberia.*

She has also worked as a Program Officer at **The Carter Center**, where she designed and implemented pre- and post-elections related projects involving monitoring political processes such as registrations and national elections processes and the promotion of human rights and rule of law in *Mozambique, Liberia and Ethiopia.* Additionally, she provided technical assistance to former President Carter's mediation efforts in the Great Lakes region. Her areas of expertise include conflict mapping and analysis, civil society strengthening, media development, community-based reconciliation, dialogue and policy reform.

Ms. Agborsangaya-Fiteu graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelors Degree in Spanish and Political Science, and a Masters Degree in International Relations.

She is a Success Story!



## Analysing Zimbabwe's Situation

**D**uring the **Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum (CPRF)** dedicated to **Early Warning Signs and Conflict Prevention** on November 13, 2007, Ozong Agborsangaya-Fiteu spoke about Freedom House's (FH) work with reference to Zimbabwe which includes continuous analysis of the country since 1976. She mentioned two tendencies in the approach to Zimbabwe: it is regarded either as a post-conflict or as a conflict country. This may seem strange when one looks at the country's history – the fact that there has been no armed conflict since 1979. She explained that the reason for classifying Zimbabwe as a (post) conflict country lies in the complexity of the situation. Although there has been no eruption of armed conflict since 1979, Zimbabwe has been characterized by some features of a conflict country. The type of conflict implied here is political conflict in which various actors are involved. These include youth militias who perpetrate violence, as well as government forces, police, military and other groups involved in abusing and oppressing civilians. In Ms. Agborsangaya-Fiteu's words, political conflict can also be linked to elections, since the last two elections – in 2002 and 2005 – have been disputed and marked by intensified violence. She pointed to the complex role of the military, mentioning that some analysts liken Zimbabwe to a military state. According to her, there is not enough information to confirm that claim; however one can mention that heads of many offices such as ministries in Zimbabwe are former members of military. As another important element in the context of Zimbabwe, Ms. Agborsangaya-Fiteu mentioned the "land issue" and the fact that the land reform did not take the desired course, but was marked by corruption, perpetration of injustices, as well as allocation of land to untrained farmers. This led to a massive drop in agricultural production, which in turn contributed to the overall economic failure. Another element of the difficult economic situation is the pullout of foreign investors, as well as the high inflation rate. Ms. Agborsangaya-Fiteu mentioned the very high unemployment rate – according to some 75-80%, and large numbers of IDPs as symptoms and results of economic failure, and extremely relevant problems in today's Zimbabwe. She also mentioned that, even though Zimbabwe is not "an armed society like Chad", tensions between the majority and the minority exist and they resulted in a massacre in 1984. As an additional problem resulting from the economic collapse, Ms. Agborsangaya-Fiteu pointed to the rise in the levels of crime. She added that there is talk about a possibility of an armed coup in Zimbabwe, as well as talk about what will happen after Mugabe's death, one of the assumptions being the increase of violence.

Closing her presentation, Ms. Agborsangaya-Fiteu spoke about possibilities for conflict transformation, singling out three important elements: the relation between impunity and justice needs to be addressed; the issue of land needs to be looked at in a more comprehensive way; and, there has to be a bona fide reconciliation process, since no such legacy exists apart from the one enforced.

## Analysing the Ethiopian Situation

According to *Countries at the Crossroads* survey on government performance in 30 strategically important countries worldwide published in October 2007 by Freedom House, a lack of media freedom and increased threats to civil liberties in Ethiopia are limiting social and economic development in that country.

The new survey indicated that while Ethiopia has long been plagued by poor governance, deliberate efforts by the current government to curtail the freedom of the press and civil liberties continue to make Ethiopia one of the worst performers in the survey. Some of the major problems outlined in the report include restrictions on civil society, harassment and intimidation of human rights groups, and suppression of freedom of expression, particularly for anyone viewed by the government as political opposition.

Commenting on Ethiopia's situation Ms. Agborsangaya-Fiteu said *"The recent arrests of journalists and members of the opposition party represent an extremely worrisome trend. In reality, however, government restrictions extend even farther in limiting the freedom of average Ethiopians...Without the ability to freely voice opinions, access unbiased information from independent media, and remain informed about government decisions and actions, the aspirations of ordinary Ethiopians to enjoy freedom and democracy are limited...As noted in the report by the respected scholar Edmond Keller, Ethiopian society will continue to be stuck in a cycle of pov-*

## FREEDOM HOUSE

**F**reedom House (FH) is an independent nongovernmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world. Freedom is possible only in democratic political systems in which the governments are accountable to their own people; the rule of law prevails; and freedoms of expression, association, and belief, as well as respect for the rights of minorities and women, are guaranteed. Freedom ultimately depends on the actions of committed and courageous men and women. Freedom House supports nonviolent civic initiatives in societies where freedom is denied or under threat and stands in opposition to ideas and forces that challenge the right of all people to be free. Freedom House functions as a catalyst for freedom, democracy and the rule of law through its analysis, advocacy and action. Throughout its history, Freedom House has opposed tyranny around the world, including dictatorships in Latin America, apartheid in South Africa, Soviet domination of Central and Eastern Europe, and religiously-based totalitarian regimes such as those governing Sudan, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Freedom House has promoted the growth of freedom by encouraging U.S. policymakers, international institutions, and the governments of established democracies to adopt policies that advance human rights and democracy around the world. At the same time, Freedom House provides support to individuals working in the world's young democracies to overcome debilitating legacies of tyranny, dictatorship and political repression; as well as to activists working in repressive societies to bring about greater freedom and openness. Freedom House translates the intangible values of freedom into a strong tangible impact by combining analysis, advocacy, and action.

### Analysis

Freedom House is widely recognized as the definitive source of information on the state of freedom around the globe. Freedom House's four annual surveys, *Freedom in the World*, *Freedom of the Press*, *Nations in Transit*, and *Countries at the Crossroads* are available in their entirety on the Internet, along with numerous special reports.

### Advocacy

Freedom House helps focus the world's attention on core issues of freedom and democracy, and encourages policymakers to adopt strategies that advance the spread of freedom around the world. Through public events, press releases, opinion articles, Congressional testimony and one-on-one meetings with policymakers, Freedom House highlights key challenges and issues in the struggle for freedom around the globe.

### Action

By providing training and support to democracy advocates, Freedom House assists in advancing indigenous reform efforts around the world. With over a dozen offices spread over four continents, Freedom House works directly with democratic reformers on the front lines in their own countries, acting as a catalyst for freedom by strengthening civil society, promoting open government, defending human rights, and facilitating the free flow of information and ideas.

### Organisation

Freedom House's diverse Board of Trustees is united in the view that American leadership in international affairs is essential to the causes of human rights and democracy. The board is composed of business and labor leaders, former senior government officials, scholars, writers and journalists.

### Staff

With a talented and experienced staff of over 120 individuals of varied backgrounds and nationalities, Freedom House employees and partners are working every day to continue a tradition of over half a century of promoting the right of every citizen in the world to live in a society that respects their freedom.

Freedom House is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that relies upon tax-deductible grants and donations under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS. Major support has been provided by various private foundations and government agencies.

*erty and regional violence for a another decade if the government does not commit itself to greater openness and freedom."*

The *Countries at the Crossroads* report notes slight improvements over the past two years in Ethiopia's justice sector, but media freedom and freedom of expression are increasingly under assault. Ethiopians have very little say over policy decisions, including poverty reduction strategies, local governance issues and food security planning, that greatly affect their everyday lives.

## The Embarrassing Kenyan Situation

In a strongly worded Press Release issued recently, Freedom House called on Kenyan Leaders and the International community to do more to prevent civil war in Kenya. *"We strongly encourage all influential parties to work towards peace in the country. The international community, including the United States, must use all possible leverage and pressure at its disposal to end the crisis,"* said Ms. Ozong Agborsangaya-Fiteu. *"While the U.S. government has pressured both sides to negotiate a peaceful agreement, we encourage it to go further by employing all possible diplomatic and economic tools in its arsenal."* She added.

## Analysing Africa's Progress towards Freedom

Ms. Ozong Agborsangaya-Fiteu comments that there has been *"notable progress"* in the last few years, citing recent elections in **Liberia, Congo, Senegal, Mali and Mauritania** that have been deemed free and fair. When Freedom House began ranking global levels of political rights and civil liberties in 1977, only three African nations were considered free. *"Today there are 11,"* Ms. Agborsangaya-Fiteu says. *"There's definitely movement in a positive direction, but we need to see more."* Freedom House's 2007 report lists 23 other countries on the continent as *"partially free,"* with 19 more *"not free."*

**By George Enow Mbella Martin**





## ***Mister Richard Bona***

### ***A Success Story!***

**C**ameroon has offered to the World yet another genius and great talent in World Music. Richard Bona has, for more than a decade, risen to the top of World music with his faithful instrument: the BASS GUITAR.

His mastery of the instrument is awesome; his voice angelic. Richard blends jazz, salsa, rumba with his native makossa so well that he gives another dimension to world music. Every faithful listener to his tones will attest that the jazzy orientation that his music takes never leaves behind the good sounds of African drums, particular to most Bantu African villages.

On stage, Richard Bona is a phenomenon. He sings, teases, laughs and thrills his spectators with the complicity of his BASS GUITAR. He plays with same mastery and ease before Cameroonian, African, Asian, American or European crowds.

He has offered several concerts in his native Cameroon and as well as in many cities around the world where the Cameroonian Diaspora is firmly implanted. Recently, he offered memorable concerts in Dortmund and Paris. His fans had the opportunity to sing with him most of the songs he has produced over the last decade.

Coming from a humble background, but armed with hardwork, creativity and perseverance Richard Bona has risen to the top. He is a Success Story!

### **HIS SUCCESS STORY**

Richard Bona was born in the village called Minta, in the Eastern Province of Cameroon. He grew up in a family where music was omnipres-





ent. His grandfather was a renowned singer and drum player. His mother was also a singer. She was the first to detect the musical affinities of her son at his very early age. Young Richard staged his first public performance in the village chapel at the age of five by singing with his mother and four sisters.

Instruments were expensive to own in those days so young Richard manufactured his own instruments. He made several flutes, drums and even a 12 string guitar by using wood and bicycle brake strings.

Richard left for the city of Douala to live with his father. There, he immediately found a job as a musician. He observed that the guitar was the instrument en vogue. He also noticed that he could practically play any instrument just by observing somebody playing. He rented a guitar to replace his locally manufactured one and played. He was just eleven years old. In 1980, while playing for a Jazz Club in Douala, he entered Jazz Music thanks to the proprietor's collection of jazz albums. By coincidence, his first listened to the album of **Jaco Pastorius**, a genius of the electric Bass Guitar. The interpretation of the song "**Portrait of Tracy**" deeply affected Richard Bona's life. Richard affirms that before listening to Jaco he had never had the thought of playing the Bass Guitar.

At 22, Richard left Africa for Paris where he braved a hard winter season that met his arrival. Two months later, Richard Bona participated regularly in concerts organized by famous French jazz artists like **Didier Lockwood** and **Marc Ducret**, as well as African stars like **Manu Dibango** and **Salif Keita**. During his seven years' stay in Paris, Richard Bona studied in a Music School to polish his talent as a composer while learning the songs and styles of great jazz artists like **Miles Davis**, **Chet Baker** and **Ben Webster**.

Richard Bona settled in New York in 1995 and contacted **Joe Zawinul** with whom he had played in Paris. Richard participated in the recording of Joe's album "**My People**" as well as in the world tour that followed. When he returned to New York, Richard multiplied performances in all the clubs in the city centre. In one of these clubs, his performance was followed with keen interest by **Jake Holmes**, the author of several songs played by **Harry Belafonte**. Richard became the Musical Director and soon after the Group Leader for one year and a half.

Richard's first album "**Scenes of My Life**" was released in 1999 which was a success even though it was distributed without publicity. The album featured **Jean-Michel Pilc** at the *Piano*; **Michael Brecker** at the *Saxophone*; **Omar Hakim** and **Mokhtar Samba** at the *Drums*. In 2001, Richard Bona released "**Reverence**" that saw the participation of musicians like **Michael Brecker** and **Pat Metheny**. In 2003, Richard released "**Munia, the Tale**" with the participation of **Salif Keita** and **Kenny Garrett**.

His services were requested by the greatest artists like **Joe Zawinul**, **Pat Metheny**, **Larry Coryell**, **Michael** and **Randy Brecker**, **Steve Gadd**, **Mike Stern** and several others. He participated in the last albums of **Mario Canonge** ("**Rhizome**" with **Roy Hargrove**, **Jacques Stewart** and others) and of **George Benson**.

In May 2004, Richard received the award of "The Best International Jazz Artist" in Deauville. He also participated in the album of his friend **Marc Berthoumieux** (Jazz|No Jazz). Richard's songs were played on all radios while he offered concerts in France Inter with Marc and Mario. In June, he accompanied Mike Stern to Guadeloupe for two concerts in trio. He also played with the **Jaco Pastorius Big Band** in the North Sea Jazz Festival.

Today, Richard Bona is also at the summit. His songs are loved and sung by millions of his fans that he meets regularly during concerts around the world. Richard Bona has inspired several young talents in music. He has also given a pride of place to the instrument that he loves and plays so well, the **BASS GUITAR**.

By Eric Luma M.M.

## Song Adaptations From "REVERENCE"

### Invocation (A Prophecy)

A prophet's revelation of a new world without war and conflict. An invitation and welcome to become a part of it with elegance and quiet dignity.

### Bisso Baba (Always Together)

The story of a father's eternal love for his daughter. How their spirit binds them together so he will always be there to teach and guide her, even though they are separated by great distances.

### Suninga (When Will I Ever See You?)

A man falls in love with a woman at first sight, but she disappears before he can tell her of his feelings. He searches mountains, cities, even the street where she lives, but can never catch sight of her again.

### Ekwa Mwato (Affirmation Of The Spirit)

The tribal leader asks for everyone's attention to lift their spirits. He reminds them that even the smallest rivers eventually reach the ocean. That the road has been long, but they have arrived in a better place. And only those who have made the journey can know how good it feels.

### Sweet Mary (Everyone Has A Choice)

Mary has made the difficult choice to escape from an arranged marriage despite rejection from her family. She is rewarded for her courage with the greater happiness of a new life.

### Reverence (The Story Of A Miracle)

How God blessed Moses so he could part the Red Sea and lead his people to freedom.

### Te Misesa (A Scream To Save The Planet)

We must commit all of our knowledge to save the Earth while there's still time. We must stop polluting the air and destroying our forests. This is the only planet we have. Where else will we live?

### Muntula Moto (The Benediction Of A Long Life)

Growing old is not cause for anger or regret. Every morning you awaken is a blessing. Be active and enjoy your life. Prepare for old age when you are still young, so you will have nothing to regret later on.

### Laka Mba (Pleas For Forgiveness {With The Pride Of Lions})

A wife leaves her husband and he prays for her return because the pain is worse than any illness. Everyone in the tribe is crying because she has left. But his heart has the strength of the Tribe of the Lion and he will survive no matter what.

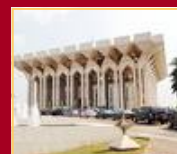
### Ngad'a Ndutu (Widow's Dance {Celebration Of A New Life})

After several years, a widow is invited to leave her blue dress of mourning behind and join the dance of life. The bittersweet time when joy slowly begins to overtake sorrow.

### Esoka (Trust Your Heart)

Sweet Mary's song of why she left the marriage others arranged for her. How she trusted her heart and found true happiness.





## US Ambassador Visits President Paul Biya



President Paul Biya granted an audience to the United States Ambassador to Cameroon Madam Janet Elizabeth Garvey on Thursday 31 January 2008. For more than an hour, both discussed about the cooperation ties between the US and Cameroon; security at the frontiers; the fight against corruption and the promotion of foreign investments to support economic growth in Cameroon.

Madam Janet Elisabeth Garvey disclosed that several projects to help preserve Cameroon's maritime and terrestrial borders, are in preparation. She lauded the visible engagement of the Head of State in the current fight against Corruption and admitted that Cameroon is lucky to have several economic partners. She promised to continue the search for US investors particularly those working in the sectors of mining, energy and agriculture.

## President Paul Biya Receives Madam Patricia Balme



President Paul Biya received the President of P.B. Com International, Madam Patricia Balme on Saturday 12 January 2008 at the Presidential Palace in Etoudi, Yaounde. Madam Balme came accompanied by Mr. Fernand De Labrosse, a specialist in New Technologies of Information and Communication and a communication adviser to French President Nicolas Sarkozy. They discussed the opportunities offered by the internet and other new technologies of communication to project Cameroon's image as well as economic potentials on the international scene.

## PM Receives French Bio-Energy Investors



Prime Minister Chief Ephraim Inoni granted an audience to Charles Millon, the Director of the French bio-energy company **AGRO ENERGY DEVELOPMENT (AED)** on Wednesday 9 January 2008. Charles Millon discussed plans by his company to develop the bio-energy industry in Cameroon. He disclosed that their interest in Cameroon had been provoked by President Paul Biya's call for the development of the bio-fuel industry in Cameroon. The delegation affirmed that bio-energy is produced from mixtures of flowers, palm oil and cotton.

## Cameroon becomes Target for Bauxite Investors



On Wednesday 9 January 2008, Prime Minister Chief Ephraim Inoni granted an audience to a delegation of the **TITANIUM RESOURCES GROUP** based in Sierra Leone. The Chief Executive Officer, Len Comerford told the PM of the Group's intention to explore and develop the bauxite and titanium resources of Cameroon. The PM learnt that the Group was the largest private sector employer in Sierra Leone and is specialised in the production of titanium minerals such as rutile, ilmenite as well as bauxite. Rutile and Ilmenite are used as feedstock in the production of titanium dioxide, used in the production of paints, paper, plastics and pharmaceuticals. Graded metallurgical bauxite is the primary feedstock used in the production of aluminium. Len Comerford disclosed that Cameroon has great potentials in the sector. Feasibility studies will be completed in 12 months and operations will commence six months later. The investments will provide social amenities to local communities and provide thousands of jobs.

## A New Cement Factory to Start in Limbe Soon



The Korean-American consortium **AFKO Cement Production Company** has signed an Agreement with Government of Cameroon to build a new Cement Factory in Limbe as from April 2008. AFKO's Board Chairman Sang Bong Lee signed for the consortium while Cameroon's Minister of Industries, Mines and Technological Development, Badel Ndonga Ndinga signed on behalf of Government. The terms of the Agreement touch production, marketing, research and valorisation of local material for the manufacturing of cement. The 37 billion CFA Francs project is expected to have an annual production capacity of one million tonnes that will hopefully relaunch competition in the sector and create thousands of jobs. The company will be producing several qualities of cement including cement used for marine construction and bridges.

## Professor Peter Eigen visits the Prime Minister



The Board Chairman of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) met with the Prime Minister and other Cameroonian authorities to discuss the new methodology for the transparent management of the country's petroleum, mineral and forest resources. He explained to the Prime Minister that the new methodology focuses on cooperation between the government, private sector and civil society.

## PM Receives CEO of Regional African Satellite Communications Organisation



The Prime Minister, Head of Government, Ephraim Inoni, on Wednesday the 23rd of January 2008, granted audience to the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Regional African Satellite Communications Organisation (RASCOM), Dr. Jones Killimbe, who came to express appreciation to the government for her support. Zambian born CEO, Killimbe, who was accompanied by Leke Betechuoh Casimir, Vice President charged with International Relations told the press that Cameroon, which he described as being among the top five of the 45-member organisation, is going to host one of the major Network operation centres in Douala, where RASCOM has been allocated a piece of land of up to 10,000 square metres for the development of the operating center.

## PM Grants Audience to SG of Organisation of Islamic Conference



The Prime Minister, Head of Government, Ephraim Inoni on Tuesday 29th January 2008, at the star building, received in audience the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), His Excellency Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu on the second day of his two-day official visit to Cameroon.

The Turkish diplomat was heading a 7-person delegation including Cameroon's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Mohamadou Labarang, a visit coming advance of the next OIC summit scheduled for Dakar, Senegal on the 13th and 14th of March 2008.

At the end of the audience, he told the press that he had a very important and significant fruitful meeting with the Prime Minister, during which he briefed him on activities, particularly in the socio-economic field, the ten-year programme on cotton, the special Africa programme, the poverty alleviation fund, and their next OIC session which will take place in Dakar. He added that he was also very pleased about the full commitment of Cameroon towards OIC activities as well as with her appreciation of how beneficial that commitment has been.





## First Cabinet Meeting for 2008 Points to Economic Growth and Higher Living Standards



**T**he first cabinet meeting for the year, which opened at 11am, and chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, Ephraim Inoni at the star building on Thursday the 31st of January 2008, was dedicated to ensuring economic growth and raising the living standards of citizens.

Addressing the round-table of heads of ministers, he described the year as one of challenges for the government, a year to be marked by significant growth in the performance of government action, drawing inspiration from the Head of State, Paul Biya's end of year state of the nation address last December 2007.

Elaborating on the specific challenges, he highlighted acceleration in growth, to the extent of generating durable benefits, especially as regards infrastructure as well as the fight against poverty, the potential for which he says exists but for lingering obstacles, among which is inertia.

Secondly, he pointed to the need to improve on the living conditions of citizens, an initiative which has already received a lot of attention, particularly in health, education, access to potable water, all of which he qualified as still insufficient.

## Africa's Police Chiefs Granted Audience by the PM



**T**he Prime Minister, Head of Government, Ephraim Inoni, on Thursday 24th January 2008 at the star building received a delegation of Africa's police chiefs, on the occasion of the 9th session of the Forum of Heads of the Central African Police Department, led by the Delegate General for National Security, Edgar Alain Mebe Ngo'o.

Following the meeting of the Committee, during which Cameroon's Delegate General for National Security was elected President for this year, while the Democratic Republic of Congo got the Vice-presidency, members came to present the new bureau to the Head of government. In his welcome remarks, the Prime Minister lauded the body for the key role it has been playing in maintaining security and stability in the region through fighting cross border crime, armed and highway robbery, and checking money laundering; among others. He underlined the importance of their work in creating a safe and conducive environment to continue ensure economic growth as well as attract foreign investors.



## A New Hydro-Electric Dam to be Constructed in Mbonge

**M**ore than 213 additional kilowatts will be injected into the Cameroonian electricity system when a new Hydro-electric dam to be constructed in Mbonge, Meme Division goes operational. The government of Cameroon represented by the Minister of Energy and Water, Jean Bernard Sindou, has signed a framework agreement with the Association for the Promotion of African Community Initiative (APICA), represented by its Secretary General, Job Konguep. The agreement materialises government's decision

to liberalise the energy sector in a bid to solve present energy crisis in the country.

The seven million project consists in building a dam over river Sombe for the production, transportation and distribution of energy in Mbonge and its neighbouring villages. According to the Minister of Energy and Water, the project will be highly useful to agro-industries such as PAMOL, the CDC and the Tea estate that will greatly benefit from the supply. "Some 2,000 people will be employed during the construction phase of the project", Job Konguep told pressmen. When completed, he said, it will benefit more than 120,000 people in Mbonge and 3,700 PAMOL workers. "The CDC is facing lots of problems today and may be grounded because of high cost of fuel", he said, adding that PAMOL alone uses 120,000 litres of gas per year. All these will be reduced when the project goes operational.

## Prime Minister lays Foundation Stone of Water Treatment Plant in Ayatto



**O**n the instructions of the Head of State, Paul Biya, the Prime Minister, Head of Government Ephraim Inoni on Friday the 18th of January 2008, laid the foundation stone for the construction of a water treatment plant at Ayatto in the Mungo division, aimed at increasing the quantity and quality of potable water in the city of Douala.

The project which will be undertaken within a period of twelve months, is being carried out thanks to the financial assistance of the Chinese government, to the tune of CFA 11 (eleven) billion francs.

## World Bank Grants 40 Billion to Develop Five Towns



**T**he International Development Institute (IDA) attached to the World Bank has granted Cameroon a loan of 40 Billion CFA Francs to financed projects aimed at developing the urban sector and improve water distribution in five towns namely: Yaounde, Douala, Bamenda and Mbalmayo. Through these projects, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing hopes to support economic growth by reinforcing the economic roles of the towns in their strife to fight poverty.

## BEAC installs Members of its Monetary Policy Committee



**F**ourteen members of the recently created Monetary Policy Committee in the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) were installed on the 10th of January 2008 in Yaounde. The committee was created following the revision of BEAC's statutes and its goal is to create a favorable environment for greater transparency in monetary policies and the strengthening of the independence of the Central Bank.

The ceremony gave BEAC's Governor Philemon Andzembe an opportunity to state that the economic performance of the CEMAC zone was improving with a GDP growth rate of 4,5% recorded in 2007 as compared to 3,7% in 2006. This growth was due to the good situation of the petroleum sector. Inflation rate had fallen from 5,3% to 2,8% as a result of a fall in the pressure on petroleum products as well as the reduction of external loans. The Governor predicted a GDP growth rate of 6,8% for the zone and 5,3% for Cameroon in 2008.

## Emergency Operation to Save a Gold Mine in the East Province



**T**he Minister of Industries, Mines and Technological Development has expressed satisfaction with progress in the project to exploit and save 15 tons of gold situated in Betare Oya in a zone that will be drowned by water after the construction of a hydroelectric dam at Lom Pangar in 2010. The risk of losing the goldmine was revealed by an environmental impact assessment study for the dam project.

## Good Bye TOM YOM'S



**O**ne of Cameroon's talented artists, André Baudelaire Eyound Eyound a.k.a TOM YOM'S was buried on Saturday the 12th of January 2008 in his village Dibombari in the presence of the Minister of Culture and hundreds of musicians from Cameroon and the diaspora. Before his death in December 2007, TOM YOM'S had produced several albums and artists. He was the promoter of the first music radio FM station in Cameroon Real Time Music (RTM)





## NEW TAX REFORM AND ITS REVEALING INSIGHT

*It was no secret, those who bore the weight could no longer stand it; the former taxation system and procedure were sickening. Some taxpayers felt cheated while others only complied because it was necessary to stay out of the heavy hands of the law.*

*When the Ngamo Hamani Commission was created in April 2007, there was some window of hope. Now the commission has handed over its proposals to government. What does the small taxpayer expect from all of this?*

**Denis Emmanuel MATUTE ESUNGE** is a tax inspector / consultant and gives us a greater insight into the reform proposed.

**CRTV: What is it that inspired the recent tax reforms that have ushered in much hope for the payers?**



**D.E.M. ESUNGE:** May I begin by observing that human behaviour and community interaction have a common basic component, dynamism, which is a basic component of community and individual life style. The steady yearn here is to improve on welfare. It can safely be considered as a fundamental and inalienable human right.

Concerning the recent reforms proposed to government by the tax reforms commission chaired by seasoned Senior Tax Inspector NGAMO HAMANI Paul, it is important to note that the proceedings were conducted in sessions that brought together representatives from the civil society, business persons through GICAM, SYNDUSTRICAM and MECAM, tax counsellors and the administrations of customs and taxes. Economic conjecture, it should be noted, dictates readjustments in the legal provisions that govern taxes. Besides, the fundamental source of reform is popular consent, even when this is achieved through representation. Conventionally therefore, tax reforms are founded on legality, equality and equivalent solidarity.

In Cameroon, the recent reforms were inspired principally by government's yearn to attend to the claims made by citizens and other business partners. The guiding principles for the reforms were founded on the determination to grant tax procedures and taxes elements such as simplicity, efficiency and effectiveness, neutrality, investment friendliness, development oriented and convenience.

Another source of inspiration for reforms is the fact that tax legislation must be adapted to the community policies taken within the regional economic and monetary body, CEMAC among other foreign influences. This aspect falls under the framework of international tax cooperation and the ensuring of service reciprocity across national boundaries. We can retain that the tax reform paper proposes modifications that shall be implemented progressively.

**What are some practical innovations that the recent reforms will bring into play?**

Several adjustments are expected, in the short, medium and long terms. Prior to delving in the expectations, I wish to highlight the fact that with the obvious crumbling of customs boundaries, an aftermath of growing trends in favour of globalisation, the administration of taxes shall likely use the Value Added Tax as an instrument to play a complementary and compensatory role through the widening of its scope of application. To this effect, VAT, it should be noted is a tax on consumption of goods and services.

Concerning the practical aspects of the reform paper forwarded to government by the NGAMO HAMANI Commission, we retain that fiscal year 2008 shall have no new taxes. The main goal here is to ensure stability and psychological booster to taxpayers through the tax break.

Among modifications to look up to, we can mention:

A review of the provisions governing the beginning and existence of business activity. Before the advent of the recent reforms, the period of graceful business observation was three months from the date of starting a business activity. With the innovations, this period of grace has been stretched to as much as two years, without a business license. During this period of activity, the potential taxpayer is expected to fulfil the identification and matriculation formality. The interesting issue here is that the tax burden is deferred, thereby allowing new businesses the chance to invest and plan over time for an eventual and harmonious participation and contribution to the functional cost of the state apparatus;

Adopting an accelerated or progressive pattern of depreciation in order to speed up recovery of investment outlay. Besides, such investment is no more liable to the stamp duty and registration formality;

The de-taxing and exempting from VAT and customs duty of inputs for agricultural, animal breeding and fishing activities, in a bid to boost the development patterns and plans. Cameroon is known to be extensively dependent on a slowly growing agricultural sector. The tertiary and secondary/ industrial sectors are yet to attain prominent strength. From a purely economic standpoint, such a measure raises the actual worth of investment capital, thereby improving on the output and welfare of actors in the sector. Obviously, de-taxing shall lower agricultural production cost, increase total output or production as well as real supply of goods. The spills over effects abound and can trickle down to a drop in the sale's price of agric products while raising real income to producers. Other outcomes include enabling savings to be constituted thereby funding investment. The end result is a coupled leap-frog multiplier accelerator economic growth effect. Before these reforms, there was an outcry from producers concerning the huge taxes on inputs;

The financial caution to be paid in case of litigation has been scrapped. In fact, in matters of litigation, tax claims and disputes, the taxpayer could only get formal administrative attention after paying a procedural caution of 10% of the contested volume of taxes. This situation, according to the reform proposals does not only impair internal business accounts but is highly prejudicial in terms of higher cost on activity. The proposed innovation is to simply and strictly cancel the payment of such a penalising caution, in case of litigation at the level of the Administrative Bench of The Supreme Court;

Still among innovations, and from exchanges with business partners like GICAM, SYNDUSTRICAM, and MECAM, the commission retained and proposed the decentralisation of the "Division des Grandes Entreprises" located in Yaoundé. As the name of this unit goes, it handles the tax situations of Jumbo Jet Taxpayers otherwise called Large Taxpayers. Paradoxically, the outstanding and absolute majority of businesses falling within this bracket are located out of Yaounde and more specifically in Douala, Littoral Province. The idea here is to take the administration closer to the taxpayers. Hence, a liaison office for the DGE shall be opened in Douala, as a short term measure;

Possibility to pay taxes in monthly instalments is another proposed innovation. Like the fiscal year, taxes are levied and assessed over a one year period. However, the innovation here is to alleviate taxpayers' burden as annual bulk payments are broken down to monthly payments on a 1.1% basis on the business turnover;

The paper has proposed regular meetings with economic partners, their representatives, tax consultants and counsellors in a bid to fruitfully adapt the tax laws and norms top effective local realities;

Putting in place facilities for electronic declarations by taxpayers, in a bid to simplify procedure, as a medium term proposal;

The tax administration has been largely applauded following information concerning the innovation of the fines related to good faith of taxpayers. Formerly fixed at 50%, these have been dropped to an affordable 30%, with further possibilities to obtain graceful elimination when the taxpayer cooperates favourably. In the absence of good faith, the fines stand at 100% of the defaulted amounts.

All Para-fiscal taxes shall be paid in a unique bulk to the State Treasury, and eventually redistributed by the latter to the beneficiaries. These include Social Insurance contributions (CNPS), Employer/employee contributions to the National Employment Fund (FNE) and the Housing Loan Fund (CFC);

Other innovations include: Application of a reduced custom duty rate of 5% on investment goods; Widen the VAT scope to non professionals of real estate operations; Discourage non-productive investment through the introduction of a special tax on ostentatious real estate wealth.

**Taxpayers complain of excessive tax pressure. What can you say about this outcry?**

It is an outcry that should be attended to with caution and objectivity. Simply put, the administration of taxes embarked on the identification and matriculation of businesses and business persons in the informal hideout, in the mid 90s. In an attempt to widen the tax base with potential businesses that were not yet part of the register of taxpayers, several thousands of income generating activities were brought into the tax scope. Obviously, these newly unmasked businesses were fond of making huge incomes and benefiting from state services and public facilities for free. In fact, and unfortunately too, they showed a marked deficit in the culture of participating/ contributing to covering the state charges. Hence, their new status was not taken as civic duty. Instead, they cried out for claims of injustice. Theirs is therefore an outcry that is not only misinforming but also falls short of proposals of a leeway.

I am pleased to mention here that the so-called excessive tax pressure is an index, measured in terms of the relative importance of tax revenue generated on the gross economic performance of a country. Besides, such consideration should be amid sub regional ratios as they play an important role on national income aggregates with regard to trade balance.

**Can the proposals made by the reforms commission have an impact on revamping investment and economic growth trends in Cameroon?**

A proper implementation and follow up of the proposals shall unequivocally have the expected effects. This requires the proper training of staff to ensure the implementation; regular training and exchange seminars with business partners and taxpayer representatives; a more effective and efficient administrative communication pattern by the various stakeholders and more specifically the Directorate General of Taxes. We must however note that policy coordination shall be very important in a bid to avoid trade offs and public policy counter performances.

**Interviewed by Pamela Bidjocka for www.crtv.cm**

**Courtesy: www.crtv.cm**







# Indomitable Lions Roar to the Finals



Cameroonians around the world watched the performance of the Indomitable Lions at the 2008 MTN African Cup of Nations, with interest, joy and suspense.

The Lions had a difficult start against Egypt and conceded a 2-4 defeat. This must have provoked their rage against Zambia in the second match as they crushed the Chipolopolo, 5-1. The nation became once more alive as forecasts were made in favour of the Lions qualifying for the eighth finals. This happened during the Lions 3rd match with Sudan that ended in a 3-0 victory in favour of the Indomitable Lions. Determined to march on with victory, the Lions recorded a 3-2 victory against Tunisia in a difficult eighth final match that stretched up to prolongation time. At the semi finals, the lions humbled the host nation Ghana in a 1-0 victory. Energised by a message of congratulations from the Head of State, the Lions stood firm in the Final against Egypt but lost by a narrow 0-1. However, many agreed that that the Lions' performance was satisfactory.

Cameroon's goal-getter Eto'o Fils became the highest goal scorer in the history of the competition.

*By Eko Augustine*



## TIKO UNITED

**BEST MTN ELITE ONE TEAM IN JANUARY 2008**

Tiko's darling team, Tiko United a.k.a *Samba Boys* finished the month of January at the head of the MTN Elite One Soccer Championship. This young team that just ascended into Elite One has been the main revelation in this year's championship, scoring easy victories under the expert supervision of the head trainer Alain Wabo. The most spectacular of Tiko United's performances was its 4-1 victory over the current champion and Cameroon Cup holder COTONSPORT of Garoua on the 7th day of play.

Tiko United has given lovers of Football in the South West Province another reason for pride and celebration.

*By Wambeng L.*



## Nya Weds Armstrong



**W**ho so findeth a wife  
findeth a good thing  
and obtaineth favour  
of the Lord (Proverbs  
18:21)

The Ngwashi and Mabu Families were joined by friends and relatives to celebrate the wedding of their children **Nya Kemunen Mabu** and **Armstrong Chinjie Ngwashi** on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at the Saint Laurent Chapel in Mvolye, Yaounde.

Cynthia Ngwashi and Mabu Nfnyo did the Bible readings that were taken from the Books of Genesis 1:27-28 and Colossians 3:12-17 respectively.

The couple undertook their obligation of marriage and declared their consent before God and his Church. The exchange of rings was followed by the lighting of the Unity Candle. Father Pierre Betene blessed the union.

After the solemn blessing and signing of the register, the service ended with Photography with the bridal party.



Two souls with but a single thought  
Love  
To part and find, it is no  
pious conceited prayer to pray  
Love does not keep a record of wrongs  
It is not a mere gift to be had  
It is a gift of God and God made it for us  
There are those who say that  
they have a good reason for their  
love (Psalm 138:2)

Whether what God has joined  
together let not man put it asunder  
(Mark 10:9)

Thank you for your support  
spiritually, morally, and for being  
here today. Our future is off to a  
beautiful start by the testimony of  
today. You all are blessings to our  
new family. The founding we'll  
build down to our hearts.  
Thank you so very much  
Nya Mabu of Armstrong Ngwashi





Two souls with but a single thought.

Love

Is patient and kind. It is not jealous conceived proud or provoked. Love does not keep a record of wrongs. We've never given up, we had faith hope patience and God made it for us. Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labour. (Ecc1:4:9)

Therefore what God has joined together let not man put it asunder (Matt. 19:66)

Thank you for your support spiritually, materially, and for being here today. Our future is off to a beautiful start by this testimony of today. You all are blessings to our new family. The friendship we'll hold dear in our hearts.

Thank you so very much

Nya Mabu & Armstrong Ngwashi

January 5th, 2008



**O**n its way to the Wedding Party at the Palais de Congrès, the colourful convoy of Bridal Party stopped at the Star Building Roundabout in Yaounde for more photography.

The hall reserved for the wedding party was full with more than one thousand guests who had flown or driven into Yaounde specially for the occasion. Chaired by Dr Bole Butake, the wedding party started with speeches from Shey Dr, Peter Mabu (the Bride's father) and Mr Peter Chitaleh Ngwashi (the Groom's father). This was followed by a sumptuous Dinner and toasts from Dr Taddeus Yonga Kwankam and Mrs Lena Mekwi.

The cutting of the Cake preceded the Father and Daughter dance. The Guests were thrilled by the voices of the Acapella Group **MEY-LOW-D**. Dancing and celebration followed till the early hours of the morning.

Nya is the only girl in a family of five. The Couple is based in the United Kingdom.

*By Achu C.*





## What Makes A Man Marry!

I have a friend who spent two weeks in Europe with his girlfriend, and some of it didn't go too well. He didn't like the haircut she got pre-trip. She didn't like the way his eye wandered on the streets of Paris. They fought some. So when my friend got back home, he asked a wise friend (no, certainly not me) what he should do. Here's the advice he got: Every relationship is going to come up against some obstacles. They'll either break it up, or make it stronger. If it ends, it wasn't meant to be. If you push through, the relationship will be better than ever.

That's stuck with me for a long time, in part because my friend is now 21 years into marriage with that one-time girlfriend. So I'm just guessing that their relationship grew stronger when they faced obstacles. What made the difference for my friend, and for guys in general, when they face that step-up or break-up moment? Here are some ideas....

### Marriage Maker 1: (In)dependence

Guys like all the things that can come with marriage - the companionship, the safety, a guarantee of having good sheets on the bed and good reasons to change them. But one of the things they fear the most: that they're going to feel more constricted than David Blaine in an ice block. While most men understand that being married doesn't mean that they can play six nights a week like they did in their bachelor days, they also want to feel like they have the blessing, support, and encouragement to play golf with their pals every once in a while, to knock a few back at the sports bar when the big game is on, to still feel free even when they've willingly surrendered some independence.

### Marriage Maker 2: Adoring, Yet Not Needy

Few things turn a guy on as much as a woman who makes her man feel like he's the only guy for her. And few things turn off a guy as much as a woman who makes her man feel like he's the only guy for her. Right, both statements are the same, but hugely different. It all has to do with where the woman and man are coming from. If they're equals, they're not making undue claims on each other, and they can be an even stronger pair. If either one of them is weak and needy, however, that emotional burden can drag both partners down. So, throw your partner some compliments and some assurances, but don't tell him the planets spin around him. He knows they don't, and will question your sanity if you say they do. Especially at the start of a relationship, it won't hurt for him to know that you're perfectly OK without him, thank you very much, but that it's more fun when you're together. A light touch early can produce strong bonds later.

### Marriage Maker 3: An Imaginative Mind

There's a lot of press these days about men who worry about dating successful women, that they feel their masculinity is threatened if their women make more money or have more power. To that I say baloney (low-fat). Men are very turned on by women who have big goals, big dreams, and big imaginations - whether they're career-oriented or not. Because when a woman is driven, that means that she's moving forward, and the whole family is, too.

### Marriage Maker 4: Jekyll and Hyde

Not that we want our partners to flip-flop and pretend to be people they're not, but there's something intrinsically exciting about a partner who has the ability to be a sort of chameleon - a little fun and imaginative in bed, yet charming at a family reunion. It's the all-in-one woman who can equally pull off the roles of wife, mother, boss, friend, neighbor, vixen. That's not asking too much, is it? After all, if a guy is going to commit for a lifetime, he'll want his partner to be able to react to a lifetime's worth of challenges and opportunities, right? Show him you've got that going, and the relationship will last a long time (if he knows what's good for him).

*Courtesy: 2007 Men's Health*

*Men are very turned on by women who have big goals, big dreams, and big imaginations - whether they're career-oriented or not. Because when a woman is driven, that means that she's moving forward, and the whole family is, too.*



## The Baby-Moon

What the West is Re-Learning From Africa  
"Mothering the Mother"

**T**raditionally, new mothers all across tropical Africa have been attended in the post-birth period by mothers, aunts and older female relatives at home. In this close-knit family culture a new baby comes not only to a woman and her partner but to the extended family, the village and the community.

Because children are viewed as a gift from God, the new mother is special.

Ideally, a new mother is pampered, given star treatment by older women in the community as she gets to know her new baby in the tiring period immediately after the birth. Her normal domestic duties of fetching water, cleaning, marketing, cooking, supervising her household and cultivating her farm, can be put aside until she is rested and ready to take them on again. Of course the proud new father also benefits from the abundance of food, drink and help from excited relatives and friends. The proud grandmothers often take over the household until the baby is feeding and sleeping well and the new mother has regained her strength.

But, the times are changing. Modernisation continues to have a significant impact on many African women. Women, by moving away from family sometimes lose access to traditional support structures during their childbearing years. In the modern urban environment both in Africa and the "West, parents may find themselves relatively isolated as they prepare for childbirth and for the tiring period immediately after.

This trend is advanced in the global North of the world (a.k.a "abroad" or even, "bush"), especially in cultures where the nuclear family is the norm: Mom, Dad and new baby often go home from hospital alone and return immediately to the pre-birth routine of job and household responsibilities. The concept of "mothering the mother", well-known in the past has given way to modernity. In Italy, for example, this time was known as the "quarantena"; and lasted for 40 days after birth. The quarantena is no more.

### Babymoon Buzz

But tired new parents need no more despair. Enter Big Business: a quick internet search brings up 180,000 entries for babymoon and related activities. Who would have thought?

A sample advertisement from a company called: "The Baby Gurus" offers *"luxurious Babymoos: breaks for pregnant couples or new parents."* These weekends feature full antenatal courses and just time to relax and be pampered.

For trendwatchers, babymoon vacations are all the rage. Celebrities Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes babymooned - on a private island of course. For ordinary couples, there is a wealth of opportunities on offer



*...a new mother is pampered, given star treatment by older women in the community as she gets to know her new baby in the tiring period immediately after the birth.*

from eager tour operators.

Luckily for their daughters, female relatives and friends, the African community never forgot about what is now called the "babymoon". Once African mothers find out a daughter is pregnant, whether in another town or "abroad" the first question is often: *"Who do you have to help you?"* The routine is well practised: taxi drivers and busses are commandeered. There are trips to embassies, waiting patiently in line for a visa, ticket reservations are made. Food ingredients are lovingly prepared: pap, eru, dry fish. All the while with the thought in mind: *"Hope that baby is patient, gives me time to get there."* They arrive loaded down with equipment for their role as director in the new baby drama and are welcomed with open arms. Babymooning? Old news here.

By Clementine Burnley  
Milan, Italy

### IF YOU TREAT HIM NICELY...

If u **TREAT** him nicely, he says u are **TOO IN LOVE**, moving too fast; If u **Don't**, he says u are **PROUD**.  
If u **DRESS NICELY**, he says u are trying to **LURE** other men; If u **DON'T**, he says u are **RURAL**.  
If u **ARGUE** with him, he says u are **STUBBORN**, too manly; u keep **QUIET**, he says u have no **BRAINS**, a walk-over.  
If u are **SMARTER** than him, you're a **SHOW-OFF**; If he's **SMARTER** than u, he is **GREAT**.  
If u don't **LOVE** him, he tries to **POSSESS** u; If u **LOVE** him, He takes you **FOR GRANTED**.  
If u tell him your **PROBLEMS**, he says u are **TROUBLE**; If u **DON'T**, he says u don't **TRUST** him.  
If u **SCOLD** at him, u are treating him like a **CHILD**; If he **SCOLDS** at u, it's because he **CARES** for u.  
If u **BREAK** your promise, u cannot be **TRUSTED**; If he **BREAKS** his, it is circumstances beyond his **CONTROL**.  
If u **SMOKE**, u are **BAD** girl; If he **SMOKES**, he is **GENTLEMAN**.  
If u do **WELL** in your career, it's **LUCK**; If he does **WELL**, it's definitely **BRAINS**.  
If u **HURT** him, u are **CRUEL**. If he **HURTS** you, you are too **SENSITIVE!!**

**HOW ARE WE, WOMEN, SUPPOSED TO GET IT RIGHT???????**



presents

Cinema

# NKUMA

An Africaphonie Film  
on FEMALE GENITAL  
MUTILATION

The performance of the actors meets the story at realism point. Led by Imbolo Mavis-Claire in the lead role the rendition of this story would meet the performance demands of an average entertainment critic.

The screenplay creates a kind of conflict between conservatism and change-oriented thinking. Compare the village backdrops to those of the city and you will notice

that there is variety in the town scenes and faces, but in the village virtually the same faces appear. This appears more when the town faces come to the village.

The Anthropologist summarizes the logical part of this practice in the following words 'we cannot initiate girls into womanhood by destroying the very source of womanhood.' Notice here that it is more with the physical and psychological implication of the practice than with the practice the anthropologist is concern. Though a veiled criticism of the practice it is reason talking.

Though most names in the story are from the Bayangi tribe, the variety in the costume spreads the location to any African society where the practice is present. No matter your opinion of FGM, watch this film objectively in order to get an equal measure of its aesthetics. It might not be Hollywood, but the cinematography is matured enough to be consumed anywhere motion media is aesthetics.



# POSITIVE LIVING

**AFRICaphonie's Latest Telefilm:**

## **A Classical Tri-therapy Against the HIV/AIDS Pandemic**

**By Donatus Fai Tangem\***

The Cameroonian Telefilm scene has once more been adorned by yet another AFRICaphonie production entitled **"Positive living" (live and let's live)**. Coming on the heels of **"Nkuma"** a film on female Genital Mutilation, (FGM), the awe-inspiring movie announces itself through a captivating poster design shaped like a hose shoe and hemmed by the beaming faces of mature actors and actresses.

The prominence of good old reliables like Mejame Njikang Pa Ngalla (of the Musinga drama group fame) and the venerated Mah Fese among other fine actors and actresses foretells swell times for potential viewers. The snappy Introduction dedicated to the memory of three Anglophone literati (Bate Besong, Kwasen Gwangwaa and Hilarious Ambe) who all lost their lives in a ghastly road accident on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 quickly melts out into the Preamble where the initially glamorous atmosphere of the screen is at once engulfed and transformed by the loathsome arrival of a black hearse bearing the casket of Pa Nzele. Real action commences in church after a requiem mass dedicated to the peaceful repose of the HIV/AIDS victim.

In a characteristic modernist approach, the story and plot of the film unfolds back ward from result to cause. Having projected on the likely tragic end result of negative life style the OSIWA-assisted production attempts a veritable melange that goes beyond mere panacea. In its unique triple approach, **Positive living** challenges current strategies of HIV/AIDS awareness campaign there by replacing these with a more practical result oriented net work that does not spare any aspect of societal structures.

Contrary to the heavily biased, near obsolete and predominantly urban based HIV/AIDS campaigns programme, this new telefilm engages a triangular experiment that harnesses the synergy of three major stake holders. Through the ingenious initiative that pools the hospital or western approach via Antiretroviral therapy (ARV), the church or religious approach via counselling and most importantly, the traditional, via herbal treatment, the film offers the HIV/AIDS victims the most hopeful avenue for a sustainable treatment. Away from the hopeful reliance on the heavily hyped ARV trajectory, the AFRICaphonie film recycles and reshapes the humdrum of abstinence, fidelity, and condom for a forward-looking collaborative endeavour full of potentials. To drive through its hard lessons, the film highlights and juxtaposes the tragic end result of late Pa Nzele with the trembling and dangling fate of Phillip (Ivo Boh) and Andrew (Nofuru Nshom Bali), a duo at the threshold of death. United by misery and frustration, the two victims brood over the fate that awaits them, one trying to inspire hope for both. The thought of the demise of Pa Nzele sounds as a permanent reminder of the obvious end that awaits them. In the middle of their despair and overt despondency, Mama Agatha, (Comfort Ojongnpo) characteristic of the "deus ex machina" (a salvation tool known in Greek tradition to rescue desperate cases.) emerges with her salvation army. Her strategy which is a hybrid of the herbal treatment from Dr. Baba (Mejame Njikang Peter) combined with other traditional counselling and ancestral values, offers the most needed way forward. While administering herbs for instant treatment of opportunistic infections, Ma Agatha equally sets up traditional structures for education and counselling services where she preaches the values of virginity in abhorrence of premarital sex.

This strategy, Ma Agatha considers as a way to bar sexual excitement that urges young people into fatal adventures. As if to complement the holistic approach and inject meaning into the notion of "Positive Living", the traditional structure of Ma Agatha highlights on practical farm work and cultivation of fruits and vegetables for healthy eating and the invaluable benefits of sporting exercise. The collage of church, tradition and western approaches offer potential viewers a very unique chance for an assessment of the effectiveness of the different parameters that are bound to interplay in health related matters and especially, HIV/AIDS.

In terms of artistic accomplishments, "Positive Living" explores the fullness of the language of image, sound and special effects all designed to enhance the subject matter. The sweet and sad background music in its varied collection of well known religious dirges, choral music and cuts from sentimental musical gurus like Richard Kings and Ngolle Ebenzu, proffer the desired mood for the film.

The general atmosphere of the film overwhelms its viewers with heavily loaded signs and symbols that speak ominously to an attentive viewer. Beyond what the film overtly says is a coded semiotic language, which implies much more than is evident. That is-the HIV/AIDS pandemic is real and much closer to us all is no longer an issue of debate, rather what the film achieves in its originality and informative proposal is in the words of Ma Nzele (Mah Fese) and I quote "the way forward is the multifaceted combination of all viable forces that promise success in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Actually, the film owes its immense success primarily to the mature type cast, effective location and above all picture and acting quality. In spite of some undulating sound quality and few instances of rather frantic acting, the AFRICaphonie film achieves more than its basic goals. By offering a comprehensive tool kit in the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign the film further imposes itself on the sub-consciousness of viewers entranced by the bitter reality of the scourging effect of the pandemic. The twin objectives of pity and fear compel viewers to confront with renewed courage the unavoidable life experience of hope and despair. However rather than project despair for man and society, the Director's (Anurin Nwunembom) artistic production privileges the power of hope, not vain hope but one shaped by evidence of good results. Although the film fails to advocate the benefits of voluntary screening, it compensates that void by highlighting the values of virginity, abstinence and faithfulness for couples.

In sum the film screams for a chance in every home even as it recommends itself to viewers without restrictions to age, gender or cultural background. Under the sound command of the Executive Producer Mwalimu George Ngwane and thanks to the OSIWA support, the AFRICaphonie project offers Cameroonians a revitalising option for a more judicious and instantly beneficial attention on their screens. Rather than cling avidly to the infiltrating movies that spread teachings on evil tactics by con men, Fey mania and prostitution, this new Cameroonian movie delves into life-saving pledges and practices that offer real hope to contemporary society.

For an action pack and running time of about 93 minutes, the film trims down redundant action eliminating time buying and castigating exaggerated gesticulations.

In its concurrent treatment of hard messages and show case of a rich cultural diversity for which Cameroon and in the case of this film, the South West is known, the AFRICaphonie production emphasises once more that Cameroon and the South West is a land pregnant with human as well as natural resources. Kudos to the entire crew for a job not only well conceived and timely, but also and most importantly for a job well done.

It there fore remains with the family or every family head, within and beyond Cameroon to avail themselves of a golden chance for an educational entertainment.

*\* Donatus Fai Tangem is a Theatre Director and Art Critic in Yaounde, Cameroon*

**AFRICaphonie PRODUCTION**  
with an OSIWA support

presents



**Starring: Mejame peter Njikang, Mah Fese, Alcysius Ituka, Ndijor (Fr), Sally-Christelle Nana, Arrey Enc Tambe, Nsong Queen, Nguannmesia, Ngala Baniar Denatus, OjongnKpot Oben Comfort, Nshom Ball, Nofuru, Ndele Mbua, Beh Iee.**

**Director: Anurin Nwunembom**  
**Executive Producer: Mwalimu George Ngwane**  
**Contact: (237)77665479 / africaphonie2000@yahoo.co.uk**







**A** week before the arrival of the 'Taiping Four' gorillas the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), assisted by the NGO Last Great Ape, confiscated 493 African grey parrots at Douala International Airport. The birds were packed in to 8 small wooden boxes and were being shipped illegally to Bahrain. MINFOF asked if we could assist in the rehabilitation of the birds and, despite the fact that everyone was extremely busy with the preparations for the gorilla's arrival, we gladly accepted to help.

Not being equipped to take care of so many birds at once we had to improvise. During the first days we had parrots literally everywhere; quarantine cages needed to be turned in to aviaries, and even old storage cupboards became temporary enclosures. The plan was to give the birds a few days rest, with high energy feed, before individually assessing the immediately releasable birds from those with damaged wing feathers and those that were sick. Hunters catch African grey parrots by coating a fruiting tree in the forest with glue; they then sit and wait for a flock of parrots to come and feed from the tree. Consequently many of the birds caught in this way are traumatised with severely damaged feathers that preclude them from being released until their feathers have had a chance to re-grow.

After a week the situation was slowly coming under control when we were alerted to a second confiscation of parrots. Once again, being the only wildlife project in the region, it was our duty to take the confiscated birds in. This second group numbered 727 birds, squashed into a few wooden boxes. The LWC was now at breaking point, having received 1220 parrots in less than 10 days. So to cope with the situation we quickly designed and constructed two new flight cages that could house those birds with damaged feathers that could not be released. Once these cages were built the pressure eased as we were able to sort the birds out, release those birds that were strong fliers and house the sick birds in flight cages that would be appropriate for their rehabilitation. We were very grateful to the World Parrot Trust, the Born Free Foundation and the Humane Society for the emergency funding that they gave to help us with this ongoing situation.

## 1220

## Rescued Parrots



Currently we still have over 400 parrots that are not able to be released who will require long term rehabilitation throughout 2008.

The people responsible for smuggling the parrots are currently being prosecuted by MINFOF under the wildlife laws of Cameroon and we are eagerly awaiting their convictions. The Minister of MINFOF showed his support for wildlife protection by releasing the first 5 parrots in the Limbe Botanic Gardens.

This story can be followed on a blog posted on the World Parrot Trust website; a site that is able to receive donations which will be forward on to us to help with the ongoing rehabilitation of the remaining parrots.

**Link to email campaign – FlockTalk WPT eNewsletter**

<http://www.parrots.org/index.php/newsletter/pendinghtml>

**Link to appeal page at parrots.org**

[http://www.parrots.org/index.php/ourwork/african\\_grey\\_appeal](http://www.parrots.org/index.php/ourwork/african_grey_appeal)

### NEW FUND RAISING BLOG

The LWC now has a new blog site on the Wildlife Direct website. Wildlife Direct was set up by Richard Leakey to enable conservation projects to raise funds through internet donations. Each project, if selected, is invited to write a regular blog on their own Wildlife Direct page. We were successful in our application and have since started our new blog. Please do visit the site and read our on going reports and if you are feeling a little flush do feel free to make a handsome donation! The benefit of donating through this site is that 100% of your donation will reach us as Wildlife Direct do not charge any handling fee for their overheads.

**The link to our site is: [www.wildlifedirect.org/blogAdmin/limbewildlifecentre](http://www.wildlifedirect.org/blogAdmin/limbewildlifecentre)**



## ***Bolo*** *The Infant Gorilla*

**O**n Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December Felix Lankester received a call from the LWC's long term supporter Selma Forotti from the Netherlands. Selma had received a call from one of her contacts, a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Adjibolo, in Batouri, in the east of Cameroon, to say that he had seized an infant gorilla from a hunter who had been trying to sell her. During her annual visits to the east of Cameroon Selma has been sensitizing the residents of Batouri about the damaging effects of the trade in wildlife so she was understandably pleased that such a senior figure had heeded her words and had seized the gorilla from the hunter. Unfortunately the damage had been done and the infant's family most probably had been shot, but at least the infant was safe and the townspeople of Batouri were given a lesson in wildlife protection from a senior government official.

We had to act quickly as infant gorillas are extremely vulnerable to the effects of stress. A call was made to CWF in Yaoundé who immediately dispatched an army escort to collect the infant from Batouri. On the Friday morning Felix Lankester with a volunteer who would become the infant's surrogate mother drove to Yaoundé and returned on Saturday with the female gorilla. The gorilla, now named Adjibolo (or 'bolo'), is now recovering from her ordeal and is slowly bonding with the volunteer.

**O**ne night in October two men from Bobende, a village a few kilometres away from Limbe, brought two baby monkeys to the Limbe Wildlife Centre. The mother of the two babies had been killed, the men admitted, by their senior brother.

We named the monkeys Bobo and Bende. Unfortunately Bende was very weak and died after a few days. Bobo, however, is very strong and is doing well. He now shares an enclosure with Ebo, the baby red eared guenon (*Cercopithecus erythrotis*) that came to the LWC in early August.

There was one small problem: nobody knew what species Bobo was. His fur was orange flecked with black and he did not look like any of the guenon or mangabey species that typically come from this region. However, slowly he started to change colour, developing a white throat and black around the eyes. We now are pretty certain that he is a Preuss's guenon (*C. preussi*). What is incredible about this story is that Preuss's guenons are so rare and so little is known about them that, as far as we could ascertain, new born Preuss's guenons have not been recorded before and there is no record of them being orange in colour. We think that this may be (one of) the only photographs of an infant Preuss's guenon in existence. It is very sad that so little is known about species that are so close to extinction.

## ***BoBo*** *The Mystery Monkey*



## ***Jonathan Kang*** *2007 Disney Conservation Hero*

**I**n a country where primates are valued for the amount of meat on their bones it is not an obvious choice to become a primate keeper. Fortunately there are Cameroonians who want to make a difference and who dedicate their lives to the protection of wildlife. Jonathan Kang, head keeper of the Limbe Wildlife Centre, is one of them and his remarkable career has not gone unnoticed. Nominated by PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance), Jonathan has been selected as a Disney Conservation Hero for 2007. This awards program recognizes that conservation initiatives can only be as successful as the local people involved in the project. On 27<sup>th</sup> October Jonathan received the award from the Divisional Delegate of the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife. We are all extremely proud of him and Jonathan feels very honoured. The Limbe Wildlife Centre is very lucky to have staff members like Jonathan, as it is through their dedication and hard work that the high standards that we have set for ourselves can be met. In the past six months Jonathan and all the other LWC staff have accomplished a great deal.

Courtesy: **Update from the Limbe Wildlife Centre**

*Written by Simone de Vries (Assistant Project Manager)  
and Felix Lankester (Project Manager) December 2007*





## Success Story Readers' Awards December 2008

### Vote For the Best Promoters of Joint Ventures and the Most Outstan- ding Female Talents

**N.B.** Vote for one nominee per category and give not more than 10 points to each, every month

#### NOMINEES & VOTES

##### A JOINT VENTURES

N°	NOMINEES	JOINT VENTURES	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
1	Collins E. Mukete	MTN Cameroon	0	205	230	175												
2	Chief Tabetando	Euroil	0	93	140	67												
3	Ayuk Iyok	Kosan Crisplant Cameroon SA (GlocalGaz)	0	117	214	103												
4																		
5																		
6																		

##### B FEMALE TALENTS

N°	NOMINEES	JOB	COMPANY	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
1	Rebecca Enon-chong	Software Developer	Apps Tech	0	65	112	73												
2	Christine Njeuma	Pilot	CHC Cameroon	0	72	150	116												
3	Ntoutou L. Marie	Bus Driver	Le Car	0	63	95	74												
4	Sarah Etonge	Athlete	-	0	86	135	80												
5	Anne Nsang	Journalist	UNIC	0	0	67	107												
6	Nana Abunaw M.	Penitentiary Off.	MINJUSTICE	0	0	54	127												

You are invited to submit your nominees and votes every month to the JURY through  
[succes.story@yahoo.com](mailto:succes.story@yahoo.com)



# Flavours Restaurant

**Delicious Cameroonian Meals  
& Catering**

**Opposite Mairie Tsinga, Yaounde  
Tel: (237) 77 65 28 01**

## Achu

## Flavours Restaurant

### Ingredients

Achu Cocoyams (ibo)  
Banana Leaves  
Country Onion  
Black Pepper  
Bush onions  
Bush beans  
Palm Oil  
Limestone  
Salt  
Maggi cubes  
Kanda/Meat/Dry Fish

### Method

Wash Cocoyams and cook, without peeling, for one hour  
Peel Cocoyams and pound in a mortar till paste is smooth, soft and elastic  
Wrap the paste into banana leaves  
Burn bush onions and bush beans and grind on a stone to obtain its powder  
Set Palm Oil on the heat to obtain a fair bleach  
Remove palm oil from the heat and let it cool  
Put limestone in a little quantity of warm water and mix with palm oil to obtain a yellowish colour  
Add boiled meat to the mixture  
Add salt, maggi cubes and fresh boiled pepper to taste  
Drink Palm Wine



**Proposed by**

**Ms. MBU Stella  
Manager,  
Flavours Restaurant**

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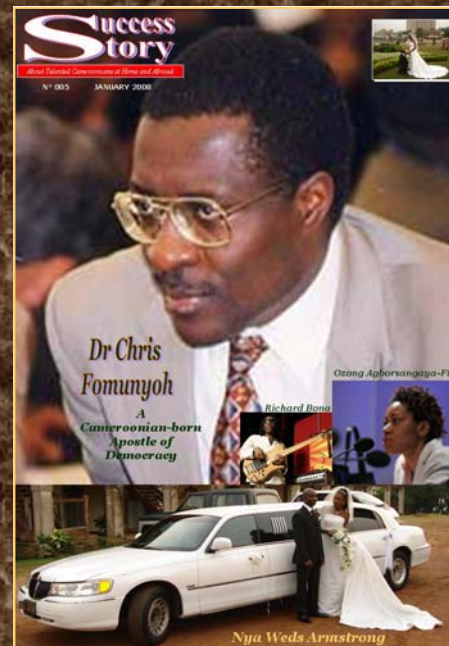
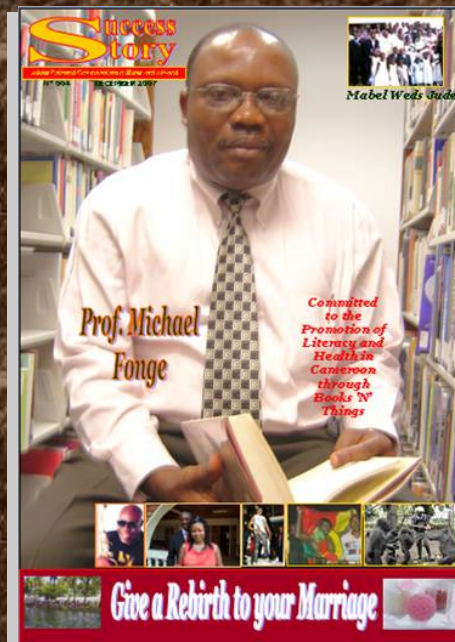
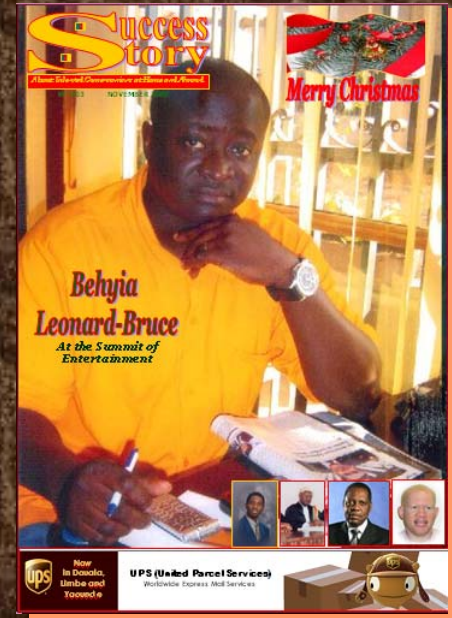
Etimbe Ludwig



# Success Story

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