



18th CSPOC

Opening Ceremony: Glamour, Solemnity



Colour, glamour and solemnity characterised the opening ceremony of the 18th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, CSPOC, (Africa Region) at the Yaounde Conference Centre yesterday, Tuesday, 18 July 2023. **Muabe Fidele reports.**

Prime Minister, Head of Government, Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute, representative of the Head of State, H.E. Paul Biya, formally opened deliberations in a hall bedecked for august guests. Members of government, members of the diplomatic corps, administrative authorities of the Centre Region and other invited officials came to add grandeur to the event that was punctuated with five speeches and a vote of thanks from one of the Speakers.

(Continued on Page 2)



...Continued from Page 1

In his address the Prime Minister noted that Cameroon's development vision is fully in line with the theme of the conference, "African Parliaments and Agenda 2063". He rolled out a number of priority measures taken by the President of the Republic of Cameroon with the aim of making the country a developed modern democratic nation by 2035 in spite of prevailing global challenges. As he declared the confab opened, Chief Dr Dion Ngute expressed hope that it will end with adequate recommendations that will foster the implementation of Agenda 2063.

The Prime Minister's address was preceded by four other speeches from the Mayor of Yaounde, Mr Luc Atangana Messi, Hon. Mary Muyali



A cross section of delegates at the opening yesterday

Meboka, representing the Speaker of Cameroon's National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. Cavaye Yeguie Djibril, and Senator Nfor Tabe Tando Ndiep Nso on behalf of the Senate President, Senator Marcel Niat Njifendi.

Highlights of the opening ceremony included the procession into the hall of Speakers and Presiding Officers

and the much applauded performance of the University of Buea Choir. The choral group electrified the hall with symphonies that cut across cultural zones of Cameroon; sounds from South Africa prompted the delegates from Mandela's country on their feet as they sang and danced with the choir.

Time For Brainstorming!

After the official opening of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, CSPOC, (Africa Region) yesterday by Prime Minister Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute on behalf of the President of the Republic, delegates from some 21 counties are delving into the crux of the matter, hoping to seek joint solutions to common problems when the conclave ends on July 22, 2023. **Godlove BAINKONG reports**

The theme of the Yaounde meeting: "African Parliaments and the Agenda 2063," requires all hands on deck in coming out with a workable strategy on attaining outlined development objectives. The Agenda 2063 of the African Union is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. It builds on, and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

This explains why delegates have spread themselves into sub-committees in order to focus on soul-searching topics like the role of Parliaments in strengthening openness, transparency and accountability; African Parliaments in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area; addressing the challenges of food security in Africa by



The delegates are working to give in their best for the wellbeing of African people

promoting investments in agriculture; and the devastating impact of climate change on humanity. Parliamentarians being the peoples' representatives have a primordial role to play.

"Your presence here today reflects the cordial ties existing between our

countries that share the same cultural values..In a comity of nations where we all aspire for the betterment of our people, Africa appears to be impoverished..", the Prime Minister pointed out. This will understandably be a galvanising factor for the delegates.

NEWS

CSPOC Opener

Rich Cultural Display

Attendees of the 18th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, (CSPOC) Africa Region, yesterday July 18, got a taste of Cameroon's rich cultural diversity, through songs and dances, at the Yaounde Conference Centre, as the event officially kicked off. **Macdonald Ayang reports**



Some dance groups were present

The atmosphere around the Yaounde Conference Centre, venue of the event which has brought together parliamentary leaders from all the 21 Commonwealth nations in Africa, was electric. The ambiance was also telling of the magnitude of the event and the calibre of guests attending it.

Almost a dozen cultural groups from various parts of the country, representing the four cultural zones of Cameroon, animated the vicinity as the delegates drove in for the opening ceremony.

The display by traditional dance groups such as the 'Monikim' from Manyu in the South West Cameroon,

with members clad in their traditional regalia, left everyone around reeling in exceeding admiration.

Other dance groups from the North West, South West, Centre and East Regions, and from the northern part of the country, were also on hand to entertain the national and international guests.

Botswana Is Next CSPOC Host

Botswana was yesterday confirmed the host of the 19th edition of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) to take place in Gaborone during a General Meeting that took place after the opening ceremony. **Eldickson AGBORTOGO reports.**

Corrections and adoption of the 2017 minutes of the CSPOC set the ball rolling during the July 18, 2023 General Meeting at the Yaounde Conference Centre. Presided over by Honourable Mary Muyali Meboka, assisted by Rt Hon Pono Pearson Moathodi from Botswana and Ms Menelwa J. Mwiambi ndc from Tanzania, the closed to two-



Cross section of members during the General Meeting

hour meeting proceeded to the official recognition of Swaziland's change of name to Eswatini. To have a foretaste of what awaits CSPOC members in

Botswana, a short documentary exhibiting the rich cultural, touristic and natural landscape of the country was screened.



YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

YOU HAVE THE FLOOR



Democracy Is What We Should Build

Mlibo Qoboshiyane, Deputy Speaker, Eastern Cape Parliament, South Africa

There are issues that we need to strengthen, our human relationship and solidarity, and global peace. There must be initiatives for development especially in Africa. We need to use our precious resources to advance development and progress. Younger people must be made to understand that democracy is part of what we are supposed to build. I am in Cameroon for the first time and I am quite happy with the development. I am very happy to see the lively people. I can see each and every street here is busy. That is something I will take back home and say: 'do things for yourself and your hands are your liberation.'

There are issues that we need to strengthen, our human relationship and solidarity, and global peace. There must be initiatives for development especially in Africa. We need to use our precious resources to advance development and progress. Younger people must be made to understand that democracy is part of what we are supposed to build. I am in Cameroon for the first time and I am quite happy with the development. I am very happy to see the lively people. I can see each and every street here is busy. That is something I will take back home and say: 'do things for yourself and your hands are your liberation.'



We Are People's Representatives

Dr Tulia Ackson, Speaker, National Assembly, Tanzania

We have been received well here in Cameroon and we are very grateful to the Prime Minister who addressed us this morning. We are here to discuss a number of issues including Agenda 2063. One of the things we are going to talk about is investment in agriculture. We want to see Africa be food self-sufficient. We do not want to find a situation where any part of Africa does not have enough food. So, there is need to put a lot of investment there. We understand that we are people's representatives. If Parliaments can put a lot of efforts in advising governments, but also put pressure on them to open up to new technologies in the domain of agriculture, I am sure we will do better.



We'll Look At Climate Justice

Rt Hon Catherine Gotani Hara, Speaker, Parliament, Malawi

I would like to thank the Cameroonian government for the warm welcome that has been given to our delegations. We are going to discuss issues that affect us such as climate change, trade and other issues related to the African Union Agenda 2063. After this meeting, as speakers, we are going to have a position on some of the issues that are affecting us. For in Malawi, an issue that affects us a lot is climate change. Malawi was hit hard this year by climate change. We'll be looking at things like climate justice and funding. For countries where the problem is hitting harder, we want those who are supposed to give us the resources to do so in order that we can make our people's lives better.

I would like to thank the Cameroonian government for the warm welcome that has been given to our delegations. We are going to discuss issues that affect us such as climate change, trade and other issues related to the African Union Agenda 2063. After this meeting, as speakers, we are going to have a position on some of the issues that are affecting us. For in Malawi, an issue that affects us a lot is climate change. Malawi was hit hard this year by climate change. We'll be looking at things like climate justice and funding. For countries where the problem is hitting harder, we want those who are supposed to give us the resources to do so in order that we can make our people's lives better.



Avenue To Promote African Values And Culture

Rt. Hon. Bagbin Alban Sumana, Speaker, Parliament, Ghana

The conference is very important at this time of global politics. It is going to set a unified voice for Africa to deal with the burning issues that are affecting the world. We are challenged with the LGBTQ movement led by Western countries and they are trying to get all African countries to join the agenda. We are strongly against it. This conference will give us the opportunity to protect the tradition and cultural identity of Africa. It will give us the opportunity to bond, legislate and promulgate laws that ban that practice in Africa.



YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

“



An Honour To Be Here

Ogouwalanga Awore Lucienne, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly, Gabon

It is an honour for us to be part of the 18th edition of the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference holding here in Cameroon. As you know, we just joined the Commonwealth. One of the global issues we will be addressing in the course of the meeting is climate change. We look forward to contributing to the resolutions that will be arrived at and how some of them will be implemented in Gabon.

”

“



Address Our Local Challenges

Rt. Hon. Chisangano A. Malungo, Deputy Speaker, Parliament, Zambia

“We have many challenges in Africa like climate change and food security. These are some of the issues that we'll be talking about in the next couple of days. The discussions will guide us in coming up with strong recommendations that will be useful for Africa's march towards progress and prosperity.”

”

“



Redefine African Democracy, Strengthen Cooperation

Tajudeen Abbas, Speaker, House of Representatives, Nigeria

“This is time for us to give our African definition of democracy and not what is imposed on us by the West. We will focus on our local reality in terms of human rights and the peace and security of our region. We will identify the salient issues on agenda 2063, work together to sanitise the agenda of all African countries so that we can work in unison.”

”



The Prime Minister (middle) at a convivial evening with delegates yesterday



BE BILINGUAL TODAY

1. Speaker of the National Assembly ●	●	Président de l'Assemblée Nationale
2. Senator ●	●	Sénateur
3. Clerk of the National Assembly ●	●	Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée Nationale
4. Honourable Member ●	●	Honorable
5. House Chamber ●	●	Hémicycle
6. Draft bill ●	●	Projet de loi
7. Private members' bill ●	●	Proposition de loi
8. Upper House ●	●	Chambre Haute
9. Lower House ●	●	Chambre Basse

CSPC AFRICA REGION OFFICERS

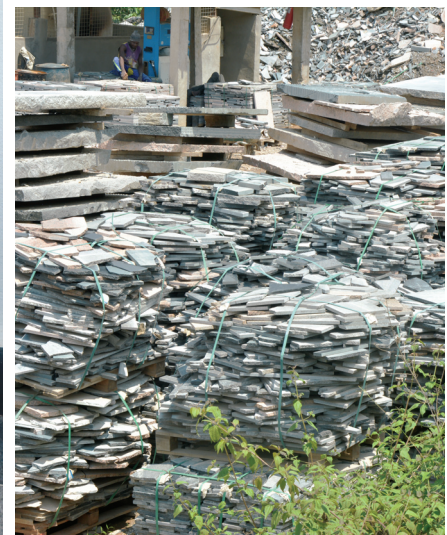
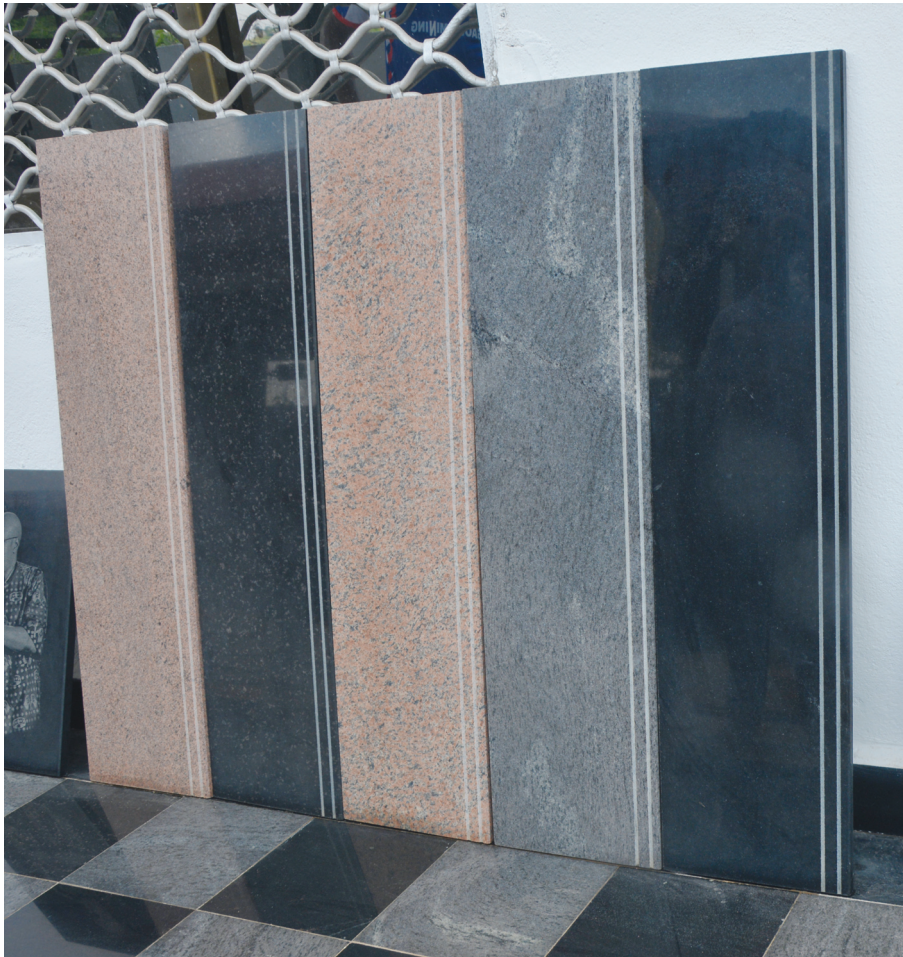
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Chairperson : The Rt. Hon. CAVAYE Yeguie Djibril, MP, Cameroon | 5. Central Africa Representative : Hon. Esperanca Bias, MP, Mauritius |
| 2. Vice-Chairperson : The Rt. Hon. Phandu T. C SKELMANI, PH. MP, Botswana | 6. West Africa Representative : The Rt. Hon. Fabakary JATTA, MP, The Gambia |
| 3. Immediate Past Chairperson : The Rt. Hon. Donatille MUKABALISA, MP, Rwanda. | 7. East Africa Representative : The Rt. Hon. Soorojdev PHOKEER, MP |
| 4. Regional Secretary : Nenelwa J. MWIHAMBI, NDC, MP. | 8. Southern Africa Representative : Hon. Amos Masondo, MP, South Africa |

USEFUL CONTACTS

1	Coordinating Committee, Chairperson: Hon. Mary Muyali	677 56 21 88	11	Culture/Animation, Chairperson: Hon. Wallang Richard Ebua	679 87 46 35
2	Technical Secretariat, Chairperson: Hon. Ateawung Foju Bernard	677 52 37 72	12	Visas, Security and Badges, Chairperson: Hon. Banmi Emmanuel Dingha	677 40 44 50
3	Reception/Protocol, Chairperson: Hon. Findi Standley	679 66 97 66	13	Excursions, Chairperson: Hon. Emmah Etoundi Vincent de Paul	696 29 74 07
4	Communication, Chairperson: Hon. Manju Nextus Fru	672 57 17 17	14	Reception/Gifts, Chairperson: Hon. Mariam Goni	699 82 00 84
5	Daily Journal/Drafting, Chairperson: Hon. Njume Peter	677 96 36 50	15	Translation and Interpretation, Chairperson: Hon. Ebangha Johanna épse Agborntui	671 99 51 82
6	Decoration, Chairperson: Hon. Douvaouissa Hamadi	699 98 53 39	16	Verbatim Reporting, Chairperson: Ms Tambe Noline, SD	677 22 21 27
7	Lodging and Feeding, Chairperson: Hon. Zam Jean Jacques	677 67 95 63	17	Support Staff, Chairperson: Mr Ibrahimou Boubakary, CM	675 45 45 77
8	Finance, Chairperson: Hon. Kamssouloum Abba Kabir	677 31 00 00	18	Daily Journal Editor-in-Chief: Mr Muabe Fidele	677 81 40 24
9	Transport/Logistics, Chairperson: Hon. Djomgoue Paul Eric	677 67 47 05			
10	Health, Chairperson: Ngoko Mambe Marie Louise épse Tchouante	651 96 53 62			

Must See Site!

A unique factory in the Central African region, located in Yaounde that produces durable and first-rate building material like marble, tiles, etc. cut from rocks and blended with granite



Products from the marble plant; even scrabs are commercialised



Inside the production factory



TODAY'S PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 19 July, 2023

Plenary Session 1

10:00 - 12:00 Topic one:	<p>The Devastating Impacts of Climate Change: A Call for more Parliamentary Interventions</p> <p>Mover: Cameroon Second: Zambia Session Chairperson: Tanzania Venue: Huis Clos, Yaounde Conference Centre</p>
13:00 Lunch	Venue: Foyer Bar
<h2>Plenary Session 2</h2>	
14:00 -15:30 Topic Two:	<p>The Role of African Parliaments in the Implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)</p> <p>Mover: The Gambia Second: Kenya Session Chairperson: Malawi Venue: Huis Clos, Yaounde Conference Centre</p> <p><i>Free evening</i></p>

DAILY JOURNAL OFFICERS

Publisher: Parliament of Cameroon

Editorial Supervisor : The Rt. Hon. CAVAYE Yeguié Dji-bril

Editorial Coordinators: Hon. Mary Muyali MEBOKA,
Hon. DATOUO Théodore, Hon. Lawson TABOT
BAKIA

Managing Editors: Hon. NJUME Peter Ambang, Hon.
KUM John Nji, Hon. BILOA Tsilla
Zitha

Editor-in-Chief: MUABE Fidèle

Sub Editor: Richard Kwang KOMETA

Writers: AYANG Macdonald, AKUA Nalova,
MBONTEH Roland, BAINKONG Godlove,
AGBORTOGO Dickson, AWAH Joseph,
NANJI Pelagie

Design & Layout: Emmanuel Trevor SONE, Cédrik
EBOLO AZEGUE

Photographers: HAMAN André, MIENLAN Esther,
Fabrice NGON

Printed by: SOPECAM

Please, kindly address all correspondence to the Editor-in-Chief : (237) 677814024.

Botswana, Cameroon, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya,
Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique,
Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South
Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

