



Daily Journal

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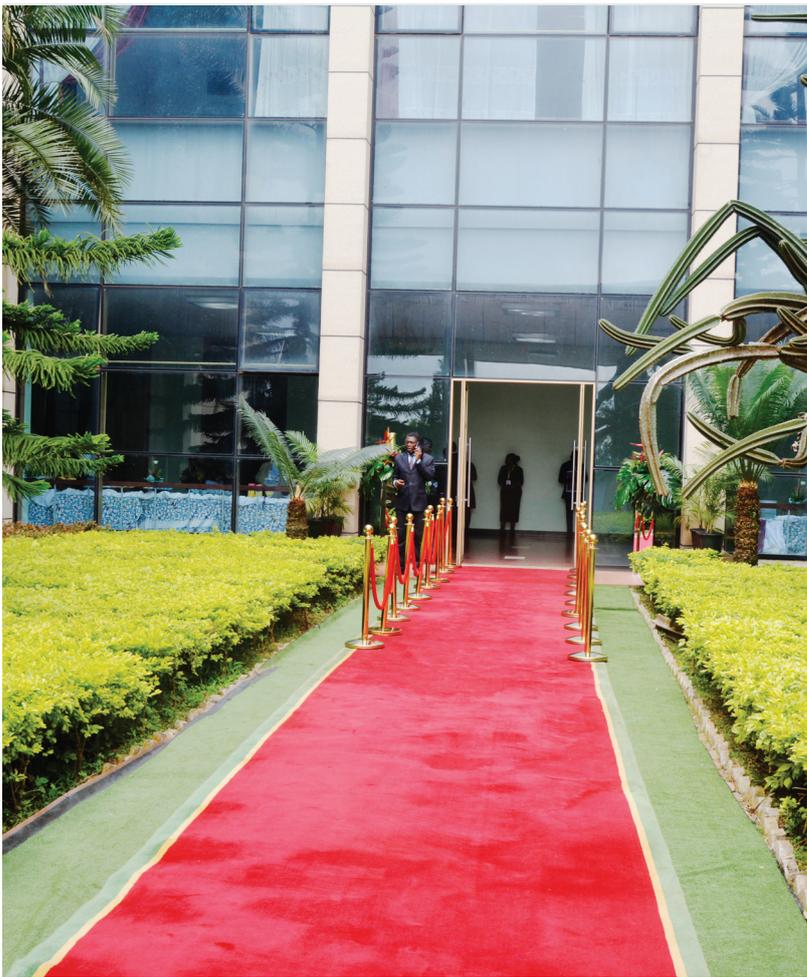
18TH CONFERENCE OF THE SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (AFRICA REGION)

13-22 JULY 2023

YAOUNDE CONFERENCE CENTRE

THEME: "AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS AND AGENDA 2063"

Welcome To Cameroon



18th CSPOC

Ceremony Officially Opens Today

The 18th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC), Africa Region, will be officially opened by Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute, representing Cameroon's Head of State, His Excellency Paul Biya, today Tuesday, 18 July 2023 at the Yaounde Conference Centre.

Muabe Fidele reports.

The CSPOC is a classic meeting uniquely of Africa's topflight leaders of parliamentary institutions, members of the Commonwealth. It is this assemblage of high profile parliamentary personalities that the President's personal representative will primarily address today.

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Cameroon's House Speaker receiving some delegates at the Yaounde-Nsimalen International Airport

As President Biya's representative mounts the dais, he will certainly express his joy and the joy of his compatriots to host such a first-rate international encounter that promotes peace, harmony and close ties in the comity of nations. The Head of State's message will also be the mouthpiece of more than 26 million Cameroonians who will equally be wishing the delegates a fruitful and fulfilling stay in Came-

roon, land of promise, full of opportunities. Mr Biya, the sage of Africa, will expectedly flaunt the merits of the unalloyed relationship that exists between Cameroon and the Commonwealth and express the ardent desire that the cooperation ties deepen. The solemn opening ceremony will formally juice up the activities of the confab that had efficiently been worked on by the Coordinating Committee. The committee was set up on 3

March 2023 by the Speaker of Cameroon's National Assembly, the Right Honourable Cavaye Yeguie Djibril, Chairperson of CSPOC, Africa Region. Since then, the Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee, Honourable Mary Muyali Meboka, had masterly mobilized committee members to set the stage of an event without a hitch. « The conference will be a remarkable one », she enthused at the first preparatory meeting on 22 March 2023!

Welcome To Land Of Opportunities

The successive airport arrivals of delegates, observers, spouses and accompanying officials for the 18th Conference of the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, CSPOC, (Africa Region), will set the stage for the effective and official opening of this great event today, 18 July, at the Yaounde Conference Centre ;

Muabe Fidèle writes.

The Conference Centre that has been festooned like a bride awaiting her bridegroom, is just as ready as the people of Cameroon to warmly welcome its gallant guests to this land of promise.

Cameroon, which a prolific writer and visioner saw as « an exalted nation », is widely described as Africa in miniature. The country encapsulates all the disparate riches dispersed in va-

rious African nations. A confluence country, Cameroon, shaped like a great triangle with some 26 million inhabitants, sits on the Atlantic coast where western and central Africa meet.

The burgeoning bilingual nation beautifully blends people who were colonized into speaking French in one part and English in another. This enviable unity in diversity is experien-

ced within the more than 250 ethnic groups that have been peacefully co-existing. Our nation is made up of ten administrative Regions that cut across savannah and forest zones. It is a tourist destination par excellence. Distinguished delegates, Cameroonians peculiarly wish you :

**Welcome to Cameroon !
Bienvenue au Cameroun !**

NEWS

Looking Into CSPOC Agenda

The Deputy Speaker of Cameroon's National Assembly and Chairperson of the Organising Committee, Hon. Mary Muyali Meboka, presented the stakes of the conference in Yaounde on Friday, July 14, 2023, during a press briefing. **Nalova AKUA reports.**

Hon. Meboka was speaking at a press briefing on July 14, 2023 at Hotel des Deputes on behalf of the Rt Hon Cavaye Yeguie Djibril, Speaker of Cameroon's National Assembly and Chairperson of the CSPOC. She also disclosed the theme of the conference: *African Parliaments and Agenda 2063*. The theme is subdivided into four different topics. The first - the devastating impact of climate change, a call for more parliamentary intervention - has Cameroon as mover with Zambia as seconder. The second topic, Hon. Meboka said, has to do with the role of African parliaments in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It will be presented by Gambia while Kenya will be the seconder. Addressing the challenges of food security in Africa by promoting investments in agriculture will be the third topic of discussion, to be championed by Ghana with



The Chairperson of the Organising Committee of CSPOC, Honourable Mary Muyali Meboka, granted a press conference in Yaounde on Friday, July 14, 2023

the support of Eswatini. The fourth and last topic, the Organising Committee Chairperson said, will dwell on "securing public trust; the role of parliaments in strengthening openness, transparency, and accountability." Botswana will dissect this topic alongside South Africa. "We feel that by

discussing these topics and [taking] some resolutions, we will be able to see how to advance the Agenda 2063 for Africa," Hon. Meboka told reporters. "The Conference is a vital forum for speakers and presiding officers to build relationships with colleagues across the Commonwealth," she said.

Standing Committee Members Meet

Members of the Standing Committee of the 18th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) met in an in camera session yesterday, July 17, 2023 at the Yaounde Conference Centre. **Nalova Akua reports.**

The Chairperson of the Organising Committee, Honourable Mary Muyali Meboka, presided over the meeting on behalf of the Chairperson of the CSPOC, the Right Honourable Cavaye Yeguie Djibril. Although nothing concrete filtered from the over 15-minutes deliberations, **Daily Journal** understands members examined and adopted CSPOC's agenda proposed in November 2022. Delegates from Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Cameroon spoke during the meeting. The Standing Committee, otherwise known as the steering organ of CSPOC, comprises a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, an immediate-past



Members of the Standing Committee meeting behind closed doors

Chairperson; and four other members. These are generally representatives of the four sub regions of the Commonwealth. Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa, form the Africa Region. Members of the Standing Committee hold office for a term of two

years and on a rotational basis. The Speaker who is hosting the Conference is automatically the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, while the Speaker who is hosting the next Conference is the Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee.



PHOTO GALLERY

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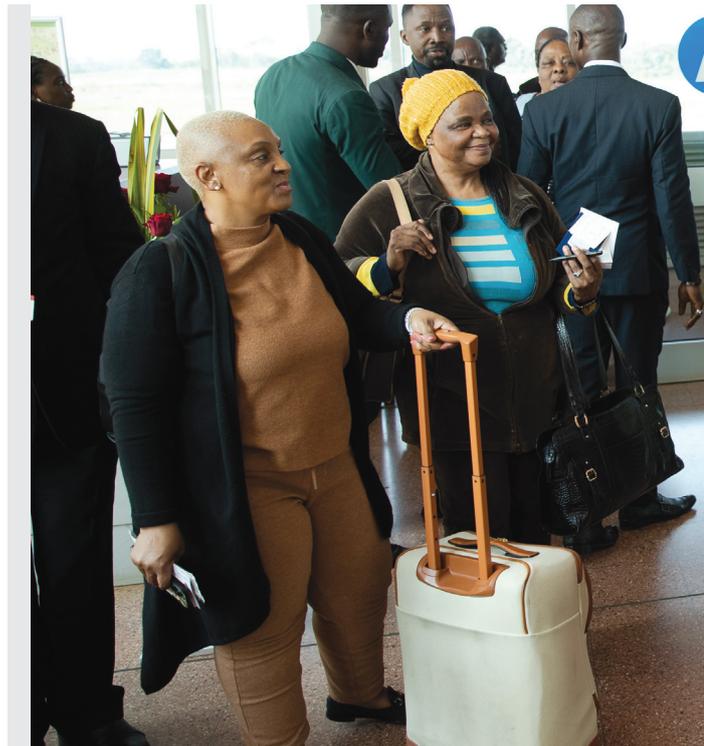




PHOTO GALLERY





SIDELINE

SIDELINE

BE BILINGUAL TODAY

1. Welcome to Cameroon ●	● Bienvenue au Cameroun
2. Good morning	● Bonjour
3. Good afternoon ●	● Bon après-midi
4. Good evening ●	● Bonsoir
5. Good night ●	● Bonne nuit
6. Thank you ●	● Merci
7. How are you (doing) today? ●	● Comment allez-vous?
8. I am doing fine, thank you ●	● Bien. Merci
9. A glass of water, please ●	● Un verre d'eau, s'il vous plait
10. A cup of tea /coffee, please ●	● Une tasse de thé/de café, s'il vous plait
11. Cameroon is a beautiful country	● Le Cameroun est un beau pays

CSPOC AFRICA REGION OFFICERS

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

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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			

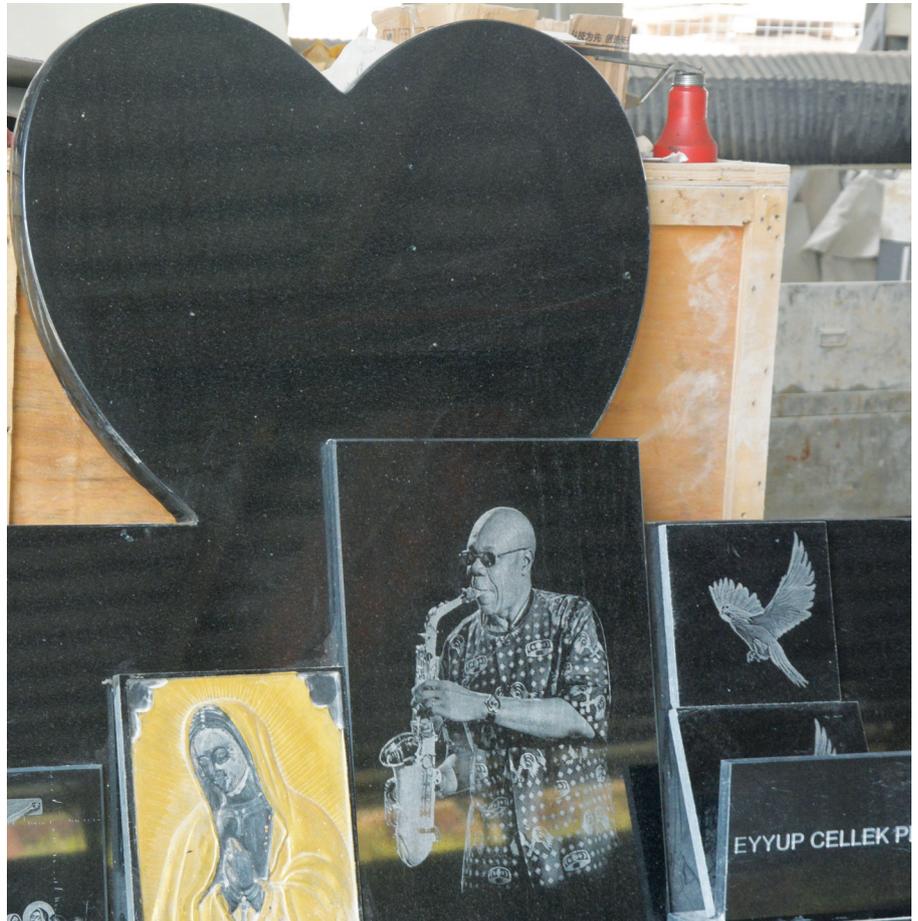
Must See Site!



View of some marbles in the production plant

Exquisite, state-of-the-art building materials made in Yaounde, Cameroon, by a Chinese company.

This company is the only one in Central Africa that cuts rocks and transforms them into marbles, tiles, paved stones, and other such materials that can stand the test of time, while still keeping their shining beauty and value. This is indeed a site worth seeing.



Some designs at the factory

Organising Committee Chairperson Loses Husband

It was a gloomy atmosphere at the residence of Hon. Mary Muyali Meboka, Deputy Speaker of Cameroon's National Assembly, and Chairperson of the Organising Committee, following the demise of her husband, 85-year-old Dr Elias Bape Meboka on the night of Friday July 14, 2023 after a protracted illness.

Nanji Pelagie reports

Despite this sad incident, Hon Mary Muyali Meboka remained visibly strong as she welcomed sympathisers from all walks of life. Hon. Njume Peter Ambang, MP for

Ekondo-titi and Dikome Balue Consistency, Ndian Division of the South West Region, who was among the visitors, eulogised the deceased:

"Dr Meboka has bowed out with honour from this sinful world to join his ancestors in the world beyond. He was one of Cameroon's finest brains of international repute. I knew him as a very soft-spoken and kind-hearted gentleman. He was one of those who opened a private clinic in Kumba (Meboka polyclinic) which became so popular due to the effective services he rendered to his clients."



Dr Elias Meboka



TODAY'S PROGRAMME

Official Opening Ceremony Yaounde Conference Centre

Tuesday, 18 July 2023

8:00 a.m - 8:30 a.m:	Arrival of the Organizing Committee
8:30 a.m - 9:00 a.m:	Arrival of the Regional Secretariat
9:00 a.m - 9:30 a.m:	Arrival of Accompanying Officials
9:30 a.m - 10:00 a.m:	Arrival of National and International Dignitaries
10:00 a.m - 10:30 a.m:	Arrival of the Speakers and Presiding Officers
05:00 pm:	Coffee Break
11:00 a.m:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival of the President of the Republic or His Representative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome by the Standing Committee of CSPOC 2023 - Procession of the Speakers into the Hall - Singing of the National Anthem - Introduction of the Countries and Speakers present • Brief musical interlude <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Address by the Yaounde City Mayor - Address by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon - Address by the President of The Senate of Cameroon - Vote of thanks from one of the Speakers • Projection of an 8-minute documentary on Cameroon, Host of CSPOC 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keynote Address by the President of the Republic of Cameroon or His Representative • End of Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group photograph - Cocktail
02:00 pm - 05:00 pm:	General Meeting Venue: Huis clos, Yaounde Conference Centre
05:00 pm:	Coffee Break
06:00 pm:	Welcome Dinner Venue: Hilton Hotel

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