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**UASC**

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN DOUALA

Dear shippers,

**T**he Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNCS) hosted the last ordinary session of the Union of African Shippers' Councils (UASC) for the 2023 financial year at the Union's headquarter in Douala. The session saw delegates from UASC member countries take stock of the activities carried out in 2023 and propose an action plan for 2024.

The CNCS, your partner, found an opportunity to organise a last training seminar at the end of the year 2023 themed «*Progress in the dematerialisation of Cameroon's customs procedures in 2023*», aimed at enabling shippers to better assimilate procedures for the issuance of the new Customs Single Exit Document (SED).

This issue of the Shippers' Newsletter also takes a look back at some social and charity activities undertaken by the CNCS, such as the distribution of end-of-year donations and other gifts to orphaned and needy children of the MEINRAD HEBGA orphanage in Douala. Thanks to the organisation of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of its Christmas programme dubbed "Christmas at the Douala Maritime Museum", the CNCS was also able to put a smile on the faces of many children during this year's festive period.

Have an enjoyable reading !

Auguste Mbappe Penda

CNCS General Manager



- UASC reviews 2023's achievements and sets action plan for 2024 ;
- CNCS organises seminar on the dematerialisation of customs procedures ;
- CNCS present at the National SME Days Trade Fair ;
- ECTN: Nigerian Shippers' Council and CNCS share experiences ;
- Kids celebrate Christmas at the Douala Maritime Museum ;
- SCA-CNCS offers gifts to orphaned children in Douala.

## UASC

### *UASC Steering Committee meets in Douala*

**The session focused on the achievements of 2023 and an action plan for 2024.**

**T**he opening ceremony of the Union of African Shippers' Councils (UASC) and Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda, the Union's Statutory Treasurer and General Manager of the CNSC. Steering Committee's ordinary session took place on 6 December 2023 at the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) in Douala, Cameroon, currently hosting the headquarter of the Union. The ceremony was attended by UASC Chairman, Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, who doubles as General Manager of the Senegalese Shippers' Council (COSEC). He was accompanied by UASC Secretary General Mr. Abbah Kafougou Abdourahamane, and Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda, the Union's Statutory Treasurer and General Manager of the CNSC. This ordinary session recorded the presence of UASC member councils from Burkina Faso, Congo, Chad, Mali, Guinea, Togo, Gabon, Senegal, Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon, the host country. Over two days, the delegates present at the meeting took stock of the 2023 financial year and laid the basis for optimal performance in 2024.



*The panel*

## Training

### *Dematerialisation of customs procedures*

**The CNSC raises awareness among shippers.**

**T**he Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), your partner, organised its last training seminar for the 2023 financial year to assess progress made so far in the dematerialisation of Cameroon's Customs procedures in 2023. The aim of the seminar was to help shippers better understand procedures for the issuance of the Customs Single Exit Document (SED). The official launch of the seminar was presided over by the General Manager of the CNSC, Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda, with some 152 participants in attendance. In his opening remarks, Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda lauded the excellent collaboration between Cameroon's Customs Department and the CNSC. Participants were called upon to make the most of the information shared by various experts in order to successfully carry out their import/export activities. Four experts were invited to deliver presentations during the seminar. Mrs. Flore Ngo Denga, Head of the CNSC Operations Unit, outlined the CNSC's contribution to the dematerialisation of procedures, while experts from the Directorate General of Customs provided explanations on customs procedures and innovations relating to the introduction of the Single Exit Document (SED). These experts included Mr. Ibrahim Mimche Ngambe, Head of the Facilitation Unit; Mrs. Hadidja Osseini, Head of the IT Development Unit; and Mr. Laurent Ngassa, Head of the Revenue Unit.



*Cross-section of participants at the seminar*

# *CNSC, Your Partner!*



## JNPME Trade show

### CNSC present at the National SME Days

**This edition focused on SME development and value chain promotion.**

At the invitation of Mr. Achille Basilekin III, Minister of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) took part as an exhibitor and expert in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the National SME Days (JNPME) organised from 12 to 13 December 2023 in Yaoundé. The theme for this year's event was «**SME Development and value chain promotion: what opportunities for the implementation of the import-substitution policy?**»

The 2023 edition of the National SME Days focused on finding efficient strategies for the successful promotion of value chains in three sub-sectors: agro-industry, timber and cotton/textile/leather. The event also sought to rally as many SMEs as possible around

the development objectives of these sectors, with a view to translating the national import-substitution policy into concrete achievements.



*Top administrative officials at CNSC's stand*

Besides the exhibition fair, where the CNSC's stand caught the interest of many visitors, conference talks were also organised. Mr. Owono Bob Philippe Olivier, CNSC Centre Regional Branch Manager and expert at the conference, highlighted the vital role information plays in the deployment of the CNSC through the construction of infrastructures, the development of trade tools and the implementation of actions aimed at improving the productivity and competitiveness of shippers and business persons. The selected theme of the trade fair aligns perfectly with the current context characterised by the implementation of AfCFTA.

## ECTN

### Experience sharing

**Nigerian Shippers' Council learns more about CNSC's ECTN issuance system.**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Mr. Akuta Pius Ukeyima, was granted audience by the General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda. The purpose of the visit was to learn from Cameroon's experience, especially the CNSC's ECTN issuance process, with a view to implementing such a trade solution in Nigeria. The meeting took place in the presence of

Messrs Elvis Donfack Tsaguim and Claude Koum, respectively Director of Operations and Projects, and Director of Information Systems at the CNSC, who both outlined the ECTN development process to their guests. It is worth recalling that the harmonisation of ECTNs in Africa is a key issue for the UASC. Many are they who seek assistance from the CNSC in this regard, given its renowned mastery of the ECTN issuance process.



*NSC CEO and CNSC GM exchanging views*



## Entertainment

### *Kids celebrate Christmas at the Douala Maritime Museum*

**Over 250 kids came out to celebrate end-of-year festivities.**

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the CNSC's Christmas at the Douala Maritime Museum holiday programme was a resounding success, as evidenced by the smiles on the faces of the over 250 kids who gathered at the Museum on 23 and 30 December 2023. The activities included guided tours of the museum's exhibitions, hands-on



*The kids pose with their gifts*

sessions at the maritime navigation simulator, the next appointment was taken for a movie for kids, clown shows, games and gifts. The General Manager was represented at these celebrations by Mr. Dippah Kayesse, Head of CNSC's Public Relations Unit, who encouraged parents to bring their kids to the Douala Maritime Museum. These two celebrations ended with the sharing of Christmas gifts and a cocktail offered by CNSC's Management. An appointment was taken for the next edition in December 2024.

## Solidarity

### *Smiles for orphaned children*

**SCA-CNSC presents gifts to orphaned children in Douala**

On Friday 8 December 2023, the Sports and Cultural Association of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (SCA-CNSC) paid a visit to the Refuge MEINRAD HEBGA orphanage for the disabled and needy, located at PK 11 in Douala. The SCA-CNSC presented a variety of gifts to the orphaned children as part of its



*Donations to the orphanage*

«Christmas tree for all the kids, 2023 edition». This initiative is fully supported by CNSC's Management and takes place every year, giving these children the opportunity to enjoy end-of-year festivities. The kids received food, didactic materials, basic necessities and gifts for Christmas.

## The Shippers' Newsletter

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