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Dear shippers,

The Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**) organised a number of activities in the month of June 2024 to the benefit of business persons and small and medium-sized enterprises, notably those of the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee charged with facilitating the implementation of the AfCFTA (**African Continental Free Trade Area**) Guided Trade Initiative, chaired by the CNSC. The Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee convened a meeting of its members to review its activities, progress and challenges since the start of the year 2024.

As far as progress is concerned, the Sub-Committee is preparing for Cameroon's first containerised export under AfCFTA to Algeria consisting of four 20-foot containers of aluminium produced by ALUCAM.

On the cooperation front, the CNSC welcomed a delegation from the Chadian Shippers' Council which came to learn from CNSC's experience in providing assistance to shippers and facilitating foreign trade operations.

Lastly, this month's publication reports on the CNSC's celebration of the Feast of Tabaski, organised at the Dibamba Trucker Accommodation Centre with road transport stakeholders and in accordance with the precepts of the muslim faith.

Have an enjoyable reading!

Auguste Mbappe Penda

CNSC General Manager

UASC

AFRICAN SHIPPERS' COUNCILS MEET IN DOUALA



● **UASC and African Shippers' Councils discuss recurrent price hikes**

● **AfCFTA: First containerised exports underway**

● **A delegation of African experts on a working visit to the CNSC and the Cameroon-Gabon-Togo CWEIC HUB**

● **Feast of Tabaski celebrated at the CNSC Dibamba Trucker Facility**

Sea freight in Africa

UASC and African Shippers' Councils discuss recurrent price hikes.

The Governor of the Littoral Region, **Mr. Samuel Ivaha Diboua**, presided over the opening ceremony of the seminar organised by the Union of African Shippers' Councils (**UASC**) from 4 to 6 June 2024 at the Douala Maritime Museum. Discussions at the seminar focused on issues relating to maritime freight rates as evoked by the seminar's central theme, **«The challenges of international maritime freight for African shippers»**. In addition to the speech by the Governor of the Littoral Region, participants also listened to other speeches by UASC's Secretary General, **Mr. Abba Kafougou**, and **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, General Manager of

the CNSC and UASC Statutory Treasurer. These two speakers called for a reduction in freight rates to enable Africa to effectively participate in global trade. This was identified by CNSC's General Manager as an important step in the fight against rising living costs in African countries. Fourteen (14) UASC member states from West and Central Africa took part in the seminar. Over three days, participants examined the factors behind the steady increase in the cost of transporting goods by sea in Africa. Together, they defined strategies for negotiating sea freight. Other solutions proposed by participants included the professionalisation of sector players and the strengthening of the competitiveness of Africa's ports. Participants left the seminar well informed about developments in international regulations governing the carriage of goods by sea, as well as the issues at stake and the persistent tussle between shipowners and shippers.



AfCFTA

Delivering concrete results

First containerised export underway.



Working session

The General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council, who doubles as Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee charged with monitoring and implementing the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative in Cameroon, **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, presided over a working session that mainly focused on Cameroon's first containerised export under the AfCFTA preferential regime. This working session was an opportunity for the sub-committee to carry out a mid-year assessment of its activities since the start of the year 2024. It emerged that some companies which took part in the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) in November 2023 are envisaging exports to different countries on the African continent. One of them is ALUCAM, which has received a letter of credit for 4 containers of aluminium destined for Algeria. Another example is Laboratoires Roger Ducos, whose products will soon be received in Gabon and Mali. Note that the Sub-Committee's mission is to help Cameroonian shippers take full advantage of this preferential regime to trade across the continent, with a 90% reduction in tariff lines. The very first symbolic exports of dried tea and safflower were made through the Douala International Airport to Accra-Ghana in October 2022.

Cooperation

Intra-African trade

African experts on a working visit to the CNSC and the Cameroon-Gabon-Togo CWEIC HUB.



Group picture

On 21 June 2024, the General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**), **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, welcomed a powerful delegation of 23 experts from Regional Economic Commissions (**RECs**), the African Development Bank (**AfDB**), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**), academia, civil society and the private sector on a working visit in Cameroon. Discussions essentially revolved around Cameroon's potential to benefit from regional value chains in the pharmaceutical, textile and automotive industries. This initiative was prompted by the due consideration of Cameroon's rich soil and the value of these products on the international market. The goal is to improve intra-African trade by eliminating any obstacles to a smooth integration process. Hosting the delegation from ECA, **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, who doubles as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee charged with the monitoring and implementation of the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative, underscored Cameroon's leading role in promoting the implementation of the AfCFTA through sub-regional integration and intra-African trade in Central Africa. **«Cameroon was one of the first eight countries to ratify the AfCFTA Agreement and has already carried out its first imports and exports. Our ultimate goal is to improve intra-African trade»**, he pointed out to his audience. In response, the delegation of international experts encouraged the CNSC to continue the training workshops regularly organised for shippers, and above all to encourage businesses of the private sector to consider investing in wood and cotton processing. These products have a consumer market of one billion three hundred million people on the African continent.

Celebration

Tabaski celebrated at the CNSC Dibamba Trucker Facility

CNSC's General Manager communes with road transporters.

The General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, joined the Muslim community to celebrate the Feast of Tabaski with truck drivers transporting goods via the Douala-Bangui and Douala-Ndjamena road corridors. This was on 17 June 2024 at the eatery of the CNSC Dibamba Trucker Accommodation Centre. Amongst the prominent invitees to this celebration were **Mr. Ibrahima Yaya**, National President of the Cameroon Road Transporters Union (GTTC), and some collaborators of the General Manager. As required by the Muslim religion, the General Manager joined the Muslim faithful for a prayer session at the newly renovated mosque of the Dibamba trucker facility before the family meal. Two sheep were offered on this festive occasion, and all the guests were invited to share a common meal at the eatery of the facility. **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, General Manager of the CNSC, voiced his solidarity with the Muslim community during this festive period and reaffirmed his determination to facilitate the transportation of goods along Cameroon's road corridors. The celebration of this feast at the CNSC Dibamba trucker facility was an opportunity for CNSC's General Manager to underscore the relevance of the concept «**accommodation centre**»; a place where people can meet, share and live together as a community.



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