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PROMOTE 2024

CNSC raises awareness among SMEs

Dear shippers,

February was a busy month for the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), as we took an active part in the 2024 edition of the International Exhibition for Enterprises, SMEs, and Partnerships (PROMOTE) in Yaoundé, organised under the unifying theme: **«Private sector, evolution and structural transformation of Africa's economies»**. CNSC's stand at the fair hosted a series of thematic workshops for SMEs and business persons. Exhibitors and visiting participants engaged in discussions which centred on a number of issues relating to Cameroon's foreign trade and cargo transport.

This edition also reports on new measures to dematerialise customs procedures in the CAMCIS system and their impact on cargo transit times and transportation costs. Other events such as the meeting convened by the CNSC to address land freight issues raised by shippers and Licensed Customs Brokers will also be highlighted in this edition. Our international cooperation ties were further enhanced by the visit of the Bangladeshi Ambassador to Cameroon.

The month of February was also a very sad month for the CNSC, as two of its employees, Mrs Ndah Hortensia Forbang (**Finance Inspector and Accounting Officer at the CNSC**) and Mr. MANGA Edwin AZANA, her driver, were lost to the cold hands to death on Monday 19 February 2024 following a ghastly road accident along the Douala-Yaoundé highway. May their souls rest in peace!

Have an enjoyable reading!

Auguste Mbappe Penda

CNSC General Manager



CNSC raises awareness among SMEs at Promote ;

Impact of the 2024 Finance Law on the dematerialization of procedures ;

Bangladeshi High Commissioner visits the CNSC ;

Land freight consultation meeting at the CNSC ;

The CNSC raises awareness among SMEs.

CNSC stood out by organising thematic workshop days.

The Cameroon National Council of Shippers (CNSC) took part in the 9th edition of the International Exhibition for Enterprises, SMEs, and Partnerships (PROMOTE), which brought together nearly 1,000 exhibitors at the Yaoundé Conference Centre from 17 to 25 February 2024 on the theme: **«Private sector, evolution and structural transformation of Africa's economies»**. CNSC's delegation to the fair was headed by its Deputy General Manager, Mr. Younouss Soungui. For this edition, the CNSC chose to organise awareness-raising sessions for SMEs at its exhibition stand. The first thematic workshop day, led by Mr. Cham Etienne Bama, Technical Adviser No. 1 at the CNSC and Country Director of the CWEIC-HUB for Cameroon, Gabon and Togo, dwelled on two themes: **«Business opportunities for Cameroonian Companies under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement and Contributions of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) Hub towards the promotion of international trade in Cameroon, Gabon and Togo»**. Day 2 was coordinated by Mrs. Claire Takouchop, CNSC Director for Shippers'

Assistance and featured three (03) themes, including: **«how to export under African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)»**, CNSC support measures for exporters, and the importance of packaging in international trade. The theme for Day 3 was presented by Mrs. Rahimatou Bello, CNSC Deputy Director of Operations, and focused on **«The importance of the ECTN in cargo transit procedures»**. The fourth and last thematic workshop day was Friday, 23 February 2024, and the theme of the day centred on **«Contributions by the CNSC towards the promotion of Cameroon's foreign trade»**. This session was led by Mrs. Aicha Maliki, CNSC Deputy Director for Trade Facilitation. All of these workshops were conducted in the form of fireside chats. The many participants who turned out thanked the CNSC for these awareness-raising sessions, packed with valuable information that would help them in their foreign trade operations. Some SME promoters present at CNSC's stand took the opportunity to present their Made in Cameroon products, and share some of their difficulties hoping to get some form of assistance from the CNSC.

Photo-reportage on Promote 2024



2024 Finance Law

Dematerialisation of procedures.

These reforms will significantly reduce the number of required documents and processing time.

FINANCE LAW No 55-23 FOR THE 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR

Extract of the 2024 Finance Law

The Directorate General of Customs (DGD) has for several months now initiated a series of major reforms aimed at accelerating the dematerialisation of customs procedures, with a view to reducing cargo dwell times at Cameroon's ports, while at the same time securing customs revenues. These new reforms include:

1-The dematerialisation of the filing and payment of registration and stamp duties on the sale of used vehicles: In Ministerial Order No.0001/MINFI/DGI/DEPRF of 2 January 2024, the Minister of Finance informed taxpayers that registration and stamp duties on the transfer of used vehicles would henceforth be filed and paid at the same time as customs duties and taxes through the Customs Assessment Bulletin (BLD) in the Cameroon Custom Information System (CAMCIS). This implies the Customs Department will automatically calculate customs duties and applicable taxes at a rate of 5% using the formula: Taxable Value + Taxable Customs Duties. This will significantly reduce the number of documents required and the time taken to process them.

2-The filing and payment of VAT on Customs Brokers Fees in the CAMCIS system: This reform stems from the desire to secure State revenue, given that VAT is deductible on any fees paid for services provided by Licensed Customs Brokers. It cannot therefore be construed as a tax increase for shippers.

3-The Single Exit Document (DUS): The Single Exit Document (DUS) serves both as the customs duty payment receipt and the Release Order as enshrined in paragraph 16 of Circular Letter No.00114/MINFI/DGD/DGFTCFM relating to electronic payment modalities; the issuance of payment receipts; the calculation and payment of customs duties and taxes enforced since 2 October 2023 by Release N°0834/MINFI/DGD of 9 August 2023. All these measures will help to facilitate trade by streamlining customs procedures in Cameroon. (Source: Extract from the 2024 Finance Law)

Cooperation

Bangladeshi High Commissioner visits the CNSC

The working visit ended with a tour of the CWEIC Hub for Cameroon, Gabon and Togo.



Working session with Bangladeshi High Commissioner

On 14 February 2024, the General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC), Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda, who doubles as Chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council Hub (CWEIC HUB) for Cameroon, Gabon and Togo, granted audience to H.E. Muhammad Zulgar Nain, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Cameroon. This was within the framework of a working visit to the CNSC and the Cameroon-Gabon-Togo CWEIC HUB, which sought to explore avenues of cooperation between Bangladeshi businessmen and their Cameroonian counterparts. While highlighting key sectors in which Bangladesh hopes to invest such as energy, agriculture and health, the Bangladeshi High Commissioner also identified some sectors like timber, cotton, iron, maize and palm oil, where cooperation already exists. It is noteworthy that this working visit comes on the heels of the Bangladesh Economic Forum organised in Dhaka on 13 and 14 September 2023 which was attended by Bangladeshi Prime Minister H.E. SHEIKH HASINA, and a strong delegation from Cameroon that included CNSC's General Manager, Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda. The last day of the economic forum in Dhaka was dedicated to showcasing Cameroon as an attractive investment destination.

Land freight

Consultation meeting at the CNSC.

Tension over suspected irregularities lead to adoption of appeasement recommendations.

On 7 February 2024, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**) convened a consultation meeting with a view to finding solutions to a number of concerns recently raised by several shippers and Licensed Customs Brokers. These shippers reported that shipping lines and stevedores operating at the Port of Douala were obliging foreign trade actors to use their road transport services for the delivery of goods imported through the Port of Douala. Some shipping lines deliberately delay the issuance of the Release Orders to penalise persons who fail to comply. These practices, which are contrary to the regulations in force, were examined at the meeting chaired by Mr Fernand Douglas Nolga, CNSC Director for Trade Facilitation and Transport Observatory and representative of



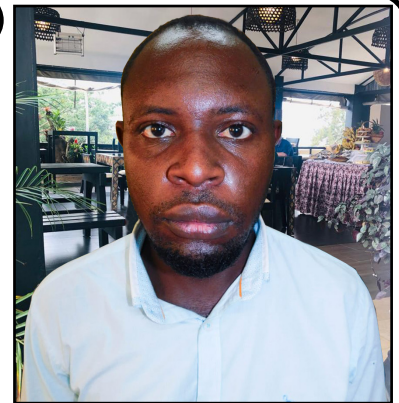
Concertation session

CNSC's General Manager who was unavoidably absent. Besides shippers and Licensed Customs Brokers, considered to be the complainants, the meeting was also attended by representatives of the Port Authority of Douala, the Cameroon Union of Shipping agents and Ship-owners (UCAM), and shipping lines serving the Port of Douala. This initiative by the CNSC was highly commended by the various stakeholders considering the recommendations adopted following their discussions. For its part, the CNSC pledged to monitor their implementation and to continue facilitating foreign trade operations throughout the transport chain in Cameroon.



The CNSC in mourning

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