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Official Visit to Cameroon of Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

Yaounde, 12 - 13 July 2018

[PRESS KIT]



Context of the visit of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to Cameroon

At the invitation of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, will pay an official visit to Cameroon from 12-13 July 2018.

This is his second visit as head of the AU Commission. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat was in Yaounde on 8-9 May 2017 to show gratitude to Cameroonian authorities in general and President Paul BIYA – whose personal involvement led to the Chadian's election to the prestigious position he occupies today. He also had an opportunity to discuss on the major challenges facing the organisation.

It should be noted that Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat is a worthy citizen of the Central African sub-region. Thus, his forthcoming visit has a diplomatic and emotional dimension.

Context

The Chairperson of the AU Commission arrives in Cameroon after the successful organisation of the 31st AU summit in Nouakchott (Mauritania).

Cameroon's foreign policy under the

leadership of President Paul BIYA is at a point of honour via the support all sub-regional and regional integration initiatives in Africa. The country supports ongoing reforms in the AU. For example, Cameroon was among the 44 African States that signed the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) at the end of the AU's extraordinary summit in Kigali on 21 March 2018. The Chairperson of the AU Commission will certainly reiterate his appreciation to President Paul BIYA, for this constant and decisive support. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat is expected to discuss on the resolutions of the summit in Nouakchott.

Issues

The Chairperson of the AU Commission will arrive in Cameroon at a moment when the country is facing the following challenges: Boko Haram threats in the Far North, the management of refugees, insecurity caused by foreign gangs in the East and Adamawa and, above all, the situation in the North-West and South-West Regions.

In general, this visit involves at least three major issues:

1. Strengthening Cameroon-African Union cooperation

Cooperation between our country and the Continental Organisation is excellent. Cameroon is a privileged partner of the AU within CEMAC. Our country is home to several specialised Pan-African institutions (social, cultural, sporting, security, economic, etc.). For example, the African Standby Force (ASF) Continental Logistics Base, which was inaugurated in Douala on 5 January 2018 on behalf of the Head of State by the Prime Minister, Head of Government. The choice of Cameroon to host this strategic structure is due to its unique position in the Gulf of Guinea as well as the enlightened leadership of President Paul BIYA who has protected Cameroon's status as a haven of peace and stability. Other structures include: the Pan African University (PAU) Rectorate, the African Union Sports Council and the African Monetary Fund, whose headquarters agreements were signed in Yaounde on 5 April 2018 between the Government and the African Union.

2. Strengthening President Paul BIYA's influence on the international stage

The visit of the Chairperson of the AU Commission to Yaounde is a perfect illustration of the fact that the influence of President Paul BIYA, remains intact on the international level. The Head of State is an African wise man, a valued leader, listened to and respected by his peers and the leaders of prestigious institutions such as the AU.

3. Activating international solidarity for the North-West and South-West Regions

As a good African, brother of the sub-regional family, the Chairperson of the AU Commission is not insensitive to what is happening in Cameroon. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat will certainly show his solidarity and that of the institution he directs to the Cameroonian people – who have been affected by the crises and its dramatic consequences. The commitment of the AU in the fight against Boko Haram is known, it is decisive. Regarding the situation in the North-West and South-West Regions, the visit of the Chairperson of the AU Commission is an opportunity to pinpoint the reality on the ground and better appreciate the efforts made by the government under the impulse of President Paul BIYA to resolve the situation. It is an opportunity to debunk misinformation on the social media by groups of terrorists, secessionists and their accomplices, reports by NGOs against the Cameroonian Government and those working in the shadows for the destabilisation of Cameroon.

It is hoped that at the end of this visit and the necessary lessons that he could draw from it, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission may galvanise the mobilisation of the international community for the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan decided by the Head of State for the North-West and South-West Regions.



Cameroon - African Union A Solid and Dynamic Cooperation

From its inception on 25 May 1963 until its last summit in 2002, relations between Cameroon and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), have been excellent.

Indeed, Cameroon is a founding member of the OAU, then of the AU. The country ran the affairs of the OAU presidency from 1969-1970 and in 1996. Two Cameroonians have served as Secretary-General of the OAU: Nzo Ekangaki (1972-1974) and William Eteki Mboumoua (1974-1978).

Cameroon has been a member of almost all the ad hoc committees of this Organisation.

Pan-African institutions in Cameroon

- The Social Sciences and Humanities governance pole of the Pan-African University located at the University of Yaounde I and the University of Yaounde II. The first academic year began in November 2012;
- The African Standby Force (ASF) Continental Logistics Base in

Douala, inaugurated on 5 January 2018 on behalf of the Head of State by the Prime Minister, Head of Government. It is an essential pillar of the African architecture of peace;

- The Pan African University (PAU) Rectorate;
- The headquarters of the African Monetary Fund;
- The Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, created in 1954;
- The African Union Sports Council created in place of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) created in 1965 and dissolved in 2013.

On 5 April 2018, Cameroon's Minister of External Relations and the African Union Commissioner in charge of Human Resources, Science and Technology, Cameroonian-born Professor Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang Agbor, signed agreements related to the Pan African University (PAU) Rectorate, the African Monetary Fund and the African Union Sports Council.

Cameroon's contribution to the functioning of the African Union

- Cameroon ratified the Constitutive Act of the AU on 9 November 2003 and the protocol of the African Parliament on 4 November 2003. This Parliament has been chaired since 28 May 2015 by a Cameroonian citizen – Honourable Roger Nkodo Dang (re-elected recently).
- Cameroon has made available to the Organisation a grant of US\$ 25,000 for the implementation of the Sirte (Libya) declaration that led to the establishment of the AU.
- In 2011, Cameroon contributed US\$ 30,000 to the AU for the implementation of the Declaration of the Yaounde International Conference “Africa 21”, held as part of the celebration of the country’s 50th anniversary of independence.
- Regarding participation in the AU budget, Cameroon was ranked as the 10th contributor with an envelope of over 1.2 million US dollars in 2010. The new nomenclature of assessed contributions drawn up in 2015 on the basis of national resources ranks Cameroon on the 12/13th spot.
- Cameroonians participate actively in the functioning of the African Union, it is very appreciable at the politico-diplomatic and administrative levels.
- Between January 2004 and January 2008, Cameroon was a member of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU). The country has held the rotational presidency of this body several times and participated in the Sudan peace mission. Cameroon was also elected to the PSC in 2012 and served for two years. Cameroon is also a member of the AU Steering Committee on NEPAD.
- The positions held by Cameroonians at the AU have increased since the election of Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat. These include Professor Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang Agbor, elected in July 2017 as Commissioner in charge of Human Resources, Science and Technology; Professor Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo (former Minister of External Relations), in charge of the ongoing reform of the African Union; Mr Theodore Njikam, appointed High Representative of ECCAS to the African Union, and Blaise Bannoun, Director of Cabinet at the office of the Vice-President of the AU Commission.
- At the level of the administration, Cameroon has reached its limit on the quota of recruitment of its nationals. The interpretation and translation poles are led by Cameroonians and unanimity is made on the good quality of their performance.

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Biography of Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

Moussa Faki Mahamat was born on 21 June 1960 in Biltine, Wadi Fira region of Chad. In 1986, he obtained a degree in Public Law at the University of N'Djamena and in 1992, a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Law at Marien Ngouabi University in Brazzaville, Congo.

Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat has had extensive experience as a public official, politician and member of the Government in his country before being elected as Chairperson of the African Union Commission on 30 January 2017.

Member of the Patriotic Salvation Movement – the ruling party, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat occupied from 1999 to 2002, the functions of Director of the Civil Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic. He was appointed in 2002, Minister of Public Works and Transport. From June 2003 to February 2005, he held the post of Prime Minister, Head of Government of Chad. He then joined the Economic, Social and Cultural Council

and became President in February 2007 – a position he held until April 2008 when he returned to the Government as Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation. He occupied this office until January 2017 when he was elected Chairperson of the AU Commission.

Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat's candidacy was backed by the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). He was elected on 30 January 2017 in the seventh round of voting in front of the Kenyan candidate, Mrs Amina Mohamed. He took over from South Africa's Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who was based in Addis Ababa, headquarters of the AU, since 2012.

Moussa Faki Mahamat speaks French, English and Arabic. He is married and has four children.