



Cyrille Nkontchou puts Private Equity in the service of education in Africa

Headquartered in Johannesburg and London, the assets management company Enko Capital Management, founded by Cameroonian financier Cyrille Nkontchou, announced on 2 March 2015 that its special fund for Africa Enko Africa Private Equity Fund (EAPEF) acquired a minority shareholding in the Zambian financial services group Madison Financial Services PLC.

Launched in June 2014, Enko African Private Equity Fund is specialised in investing in private companies which have reached a maturity level covering a large spectrum of economic sectors in Africa. A graduate of Sciences Po Paris and with a Masters obtained at Harvard in 1997, Cyrille Nkontchou and his brother, Alain Nkontchou, were among the first African to have worked in the financial market in London.

A former analyst at Andersen Consulting in France, then at Merrill Lynch in London, Cyrille Nkontchou launched in January 2014 Enko Education Investments, to improve the quality of education in Africa. *“Over 5 years, we want to invest between USD 30 million (FCfa 15 billion) and 40 million (FCfa 20 billion) in private schools to build a real group dedicated to the training of children of the African middle class”*, he confided.

In addition to Amazing Grace Private School, a South African school in which Enko Education Investments made its first investment, the education branch of Enko Capital also has in its portfolio the school group La Gaieté, well known in the Cameroonian capital. This school complex which is among the most prestigious of the country was founded by Justine Nkontchou, the mother of the founder of Enko Capital.



Ferdinand Mouko in pole position at Danone

Ferdinand Mouko is since this year the Country Manager for Danone in Côte d’Ivoire. This man in his forties, thus leads the biggest subsidiary in sub-Saharan Africa of the Danone group, the global leader of dairy products. An appointment which instantly led to his entry in the 2015 Choiseul ranking of “100 African leaders of tomorrow”, in which he holds the 99th position. Before this, the graduate of Essec Douala, the first public Business school in Cameroon, was the Country Manager for Danone in Cameroon, his country, a post he had held since 2010. Before joining Danone, the Business, Management, Marketing and Related Support services MBA holder worked for Nestlé.

Indeed, for more than 3 years, Ferdinand Mouko was the Brand Manager for the Nescafé brand at the Central and Western Africa headquarters of the Swiss food industry group. Before that, between 2008 and 2010, he was Sales Director at Nestlé Cameroon.



Idriss Nguenpnang dreams of his Tchop et Yamo as a Cameroonian Mc Donald's

"I have been asked what I would say to Bill Gates if I met him. I replied that I will make him taste our 'bean doughnut' to know his opinion of it", Idriss Nguenpnang confided to *Le Monde Afrique*. After working in France, Germany and Switzerland, this Cameroonian of 38 years went back to his country and decided to launch Tchop et Yamo (eat and enjoy in local slang, Editor's note) in June 2011.

This is a fast food chain with restaurants in Douala and Yaoundé, the two main cities in Cameroon. In these restaurants, the main menu is the beignets-haricots-bouillie (BHB – doughnut made from boiled beans), a very popular local recipe that the Tchop et Yamo shops have taken from the streets of the big cities and villages and transplanted to modern, well decorated settings with free Wi-Fi connection.

Since the opening of these restaurants, the idea has been very well received, to the point that the promoter is now dreaming of quick expansion. Indeed, Idriss Nguenpnang has the ambition of opening a new location every quarter, over a period of 8 years. Which would in total give him 32 restaurants, with each employing 20 people. A quick calculation and this means that, the expansion programme of Tchop et Yamo should general over 500 jobs during the next decade, against 70 employees currently. To make this dream a reality, the promoter of the Cameroonian McDonald's is negotiating opening his capital to the Société Africaine de Participation (SAPA), a investment company owned by the Cameroonian banking group Afriland First Bank.



Alain Nkontchou: the Pan African banker

The oldest of the Nkontchou siblings, which has 4 financiers including his sister Mireille, Alain Nkontchou was the one who passed the finance bug to his brothers William and Cyrille. With a strong experience gained over many years in the London financial world, Alain Nkontchou has been since June 2015 part of the Board of Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI), the parent company of the Pan African banking group Ecobank. At 51 years, Managing Director of Enko Capital Management LLP, an asset management company focusing on investment opportunities in Africa, headquartered in London and Johannesburg and co-founded with his Cyrille Nkontchou. Ex-Managing Director of Macro Global Trading Group at Crédit Suisse, in London, Alain Nkontchou is among the first African to have gone into the capital markets in London in the 80's. This financier who is the 2nd Cameroonian to sit on the Board of ETI after the famous André Siaka, studied electronic engineering (Université de Paris VI, Supélec and Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris), finance and accounting. He was General Manager at JP Morgan and Chase & Co, still in London. He was at the time only 30 years old.