

# Cameroon set to become Africa's mining hub after discovery of 300 new mineral deposits

By Mua Patrick Mughe  
in Yaounde

**G**overnment through the Ministry of Mines, Industries and Technological Development has taken a bold step to boost the country's mining sector.

The move will come to the fore during the forthcoming International conference on Investment on Mining and Exhibition, CIMEC 2019 which will unfold in Yaounde.

The Conference to take place at the Yaoundé conference Centre from September 2-4 will bring together professional actors of the mining sector and mining industries, officials have said.

The announcement of the international conference was the substance of a press briefing granted newsmen Tuesday in Yaounde by Mines, Industry and Technological Development minister, Gabriel Dodo Ndoke.

To unfold under the theme "New mining opportunities in Cameroon: evidence of more than 300 new anomalies and indices presented by the World Bank (PRECASEM) and the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development," the Minister told reporters the event amongst other things, seeks to attract more investors to Cameroon's mining sector.

More than one thousand exhibitors are expected to participate in the event, he disclosed.

Unveiling the two-day programme of the international get-together, the Minister said participants will be drilled by a wide range of experts unlike in the past when only government representatives, major mining companies, project managers and international consultants were involved.

He said the event will bring together specialists of the mining and quarry sector, Governments' representatives, the civil society, banks, related service companies and potential investors.

The event, he also said, will present more than three hundred new mining indices as well as stimulate dialogue between all actors of the sector.

It will also enrich, and reinforce the knowledge and experiences of these actors through discussions amongst the various national and international participants.

It will equally serve as a platform for the presentation of the new Mining Code (Law NO. 2016/017 of 14 December, 2016) which seeks to promote transparen-



*Minister Dodo (middle) flanked by secretary of state, Fuh Calistus (left) during the press briefing*

cy in the management of the mining sector and attract investors.

In an exchange with newsmen during the Yaounde press conference Tuesday, the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Mines, Industries and Technological Development, Dr Fuh Calistus Gentry said those expected at the forthcoming exhibition conference will comprise investors including explorators, exploiters, and transformation as well as operators in the industries like laboratories of analysis, drilling and extraction companies and specialist involve in training and financing.

He said the purpose of the conference will be to present to the public the results of geophysical studies carried out by World Bank (PRECASEM) for the past five years costing 34,803,000,000.

This work supported by the World Bank was carried out in seven regions in Cameroon, he added.

Results gotten from this work, Dr Calistus Gentry further stated, show that in five of the regions there are evidence of so many anomalies and indices of so many minerals like gold, zinc, nickel, cobalt, magnesium and uranium.

Though this is not the first time this conference is organised in Cameroon, this edition, the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Mines, Industries and Technological Development said, will enable the mining sector take off and enable Cameroon dominate the industry in the West and Central African region.

Speaking to the press, he said

Cameroon has all the geological potential in its subsoil to become major players in the sector in Africa.

What is known of Cameroon's geological space as of now covers only 40% of its national territory.

It is hoped that the forthcoming International Conference will attract actors in the domain to the Cameroon mining destination.

Cameroon's rich diversity in minerals is not only quantitative but also qualitative with minerals present all over the ten regions of the country.

Cameroon has made some progress in the domain of public policy.

The existence of the Mining Code including programmes like CAPAM, PRECASEM and the belonging to international regulatory instruments like the Kimberly process and Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is already having a positive effect on the sector.

The country today counts five mining companies undertaking exploration in different parts of the country.

However, most of these operators come from out of the country and most of them always to call for expertise out of the country to conduct the analysis of rocks as well as the acquisition of material.

With 60% of the territory still to be exploited, it is hoped that the conference will enable companies to come and stay to transform this potential to a real development opportunity