



MINISTÈRE DE LA COMMUNICATION
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION

ALLEGATIONS OF THE NEWSPAPER *LE MONDE* ON THE HEALTH OF THE HEAD OF STATE AND WIFE

PRESS CONFERENCE

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
ISSA TCHIROMA BAKARY
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION**

Yaoundé, 16 mars 2015

Distinguished Journalists

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are once again meeting here today in just 72 hours after our last meeting in relation to latest news for us to share on another subject of paramount importance.

Allow me therefore to wish you all a warm welcome and to thank you very much for promptly responding to the invitation I sent to you within a very short notice.

Distinguished Journalists

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

On last Friday March 13, 2015 the French newspaper Le Monde, in its online version, published an article stating that the Cameroonian Presidential couple, currently abroad for a short stay in Europe, would be facing serious health problems, which brought them to consult health specialists in Switzerland with regard to **the Head of State**, and in France with regard to the First Lady.

Caught in flagrante delicto of the wide spread of false news, the French newspaper has modified the same article three times. In the original version, they had stated that the presidential couple had left the country separately, while we all watched it on TV, how **the Head of State and Wife** were boarding their flight together on March 01, 2015, at the Yaoundé-Nsimalen International Airport.

The Cameroonian Government strongly and categorically refutes these abject and ill-fated allegations widespread by the newspaper "Le Monde".

The Cameroonian Government denounces the casualness and serious lack of professionalism showcased by this newspaper whose reputation and fame were however and until then well established.

The Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA and wife are currently in a short private stay in Europe and their state of health is in no circumstances to be worried about.

The President of the Republic and wife are doing good and fine.

The Head of State is more than ever before firmly managing the affairs of the Republic wherever he is, and all Cameroonians, investors and our partners should be rest assured.

The Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA and the First Lady will be back very soon to Cameroon after their short stay. They will continue, as usual, to manage their daily affairs and tasks.

Cameroonians are not ignorant of the open ill-fated and malicious conspiracy, underpinning these repeated attacks perpetrated against our country through the media.

But these denigrators and other prophets of doom should be aware that they will never jeopardize the determination of the Cameroonian Nation and its Leader, **His Excellency Paul BIYA**, to lead our country towards its prodigious destiny and inexorable growth.

President Paul BIYA has the habit to often assert that the natural prodigious wealth endowed to our country by nature belong to Cameroonians of all generations. He has often reiterated that he personally watches over this wealth and that he shall continue to do so.

Should this be the reason why Cameroon and its leader are victim of so great adversity and enmity from its despisers?

Is it because the **Head of State** of Cameroon has opted to jealously safeguard this national wealth that these hidden forces are stubbornly seeking to destabilise and destroy our entire nation?

Allow me to seize this unfortunate opportunity – once more at a time when our country is wrongfully attacked – to call on all Cameroonians to remain extremely vigilant against all manoeuvres to divert, distract and demobilize them, in a time when it is more than imperative to concentrate all the nation's energy and mobilize resources to definitely eradicate the Boko Harm terrorist and criminal sect in its evil and tyrannical purpose of destabilizing our country.

Allow me on behalf of the Government, to urge our populations to keep bringing their unflinching support to **the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, Commander-in-Chief of the Army**, as well as to our defence and security forces engaged in this just, legitimate and citizen-centred fight.

To you, fellow Journalists, I also call on you not to fall in the trap of all forms of manipulation to which you might be led into to serve the evil intention of some enemies of our country.

Keep giving verified and truthful information, to national and international public opinions, in the respect of the values of peace, unity, solidarity and citizenship, which characterize our nation.

Thank you very much for your kind attention