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## The Metamorphosis of the Autonomous Port of Douala

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Over the years, the modernization of the Autonomous Port of Douala has not only benefited Cameroon, but it has also affirmed its position as a crucial link for the entire Central African region



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Douala, transformed into the gateway for goods to enter and exit, plays a strategic role for landlocked states in the region, such as Chad and the Central African Republic, as well as for those without deep-water ports, such as the two Congos and Equatorial Guinea

In recent years, the port of Douala has experienced an extraordinary surge in its tax revenues, thanks to the security put in place by the company Portsec SA. There are several reasons for this exponential growth.

### A Critical Link for Central Africa

First of all, state-of-the-art control tools have been put in place. Portsec SA has introduced unique artificial intelligence tools to monitor containers, as well as scanners and weighing of trucks at the entrances and exits of the port.

Every tax payment is now paperless, eradicating petty corruption that has often plagued African countries. This measure is welcomed by port users, but denounced by corrupt individuals, whether on social networks or in some media. In addition, Portsec has erected a barrier of more than 10 km to protect the entrance to the port. Previously, anyone could enter and exit unchecked. Today, access is through biometric and secure doors. Hundreds of employees have been recruited, trained and well-compensated to ensure the security of port facilities. Not to mention the daytime, night and thermal cameras that further enhance the security of the port.

### Exponential Growth in State Revenues

In the end, the cost of the facilities and the safe construction of the port has already been recouped thanks to the improvements made: more theft, more corruption, and drastically increased revenues. This has allowed the Cameroonian government to continue the development of the country, with new roads, hospitals, and schools.

The people of Douala have directly felt the benefits of this transformation, with new employment opportunities generated by the expansion and modernization of port facilities. In addition, the resulting economic growth has helped to improve the quality of life in the city, allowing for investments in urban infrastructure, education and health services.

This step in the modernization of the port not only ensures an efficient flow of goods, but also contributes significantly to economic growth and the well-being of the population. The government's bold vision leaves a positive legacy, demonstrating that investment in security and technology can be key to a nation's sustainable progress



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