

The Coup Leader of Gabon seeks Easing of Sanctions: Visit to Congo

October 2, 2023

October 1, 2023: President General **Brice Oligui Nguema** of Gabon (from 4th Sep 2023 to present, Chairman, Committee for Transition and Restoration of Institutions from 30th Aug 2023 to 3rd Sep 2023, Head of Presidential Guard till 30th Aug 2023) visited Congo on Sunday to request for **easing of sanctions**.

Gabon's new strongman was welcomed by **Anatole Collinet Makosso**, Congo's Prime Minister upon arrival on Sunday (Oct. 1) at Ollombo international airport. Later, General **Nguema** met with President General **Denis Sassou Nguesso** (President from 8th Feb 1979 to 31st Aug 1992; from 25th Oct 1997 to present).



Gabonese Republic or Gabon

Population: 2.4 Mn, Area: 267,668 Km², GDP: \$22.2 Bn, GDP/capita: \$10,282 (75th)

Capital: Libreville, Population: 0.704 Mn

Republic of Congo or Congo-Brazzaville or Congo

Population: 5.68 Mn, Area: 342,000 Km², GDP: \$14.4 Bn, GDP per capita: \$2,945 (138th)

Capital: Brazzaville, Population: 1.93 Mn

General **Nguema** said his visit was aimed at improving the ties and easing Gabon's international isolation following the coup.

"I have come to consult, to discuss, to exchange with (the President **Nguesso**), who for us is a key in the region, who can relay to global authorities what we have done," said **General Nguema** after holding talks with Congo President **Denis Sassou Nguesso**. The talks were held near Oyo, in central Congo.

The Congo's Foreign Minister **Jean-Claude Gakosso** hailed **Nguema** as "a man of humility and reconciliation."

Gakosso said, "I think that the Gabonese should support him and aside from the Gabonese, the Congolese. Also, the Gabonese are our brothers in central Africa. **The Congo and Gabon are in reality the same country.** We have to work tirelessly, have good relations."

The Congo's Foreign Minister applauded the fact that there was no bloodshed during the change in Libreville. "We have rarely seen this, a forceful change of regime without bloodshed," he said.

Gabon was suspended from the **African Union** and the **Economic Community of Central Africa States** (ECCAS) after the military coup that happened on the 30th August 2023.

ECCAS has also ordered the immediate transfer of its headquarters from Gabon's **Libreville** to the **Equatorial Guinea capital Malabo**.

General **Brice Oligui Nguema**, 48, overthrew **Ali Bongo Ondimba**, 64, who had ruled Gabon since 2009, moments after he was proclaimed the winner in a presidential election in late August. The election result was branded a fraud by the opposition and the military coup leaders, who had also accused his regime of widespread corruption and bad governance.

The Bongo family has ruled Gabon for more than 55 years. General Nguema is also a cousin of the ousted President Ali Bongo.

The coup leaders said that the ousted President had been placed under house arrest surrounded by "family and doctors." The ousted president's son, Nouredin Bongo Valentin, was arrested alongside six others for "high

treason.”. The coup leaders said that they would permit Ali Bongo Ondimba to leave Gabon go into exile.

Under the presidency of Ali Bongo, Gabon and neighboring Congo were not on friendly terms.



Sep 4, 2023: Libreville, Gabon:

Gen Brice Oligui Nguema taking salute after taking over as the Interim President

Many in Gabon saw Ali Bongo's overthrow as an act of liberation rather than a military coup. The Gabon's family had ruled the country for nearly 56 years. Ali Bongo had come to power after the death of his father **Omar Bongo** who ruled the country for nearly 42 years.

General **Nguema** has promised to hold "free, transparent and credible elections" to restore civilian rule. www.DiGiNews360.com hopes the period of transition would be short and the power would be handed over to a civilian government after elections, as promised by General **Nguema**.

Africa has suffered 8 Military coups, including in 7 former French colonies (**Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Tunisia** and now **Gabon**) since August 2020.

By - **Abel** in **Burundi**