



GORDONSTOUN

Plus Est En Vous

HRM Senator Nfon Mukete IV Ekoko

Bruce, 1984

Recognised for his international business acumen and transformative work in modernising tribal rule in Cameroon

Nfon Ekoko Mukete IV is the traditional ruler and chieftain of the Bafaw tribe in Kumba. He is an accomplished international businessman and a senator in the Republic of Cameroon's Upper Parliament.

Born in 1965, Ekoko's father, Nfon Victor Esemingsongo Mukete, sent him to Gordonstoun for Sixth Form having been impressed at the leadership qualities his older son Godfrey developed after his time at the school. Ekoko thrived during his two years in Scotland - competing in the tennis team, playing football, belonging to the ATC and enjoying a memorable sailing trip to the Outer Hebrides.

He graduated from the University of East Anglia with a degree in Development Studies, specialising in Development Economics, before embarking on a long and varied business career - beginning in the media buying sector and expanding into multiple markets, building a raft of international contacts. His experience and success in the private sector has enabled him to open doors and provide a wealth of opportunities for Cameroonian trade and commerce.

During this time, he took on the role as Vice President at the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Crafts - a position he still holds today, as the longest serving member of the board. Raising his profile further, Ekoko was made Honorary Consul of The Republic of Türkiye To The Republic of Cameroon which resulted in invitations to join various boards, including the United Bank of Africa (UBA) where he rose to the position of Chairman of UBA Cameroon for 13 years and later Chairman of UBA Congo Brazzaville - retiring from the board when he was appointed Senator in Cameroon.

In March 2020, Ekoko's father broke with tradition and named him successor to the throne, despite being the youngest of nine sons. Today, he moves between ruling His People, honouring his diplomatic roles and advising almost a dozen companies across the country. He works tirelessly to develop a robust future for Cameroon by taking additional boardroom roles in a number of businesses which support these aims - developing new opportunities to grow the economy of not only his home country, Cameroon, but of Africa as a whole.

My father abdicated on a perfectly ordinary day in April - suddenly, I was King

Everything about the handover defied convention. Firstly, I was not the oldest son, but the youngest yet my father said that God had told him I was the one. Then he said he was feeling old and that rather than waiting for him to 'go for his walk' - our way of speaking of death - he would rather hand over and give me the privilege of his experience before he passed on. This was very unusual, and when he announced to the General Assembly of the Bafaw Tribe that I was Crown Prince, the other leaders didn't like it. They told us that only Kings sit around the table, so my father immediately took off his crown and handed it to me. I was shocked - nobody expected it.

My Christian faith was central to my father's decision - and I came to faith at Gordonstoun

Although we were raised Christians, I had my Holy Communion at the Michael Kirk where I first truly realised I was giving my life to Jesus Christ - and I've lived that way ever since. Looking back at that covenant I took at Gordonstoun, it was fundamentally the most important thing I've ever done. My father gave me a Bible when he passed the title to me and it stays on my desk, always. He told me he could see my faith gave me the ability to be kind, forgiving, open and humble - all key Christian values. He felt I would take care of the Crown.

I need to empower the next generation of Cameroonians to see the value in Africa

As a businessman, I see the opportunities we have in our land. My job is to ensure the youth in my country - and by extension, the youth in Africa - feel they have a part to play in building the future. My father's abdication demonstrated that the next generation can be the leaders of today, not just tomorrow and I am working to continue to modernise our country and motivate its people. Personally, I've been so blessed! I have had a Gordonstoun education, I have travelled the world, so I ask myself: what can I do with this privilege to benefit my own continent?

I can't make change on my own but I can bring a broader mindset to the young Africans who will run this continent in the future. There is too much empty talk among the politicians of this world, and too many are not prepared to handle the hard things. I must lead by being honest, honourable and demonstrating good governance and we must not only develop our continent economically but also protect it environmentally. And the real power is in the youth, and the future is theirs.

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