

Nigeria, Cameroon to begin construction of link road in June



Published 5/22/2010 3:18:00 AM

<http://www.punchng.com/Article2Print.aspx?theartic=Art201005223195775>

Agency reporter

Nigerian and Cameroonian authorities have agreed that the ceremony to herald the beginning of the construction of a multi-billion naira road that will link the two countries will hold on June 17.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the Nigeria High Commissioner to Cameroon, Mr Philip Dauda, said that the formal commencement of the construction of the road would be witnessed by top dignitaries from both countries.

Dauda disclosed this on Thursday in Yaounde, at the sideline of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Cameroon, attended by President Goodluck Jonathan.

Other dignitaries that accompanied Jonathan were the Adamawa State Governor, Murtala Nyako; Foreign Affairs Minister, Odein Ajumogobia; and Minister of Special Duties, Caleb Olubolade.

The road, to be financed by the African Development Bank, will link the South East of Nigeria with the Southern Cameroon.

"The distance will cover Enugu to Abakaliki, crossing the border up to Mutengene in Cameroon. The ceremony would have taken place before now but for the fact that the two countries wanted the event to be celebrated at the highest level," Dauda said.

The envoy noted that apart from easy access and a boost to the economy of both countries, the road would also serve as a confidence building measure.

He said the relation between Nigeria and Cameroon could be best described as that of "a family living across border."

Both countries contested ownership of the oil-rich Bakassi Peninsula and the International Court of Justice at The Hague decided it in favour of Cameroon.

Nigeria, in obedience to the judgment, ceded Bakassi to Cameroon.