

“OUR STRUGGLE: TO INDUSTRIALIZE, PROMOTE NATIONAL ENTERPRISE, AND TRAIN FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY”

In an interview granted exclusively to African markets, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo freely shared his vision of Africa and of the world. He address his term at the head of the African Union, the position of his country in Central Africa, relations with Spain, the world economic crisis and, of course, the 2012 Africa Nations Cup.



Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea, talking freely to us during our meeting in Mongomo.

African Markets : *In your capacity as acting president of the African Union since February 2011, what satisfaction have you derived from this presidency? What imprint do you expect to leave on the leadership of the African Union if you step down from your duties in January of 2012?*

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo: I must tell you the truth: it is more a disappointment than a source of satisfaction. I cannot agree with, nor am I satisfied with what I have been able to accomplish during the year I've held this position, because I have experienced certain injustices that the African continent suffers at the hands of the great powers who claim to dominate the world. Let us speak plainly, the world looks upon Africa as an object, it does not do justice to Africa. That's the reality. Let's take the example of the European Union, which has called upon countries to sign the convention for the International Criminal Court (ICC). I have personally refused for obvious reasons. Why call only upon the countries of Africa, why not call upon all other countries? Do you think that is doing justice? Quite the contrary, to me, it is a humiliation for Africans. In the case of Ivory Coast, they should have had the two opposing sides, of Laurent Gbagbo and Alassane Ouattara, appear before the ICC so that a proper and equitable justice could be rendered, and not so that justice could be done on the back of the "loser." Let's speak just as loudly about the kind of irregularities and injustices that we have encountered during this presidency. For example, in the case of Libya, a humanitarian intervention was requested ▶ (See p. 8)

BICS&PARTNERS - Yuri Trovada