

VIP UPF delegation meets with the Prime Minister of Togo in Lome

Paterne Zinsou
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Left to right: Rev. Adama Doumbia, Dr. Agbeyome Messan Kodjo, an ex-prime minister of Togo; Dr. Walsh, Komi Sélom Klassou, the prime minister; the writer, Rev. Paterne Zinsou; the prime minister; the writer, Dr. Paterne Zinsou; and the director of the PM's cabinet.

After going to Niger, the UPF delegation went to Abidjan and took the flight to Lomé, Togo, on June 17. Togo is a nation of eight million people situated between Benin and Ghana. In terms of total area, Togo is nearly identical with Europe's Croatia but Togo has nearly twice Croatia's population. Togo is small but in terms of population density ranks tenth among African nations or twelfth if you include Mayotte and Réunion, both legally regions of France on the African continent.

At our arrival in Togo, the UPF delegation comprised Dr. Thomas Walsh, chairman of UPF International, Adama Doumbia, regional UPF secretary general for Africa and me. The meeting with the president, Faure Gnassingbé, scheduled for June 18 could not take place because, according to the information we received, Togo's president could not make himself available. We focused our hope for this meeting on the following day, the date of departure for the UPF delegation.

The following day however, President Gnassingbé was still busy, and he instructed that the prime minister receive the delegation from UPF. Thus, the prime minister of Togo, Komi Selom Klassou (2015–present), received the UPF delegation led by Dr. Thomas Walsh on June 19 at 11:00 am, shortly before we needed to leave for the airport. Dr. Agbeyome Messan Kodjo, prime minister of Togo (2000–2002) was also present during this meeting, which given our need to be at the airport lasted around twenty minutes. In that time, Dr. Walsh delivered a presentation on the contents of the Heavenly Africa Package, after which Prime Minister Klassou agreed to work with UPF in carrying out these projects. He expressed his respect for South Korean initiatives before mentioning the cooperative ties established a few weeks ago between the Korean *Saemaul Undong* Foundation and the government of the Republic of Korea.

We gave him the documents related to the Memorandum of Understanding, stating that it was an administrative prerequisite in order to substantiate the principle of cooperation reached with President Gnassingbé. The prime minister promised to go through and study the projects for a Heavenly Africa that had been sent to him in order to make the appropriate arrangements for signing the MOU. Following the meeting, the Togolese press interviewed Dr. Thomas Walsh.