

BIOGRAPHY

Involved! That's the best word to portray Bruno Ben Moubamba's personality. He is the current spokesperson for the Free Actors of Gabonese Civil Society and he is running for the office of presidency.

Bruno Ben Moubamaba is a 42 year old father of three children and actions to help other people have left their mark on his life.

It is because he likes being present for others that after receiving his high school diploma in 1987 in Libreville, he decided to study philosophy, then communication, and to finish he obtained a doctorate in Political Sciences. Now, he is finishing this doctorate in Paris, at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales, EHESS.

After his studies in communications, Bruno Ben Moubamba made a humanitarian mission in 1992 in Bosnie-Herzégovine during the civil war. Then he started a career in journalism.

Bruno Ben Moubamba was not only a brilliant student and an appreciated journalist on Soleil Radio, Radio Sainte Marie (this radio was created by him in 1999 in Libreville), on television with KTO and Omega TV, he was also a man of action and a man of conviction.

First, he has strong religious convictions. He is Catholic, and has held many discussions with Gabonese Episcopal authorities and with the Vatican (he wrote a letter to Pope Benedict XVI after his visit in Africa last march). That is why he pays attention to issues of poverty, human dignity and the respect of the others. In his view, being Christian means also defending an open, tolerant and generous society in which everyone has a place.

Secondly, he has strong political convictions. He has read the works of many famous philosophers and met many people in Gabon. He often says that "*each meeting is a source of wealth, it is from them that action starts*". From these meetings, he has become convinced that it is a pressing necessity for all politicians to work to preserve peace and international balance, as well as to pay more attention to questions of health, employment, housing and access to education. Finally, and he considers this essential, a politician must promote the family, which is the necessary basic structure for society.

Bruno Ben Moubamba's political gift is listening – and reflection before action. This is what makes it possible for him to produce results that match what people need.. It is this methodical commitment that has made him a popular and appreciated member of international meetings and organisations. He was recently decorated, last June, with the Médaille d'or de l'étoile européenne du dévouement civil et militaire. It is the best illustration of his commitment.

Bruno Ben Moubamba wants to orientate his actions in line with his convictions. To this end, he defends his convictions as the spokesperson for the Free Actors of the Gabonese Civil Society.

For any politician, defending his conviction is not easy and it is the same for Bruno Ben Moubamba. However, the difficulties he met and overcame have enabled him to acquire, not a firmness – this is something he already had - but determination and unprecedented experience for man his age.

However, Bruno Ben Moubamba is not satisfied with only having convictions. He is also a man of action who likes to help, serve and create.

This he proved it when he saved, Sindara which is one of the most important Catholic sites in the rain forest, 6 hours by car from Libreville.

It is thanks to Bruno Ben Moubamba that in 1999, an association called Edith Stein (a German nun who was a philosopher and theologian. She died in 1942 at Auschwitz, and has been since beatified, then named co-patron saint of Europe by Pope John-Paul II) adopted the objective of bringing back to life Our Lady of the Three Ears in the Equator, a sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary which exists since the last century and was abandoned 20 years ago.

Over the last 10 years, thanks to the hard and methodical work of Gabonese volunteers and the association members, Sindara is little by little becoming once again a space of mediation, training, research, culture and agricultural activities. A primary school, a boarding school, some classes of junior high school in 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, have reopened. A free health clinic has been created and cures injuries, pains, temperature, malaria, measles and bites. Sindara is now a place which helps rural populations and is a sign of peace between ethnic groups and cultures.

This successful rehabilitation is due to the hard work of international and local volunteers, and also thanks to Bruno Ben Moubamba's daring and visionary character. He knew how to tackle with pragmatism the question of rural development. He knew how to bring about change without adventure and invention without breakage. Sindara's story tells us what Gabon can be and has to become.

Bruno Ben Moubamba defends and promotes this vision of Gabon and of the African continent with energy and talent during his lectures, often given within the framework of his activities as director of the department Part' Africa in the IRIMEP (Institute of International Research for an Economic and Politic Mediation), during his speeches, during symposiums like the last one which took place in Reims (France) last April, and which was about "a new partnership between Europe and Africa", and in his books (he contributed to the Vincent Aucante's book entitled "Sub-Saharan Africa, and Globalization").

Bruno Ben Moubamba does not look like a traditional politician. His personal life, from journalist to spokesperson for Free Actors of Gabonese Civil Society, through his voluntary work for the poorest, his bold humanitarian actions, his way of thinking without any taboos, his vision on Africa, his economic realism, his social convictions, all of this speaks for him, while Gabon has finally the opportunity to change the curse of its fate.