

The Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Philemon YANG, this Thursday 30 March 2017, chaired an important Cabinet Meeting at 9 a.m. at the Prime Minister's Office.

Besides his close aides, the meeting was attended by the Vice Prime Minister, Ministers of State, Ministers, Ministers Delegate and Secretaries of State.

The following points featured on the agenda:

1. a statement on "*innovations induced by the reform of Cameroon's Penal Code*", presented by the Minister of State, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals;
2. a statement on "*the Rural Electrification Master Plan in Cameroon*", presented by the Minister for Water Resources and Energy;
3. a report on "*the implementation of the reform on the management of State personnel through SIGIPES*", presented by the Minister for the Public Service and Administrative Reform.

Following the introductory statement of the Head of Government, the Minister of State, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals, presented major innovations of the Penal Code, contained in Law No. 2016/7 and Decree No. 2016/319 of 12 July 2016. The Minister of Justice indicated that these innovations include Volume I on general criminal law, which introduces alternative sanctions and criminal liability of legal persons. Regarding alternative sanctions, they are decided as alternatives to short-term prison sentences of less than two years. This concern community service, punishment and redress, the application of which will eventually contribute to reduce the number of inmates. As for the criminal liability of legal persons, it relates to offences committed for the benefit of the said entities by their organs or representatives. The major penalties incurred, namely the dissolution, close-down of the establishment and a fine, coexist with accessory penalties.

Concerning Volume II of the Penal Code on special criminal law, the Keeper of the Seals indicated that innovations in this Volume partly concern the protection of women, the family and children, through the criminalization of genital mutilation, sexual harassment and the prevention of the right to education. These innovations also concern the improvement of social life to promote the criminal protection of all victims who denounce corruption acts to judicial authorities, the suppression of ritual crimes, insider offences, the refusal to execute final court decisions, rental frauds and the illegal sale of medication. Moreover, this legislative innovation also included the reformulation of certain articles, such as the encroachment of some judicial authorities on certain immunities.

The Minister for Water Resources and Energy was the second to take the floor. He presented the Rural Electrification Master Plan (PDER) in Cameroon, which was elaborated following a participatory approach based on strategic guidelines of the State. He noted that the rate of electrification presents substantial disparities between urban and rural zones. He underscored that the objectives of PDER include, among others; (i) enabling almost all Cameroonians to access the electricity network; (ii) optimizing renewable resources to provide electricity to remote zones of the electricity network; (iii) promoting the development of productive sectors .

Broken down in four phases, with each lasting five years, PDER is planning, the electrification of the 10,000 localities that do not yet have access to electricity, by 2035. In this regard, there are plans to carry out 50,000 connections per year in rural areas over a period of 20 years, that is, a total of one million connections, at an estimated total cost of CFAF 805 billion. The Minister of Water Resources and Energy concluded his statement by taking stock of the preconditions to be put in place for the success of this ambitious project.

The last statement was the report by the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform on the implementation of the second generation of the Computerized System for the Integrated Management of State Personnel and Payroll (SIGIPES II). First of all, he recalled that SIGIPES II represents a genuine technological leap in quality, in that it is a unique application that will enable integrated management of the career and salaries of State personnel. The process of acquiring this computerized solution is carried out under a contract signed in October 2013, with financial support from the European Union. To date, a hardware and software platform has been acquired and configured, and then installed at the National Centre for Computer Development (CENADI) where special arrangements have been made. Moreover, the process of harmonizing State employee data is underway, before their introduction in the new application.

Furthermore, the Minister of Public Service indicated that the final reception of this application planned for December 2016 is still awaited, due in particular to the non-respect of some contractual obligations incumbent on the selected service provider. He called for corrective measures to deliver all expected deliverables, namely (i) installation and commissioning of all components of the software; (ii) the migration of data and the operation of the new system by all beneficiary administrations; (iii) training users, and skills transfer; (iv) interfacing the new application with all applications available in the Cameroonian administration.

Following the discussions after these statements, the Prime Minister instructed the Minister of Justice to proceed with the drafting of special legislation concerning certain provisions not included in the Penal Code because of their diversity or their specificity. He instructed the Minister of Water Resources and Energy and the Minister of the Economy, to proceed with the maturation of the Rural Electrification Master Plan and the projects resulting from it, with the aim of refining its cost and specifying the localities concerned. Finally, the Head of Government ordered the finalization of the audit of SIGIPES II and the implementation of measures to remedy, within the shortest possible time, the shortcomings noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m., after examining issues related to Government work.-

Yaounde, _____

Séraphin Magloire FOU DA

**SECRETARY GENERAL,
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**