

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
*Paix-Travail-Patrie*

SERVICES DU PREMIER MINISTRE  
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SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
Peace-Work-Fatherland

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
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SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
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**PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING NATIONAL  
DECENTRALIZATION BOARD OF TUESDAY 7 MAY 2024**

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*Yaounde, 7 May 2024*

**The Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Joseph Dion Ngute, Chairperson of the National Decentralization Board** this Tuesday 7 May 2024, at 10 a.m., presided over an extraordinary session for the year 2024 in the Auditorium of the Prime Minister's Office. The session was attended by his close aides, Members of Government, Members of Parliament, representatives of the Economic and Social Council, representatives of Regional and Local Authorities, as well as those from civil society.

The meeting's agenda focused primarily on reviewing *the Methodology Document for calculating Cameroon's Local Development Index (LDI) and the Report on the Local Development Index calculation test conducted on a sample of forty councils*.

In addition to the **Prime Minister's** opening statement, the Board listened to presentations from the members of the ad hoc committee tasked with updating and producing the LDI. They presented the committee's methodological approach, the methodology for calculating the LDI, and the preliminary results of calculating the LDI on the selected sample.

In his opening remarks, the **Prime Minister** emphasized the significance of constructing Cameroon's LDI within the framework of expediting and enhancing the decentralization process mandated by the **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**. In fact, the LDI will serve as a tool for impartially evaluating the development status of regional and local authorities, prioritizing interventions on their behalf through rational resource allocation. It will also foster local governance.

**Regarding the methodological approach of the ad hoc committee, the Chairperson** who doubles as the **Permanent Secretary of the National Decentralization Board** provided a brief overview of the background, highlighting that the State initiated the LDI construction process to facilitate the efficient and equitable distribution of human, material, and financial resources to Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs).

In the committee's efforts, a scientific and participatory approach was favored, notably through the comprehensive involvement of various stakeholders. Thus far, the committee has selected relevant areas and indicators for calculating the LDI, prioritized them, and developed the formula for calculating the index.

A pilot survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics among a representative sample of 40 councils in the ten regions achieved several objectives. It allowed for the (i) measurement of selected indicators, (ii) gathered the opinions of local elected representatives and experts on the weighting of selected areas and indicators, and ultimately (iii) chose the most robust formula for calculating the LDI.

The **methodology used to calculate the LDI** was based on a comprehensive review of scientific and technical literature, considering current regulations and international standards. The committee capitalized on its methodological approach and critically reviewed the LDI Document validated in 2018. Furthermore, the committee conducted a comparative analysis with similar indices existing at the international level or in other African countries.

Regarding the **preliminary results of calculating the LDI on a sample of 40 councils**, the Committee's Vice-Chair highlighted that after the pre-selection of 123 indicators by multisectoral experts, grouped into 16 areas of local development, and the quality analysis and prioritization of this data, the final adoption of *27 indicators divided into 6 areas—economic action, infrastructure and the living environment, public health, social action, education, and local governance—was achieved*.

Also, the adopted LDI calculation formula, after robustness and sensitivity tests, corresponds to the simple arithmetic mean of the sub-indices for the 6 areas. The sub-index for each area is a weighted arithmetic mean of its indicators.

The results of the LDI calculation on the test sample indicate an overall LDI value of 0.626, equivalent to a score of 12.52 out of 20, slightly above average. The sub-indices for Population Health, Social Action, and Local Governance are the highest, with scores of 16.6, 13.72, and 12.96 out of 20, respectively. In contrast, the Infrastructure and Living Environment sub-index is the least developed, with a score of 6.78 out of 20.

Ultimately, the practical value of the LDI lies in fact that it is an instrument likely to determine the key for multi-sector allocations, transferred taxation, and subsidies. It also serves as a mechanism for identifying councils that are likely to benefit from specific state interventions.

At the end of the discussions following the various presentations, the **Prime Minister, Head of Government**, instructed:

- *the Chairperson of the ad hoc committee* to continue the work of this body according to the agreed timetable;
- *the Minister of Finance* to disburse, without delay, the financial resources necessary for the ad hoc Committee to complete its work diligently;
- *MINAT and MINDDEVEL* to take all necessary measures to ensure that administrative and local authorities facilitate the work of the collection teams on the field when the time comes.

Finally, he requested all relevant **line administrations** and **municipal executives** to ensure that the data required for the major survey is updated and made available.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am with various issues relating to the decentralization process.

Yaounde, the 07 MAI 2024

**FOUDA Séraphin Magloire**  
**SECRETARY GENERAL,**  
**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

