

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND

**GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2017 FINANCIAL YEAR**

PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY PHILEMON YANG
PRIME MINISTER, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

YAOUNDE, 22 NOVEMBER 2016

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of the Bureau of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am delighted to come before the National Assembly again this year to present Government's Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for the 2017 financial year.

I thank the **Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly** for the kind words said to me and the entire Government.

Honourables Members of Parliament,

Government's Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for the 2017 fiscal year comes at mid-way point of the 2016-2018 three-year period. It will enable Government to better own the **programme budgeting** format and streamline public spending while optimizing revenue collection.

Before charting the broad lines of Government action in 2017, I will first present to you an overview of the main activities undertaken by Government during the 2016 financial year that is ending.

During 2016, Government action as defined by the **Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA**, was implemented in an international context marked by:

- the downward trend of prices of extractive industries, especially oil;
- the continued fight against terrorism;
- the slowdown of economic growth in some emerging countries.

Despite the sluggishness of the international context, it is worth noting that, internally, economic growth was maintained at **5.6% and inflation at 3%**. This makes our country one of the most resilient in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,**

In 2016, Government's attention focused particularly on several challenges including:

- the implementation of the Three-Year Emergency Plan for Accelerating Economic Growth ;
- the finalization of construction works of sports and related infrastructure, necessary for the organization of the 2016 edition of the Women's Africa Cup of Nations;

- the intensification of preparations for the 2019 edition of the Africa Football Cup of Nations.

The year 2016 marks the point of departure of a defining milestone for the digital economy established by the President of the Republic.

Cameroon's debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio stands at **22.8%**, which offers the country leeway to finance infrastructure through recourse to borrowing.

The fiscal policy implemented in 2016 contributed to improving the business environment with a wider offer of tax services and a broader tax base.

Government raised 165 billion CFA Francs on capital markets through a bond issue at the rate of 5.5%. These resources have been allocated to finance development projects listed in the 2016 Finance Law.

To protect the national economic space, four new scanners were recently procured for the Douala Port to allow for the optimum inspection of goods.

Regarding **public procurement**, efforts to clean up the system and strengthen governance overall were continued.

As concerns **the fight against embezzlement of public funds**, the activities of the Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council, attached to the Supreme State Audit Office, were stepped up significantly.

In **territorial and local governance**, Government preserved what has been achieved and worked in earnest to consolidate the decentralization process. Thus, new powers and additional resources were transferred to councils.

At the level of **territorial administration**, the main actions undertaken in 2016 are:

- the improvement of working conditions of administrative authorities through the construction, equipment and rehabilitation of infrastructure;
- the payment of monthly allowances to **9,000** traditional rulers, making up 65% of the total number of chiefs identified nationwide;
- the continuation of the reform of the national civil status system through the operationalizing of the National Civil Status Office;
- the streamlining of activities in the private security sector.

In decentralization, **42 billion 800 million CFA francs** were paid to local and city councils as council taxes that are subject to equalization. A further **10 billion CFA francs** were also paid from the General Decentralization Allotment. Councils also received additional financing of **14 billion 800 million CFA francs** from the Special Council Support Fund (FEICOM).

In the area of **Justice**, Government placed emphasis on improving the working conditions of judicial staff by facilitating access to justice through the construction of the modern complex hosting judiciary services in Yaounde, and the ongoing construction of court houses in Mbouda, Nanga Eboko and Mbalmayo. Studies are ongoing for the construction of courtrooms in Monatele, Bangem, Yokadouma, Bengbis, as well as the Court of Appeal for the South at Ebolowa.

Punishing corruption at the level of courts has produced encouraging results. A sum of over **3 billion 500 million CFA francs** has been recovered and paid into the State Treasury.

With regard to **security and defence**, the Government strove to guarantee the active defence of the territory, the preservation of public order and the safety of citizens.

The Defence and Security forces have been outstanding in their very efficient fight against terrorism and armed groups, mainly in the Far-North and East Regions.

Efforts were made to build and rehabilitate infrastructure meant for the Police and Defence Forces, especially under the Three-Year Emergency Plan for Accelerating Economic Growth. Cutting-edge equipment and materials were also procured to fight crime.

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,**

Before presenting a general assessment of Government action during the year about to end, I would first like to recount the progress achieved in implementing the Three-Year Plan for Accelerating Economic Growth decided by the **Head of State** in 2015. This far-reaching investment plan is structured around ten focus areas: **agriculture; livestock; urban development; housing; water; energy; health; security; roads; and regional development.**

In the area of **agriculture**, Government worked to finalize preliminary design studies for the construction of supply markets in Mamfe, Foubot, Obala, Ngong, Dibombari and Gazawa. The contracting procedure for support to agro-industries, creation of agropoles and production of seeds is in process.

In the **livestock** sector, the construction of the Ngaoundere industrial slaughter-house and coldstores in Yaounde, Kribi, Ebolowa and Ngaoundere is nearing completion. Delivery is expected by the end of 2016.

With regard to **urban development**, light rehabilitation works have been carried out on some secondary roads in Yaounde and progress on other sections is satisfactory.

In Douala, works are ongoing in certain neighbourhoods and the average rate of execution is 70%. For heavy works that will be undertaken after the rainy season, technical studies have been completed and the contracting process is underway.

With regard to **housing**, the programme envisages the construction of 100 houses and related social facilities in each of the eight regional headquarters: Bafoussam, Bamenda, Bertoua, Buea, Ebolowa, Garoua, Maroua and Ngaoundere. The programme is already underway on the Ebolowa pilot site.

Works contracts for the other sites have already been signed and the contractor responsible for the programme has launched activities thereon.

In the **water sector**, construction works for **900 boreholes** and **19 potable water supply schemes** in the 10 Regions are progressively delivered by the bid letting firms.

In the **health sector**, engineering studies for the rehabilitation of the Yaounde and Douala Referral Hospitals as well as the Yaounde University Teaching Hospital have been completed and works have been launched on each of these sites.

Construction works of the Ebolowa Gynecological, Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital have started. The technical programme validated by the Government will serve as terms of reference for the finalization of the technical files of the seven (7) other Regional Hospitals – Bafoussam, Bamenda, Bertoua, Buea, Garoua, Maroua and Ngaoundere.

Regarding **energy**, final design studies are being finalized on two projects – the Bini a Warak Hydropower project in Adamawa Region and the strengthening of Edea-Douala and Edea-Yaounde electricity transmission lines.

Under the Emergency Plan's **security** component, the construction of 5 police stations in Yaounde and 3 in Douala is ongoing. The construction of border police posts is completed in certain localities.

The construction of some gendarmerie stations has started and the services engaged on gendarmerie posts at the borders has intensified.

With regard to the **road** component, as you are aware, the Head of State decided to construct two secondary roads in each region. Progress made here is characterized by the award of contracts for the construction of the following roads:

- Maroua-Bogo road in the Far-North Region;
- Ekondo Titi – Kumba road in the South West Region;
- Soa-Esse-Awae road in the Centre Region;
- Douala-Bonépoupa in the Littoral Region
- Mandjou-Akokan-Batouri in the East Region.

The bid letting firms are deploying on the ground. The procedure for the award of works, supervision and geotechnical control contracts is ongoing for the other firm and conditional road sections.

Lastly, regarding **regional development**, contracts have already been awarded for the development of 13,000 hectares of irrigated land in the Far-North Region. Works will start after the rainy season. Engineering studies for the construction of storage dams are underway in the North while construction works will soon be launched in the Far North. New *agropoles* are also in planned under this programme.

With regard to the organization of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2016, and preparations for AFCON 2019, it can be said overall that works were executed satisfactorily. Cameroonians can be proud of all the investments our country has made in terms of stadia, hotels and access roads to these facilities.

The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Members of Parliament,

I will now dwell on the other major achievements of Government in 2016 by sector of activity.

In the **water and energy sector**, Government worked to improve access to water and energy by increasing supply.

The following results were obtained for **energy**:

- the partial priming of the **Lom Pangar dam** ;
- the imminent priming of the **Memve'ele hydropower dam** ;
- the finalization of construction works of the **Mekin Hydropower dam**.

Our efforts in the **water sub-sector** helped to increase the proportion of the population having access to drinking water.

In the **public works** sector, Government recorded the following significant results:

- the asphaltting of **301 kilometres** of roads, namely: the Djoum-Mintom-Congo border road, the east entrance to the city of Douala, the Bachuo Akagbe-Mamfe-Ekok road and the Zoetele-Kolyop road;
- the construction of **80 kilometres** of secondary roads;
- the continuation of the construction of the Yaounde-Douala motorway;
- the development of the west entrance to the city of Douala;
- the construction of the Kumba-Mamfe road;
- the ongoing construction of the second access road to Bamenda;
- improved accessibility to agricultural and pastoral production areas and tourist sites.

Various other roads are under construction:

- the Obala-Batchenga-Bouam road;
- the Mbama-Messamena road;
- the Mengong-Sangmelima road;
- the Sangmelima-Bikoula road;
- the Fouban-Manki and Manki-Mape bridge roads;

To improve accessibility to the Bakassi Peninsula, front-end engineering design studies for the Mundemba-Isangele-Akwa road are currently in progress.

Construction works on the **second bridge over the Wouri river** are nearly 77% complete.

Furthermore, Government continued to implement its Programme for the rehabilitation and maintenance of other infrastructure, through:

- the routine maintenance of **1,950 kilometres** of earth roads and **648 kilometres** of asphalted roads of the classified priority network;
- the maintenance of **2,450 kilometres** of priority rural roads;
- the ongoing rehabilitation of the Mora-Dabanga, Dabanga-Kousseri, Nkolbang-Zoetele, Sangmelima-Mezesse-Meyomessala roads;
- the complete rehabilitation of the Dibamba and Nyong bridges.

In the area of **housing and urban development**, Government's action this year was geared towards:

- the construction of **1,320 low-cost houses** in Yaounde and Douala;
- the construction of 257 functional huts for 72 families in Yagoua in the Far-North Region, as part of the Emergency Flood Control Project;
- the start-up of the first phase of construction of 530 houses in Douala and the imminent construction of 900 houses in Yaounde, as instructed by the **Head of State** under the Fiftieth Anniversary Housing Project;
- the improvement of the urban environment through the launching of the rainwater drainage project in Douala, and the second phase of the Yaounde Sanitation Project;
- the rehabilitation and construction of about 41 kilometres of roads, mainly in Yaounde and Douala;
- the construction of about 17 kilometres of access roads and 60,000 square metres of parking lots and green spaces around the Limbe Omnisport Stadium;
- the acceleration of construction works of the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway in its open country section.

Government's action in the area of **transport** targeted the air, maritime, port, and railway sub-sectors. It includes:

- the commissioning of two MA60 aircrafts for CAMAIR-Co;
- the rehabilitation of the runway of the Douala International Airport;
- the rehabilitation of lighting facilities at the cargo apron of the Douala Airport;

- the preparation of the CAMAIR-Co Rehabilitation Plan and its approval by the **Head of State**;
- the rehabilitation of feeder roads in the Douala port platform;
- the signing of a partnership contract with a specialized operator to provide Yaounde with a modern and sustainable urban transport system.

In the **telecommunication sector**, Government prepared and adopted the Strategic Plan for a Digital Cameroon by 2020 as a means of concretizing the vision defined by the Head of State for a digital economy.

Other specific actions were undertaken as part of the e-government Master Plan.

The interconnection of Government departments to the fibre optic network was intensified. Thus, **74 sites** in devolved State services were connected.

Other actions carried out in 2016 include:

- the complete identification of telephone subscribers;
- the update of the regulatory and institutional framework of the post and telecommunication sector: laws governing e-commerce and the protection of personal data as well as their instruments of implementation were drafted.

In the area of **scientific research and innovation**, Government achieved the following results:

- the intensified production of improved plant seeds;
- the increased production of better animal breeds and fingerlings;
- the creation of a topographical database covering **10,000 square kilometres** in the Diamare, Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Tsanaga, Mayo-Louti and Benoue Divisions;
- the reinforcement of the Lake Nyos weir;
- the rehabilitation of 4 hectares of land for the domestication of medicinal plants with high active-ingredient content against priority diseases;
- the regular monitoring of 350 workers exposed to ionising radiation;
- the procurement of 54 controlled X-ray machines and accessories.

In the **industry, mines and technological development** sector, Government's main actions included:

- the development of mineral and geological resources;
- the signing of **33** new agreements with companies eligible for private investment incentives stemming from the Law of 18 April 2013 was signed. This makes a total of **77** agreements signed for an investment volume of **945 billion CFA Francs** and **over 32,000 potential jobs**;
- the creation of two new technology and innovation support centres in the Universities of Dschang and Ngaoundere;
- the registration of 239 Cameroonian assets with the African Intellectual Property Organization, the issuance of 28 patents and support of 39 inventors;

In the **forestry and wildlife sector**, Government's action produced the following significant results:

- the promotion of local timber processing and the marketing of over one million cubic metres of timber;
- the sale of 2 million cubic metres of legal timber;
- the collection of **23 billion CFA Francs** as taxes and parafiscal revenue from forest management;
- the creation of about **32,000 direct jobs** in the timber and non-timber forest products sub-sector;
- the marketing of 4,358 tonnes of non-timber forest products;
- the development of 141,000 hectares of forest;
- the exploitation of 49,000 hectares of communal and community forests;

In the **environment** sector, Government implemented its programme to combat desertification and climate change, continuing Operation Green Sahel in the northern regions.

The sustainable management of biodiversity through the restoration of mangrove ecosystems and degraded water bodies was entrenched.

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,**

Government also strove to develop and promote **agro-pastoral and agro-industrial** activities.

In the **agricultural sector**, Government worked to improve the productivity and competitiveness of agricultural activities. It has also been keen to promote the modernization of small family plantations alongside medium and large ones.

Special attention was given to the development of food crops that are critical to our food security such as rice, maize, cassava, Irish potatoes, plantains, oil palm, onions, fruits and vegetables.

To implement the instructions of the **Head of State** on the **promotion of youth entrepreneurship**, a few specific actions were taken in this regard, including:

- the implementation of a programme to promote youth agro-pastoral entrepreneurship;
- the consolidation of the Young Farmers Support Programme;
- the renovation of education and training in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors.

In the area of **livestock and animal industries**, efforts were made to improve the quantity and quality of pastoral, poultry and beekeeping production. The main results are the production of:

- 115,000 tonnes of meat: beef, chicken, pork or goat meat;
- 115,500 tonnes of milk;
- 42,000 tonnes of eggs;
- 667 tonnes of honey;
- 170 tonnes of beeswax.

In terms of stakeholder capacity-building, 80 breeders were trained on modern production techniques and the Oku white honey certification control system.

With particular regard to livestock health coverage and zoonotic control, Government laid emphasis on the surveillance of avian flu with outbreaks in the Centre, West, South and Adamawa Regions.

In the area of **small and medium-sized enterprises**, Government's actions focused on:

- the creation of **11,942** new businesses at Business Creation Centres;
- support to **163** Small and Medium-sized Enterprises through Sub-contracting Exchanges;
- the training of **81** business owners on the drafting of business plans;
- the use of local raw materials by Small Medium-sized Enterprises;
- the support for **230** social economy organizations;
- the inauguration of the Yaounde International Handicraft Centre;
- the holding of the 5th edition of the Cameroon International Arts and Craft Fair;
- the creation of a virtual gallery or online platform for Cameroonian handicrafts.

In the **trade sector**, Government ensures the daily and regular supply of goods on the internal market, within the bounds of fair competition. Furthermore, it has continued to develop, promote and diversify external trade in high-value-added goods and services.

In the **public service and administrative reform sector**, the following actions were carried out:

- the various job descriptions of the Cameroon public service was updated;
- a manual was prepared on how to represent the State before the courts;
- 5,485 disciplinary files resulting from the migration to Phase Two of SIGIPES II (the *Integrated System for the Computerized Management of State Personnel and Payroll*) were processed;
- Service numbers were allocated to 10,606 Government employees;
- 9 direct competitive examinations were organised for different administrative corps;

In **state property, surveys and land tenure**, Government emphasised the implementation of several key projects, namely:

- the strengthening of the national geodesic network;
- the launching of a study on the digital mapping of cities;

- the continuation of studies for the demarcation of the boundaries of administrative units;
- the strengthening of the system for the protection of State fixed assets and vehicles as well as the payment of rents;
- ongoing measures to secure **2,437,000** hectares of land under the land reserve programme;
- the development of **2,734** building plots;
- the declaration of **116** governmental projects as being in the public interest;
- the issuance of **10,000 land titles** as part of the implementation of the co-ownership scheme;
- the issuance of 20,185 land titles across the country;
- the recovery of **3 billion 800 million CFA francs** as land revenue;
- the settlement of 4,500 land disputes through internal administrative appeal or litigation.

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,**

In the **communication** sector, Government maintained the impetus to migrate to digital terrestrial television.

Furthermore, we started the rehabilitation of CRTV by installing multiplexing platforms at the Mballa II Production Centre and erecting a 200-metre guyed tower at the Douala Broadcasting Centre. In addition, CRTV procured two Outside Broadcasting Vans (OBVANS).

In the area of **basic education**, Government implemented several projects to make primary education universal, promote literacy, and develop more pre-school educational facilities.

Thus:

- **325** Government primary schools were created;
- **1,300** classrooms were constructed;
- **6** primary schools were rehabilitated;
- **30** Government schools were rehabilitated;
- **197** latrine blocks were constructed;
- basic school supplies and hygiene kits were distributed to young girls and vulnerable children;
- **1 million 300** English, French and Mathematics textbooks were distributed;
- **1,224** pedagogic supervisors were trained;
- operating funds amounting to **4 billion 800 million CFA Francs** were granted to Government primary schools;
- subsidies amounting to **1,800 million CFA Francs** were granted to **17,679** private schools,;
- literacy programmes were conducted for **21,000** people across the country;
- 200 new nursery schools were created;

- 1,200 small tables, 4,200 small chairs and 210 blackboards on easels were procured for 30 nursery blocks.

Within the framework of the fight against clandestine schools, **297 of such schools were shut down.**

In **general and technical secondary education**, Government's efforts this year were seen in:

- the construction of **196** blocks of 2 classrooms each;
- the rehabilitation of **22** schools;
- the provision of **69** schools with small teaching aids and **32** workshops with more advanced teaching aids;
- the procurement of **18,060** desks and equipment of **14** computer rooms with desktop computers;
- the monitoring and supervising of **1,500** Biology teachers, **1,000** computer teachers, **2,455** Science teachers, **53** pedagogic inspectors and **528** guidance counsellors;
- the monitoring/supervision and assessment of **710** administrative staff of schools and teachers' training colleges;
- the guidance of **2,500** students in areas in dire need of teachers.

In **higher education**, the following results were achieved:

- two workshop blocks and related facilities were constructed in the Faculty of Industrial Engineering of the University of Douala;
- one pedagogic block housing laboratories and specialised halls were constructed in the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Douala;
- two halls of residence were constructed in the University of Bamenda;
- construction works and the equipment of University of Maroua were completed;
- a 6-level pedagogic block is under construction in the Cameroon-Congo Interstate University;
- teachers were promoted to higher grades.

Significant results recorded in **public health** are:

- 1,416 emergencies cases were handled at the Yaounde Emergency Centre ;
- 184,000 persons living with HIV received anti-retroviral treatment;
- 6,427 new cases of tuberculosis were put on treatment;
- 761,674 malaria cases of under-5 children were treated;
- 9,216,464 long-lasting treated mosquito bed-nets were distributed;
- the Penta 3 vaccine was administered to 292,920 children;
- 11,534 HIV-infected pregnant women received anti-retroviral treatment ;
- the measles epidemic declined significantly affecting only 5 out of 189 health districts in 2016, as against 40 out of 189 in 2015.

In addition, the number of specialised hospitals increased thanks to the inauguration of the Hospital Centre for Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproductive Research and Development (CRACERH) of Yaounde.

This year, **254 general practitioners, 31 pharmacists and 31 dental surgeons** from our Faculties of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences were posted to health facilities across the country. We are proud of these results.

In the area of **employment and vocational training**, Government took steps to promote decent jobs and self-employment.

In the area of **labour and social security**, major achievements were recorded in terms of promoting social security for the greatest number and improving labour security.

These include:

- the increase in family allowances paid to workers;
- the positive effects of the decree defining the rates of social security contributions and remuneration limits applicable to family allowance, old-age pension as well as insurance coverage for incapacity, occupational illnesses and industrial accidents leading to death;
- increase in the number of active and voluntary insured persons.

In the area of **arts and culture**, Government set out to enhance our cultural heritage through the following actions:

- the organization of the 8th edition of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (**FENAC**);
- the organization of the second conference on cultural industries;
- the organization of the second edition of the Book Fair;
- the organization of the National Literary Competition;
- the ongoing inventory of the cultural heritage;
- the procurement and commissioning of mobile libraries;

As concern **youth and civic education**, Government is working in earnest to implement the "Special Youth" Three-Year Plan prescribed by the **Head of State**. Government has also engaged actions on civic education, national integration and youth economic development.

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I will now succinctly present the broad lines of the programme that the Government intends to execute during the 2017 fiscal year.

In 2017, Government will keep the same momentum in implementing reforms engaged to finalize most of the anchor projects.

We will closely monitor the implementation of the Three-Year Emergency Plan for Accelerating Economic Growth as well as the preparation of the 2019 African Cup of Nation and the implementation of the "Special Youth" Three-Year Plan.

The modernization of the public procurement system will continue through the dematerialisation of certain procedures. The *Cameroon Online e-procurement System* application will enhance procurement transparency and efficiency, and undoubtedly contribute to improving the business climate in Cameroon.

The mechanisms for early programming of procurement and for finalizing the reform of the Public Contracts Code will be consolidated.

In **territorial and local governance**, Government mainly intends to implement the following actions;

- reforming the gaming system;
- reforming the national registry system with the commissioning of the National Civil Status Office;
- cleaning up private security activities.

At the local level, the National Decentralization Strategy will be adopted and implemented in all its aspects. Special emphasis will be placed on the effective remuneration of municipal authorities.

Our **security system** will be reinforced both at the borders and across the national territory. Ongoing construction works of police and Gendarmerie stations will continue. These stations will also be provided with office furniture and specialized equipment.

In the **Justice sector**, Government will specially work on the reform of judicial organization in order to institute commercial courts and finalise the preliminary draft of the Civil Code.

While pursuing works on court infrastructure already initiated, studies will be conducted for the construction of new court buildings in Batibo, Tignere, Banyo, Kribi, Dschang, Touboro and the Court of Appeal in the Far North.

Government will also pursue the computerization of the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register.

In addition, as part of the improvement of the policy on prisons, Government intends among other things to:

- build a new Central Prison in Douala-Ngoma;
- rehabilitate the prisons of Kribi, Mbalmayo and Menji;
- improve each prisoner's daily meal;
- continue the training of prisoners in the petty trades, and the academic supervision of minors, to prepare their social reintegration.

At the economic level, Government intends to intensify the transformation of our economy, through the implementation of a National Industrialization Plan, as instructed by the **Head of State**.

To that end, sub-sectors that generate growth and high added value will be promoted, so as to make our economy more competitive globally.

Government will continue to support and upgrade large, small and medium-sized enterprises based locally. It is expected that they will be competitive enough to take advantage of the Economic Partnership Agreement signed with the European Union and which became effective since 4th August 2016.

With regard to **public finance**, a series of measures will be taken to consolidate fiscal policy options, notably by broadening the tax base, securing revenue, and improving the business climate.

These measures include:

- the introduction of a **visitor's tax to be collected by hotels** from their clients, to feed **the Tourism Development Fund**;
- the re-establishment of the **initial rates of the special tax on petroleum products**;
- the secured payment of **land tax**;
- the extension of **tax incentives** for companies issuing debt securities on the bond market;
- the simplification of **methods of calculating the business license levy** and its dematerialization;
- **the exemption of agricultural goods and equipment from Value Added Tax**, and agricultural land transfers from registration fees;
- **the exemption of the products of public local materials promotion establishments from Value Added Tax**;
- **the exemption** of beverages produced and packaged exclusively from local raw materials **from specific excise duties**;

In the **Energy sector**, Government intends to find rapid solutions to the energy shortage especially by accelerating ongoing construction works of major energy infrastructure.

Government will work to also develop new capacities and diversify sources of production, with the new Nachtigal, Song-Dong, Bini à Warak and Menchum dams. The construction of transmission lines will be a priority.

With regard to **access to potable water**, the objective is to increase the supply of potable water quantitatively and qualitatively across the national territory.

With regard to **road infrastructure**, emphasis will be laid on accelerating the construction of many roads and bridges, including:

- the first section of the Yaounde-Douala motorway and the programming of subsequent phases;
- the Kribi-Edea motorway, Phase I;

- the second Wouri bridge and its related facilities;
- the east and west entrances to the town of Douala;
- the Foumban-Tibati-Febadi-Ngaoundere road;
- the Mengong-Sangmelima, Sangmelima-Bikoula, Bikoula-Djoum roads;
- the Olama-Kribi road;
- and the Mbama-Messamena road;
- the Babadjou-Bamenda road.

In addition, many other projects will also be launched. These include about half a dozen sections listed in the Emergency Plan for accelerating economic growth, namely:

- the Djoum-Mintom-Congo Border road, Phase II;
- the Douala-Bonepoupa-Yabassi road;
- the Soa-Esse-Awae road;
- the Sangmelima-Oveng road;
- the Akokan-Batouri road;
- the Foumban-Koupamatapit road;
- and the Ngaoundere-Paro road;

These efforts will help to asphalt at least **250 kilometres** of new roads, **100 kilometres** of communal roads with seal coating as well as construct **1** long bridge and **40** medium structures. Additionally, **677 kilometres** of roads will be asphalted under the Emergency Plan.

With regard to **urban development**, a number of major projects will be implemented, including:

- the construction of **1,675** low-cost houses by local small medium-sized enterprises;
- the construction of **1,000** houses in each regional headquarters – Bamenda, Buea, Bertoua, Ngaoundere, Maroua, Garoua, Bafoussam, Ebolowa, Douala and Yaounde – under the Emergency Plan;
- the construction of Fiftieth Anniversary houses, with 530 in Douala and 900 in Yaounde;
- the launching of the Yaounde municipal lake development project and renovation of Mingo valley;
- the launching of construction works of the Douala rainwater drainage system on a linear distance of 39 kilometres;
- the continuation of the second phase of the Yaounde drainage project on a linear distance of 14 kilometres;
- the construction of the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway;

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Several actions shall be undertaken in the **transport** sector. In the air transport sub-sector, it will be necessary to continue rolling out the CAMAIR-Co Rehabilitation Plan approved by the **Head of State**; renovate secondary airports; finalise the certification process of the Douala and Yaounde airports, and implement the Airports Rehabilitation and Modernisation Programme in Cameroon.

In the maritime and port sub-sectors, special emphasis will be placed on operationalizing the Kribi Port Authority which complements the Douala Port and monitoring the specifications of both ports. In the same vein, a project team will be set up for the launching of studies for the construction of the Limbe Industrial Port Complex. The implementation of the action plan of the Industrial Engineering and Shipyard Corporation of Cameroon will be closely monitored.

Railway activities will also be closely monitored. Government will implement the national rail network renewal and modernization programme and ensure the consolidation of the achievements of the Railway Interconnection Project planned with Chad.

In the area of **posts and telecommunication**, Government will focus on:

- implementing the 2020 Cameroon-Digital Strategic Plan;
- implementing the e-government Master plan;
- continuing the construction of urban fibre optic loops in Buea, Sangmelima, Dschang, Kribi, Nkongsamba, Edea, Kumba, Meiganga, Guider and Kaele;
- implementing the national network and information systems security policy;

Regarding **mines and industry**, Government intends to continue to develop mineral and geological resources and diversify and improve the competitiveness of industrial sub-sectors. In this regard, the **Industrialization Master Plan** will be finalized.

Similarly, initiatives aimed at the local processing of our agricultural produce and cash crops like cocoa will receive increased support.

In the area of **forestry and wildlife**, Government will develop and renew forest resources, safeguard and enhance the value of wildlife resources and those of protected areas, and develop timber and non-timber forest products.

This will further involve:

- developing synergy with timber companies to more actively engage in the local processing of timber;
- supporting councils and communities in forest management;
- increasing legal timber production;
- increasing the reforested land area;

- promoting little-known species and increasing sales volume to over one million cubic metres;
- managing and sustainably exploiting hunting areas;
- increasing the wildlife sector's contribution to national economy; and
- increasing the surface area of protected areas.

Government action on **agriculture** will focus on increasing production and promoting agricultural value chains. Specifically, it will:

- conduct the General Agriculture and Livestock Census;
- produce and disseminate improved and high-yield seeds and planting material;
- optimize the domestic production of widely consumed foodstuffs;
- support the agro-pastoral settlement and integration of youths;
- ensure the development and processing of agricultural produce, through the procurement and setting up of small processing units.

The main production targets the Government intends to achieve in 2017 are:

- **Cocoa**, 300 thousand tonnes in 2017, against 270 thousand in 2016;
- **Arabica coffee**, 6 thousand tons in 2017 against 5 thousand tonnes in 2016;
- **Robusta coffee**, 60 thousand tonnes in 2017, against 50 thousand in 2016;
- **Cotton**, 275 thousand tonnes in 2017 against 250 thousand tonnes in 2016 to;
- **Paddy rice**, 225 thousand tonnes in 2017, against 190 thousand in 2016;
- **Maize**, 2 million 300 thousand tonnes in 2017 against 2 million tonnes in 2016.

Regarding **small and medium sized enterprises, social economy and handicrafts**, Government plans to:

- develop entrepreneurship among young graduates in three public incubators and a business nursery;
- train 200 Small and Medium size Enterprise developers, and 100 young entrepreneurs on how to draft business plans;
- encourage craftsmen to migrate from the informal to the formal sector through registration in the council registry.

With regard to **Tourism and Leisure**, there are plans to:

- upgrade and develop 15 tourist sites;
- develop hotel infrastructure, by constructing 5 hotels and rehabilitating and operating 20 others under a public-private partnership arrangement;
- develop leisure facilities by constructing 4 leisure parks;
- promote domestic tourism, with about **5 million 700 thousand tourists** expected;
- promote inbound tourism, with **950 thousand international tourists** expected;
- promote leisure activities for children, youth, adults and vulnerable persons by organizing holiday camps and excursions.

With regard to **state property, surveys and land tenure**, Government envisages:

- the general computerization of land tenure services procedures, particularly in Yaounde, Douala, Garoua and Maroua, with a view to securing land ownership;
- the securing of 3 million hectares of land as reserves for projects with a growth potential;
- the finalization of land reforms;
- the census of administrative properties that are in ruins or need rehabilitation across the country;
- the continuation of the project to stamp public buildings;
- the rehabilitation of administrative garages;
- the securing of approximately 500 hectares of land in Dibombari and 210 hectares in Nomayos for the Industrial Zones Development and Management Authority (MAGZI).

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,**

Actions envisaged in **basic education** include:

- the creation of 100 new schools;
- the construction of 800 classrooms;
- the construction of 45 latrine blocks;
- the renovation of 45 schools;
- the promotion of the education of the girl-child by granting 500 school kits;
- the provision of 5,000 science micro-kits;
- the free distribution of 650,000 essential English, French and Mathematics textbooks;
- the continuation of literacy programmes for 24,000 people in all regions of the country;
 - the construction of 30 literacy centres as part of the socio-economic development projects of the three northern regions;
- the implementation of the experimental teaching of national languages in 360 Government primary schools;
- the creation of 50 new nursery schools and construction of 25 nursery school blocks.

With regard to **secondary education**, Government will endeavour to find the much-needed balance between training given and the economy's needs for skilled labour. The objective is for technical secondary school leavers to easily find their place on the market.

To that end, new training courses based on a "vocational approach" will be adopted, notably in the fields of industry, processing, energy, construction, metallurgy, agro-industry, and the digital trades.

Thus, the transformation of a number of technical high schools into Government agricultural technical high schools will be initiated.

Similarly, to facilitate access to online knowledge, there are plans to install Wi-Fi facilities on an experimental basis in some schools in Yaounde, Douala, Edea, Bamenda and Buea.

Government also plans to:

- initiate the pilot phase of school construction projects with local materials to reduce costs;
- develop new curricula for *quatrième* and *troisième année* for technical/vocational education in the Francophone sub-system of education and *Form Three* for the Anglophone sub-system of education;
- promote bilingualism in secondary education;
- organise internships in companies for students of industrial techniques, tertiary sciences and technologies, and the information technology disciplines.

Government professional "trades" high schools will be created. Additionally, specific vocational streams, schools of excellence and bilingual high schools will also be instituted like the Yabassi Government Agricultural High School which Government intends to commission.

As concerns **higher education**, the main actions to be carried out relate, inter alia, to:

- the equipment of the laboratories and workshops in the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Buea;
- the completion of the extension of administrative buildings of the University of Bamenda;
- the completion of two university halls of residence at the University of Bamenda;
- the construction of a 500-capacity amphitheatre, and outbuildings of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Ngaoundere;
- the equipment of the 500-capacity multi-purpose amphitheatre of the University of Yaounde II - Soa;
- the establishment of business nurseries at the University of Dschang;
- the completion of the continuing training block at the University of Yaounde I;
- the completion of Outbuildings 1 and 2 and the basement of the main building of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Douala;
- the completion of the University of Maroua;
- the rehabilitation of the University of Yaounde I halls of residence.

For 2017, Government action on **employment and vocational training** targets:

- the creation of at least 400,000 decent jobs;
- the promotion of self-employment through technical and financial support for developers of private initiatives;
- the professional integration of nationals in major projects;
- the qualitative improvement of vocational training;
- the setting up of vocational training centres;
- the setting up of two sector-specific professional training centres;
- the construction of a vocational training centre in Nkongsamba;
- the construction of several training centres for the water, textiles, leather and railway professions.

With regard to **women's empowerment and the family**, Government efforts will focus on:

- the update of the action plan to combat female genital mutilation;
- the finalisation of the national strategy to combat gender-based violence;
- the popularisation in the 10 Regions of the new Penal Code in its provisions on the protection of women, the family and the child;
- the development of the national policy on women's entrepreneurship;
- the development of an action plan for child protection.

In the area **of arts and culture**, Government action will focus on:

- the intensification and extension of the "Mobile Library" experience to the other regions;
- the continuation of the general inventory of the intangible cultural heritage;
- the finalisation of rehabilitation works of the Yaounde Conference Centre.

In **public health**, apart from pursuing the sector projects listed in the Emergency Plan, Government will endeavour to implement the following actions:

- complete the construction of the Medical Imaging Centres of the Limbe and Maroua Regional Hospitals;
- set up medical gas production units in Yaounde and Douala;
- equip the dialysis centres of Ngaoundere and Bafoussam;
- administer free vaccination to all pregnant women and children below 5;
- give free antiretroviral drugs and charge subsidized rates for biological examinations on persons living with HIV under treatment;
- offer free tuberculosis drugs;
- undertake mass distribution of 12 million treated long-lasting bed-nets free of charge;
- offer free and subsidised treatment of simple and severe malaria for under-5 children;
- strengthen epidemiological surveillance and maintain the epidemic response mechanism.

Activities in the **sports and physical education sector** will be intense with Cameroon's participation at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2017 in Gabon and preparations for the organisation of AFCON 2019 in Cameroon.

With regard to the **youth and civic education sector**, special emphasis will be on monitoring the implementation of the "Special Youth" Three-Year Plan.

Government will continue to:

- intensify the national civic education and integration campaign;
- sensitize, mobilize and guide **500,000** youths through the National Youth Observatory;
- offer entrepreneurial training to **200,000** youth;
- mentor youth from the diaspora;
- implement the National Volunteering Programme.

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Programme which I have just presented is consistent with the spirit of progress and development impelled by the **Head of State, His Excellency, Paul BIYA**. It is up to the Government to translate it into concrete actions and projects.

In order to meet the major challenges facing our country for the benefit of our people, Government is seeking the usual support of Parliament so that 2017 should be characterized by intense activity in the various sectors I have just presented.

Implementing this Programme will require the mobilization of substantial resources to make Government action efficient and effective, since the challenges and projects are so numerous.

The prospect of organising AFCON 2019 requires that we plan ahead and already start constructing the many infrastructure required to be ready to host this important event.

Similarly, the effective and rapid implementation of the Emergency Plan for Accelerating Economic Growth, and the "Special Youth" Three-Year Plan are challenges and imperatives that Government must include in its 2017 agenda.

The Draft Budget for the 2017 fiscal year, submitted for your approval, is based on a macroeconomic framework. This framework takes into account the level of achievement of anchor projects, the short-term outlook for commodity prices and other elements of national and international context.

It is based on the realistic assumption **of a real Gross Domestic Product growth rate of 6%, and an inflation rate of 3%.**

It is balanced in revenue and expenditure at **4,373 billion 800 million CFA Francs**, against 4,234 billion 700 million CFA Francs in 2016, that is, an increase of 139 billion CFA Francs in absolute terms and **3.3%** in relative terms.

As you can see, this increase is quite small and reflects the context of constraint that surrounded the drafting of this year's finance bill.

Expected resources are estimated at **4,373 billion 800 million CFA Francs**, distributed as follows:

- **Tax revenue, 2,519 billion 130 million CFA Francs;**
- **Oil revenue, 495 billion 100 million CFA Francs;**
- **Other non-tax revenue, 129 billion 70 million CFA Francs;**
- **Project loans, 585 billion CFA Francs;**
- **Bond issue, 560 billion CFA Francs;**
- **Grants to be contracted will amount to 85 billion 500 million CFA Francs.**

Projected expenditure stands at **4,373 billion 800 million CFA Francs**, distributed as follows:

- 2,059 billion 400 million CFA Francs for **recurrent expenditure;**
- 1,586 billion 900 million CFA Francs for **capital expenses;**
- 727 billion 500 million CFA Francs, for **public debt servicing.**

Capital expenditure dedicated to public investments increases from **1,525 billion 800 million CFA Francs** in 2016 to **1,586 billion 900 million CFA Francs** in 2017, corresponding to a 61 billion 100 million CFA Francs increase in absolute terms and 4% in relative terms. The investment budget represents 34.88% of the annual budget.

**The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This is the summary of Government's Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for the 2017 fiscal year, for which Government is seeking the support of the Nation's Members of Parliament with a view to its implementation.

Thank you for your kind attention.-