

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace-Work-Fatherland

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

SERVICES DU PREMIER MINISTRE
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING OF THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2021

The **Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Joseph DION NGUTE**, today Thursday, 28 January 2021, at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Prime Minister's Office, chaired a Cabinet Meeting attended by Ministers of State, Ministers, Ministers-Delegate and Secretaries of State.

The agenda included the following items:

1. Statement by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development on "*the levers of the structural transformation of the Cameroonian economy in view of the National Development Strategy 2020-2030*";
2. Statement by the Minister of Finance on "*the operational implementation of the import substitution policy for the 2021 financial year*";
3. Update from the Minister of Public Health on "*the Situation of the Health Pandemic and COVID-19 Vaccination Plan in Cameroon*";
4. Report of the Minister of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure on "*the state of the process of energy project compensation files*"

In his statement, the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development pointed out that the structural transformation of the national economy is one of the major pillars of the National Development Strategy 2020-2030. It involves an orientation of government action towards the development of manufacturing and service industries, strengthening of agricultural productivity and production with a focus on certain higher value-added industries.

With regard to the levers enabling the structural transformation of the Cameroonian economy, the Minister stressed the importance of strategic choices and the targeting of state interventions, the adoption of a budgetary policy supported by financial allocations in line with the objectives and the introduction of a renewed system of incentives for the promotion of enterprises.

In addition, structural reforms must be pursued, as well as the mobilisation of actors and financial resources through public-private partnerships.

For his part, the Minister of Finance noted that import substitution policy is an essential component of the structural transformation of the economy. From an operational point of view, this policy is laid down in the 2021 Finance Law, through the establishment of a Fund to support and develop priority agricultural industries such as rice, maize, milk and fish.

With a view to strengthening the local production of convenience goods, Government has provided for various exemptions from taxes and customs duties on inputs, materials and equipment dedicated to agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry and the pharmaceutical industry. At the same time, measures have been taken to protect the growing segments of the local industrial fabric from foreign competition.

In his statement, the Minister of Public Health first gave an update on the epidemiological situation on the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Cameroon. According to statistics, since the outbreak of this disease in Cameroon, 30 313 positive cases have already been recorded, with 28 606 patients cured and 475 deaths. Then, talking about the planned vaccination strategy, the Minister announced that Cameroon has joined the COVAX facility, which allows developing countries to acquire vaccines. To achieve this, a national vaccination plan against COVID-19 is being finalised.

Finally, the Minister of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure reported on the state of the process of energy project compensation files. It is apparent that several files have already been finalised and the delays observed are due to the need to correct the shortcomings identified in some cases. In order to speed up the procedures in this area, a collaborative platform which brings together the technical services of land tenure and the property assessment and evaluation commission has been set up.

At the end of discussions that followed these statements, the Head of Government instructed the Minister of Economy to activate all levers contributing to the structural transformation of the national economy in order to achieve tangible results in the near future. He should also ensure, when preparing the Public Investment Budget for subsequent years, that substantial resources are allocated to the priority sectors targeted in the National Development Strategy 2020-2030. The Head of Government also called on the Minister of Finance to speed up consultations aimed at defining the activities to be financed in 2021, under the Fund to support the development of priority agricultural industries. For his part, the Minister of Public Health was instructed to finalise the National COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, while the Minister in charge of Land Tenure was instructed to ensure an active follow-up of the procedures undertaken by the competent administrative authorities.

The Meeting was adjourned 1:10 p.m.-

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FOUDA Séraphin Magloire
Secretary General,
Prime Minister's Office,

