

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

SERVICES DU PREMIER MINISTRE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace-Work-Fatherland

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

**PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING CABINET
MEETING OF TUESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2020**

Yaounde, 3 November 2020

The **Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Joseph DION NGUTE**, today Tuesday, 3 November 2020, at 10 a.m., chaired a Cabinet Meeting attended by Ministers of State, Ministers, Ministers-Delegate and Secretaries of State.

Three items featured on the agenda namely:

1. *Major innovations and implementing rules of the finance bill for the 2021 financial year;*
2. *The profile of the 2021 financial year public investment budget;*
3. *The situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in Cameroon.*

Taking the floor on the first theme at the end of the Head of Government's introductory statement, the Minister of Finance first of all recalled the context of the preparation of the finance bill for the 2021 financial year, marked by the uncertainties of the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the still limited effectiveness of recovery policies. He went on to state that forecasts resulting from the macro-economic framework augur renewed economic growth in 2021, driven essentially by the agricultural sector, the resumption of investment and the improvement of energy supply. In addition, the overall fiscal policy will basically be based on the continuation of the fiscal consolidation effort, through an increase in domestic non-oil revenue and the rationalisation of budgetary choices in terms of public spending.

With regard to the innovations contained in the Finance Law for the 2021 financial year, the Minister of Finance indicated that they mainly relate to (i) the operationalisation of the import-substitution policy; (ii) the completion of the rationalisation of the Special Trust Fund; (iii) the strengthening of budgetary discipline within administrations, with regard to the opening of new commitment authorisations; (iv) the creation and capping of the Special Fund for the Development of the Electricity Sector; and (v) the raising of the ceiling of guarantees and endorsements granted by the State from 40 to 200 billion, by extending them to private companies. In addition, the Government intends to implement a series of fiscal measures to support the economy, with a view to improving the social and business environment.

The Meeting then followed a presentation by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development on the profile of the Public Investment Budget (PIB) for the 2021 financial year. He indicated that 70% of the resources provided for, in this budget, will be allocated to the finalisation of ongoing projects, in order to enable our country to achieve its growth and emergence objectives. Thus, priority will be given to (i) the continuation of special investment programmes such as the Emergency Plan, CHAN 2020 and AFCON 2022; (ii) the implementation of the Government response strategy to the coronavirus pandemic; (iii) the completion of major first generation anchor projects; (iv) the implementation of the Presidential Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the North West, South West, and Far North Regions; (v) the acceleration of the decentralisation process; and (vi) the introduction of Universal Health Coverage.

In order to ensure the smooth execution of the projects selected, the rules of the public investment project maturation process were scrupulously applied, in particular the affixing of maturity visas prior to the registration of any project in the PIB. In conclusion, the Minister of Economy mentioned a number of issues and challenges relating to the proper implementation of the 2021 PIB, namely the respect of the State's budgetary sustainability, the quality of project studies and the sustainability of public investment.

Taking the floor to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in Cameroon, the Minister of Public Health indicated that the epidemiological situation remains under control. According to available statistics, there are 22,103 cases had been detected nationwide, of which 21,151 cases were healed while 429 deaths were recorded. The mortality rate related to this disease is 1.9%, while the cure rate is 96%. At a time when this pandemic is resurgent in several western countries, one of the priorities of the response plan is to ensure the protection of the national territory against the importation of new cases. To this end, health controls have been strengthened at air, sea and land borders. In addition, the active search for cases within the community, raising awareness among the population of the need to respect safety measures, and optimising the methods of caring for infected persons remain major thrusts of the response plan in action.

At the end of the discussion that followed these statements, the Prime Minister instructed the Minister of Finance to urgently finalise the finance bill for the 2021 financial year and to take all necessary measures to ensure the rationalisation and prioritisation of public expenditure. He instructed the Minister of Economy to ensure that only projects that comply with the provisions of the decree of 21 June 2018 setting out the rules for the maturing process of public investment projects, are actually included in the 2021 PIB. Finally, the Prime Minister instructed the Minister of Public Health to double efforts to strengthen Cameroon's health security in the face of the resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic in several countries.

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

Yaounde, 03 NOV 2020

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