

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 THE NATIONAL  
DECENTRALIZATION BOARD OF TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2020**

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*Yaounde, 21 January 2020*



The **Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Joseph DION NGUTE**, this Tuesday, 21 January 2020, presided over the first ordinary session of the National Decentralization Board at main building of the Prime Minister's Office, for the 2020 fiscal year. Apart from to his close aides, the session was attended by Members of Government, Members of Parliament, representatives of the Economic and Social Council, representatives of municipal magistrates, as well as those of the civil society.

Three items featured on the agenda, namely:

1. report on the activities of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Decentralization Board during the inter-session, by the Permanent Secretary of the NDB;
2. statement of the Minister of Decentralization and Local Development on the theme: "***General Regional and Local Authorities Code: a tool for modernizing the architecture of decentralization in Cameroon***";
3. statement by the Minister of Finance on the theme: "***Making financial resources available to Regional and Local Authorities: overview and prospects***";

In his opening statement, the **Prime Minister** noted that this session comes on the heels of the Major National Dialogue convened by the **Head of State**, with one of the flagship themes being decentralization, and the adoption by the National Assembly and the Senate, in an extraordinary session, of the bill on the General Regional and Local Authorities Code, followed by its promulgation on 24 December 2019, by the **President of the Republic**.

He further indicated that the said law induces a paradigm shift on the part of the actors in charge of the implementation of decentralization, and a perfect control of the human and financial resources dedicated to this public policy, taking into account the decisive advances it generates, through, inter alia, the status of local elected officials, the allocation of new and substantial financial resources for the financing of decentralization, as well as the granting of a special status to the North-West and South-West Regions.

Reporting on the activities carried out by the **Permanent Secretariat of the National Decentralization Board** during the inter-session, the Permanent Secretary noted that this body has, in particular, taken steps to follow up on the implementation of the directives of the Head of Government resulting from the session of the Board held on 17 September 2019, as well as the organization of inter-ministerial technical meetings on decentralization.

The Permanent Secretariat of the National Decentralization Board has also contributed to the codification of the decentralization process, particularly through the updating of the draft decree establishing the modalities of collaboration between Regional and Local Authorities and Devolved State Services, which has been submitted to hierarchy for approval, as well as the finalisation of the draft decree setting the terms and conditions for centralising, distributing and transferring the proceeds of the special tax intended to finance the collection and treatment of waste for Regional and Local Authorities.

In addition, inter-ministerial meetings were held at the Prime Minister's Office on the issue of establishing a sustainable and reliable mechanism for making the "minimum package" available in all the schools concerned before the start of the school year. They resulted in directives from the Head of Government, which were passed on to MINEDUB and MINFI respectively, with a view to putting an end to the recurrent delays noted in this operation.

The **Minister of Decentralization and Local Development** presented the theme “*General Regional and Local Authorities Code: a tool for modernizing the architecture of decentralization in Cameroon*”.

He indicated that this Code meets the concerns expressed by decentralization and local development stakeholders, and gives legal substance to certain recommendations made during the General Council Meeting of February 2019 and the Major National Dialogue convened in September - October 2019 by the President of the Republic.

This Code will also help to strengthen our decentralization process in particular through the innovations it brings both at the institutional and normative level, as well as in increasing financial and human resources.

At the *institutional level*, the Code allows for major progress, notably through the election of the Mayor of the town at the head of the urban council and the granting of a special status to the North-West and South-West Regions.

At the *normative level*, this Code extends certain powers transferred to the councils and city councils since 2010.

As far as *financial resources* are concerned, the Code sets the minimum rate of the General Decentralization Grant at 15% of the State budget.

With regard to human resources, MINDDEVEL noted the improvement of the quality and quantity of human resources in RLAs through the transfer of a category of staff of devolved services of the State and the establishment of a Local Public Service, as provided by the Code.

In his statement, the **Minister of Finance** dwelt on mechanisms to make financial resources available to Regional and Local Authorities. This concerns the General Decentralization Grant in its running and investment component, transferred credits, and local taxation.

Finally, he recommended possible solutions for increasing the financial resources dedicated to RLAs.

At the end of these statements and taking note of the opinions and contributions of the members of the Board, the **Prime Minister, Head of Government**, instructed:

- **the Minister of Decentralization and Local Development to:**

- make an inventory of all the texts implementing Law No. 2019/024 of 24 December 2019 on the General Regional and Local Authorities Code, and to prepare drafts diligently, in accordance with the procedure in force;
- finalize, as soon as possible, in liaison with MINMAP, MINFI and MINEPAT, the ongoing reflection aimed at providing the Regional and Local Authorities with a specific public procurement system;
- organize, in liaison with MINAT, as soon as possible, for the local supervisory authorities, sessions to familiarize them with the legal and regulatory mechanism relating to the State’s supervision of Regional and Local Authorities;

- organize or hold, after the twin elections of 9 February 2020, training sessions for Municipal Magistrates and their administrative, financial and technical collaborators, on themes related to the management of Regional and Local Authorities;
- **the Minister of Finance to:**
- put in place a plan to clear the salary arrears of Municipal Magistrates;
  - conduct, within a period of two months, in liaison with MINDDEVEL and the other Administrations concerned, consultations in order to submit concrete proposals to him on the prospects for increasing the financial resources dedicated to the Regional and Local Authorities.

**The Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m..-**

Yaounde, the 21 JAN 2020

**FOUDA Séraphin Magloire**

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



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