

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND

**6th EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE,
SME AND PARTNERSHIP SHOW, PROMOTE 2017**

YAOUNDE, 11 - 19 FEBRUARY 2017

**OPENING SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, HEAD
OF GOVERNMENT**

MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT,

**THE VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS -MINISTER DELEGATE
FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ITALY ,**

**HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS,**

**THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CENTRAL
AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY (CEMAC),**

**THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES
(ECCAS),**

SENATORS,

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,

THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATE TO THE YAOUNDE CITY COUNCIL,

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNION DES PATRONATS DE
L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE (UNIPACE),**

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
INTER-PROGRESS, DELEGATE GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE, SME AND PARTNERSHIP SHOW,**

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NEXTEL,
THE PRESTIGE PARTNER OF PROMOTE 2017,**

PRESIDENTS OF CONSULAR CHAMBERS,

REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS,

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES,

ECONOMIC OPERATORS,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

PERMIT ME, ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL BIYA, TO WISH YOU A WARM WELCOME TO THIS MAGNIFICENT AND PICTURESQUE SITE OF NKOLNYADA, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SENATE, OUR UPPER HOUSE, AND THE CONFERENCE CENTRE AND WHICH, WITHIN THE NEXT EIGHT DAYS, WILL HOST THE SIXTH EDITION OF YAOUNDE INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE, SME AND PARTNERSHIP SHOW, PROMOTE 2017.

THIS SHOW, WHICH IS NOW A TRADITIONAL EVENT PLACED UNDER THE VERY HIGH PATRONAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, IS VITAL TO BUSINESSES, IN ALL THEIR DIMENSIONS AND AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONCLUSION OF FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIPS, EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN CORPORATIONS OR SOUTHERN CORPORATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES.

THROUGH ITS THEMATIC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS DURING WHICH SEVERAL SECTORS ARE SCRUTINISED, PROMOTE SHOW ALSO ENABLES CAMEROON'S CORPORATIONS AND THOSE FROM ELSEWHERE TO SHOWCASE THEIR KNOW-HOW AND EXHIBIT THEIR PRODUCTS, WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING THEIR MARKET SHARES.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IN A CONTEXT MARKED BY INTERDEPENDENT ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES, THE DEVELOPMENT ISSUE CAN BE BETTER ADDRESSED ONLY THROUGH A WIN-WIN PARTNERSHIP, WHERE SOME PROVIDE THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCING CAPACITY, AND OTHERS OFFER NATURAL RICHES TO BE CONVERTED.

DURING THIS MEETING OF GIVE AND TAKE, CAMEROON, AFRICA IN MINIATURE HAS MANY ASSETS WHICH MAKE IT ATTRACTIVE.

BEING THE MOST POPULATED COUNTRY IN THE CEMAC ZONE, WHICH SHARES MORE THAN 1,500 KILOMETRES OF BORDER WITH NIGERIA, THE TOP ECONOMY IN AFRICA, CAMEROON ENJOYS A UNIQUE STRATEGIC POSITION, AT THE CROSSROADS OF WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

ITS ATLANTIC COAST, ITS RAILWAY NETWORK, ITS THREE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, ITS PORT AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, WHICH ARE ALL IN CONSTANT DEVELOPMENT, FOSTER ITS GOOD INTEGRATION INTO REGIONAL AND WORLD TRADE.

IT IS ENDOWED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES; ITS VARIOUS SOILS, CLIMATES AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ARE CONDUCIVE TO AGRICULTURE.

WITH THE SECOND LARGEST HYDRO-POWER POTENTIAL IN AFRICA AND SIGNIFICANT NATURAL GAS RESERVES, CAMEROON HAS EMBARKED ON CONSTRUCTING VARIOUS AND MAJOR ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE. THE SCHEDULED COMMISSIONING OF THE SAID INFRASTRUCTURE WILL CERTAINLY PAVE THE WAY FOR GOOD PROSPECTS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE AVAILABILITY OF RELIABLE, SUFFICIENT AND PERMANENT POWER.

FURTHERMORE, OUR COUNTRY HAS AN INDUSTRIAL FABRIC WHICH IS BEING ENRICHED AND DIVERSIFIED WITH MANY SMEs/SMIs, WHICH ARE ALL WELL PREPARED FOR SUB-CONTRACTING AND CO-CONTRACTING.

LABOUR FORCE IS ABUNDANT, YOUNG AND SKILLED, FOR A COUNTRY WITH ONE OF THE BEST SCHOOL RATES IN AFRICA SOUTH OF SAHARA.

A CONDUCIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORK, WHICH IS STRUCTURED AROUND THE LAWS SETTING INVESTMENT INCENTIVES AND REGULATING THE ECONOMIC ZONES, HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO PROMOTE PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS IN THE PRIORITY STRUCTURING SECTORS WHICH ARE:

- POWER;
- AGRO-PROCESSING ;
- TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE;
- LOW-COST HOUSING AND CITY PLANNING;
- EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES;
- NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

CAMEROON, THE COUNTRY OF THE INDOMITABLE LIONS, IS A HAVEN OF PEACE. ITS STABLE, FUNCTIONAL AND HARMONIOUS INSTITUTIONS ARE WELL ADAPTED TO SOCIETY DEVELOPMENTS TO GUARANTEE AT EVERY TIME SOCIAL PEACE, THE SAFETY OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY, AND POLITICAL STABILITY.

ALL THESE MOVES TESTIFY ENOUGH TO THE STRONG WILL OF CAMEROON TO ATTRACT MORE AND MORE PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT, WITH A VIEW TO SPEEDING UP ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY FOR ITS ENTIRE POPULATION, WITH THE PROSPECT OF ITS EMERGENCE BY 2035.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Being more and more present at this International Enterprise, SME and Partnership Show is a testimony of your will and resolution to contribute to the achievement of these legitimate ambitions of our country.

I hope all participants take full advantage of this international show.

I seize this same opportunity to invite the visitors who are going to be numerous, hopefully, to take advantage of the rich programme of this sixth edition to embellish their meeting days with unforgettable discoveries and fun.

Therefore, I declare the sixth edition of Yaounde International Enterprise, SME and Partnerhip, PROMOTE 2017, open.

Long live international cooperation,

Long live win-win partnership,

Long live Cameroon and its renowned Head, His Excellency Paul BIYA, President of the Republic, Head of State,

Thank you for your kind attention.