

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND

**GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2016 FISCAL YEAR**

PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY PHILEMON YANG
PRIME MINISTER, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

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**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 very delighted to take the floor before the full membership of the National Assembly to present Government's Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for the 2016 fiscal year.

I sincerely thank **The Right Honourable Speaker** for the kind words he said to me and the entire Government.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

The Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for the 2016 fiscal year that I am going to present comes at the transition of two three-year budgetary periods, namely:

- the **2013-2015 three-year period**, to end in a few weeks, is the first period during which the concept of programme budgeting was initiated by Government; and

- the **2016-2018 three-year period**, to start in 2016, will consecrate the second contingent of programme-budgets which will further consolidate the learning acquired and be implemented in an optimal manner.

The presentation of this programme will be preceded by a brief assessment of the achievements

of the 2013-2015 three-year period, with emphasis on key achievements in the 2015 fiscal year.

**Honourable Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During the last three years, Government action as defined by the **Head of State** was implemented in a context marked by:

- the resurgence of geo-political and security crises;
- the deceleration of economic activity in a number of emerging countries; and
- economic recovery in some advanced countries.

Although growth remained at a satisfactory level internally, Cameroon's economy was not spared

from external and internal shocks over the last three years.

Cross-border insecurity in the Far-North and East Regions had a negative impact on sub-regional trade, and by extension, on our customs and tourism receipts.

Declining commodity and oil prices particularly affected the competitiveness of our economy and aggravated the structural imbalance of the current external account of the balance of payments.

Faced with these realities which affect our economy, the **Head of State** instructed Government to concretize the implementation of his ***Programme of Greater Accomplishments***, over the last three years.

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

At mid-way point, permit me to recall for your information that the *Programme of Greater Accomplishments* ordered by the President of the Republic is centred on the following pillars:

- the improvement of economic governance as well as territorial and local governance;
- the consolidation and firm establishment of democracy;
- the effective implementation of major anchor projects; and
- the improvement of the business climate.

The assessment of the “Fresh Impetus” lent to Government action in the 2013-2015 three-year

period is relatively satisfactory. The results thereof deserve to be briefly mentioned.

With regard to **economic governance**, our efforts were directed towards:

- strengthening the public procurement system;
- better controlling the implementation of public contracts and stepping up the fight against fraud and corruption;
- improving the business climate;
- modernising the economy and streamlining procedures;
- strengthening institutional supervision of the private sector;

In the year that has gone by, a few main results deserve to be mentioned.

At the macro-economic level, the growth rate was maintained at about 5% throughout the period and inflation remained below 3%, in line with our

commitments under the sub-regional convergence criteria.

Additionally, the budget deficit remained at acceptable levels while the public debt continued to be sustainable.

Despite the sluggishness of the international context and security crises, the assessment of Government's **economic** action between 2013 and 2015 is satisfactory.

In fact, the security and humanitarian crises at our country's borders did not in any way breach the stability and competitiveness of our economy which showed resilience.

To meet the expectations of most Cameroonians who are eager to participate in the programme of greater accomplishments towards emergence in 2035, the Head of State decided to initiate the Three-Year Emergency Plan for Economic Growth.

This Emergency Plan reinforces our already ambitious public investment programme which is far-reaching in scope.

Domestic demand remained high in the last three years due especially to the continued implementation of the policy of major infrastructural works.

In that regard, Government showed firm determination to:

- support economic recovery in order to accelerate growth;
- modernise the production machinery and develop value chains;
- continue the implementation of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper; and
- forge public-private partnerships without disregarding the substantial contribution of official development assistance.

In the **procurement sector**, Government continued to optimise procurement quality and

improve governance. The online system of public procurement is also in operation.

We must say that, by better controlling contract execution, the State was able to save substantial sums amounting to over **12 billion CFA Francs** in 2013 and the same sum in 2014. Projections show that this trend will be maintained in 2015.

Concerning the intensification of the fight against fraud and corruption, Government pursued its efforts to **protect the common weal and punish embezzlers**. Several public managers were audited by competent State bodies during the 2013-2015 period.

I seize this opportunity to say that dishonest ones were punished by the authorities concerned.

In **territorial and local governance**, Government actively continued to modernise territorial administration, deepen the decentralization process and strengthen the national civil protection system.

Faced with the security threats I mentioned earlier, Government's efforts centred mainly on handling the flow of refugees and the growing number of displaced persons in the Adamawa, North, Far-North and East Regions.

For your information, the number of refugees to date is estimated at 300,000 people.

To complete far-reaching reforms:

- the National Civil Status Office was put in place;
- some thirty civil status centres were renovated;
- traditional chiefdoms in Cameroon saw their status enhanced.

In fact, a new scheme of fixed monthly allowances was instituted ranging from CFAF 50,000 to CFAF 200,000, depending on the type of chiefdom;

- Finally, the ***Programme of transfer of powers to local authorities*** was continued as evidenced in the signing of several regulatory instruments.

A total of **forty (40) powers have been transferred out of the fifty-six (56) stipulated** in the 2004 law – showing about 72% improvement of the pace of transfer. This trend will be continued.

With regard to **electoral governance**:

- ELECTIONS CAMEROON carried through the biometric voter registers recompilation exercise nationwide which also brought on board Cameroonians living abroad;
- the twin legislative and municipal elections of 30 September 2013 and the senatorial election of 14 April 2013 were successfully organised.

So, we can proclaim that political governance is being consolidated step by step in Cameroon.

Government action in the **Justice Sector** had to do with strengthening the State's legislative and regulatory arrangements.

In particular, several instruments were published or amended, especially those relating to:

- the fight against terrorism;
- legal and judicial notices;
- the bilingual Penal Code;
- the facilitation of property attachment and confiscation in cases of embezzlement of public funds.

Government also placed emphasis on:

- the computerisation of the justice system;
- the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure in the Ministry of Justice and courts of the country;

- the protection of human rights;
- the improvement of nineteen (19) prisons; and
- the optimum functioning of the Special Criminal Court.

The Government intensified its **National Defence** policy by forging the "*Army-Nation*" synergy *against insecurity* and by reinforcing the protection of persons, properties and Cameroon's territorial integrity.

The National Army also participates actively in the development of the country through the military engineering corps and military health services.

I would also like to mention the efforts made by the public authorities, among other things, to:

- construct and rehabilitate infrastructure meant specifically for our Defence and Police Forces;

- organise, train and guide the populations as well as vigilante groups to continue to effectively fight against terrorism; and
- procure high-performing materials and equipment to fight all forms of criminality.

In **diplomacy**, several successes were recorded, notably the memorable visits to Cameroon of the Heads of State of France, Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Chad. I am not forgetting the no less significant visit of the Secretary-General of the International Organisation of *La Francophonie*.

During the same period, President Paul BIYA opened Cameroon to a number of emerging markets. He paid a historic visit to Turkey and received that country's Head of State in Yaounde. He also decided to open Cameroon diplomatic missions in India and Turkey. Meanwhile, China remains a major partner of our country.

Furthermore, we continued forging bilateral relations with our traditional allies and international institutions to find concerted solutions to different known security threats.

In addition to the moral, material and financial support, some friendly countries, particularly Chad even deployed their troops alongside ours to fight the *Boko Haram* terrorist group.

Our country's presence at major international events helped to consolidate the success of our diplomacy.

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

I would now like to present a summary of Government's assessment by sector.

In the **Energy and Water Sector**, Government action had to do mainly with boosting energy supply and improving the population's access to electricity and drinking water.

In the **energy sub-sector**, Government worked in earnest to ensure:

- **the commissioning the Kribi gas power plant**, with a capacity of 216 Megawatts ;
- the partial **priming of the Lom Pangar dam**;
- the finalization of construction works of the Mekin and Memve'ele hydropower dams, whose implementation rates stand at 70% on average;
- the improved access of households and business operators to various forms of energy;
- the increase in the volume of cooking gas made available on the national market; and
- the commissioning of the renovated petroleum products depot at Nsam, Yaounde.

Government is pursuing action on other projects, notably:

- the start of the process of procurement by the State of Cameroon of the 60-Megawatts thermal power plant at Ahala;

- the completion of final design studies for the construction of the 72-Megawatts hydro-power dam on Menchum River;

- the start-up of complementary studies of development works on the Song-Dong hydro-power dam;

- the completion of studies of the project to strengthen and stabilise the electricity grids in Yaounde and Douala;

- the optimisation of the capacity of oil refining facilities which allowed for the re-sizing of the SONARA plant with a view to its modernisation ;

- the development of storage facilities for petroleum products and gas;

- the development of renewable energies;
- the start-up of rural electrification works financed by the World Bank; and
- the continuation of Phase 1 of the SONARA Extension and Modernisation Project, whose works are over 90% complete.

In the same vein, the Mvomeka solar power plant has been completed and inaugurated. Government plans to start electrification works in 166 localities using a solar photovoltaic power system. This will be in partnership with a Chinese firm.

Additionally, the four thermal power plants constructed in Ebolowa, Ahala, Bamenda and Mbalmayo as part of the Emergency Thermal Power Programme helped to boost electrical power supply.

To conclude on this point, I would like to indicate that the Head of State recently set up the National

Electricity Distribution Company which will ensure the operation, maintenance and development of public transmission of electricity produced by ENEO.

In the **Water sub-sector**, our action centred on improving potable water supply in secondary towns.

In that regard, Government, with the support of development partners, encouraged the construction of drinking water supply centres in 52 localities including Ambam, Akonolinga, Campo, Zoetele, Yokadouma, Monatele, Batouri, Sa'a, Okola, Evodoula, Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Bamenda, Buea, Garoua, Limbe, Maroua, Nkongsamba and Banyo, to name but a few.

In the **public works sector**, several road projects were completed during the 2013-2015 period. These include in particular:

- the Garoua Boulaiï-Nandeke road section, of a linear distance of 86 km
- the 15-km Nandeke-Mbere section;
- the Numba-Bachuo Akagbe section, of a linear distance of 52 km ;
- the 50 km Ndop-Kumbo section of the Ring Road; and
- the 21 km feeder road to the Kribi deep-sea port.

Many other road projects are ongoing. These include:

- the construction of the Yaounde-Douala motorway ;
- the asphaltting of sections of the Sangmelima-Ouessou road ;
- the construction of the Bamenda-Batibo-Numba section;
- the asphaltting of the Foumban-Manki road;
- the construction of the Obala-Batchenga-Bouam road;

- the construction of the Bachuo Akagbe-Mamfe section;
- the construction of the Zoetele-Nkolyop road;
- the development of the Douala East and West thoroughfares; and
- the construction of the second bridge on the Wouri River.

Furthermore, we also continued to implement certain specific programmes including:

- the Programme to maintain existing roads aimed at protecting our road heritage;
- the Programme of infrastructure-related engineering studies, through the conduct of studies for roads and engineering structures over a distance of about 3,000 km of roads;
- the strengthening of LABOGENIE's technical supervisory;
- the stepping up of support for MATGENIE activities; and

- Government institutional support programme. This was reflected in devolved services of the Ministry of Public Works being provided with civil engineering equipment for the State-supervised maintenance of some rural roads not eligible for Road Fund financing.

Government plans in the coming weeks to sign a business contract with a Chinese firm. This contract concerns the construction of a railway line between Mbalam and Kribi, an iron ore terminal at Lolabe as well as the delivery of infrastructure meant for the development of the project target area;

With regard to **Urban Development and Housing**, the Government undertook:

- construction works of the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway;
- the construction and rehabilitation of 136 km of surfaced urban roads in about 50 towns;

- the construction of a total of 48 km of drainage to better canalize runoff;
- the construction of 1,160 houses, 380 of them in Mbanga-Japoma, (Douala) and 780 in Olembe (Yaounde).

Also, to cope with recurrent flooding in our two large cities, financing totaling **182 billion CFA Francs** were mobilized, of which **102 billion CFA Francs** for Douala and **80 billion CFA Francs** for Yaounde.

In the **Transport sector**, Government action in the air, maritime, port, and railway sub-sectors, was among other things, geared towards the development and rehabilitation of transport infrastructure.

To illustrate, I would mention the following in the air sub-sector:

- the commissioning of an automated aeronautic weather station in Bamenda and in Bafoussam;

- the construction of an emergency operations control centre in Douala;
- the construction of a bridge over the DINDE River in the Douala airport area;
- the installation of a new integrated meteorological and aviation observation system at the Yaounde-Nsimalen airport,
- the procurement of crash vans for our airports;
- the renovation of the runways of the Yaounde and Douala airports;
- the supply of potable water to the Douala, Maroua-Salak, and Bertoua airports through the construction of bore holes;
- the refurbishment of the Douala airport platform – an essential component of this airport’s strategic investment plan.

Other major actions were carried out in the maritime, ports and railway sub-sectors. These include:

- the completion of Phase 1 of the project to construct an Industrial-Port Complex in Kribi;
- the construction of a maritime museum in Douala and a 1,000 cubic metre warehouse in the MAGZI zone in Bassa;
- the construction of a logistics base for goods on transit at the Douala port;
- the completion of works on the Limbe Shipyard and the procurement of a 5,000-ton dock;
- the start of construction works on another warehouse in Tiko; and
- the procurement of 40 coaches and 15 new locomotives to boost the operational capacity of CAMRAIL.

In **Land Transport**, the Government continued:

- to fight against illicit transport by setting up a national committee for that purpose;
- to sensitise users and partners on road safety by:
 - informing users and drivers;

- installing radars to control speed on some roads;
- punishing defaulting travel agencies and drivers;
- streamlining the commercial motor-bike sector;
- procuring electronic breathalyzers; and
- procuring cranes for the removal of obstacles and poorly-parked vehicles along our road corridors.

With regard to **air transport**, the national carrier CAMAIR-Co continues to benefit from constant Government support for its efficient operation.

Government has just commissioned a comprehensive audit to rehabilitate it and enhance its efficiency.

In the **Telecommunication sector**, construction works of the 68-km-long urban optical fibre loop in Yaounde have been completed.

The landing point of the West Africa Cable System in Limbe is now in operation.

Further, works to deploy the ***Nigeria to Cameroon Submarine Cable System*** landing point on Cameroon's coast are 90% done.

Cross-border interconnections between Cameroon and some Central African countries is now effective.

In addition, construction works on the Maroua optical loop, about 40 kilometres long, are 60% done.

In the **Postal sector**, Government continued to put in place tools for the regulation of the postal market and designed an appropriate legal framework.

With regard to **Scientific Research and Innovation**, Government ensured the distribution of new seed varieties for cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, rubber, cotton, oil palm, and plantain.

Several seed farms have been created in rural areas including Evodoula, Okola, Mefomo, Tang, Edipkumbo, Poumpouna, Emana and Okoa.

Similarly, activities of the Agricultural Research Support Programme went in operation in the last three years with funds from the first French Debt Relief and Development Contract.

Degassing operations to secure Lakes Nyos and Mounoun continued.

As part of efforts to control seismic activity in Cameroon, Government procured and installed **seismographs** and other related equipment to secure sites of ongoing major projects.

During the period under review, Government action in the **Mining and Geology sector** focused mainly on:

- the showcasing of the country's mining potential through the organisation of two international

conferences on Cameroon's mining industry in Yaounde;

- the setting up of an integrated body to manage mining projects, known as the ***Strategic Board for the Negotiation and Monitoring of Major Mining Projects***;
- the better tracking of certain minerals and a 15% levy on gold production from artisanal mining through the Artisanal Mining Support Council.

In fact, from 2013 to 2015, over 140 kilogrammes of gold were handed over to the State Treasury as part of this Initiative.

With regard to **Industry and Intellectual Property**, Government took up the challenge of diversifying cement supply with the construction and start-up of three new cement factories in Douala namely:

- Dangote Cement Cameroon, set up by a Nigerian partner;
- CIMAF Company, sponsored by Moroccan investors; and
- MEDCEM, a subsidiary of the Turkish Group Eren Holding.

As concerns the processing of some cash-crops, cocoa powder production grew by an **additional 18,000 tons** in 2015 compared to previous years.

Similarly, actions to encourage private investments have enabled Government since 2014 to sign 44 agreements with companies operating in the agro-industrial, steel production, pharmaceutical, building materials, transport and social housing sectors.

The processing of cash crops is high on Government's agenda and numerous initiatives in that direction are being supported.

The total estimated cost of these investments stand at **429 billion CFA Francs**. They can potentially generate close to 15,600 jobs.

In the **Forestry and Wildlife sector**, Government increased the land area of classified permanent forests from over 5 million to 7 million hectares, corresponding to an achievement rate of 73% compared to 2013 projections.

Similarly, the surface of Protected Areas being developed virtually doubled from 2 million to 4 million hectares.

Government also intensified the fight against poaching and many animals killed were seized.

The supply of legal lumber to the local market stabilised at 2 and a half million cubic metres. The total land area under reforestation rose from 19 thousand hectares to 24 thousand hectares.

The annual value of promotional species sold rose from 500 thousand to 720 thousand cubic metres.

At the same time, the sale of legal lumber on the local market fell from 800 thousand to 429 thousand cubic metres.

All of these led to the creation of **28,350 direct jobs** in the timber sector in 2015 against **23,000** in 2013.

The achievement rate here is 94% compared to the objective of 30,000 direct jobs targeted in the baseline period.

In the **Environment sector**, Government finalised an environmental and social management plan to deal with repeated cases of flooding in the country.

Reforestation operations were undertaken on over 22 thousand hectares of land as a continuation of

Operation Green Sahel in the Mayo Kani, Mayo Danay, Diamaré, Mayo Tsanaga and Mayo Sava Divisions.

Government has also begun to stabilize 25 hectares of the banks of the Benue River.

As concerns the fight against pollution, Government intensified actions for the rational management of wastes, notably non-compliant plastic packaging.

It is also noteworthy that our country will take an active part in the Paris Conference on Climate Change referred to as **COP21**.

Cameroon also actively participates in exploring solutions for preserving the ecological balance of the Lake Chad Basin eco-system.

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

During the 2013-2015 period, Government paid particular attention to **agro-pastoral and agro-industrial production** as well as the services sector.

The focus in the **Agricultural sector** was on improving the productivity and competitiveness of promising sectors that are vital for food security, such as maize, rice, cassava, potato, plantain, oil palm, millet, sorghum, fruits and vegetables.

In that regard, Government launched campaigns to distribute seeds and cuttings to farmers. These will be continued.

Thanks to the commitment displayed by Government, Cameroon was one of the 72 countries

that in 2015 achieved the Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger.

This earned for our country a distinction from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation.

To steer the same course, we accelerated the process to design a National Agriculture Investment Plan which is nearing completion.

Cash crops such as banana, cocoa, coffee and cotton were not left out. They benefited from numerous Government initiatives designed in collaboration with the agricultural private sector.

In the **Livestock and Animal Industry Sector**, emphasis was placed on increasing pastoral, poultry and bee production. We obtained the following results:

- **566,716 tons of meat** from controlled slaughtering;
- **385,676 tons** of milk collected;

- **385,676 tons** of eggs produced;
- **600 agro-pastoral projects** financed; and
- **3,341 tons** of honey collected, 900 tons of which exported.

The combined efforts of the relevant Government departments led to the labeling of Oku Honey. Thanks to intense control, the prevalence rate of animal diseases fell from 30% in 2012 to 5% between 2013 and 2015.

In the area of **Fisheries and Fish-Farming**, Government revived the activities of the Artisanal and Maritime Fishery Development Authority and strengthened the operational capacity of the Maritime Fisheries Development Fund.

Furthermore, the marketing of these products will continue to be improved as well as the development of fish-farming ponds in rural areas.

With regard to **Small and Medium Size Enterprises**, the 2013-2015 period was characterised by:

- the creation and effective start-up of the activities of the Small and Medium Size Enterprise Promotion Agency which implements pro-SME public policies;
- the creation and effective start of the Cameroon SME Bank which will facilitate the access of small and medium-size enterprises to funding; and
- the establishment of the Sub-contracting and Partnership Exchange to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the sub-contracting process.

Moreover, Government rendered operational ten (10) pilot business creation centres, one (1) per Region. They serve as a one-stop shop bringing together the stakeholders of relevant procedures in Cameroon.

Furthermore, performances in the **Social Economy and Handicraft** sector improved during the period under review.

In that regard, the existing 350 social economy organisations received various financial support packages from Government.

Nine (9) handicraft villages were constructed in 9 Regional headquarters, excepting the Centre Region which hosts the recently completed **Yaounde International Handicraft Centre**. It will soon be inaugurated.

In the **Tourism and Leisure sector**, Government is rehabilitating existing State-owned hotels. Fifteen (15) tourist sites have been developed including Lake Oku, the Muanenguba Twin Lakes, the Lobeke National Park, the Ebolowa and Buea Leisure Parks and the Lagdo and Maga nautical stations.

Moreover, construction and equipment works of the 3-Star Hotel of the Ebolowa Agropastoral Show are calmly in progress. The form work is 98% done.

As far as **Trade** is concerned, Government's abiding goal was to protect consumers and tackle the rising cost of living.

It partially revised the official price list and fought against illicit trade practices, also sanctioning breaches to healthy competition.

We also promoted the consumption of local products by organizing promotional Days for coffee, cocoa, textiles, plantain, and cassava within the country and abroad.

In a bid to widen our market share, trade was intensified with West and Central African countries as part of regional integration.

With regard to the **Public Service and Administrative Reform**, actions carried out helped to:

- control the State's staff strength,
- strengthen their capacity,
- modernise the management of staff careers;
- improve the management of disciplinary files and disputes.

In that connection, 39 ministries were given tools to process advancements automatically and improve the payment of dues owed State employees. Similarly, staffing plans are ongoing.

In addition, administrative reform tools were instituted in at least 35 ministries. These tools include: administrative procedures manuals; human resource management manuals; user guides; performance standards; job descriptions and other instruments, and organic frameworks.

Lastly, the cleaning up of the personnel database was actively continued.

In the area of **Land Tenure and Surveys**, the action of public authorities mainly consisted in improving the property-tax base and extending land reserves for the implementation of major developmental projects.

In this perspective, the significant actions were:

- the identification and securing of about 2.3 million hectares of land;
- the securing of 107 thousand hectares for the implementation of the Energy Development Programme;
- the development of over 1,000 building plots in Yaounde and Douala as part of Government's programme to develop 50 thousand building plots; and

- the provision of land required for projects listed in the Three-Year Emergency Plan to Fast Track Economic Growth.

Apart from these **land reserves** constituted, the Government also undertook actions to modernise cadastral surveys and to protect and develop State property.

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

In the area of **Communication**, the Government streamlined activities in the advertising sector, the private media and professional organisations.

Similarly, the Government started up the implementation of the Cameroon Digital Television project, undertook the technical rehabilitation of Cameroon Radio Television and the institutional

restructuring of the Cameroon News and Publishing Corporation.

In the **social and cultural** sector, Government did not lose sight of the idea that investing in human capital is what drives economic growth and development.

In that connection, remarkable work was done in the education sector during the 2013-2015 period that is ending.

In **Basic Education**, the Government in particular:

- created 1,200 new primary schools across the country;
- constructed 720 new nursery schools;
- signed contracts with over 6,000 new teachers;
- and

- mobilised close to **4 billion CFA Francs** as part of the school emergency response programme, decided by the **President of the Republic**, for the Far-North Region.

In **general secondary education**, Government efforts were seen in:

- the construction of 942 classrooms;
- the rehabilitation of 156 classrooms;
- the creation of 189 new schools, the transformation of 67 Government secondary schools into high schools and the opening of several secondary schools across the country.

The Government worked in earnest to introduce new school curricula and improve the pass rate in official secondary school examinations.

Achievements in **technical and vocational secondary education** were many. For example:

- 442 classrooms were constructed;

- 57 Government technical and commercial colleges were transformed into Government technical high schools; and
- 147 new Government technical and commercial colleges created were opened.

Lastly, regarding the development of **teacher training**, newly validated curricula are being introduced in Government technical teachers' training colleges and Grade One teachers' training colleges. Also, 90 classrooms were constructed.

In **Higher Education**, this three-year period was characterised by major works which helped:

- to significantly raise enrolment capacities in State universities;
- to improve education quality; and
- to improve the working and living conditions of members of the university community.

Special emphasis was also placed on the professionalization of courses, the promotion of the

development of private universities and their scientific supervision by State universities.

Furthermore, we considerably raised the intake capacity of technological and professional institutions by providing 45,000 places. Several newly created institutions also became functional, particularly:

- the Institute of Mines and Petroleum Industries of the University of Maroua in Kaélé;
- the Higher Technical Teachers' Training College of the University of Buea in Kumba;
- the School of Geology and Mining Engineering of the University of Ngaoundere in Meïganga;
- the Faculty of Engineering and Technology and the College of Technology of the University of Buea.

Government's **social action** for the 2013-2015 period was marked by the implementation of the

national strategic plan to prevent disabilities and fight against social ills.

The public authorities placed emphasis on:

- the improvement of the social protection system for socially vulnerable persons;
- the promotion of national solidarity;
- the intensification of the fight against the phenomenon of street children; and
- public assistance to socially vulnerable persons.

In **Public Health**, our action prioritized achieving the sector's strategic objectives. Significant results were recorded in terms of:

- a lower maternal and under-5 infant mortality rate;
- malaria prevention and control;
- the increase in the number of public health facilities and quality care.

Like in the past, Government continues to cater for the treatment of persons living with HIV.

Furthermore, the country's health map was enriched with three new referral hospitals:

- the Sangmelima Referral Hospital;
- the Yaounde Emergency Centre; and
- the Douala Gynecological, Obstetrical and Pediatric Hospital.

In **Employment and Vocational Training**, the Government facilitated the creation of about 700 thousand jobs between 2013 and 2015.

Vocational training activities were developed to address the needs of the production system and the labour market. This allowed for the enrolment of **43,000** students in 2013, **45,000** in 2014 and over **50,000** in 2015.

The local content of foreign direct investments and major anchor projects is closely monitored by the Government.

As concerns **Labour and Social Security**, the three-year period, about to end, was marked by better social security coverage for workers. This was thanks to the establishment of an appropriate legal framework which now defines the terms and conditions for voluntary subscription to the old-age pension, disability and death insurance schemes.

Similarly, the efforts of the National Social Insurance Fund have helped to insure over one million persons, representing about 18% of the labour force.

With regard to **Women's Empowerment and the Family**, the Government adopted a National Gender Policy. A "*programme for the social cohesion and re-integration of women refugees*" was implemented. We accelerated efforts to control

violence against women, also ensuring the development of the family and the protection of the rights of children and teenage mothers.

Several women's empowerment and family centres were created, rehabilitated and equipped across the country.

Similarly, the Ministerial Strategy Paper for Women's Empowerment and the Family and the Women's Policy Training Manual were finalised.

In the area of **Arts and Culture**, Government's efforts focused on:

- the rehabilitation and commissioning of the National Museum;
- the start-up of the general inventory of the country's physical and intangible cultural heritage;
- the rebuilding and digitising of Cameroon's historical records;

- the erection of the Monument marking 50-Years of Independence and Reunification in Buea;
- the construction of a National Institute of Arts and Culture at Binguéla in Mbankomo Sub-division;
- the completion of rehabilitation and development works of the Foulassi Teachers' Training College in the South Region, the hall that hosted the Fouban Constitutional Conference in 1961, the National Museum and the Cameroon Cultural Centre;
- the intensification of the fight against copyright infringements;
- the inventory of the national cultural heritage and finalisation of a bill to protect the national cultural heritage;
- the restructuring of the Yaounde Conference Centre;
- the creation and organisation of the International Book Fair in Cameroon since 2013;
- the streamlining of the copyrights management sector.

In **Sports and Physical Education**, the Government placed emphasis on supervising senior national teams in various sports disciplines and renewing the governing bodies of sports federations.

The Confederation of African Football awarded the organization of two African Football Cup of Nations finals to our country: the female edition in 2016 and the male in 2019.

Preparations for these sporting events, started in 2014, are being intensified in 2015, especially as far as sports facilities and hotels are concerned.

Construction works of the new Olympic stadia in Limbe and Bafoussam are over 90% done.

Furthermore, Cameroon's participation at the last edition of the Female World Cup tournament in Canada was honourable.

Our country also participated in the Female World Volleyball Championship and the African Handball Championship.

It hosted the African Female Basketball Championship whose organization was unanimously appreciated by all and sundry.

As concerns **Youth and Civic Education**, Government continues to pay special attention to the youth who are at the vanguard of our country's development. An international symposium organised in Yaounde enabled the Government to lay the basis for a national reference framework of civic education and national integration.

This action is in line with the guidelines given by the Head of State on the promotion of an "exemplary Republic", a guarantee for the propagation of public morals and ethics.

It will be recalled that, in February 2015, Cameroon hosted the first Commonwealth Conference on African Youth on the theme: “Youth can build a stable future”.

The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would now like to present the broad lines of the 2016-2018 three-year programme.

With regard to major prospects for the 2016-2018 three-year period, the Government intends to lend the same impetus to the implementation of on-going reforms and the completion of major ongoing anchor projects, which makes our country one big construction site.

The **public procurement environment** will mainly be marked by the reform of the Public Contracts Code, decided by the **President of the Republic**.

In 2016, we will roll out a computer application designed to programme and monitor public procurement activities. This will reduce the time taken to award contracts and to process the related files.

The focus in **Territorial and Local Governance** will be to modernise territorial administration by securing civil status documents and rendering the National Civil Status Office operational.

The circulation of arms and the activities of private security firms will be controlled. The gaming sector will be also regulated and controlled.

We will also increase financial resources transferred to local authorities, by substantially raising

the general decentralisation allocation, and optimising the management of financial resources.

Similarly, special attention will be paid to civil protection to minimise the effects of natural disasters and better control the influx of refugees and internally-displaced persons, victims of cross-border insecurity.

More generally, specific **security measures** will be taken to further protect our borders, and the safety of persons and goods nationwide.

In terms of strengthening the security arrangement, the implementation of the Emergency Plan will allow for the construction of new Gendarmerie posts and Police stations in Yaounde and Douala as well as the construction of several border security posts.

In the Justice sector, we will continue to build the capacities of judicial staff and revise texts on the fees of bailiffs and notaries.

The Government also plans to implement the Master Plan for the computerisation of our judicial and penitentiary services.

We will continue to upgrade our laws by finalising various legislations, particularly the bilingual Civil and Commercial Procedures Code, the bilingual Civil Code and the Nationality Code.

With regard to the prevention of financial improprieties, we intend to strengthen the capacity of internal audit structures of Government departments and other public and semi-public bodies.

Similarly, we will systematise audit missions and punish dishonest managers.

In diplomacy, the Government plans to continue furthering Cameroon's influence within the concert of nations under the guidance of the Head of State.

At the economic level, the 2016-2018 three-year period will focus on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of State interventions and further diversifying the sources of growth.

This will involve adequately structuring or restructuring the promising sectors.

We will seek to enhance the competitiveness of private companies by significantly reducing factor costs.

The business climate will be improved to attract investments that can create jobs for young Cameroonians.

Regarding public finances, several key actions will be carried out. These include *inter alia*:

- developing customs facilities;

- pursuing reforms to modernise and simplify the internal taxation system; and
- implementing management audit in all Government departments.

In the Energy sector, we will strive to finalise the on-going major energy projects and increase energy supply through specific renewable energy investments.

For that, new capacities will have to be developed, production sources diversified, new dams built including the Nachtigal, Song-Dong and Bini a Warak dams, along with electricity transmission lines.

New transmission lines will be constructed and/or strengthened during the implementation of the 'energy component' of the Emergency Plan.

We aim in this sector to *inter alia*:

- make the National Electricity Distribution Company operational;

- achieve an electrification rate of 70% of urban and suburban households by 2017;
- intensify rural electrification; and
- enhance the distribution and availability of petroleum products.

With regard to access to potable water, our priorities will be to expand and modernise our water supply network and develop related infrastructure.

Emphasis will be placed on starting the project to supply Yaounde with potable water from the Sanaga River.

Specifically, within the context of the Emergency Plan, we will calmly continue the ongoing project to construct 900 boreholes and 19 drinking water supply facilities in the ten regions of our country as well as sink 3,000 boreholes in the northern regions.

As concerns road infrastructure, besides implementing the road component of the Emergency Plan for Fast Tracking Economic Growth, the

Government will also strive to upgrade inter-urban infrastructure to optimise the organisation of the 2016 and 2019 African Football Cup of Nations.

On this subject, the Emergency Plan provided for the construction of 20 access roads to production basins, that is, 2 roads per region.

Similarly, road projects will continue with:

- the construction of the Douala-Yaounde motorway;
- the construction of the Kribi-Edea motorway;
- the construction of the second bridge over the Wouri;
- the construction of the Tilde bridge in the Far North;
- the continuation of the construction of the Ring Road (Kumbo-Nkambe; Nkambe-Wum; Wum-Bamenda; Bamenda-Ndop sections);

- the construction of several roads including: the Ebolowa-Akom2-Kribi; Mbama-Messamena; Obout-Endom-Akonolinga; Sangmelima-Bikoula; Bikoula-Djourn and Djourn-Mintom-Congo border roads;
- the rehabilitation of some roads, notably the Mora-Dabanga; Dabanga-Kousseri; Yaoundé-Douala; and Yaounde-Bafoussam-Bamenda roads;
- the construction of the dyke-road on the Logone River at Maga; and
- the rehabilitation of the Maroua-Kousseri road.

Our country's **urban landscape** will receive a considerable facelift in the next three years, especially with the continuation of ongoing construction works. These include:

- the construction works of the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway;

- the construction works of the Douala East and West thoroughfares;
- the execution of sanitation projects; and
- the acceleration of construction of low-cost housing.

The implementation of the urban component of the Emergency Plan will make it possible to rehabilitate about 232 kilometres of urban roads in Yaounde and Douala. Some related works on secondary roads are already visible in both towns.

Regarding the “housing” component, eight regional headquarters, excluding Yaounde and Douala, will be endowed with 800 low-cost houses along with community facilities, at the rate of 100 houses per region.

The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Transport, we will intensify road safety operations by installing fixed radars to check over-speeding along the Douala-Yaounde road.

We will also strengthen the mechanism for removing obstacles, especially broken-down vehicles along our main roads.

In the Post and Telecommunication sector, Government's action will mainly involve:

- expanding and optimising national coverage of the postal network; and
- increasing access, at lower cost, to electronic communication across the country.

With regard to Scientific Research and Innovation activities, our action will mainly focus on:

- finalizing the project to create and construct a haematological and biochemical reagents production plant at the Institute for Research in Medicine and Medicinal Plants; and
- establishing units for transfer of technology and innovation.

Concerning mines and industry, we are going to focus on enhancing the value of minerals and modernising the system of management of mining authorisations.

We intend to conclude discussions with our partners in order to implement the Mbalam-Nabeba Iron Ore Project.

Also, diversifying and improving the competitiveness of industrial sectors will be high on our agenda.

Similarly, the local processing of cocoa, cassava, potatoes and forestry products on an industrial scale will also be developed and encouraged.

We will also give value to inventions, technological innovations and industrial achievements, notably by creating an agro-industrial technology park, with the support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.

In the Forestry and Wildlife Sector, we will:

- tighten measures against deforestation; and
- start the registration process of over 7 million hectares of permanent forest land and close to 4 million hectares of protected areas in the State land register.

At the same time, we will intensify the fight against cross-border poaching, better secure protected areas and promote eco-development therein.

The outlook **on the environmental sector** concerns notably:

- continuing the stabilization of 25 hectares of River Benoue banks either by biological means or by building ripraps;
- strengthening climate change resilience, mitigation and adaptation measures;
- promoting the Sustainable Development Objectives;
- combating the water hyacinth and other invasive aquatic plants; and
- conserving mangrove ecosystems.

Government action **in the Agricultural Sector** will focus principally on:

- spraying cocoa/coffee plantations;
- mastering access to funding and land;
- standardizing and certifying our agricultural products; and
- promoting agricultural mechanisation.

The outlook here mainly concerns the implementation of the National Agricultural Investment Plan and the conduct of the General Census of Agriculture and Livestock.

Apart from that, the actions listed in the Emergency Plan will focus on the creation of *agropoles*, the development of 120 thousand hectares of irrigation schemes in the northern regions and the support for agro-industries.

In the area of **Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries**, we will enhance value-chain development in various sectors by setting up socio-economic infrastructure.

The health protection of livestock will aim to eradicate all sorts of animal diseases through systematic vaccination and regular checks.

Fisheries development will seek to reduce post-harvest losses and revive shrimp fishing. Factory ships and a processing plant will be procured for that. The same holds true for the intensification of aquaculture.

We will also construct and equip a modern slaughter-house in Ngaoundere and four cold-stores in Yaounde, Kribi, Ngaoundere and Ebolowa as part of the Emergency Plan.

In the **Small and Medium size Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts Sector**, Government will focus on encouraging private initiative and improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. We will also focus on intensifying the activities of the Small and Medium Size Enterprises Promotion Agency, the Small and Medium Size Enterprises Bank and the Subcontracting and Partnership Stock Exchange.

In Tourism and Leisure, the Government will strive particularly to:

- increase and enhance infrastructure;
- develop tourist sites; and
- promote leisure activities especially for children, youths and vulnerable people.

Furthermore, works related to the organisation of the 2016 and 2019 Africa Football Cup of Nations will also concern the renovation of hotels nationwide and the construction of new ones in Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam and Limbe.

Concerning State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure, public authorities intend to:

- establish a central database of concessionary companies of national land;
- further increase the Geodetic Network to 2,500 points in 2018; and

- modernise land registry by digitising 120,000 land titles in Yaounde, Douala, Garoua and Maroua.

Similarly, State property protection will be enhanced through the marking and rehabilitation of administrative buildings. This will mainly concern the rehabilitation of:

- main administrative garages;
- the Ministerial Building No. 2;
- the Ministerial Building No. 3 commonly called *Immeuble Rose*;
- the buildings hosting the Ministries of Post and Telecommunications; Public Health; and Employment and Vocational Training as well as the *Shell-Concorde* Building in Yaounde.

In Trade, Government will strive to increase exports by:

- promoting home-made products on local, regional and international markets;

- facilitating domestic and international trade by introducing paperless registration procedures for importers and exporters; and
- establishing the Commodities Exchange.

The fight against illicit trade practices will be intensified.

Ultimately, we also aim to improve distribution channels by constructing periodic markets and “producer-traveller markets” suited to certain areas along major highways.

We also plan to create wholesale markets in each region as indicated in the Emergency Plan.

Concerning the Public Service and Administrative Reforms sector, the actions envisaged will focus especially on streamlining the management of State personnel.

Government departments will be further accompanied to implement the reform introducing the

devolution of the management of State human resources. The aim is to serve users more efficiently.

The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

With regard to **Basic Education**, Government will undertake several actions, including:

- the construction of over 10,000 classrooms;
- the rehabilitation of at least 72 Government schools;
- the development of inclusive education, through the procurement of tools and teaching aids for students with disabilities;
- the construction of 30 functional literacy centres;
- the increase of the “pre-school” rate by equipping community pre-schools and constructing 35 nursery schools;

- the equipping of classrooms in some rural areas with 900 desks and building at least 30 classrooms in nursery schools;
- the construction of staff quarters with 100 houses for teachers in inaccessible handed-back rural areas.

Concerning **Secondary Education**, Government plans to strengthen access to education to achieve a 72% transition rate from primary to secondary school and hence, raise the percentage of enrolments in technical and vocational education to 23% by 2018.

In addition, Government intends to diversify vocational training avenues and to intensify professionalization. This will involve creating vocational schools, developing specific professional streams and establishing high schools of excellence and bilingual high schools.

In the Higher Education sector, Government intends, firstly, to continue and complete the

development of infrastructure in technological and professional schools.

Secondly, we will acquire laboratory equipment and workshops for these schools. The ultimate goal is to see enrolments in professional streams rise from 20% to 25% of total students by 2020.

Furthermore, our country was honoured to host the continental headquarters of the Pan-African University, under the auspices of the African Union. Its rector will be commissioned into his functions in the first half of 2016, when construction works of its headquarters will also start.

In the Employment and Vocational Training sector, prospects for 2016-2018 will involve:

- the creation of at least 400 thousand jobs in 2016;
- the improvement of vocational training avenues;
- and

- the continuation of reforms relating to the rational management of Government programmes targeting the socio-economic integration of youth.

With regard to **Labour and Social Security**, we plan to increase social insurance coverage to 20% for staff registered with the National Social Insurance Fund and those falling under the Public Service.

To do that, we will finalize the construction of the Pilot Training and Information Centre for trade union organisations in Yaounde. In terms of labour protection, labour inspections will be revitalized.

Regarding Women's Empowerment and the Family, we will focus on the economic empowerment of women.

This will be done by developing female entrepreneurship and strengthening the national coverage of supervisory structures for women and the family.

The same holds true for the promotion of gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination against women.

In addition, Government will strive to protect family values and strengthen the protection of children's rights.

In the area of Arts and Culture, Government action will focus on:

- continuing the general inventory of the cultural and intangible heritage;
- finalizing the restructuring of the Yaounde Conference Centre; and
- constructing the National Institute of Arts and Culture.

In the Social sector, Government's action will focus mainly on the effective transfer of social rehabilitation powers to councils. Councils will thus be required to participate in the management and

maintenance of social advancement and rehabilitation centres.

The Government will also construct a pilot centre for work-related assistance and another pilot centre for people with mental disabilities.

The **Public Health** landscape will improve significantly, thanks to expected positive effects from the implementation of the Emergency Plan, seen in:

- the rehabilitation of infrastructure and improvement of the technical support units in the Yaounde and Douala Referral Hospitals and the Yaounde University Teaching Hospital;
- the construction of eight (8) new regional referral hospitals; and
- the completion of the construction programme of regional medical imaging and dialysis centres.

Moreover, malaria control will be intensified with the distribution of over 12 million free long-lasting treated mosquito bed-nets.

Similarly, about 250,000 people living with HIV and AIDS patients will be receiving free antiretroviral treatment.

Sports and Physical Education will receive very special attention. This will include exploring avenues for improving the performance of national teams at international competitions, the construction of new sports facilities and rehabilitation of existing ones.

This will also apply to the operationalization of specialized training facilities for young athletes.

Regarding preparations of the 2016 and 2019 African Football Cup of Nations, the Government will undertake major works to rehabilitate existing stadia including the Yaounde, Douala and Garoua Omnisports stadia.

There are also plans to construct two new ones, together with training facilities in Yaounde-Olembe,

with capacity of 60,000 seats and at Douala-Japoma, with capacity of 50,000 seats.

The Youth and Civic Education sector will witness the following key activities:

- the promotion of youth entrepreneurship;
- the training of 70,000 volunteers and 50,000 persons drafted for preparations for African Football Cup of Nations 2016 and 2019;
- the construction and development of pioneer villages;
- the construction and rehabilitation of reference training centres of those drafted;
- the rehabilitation of the National Youth and Sports Centre in Kribi ; and
- the implementation of the strategy to combat addictive behaviour.

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

You have just listened to Government's prospects for the coming 2016-2018 three-year period, which are subject to the approval of the National Assembly.

It goes without saying that our aim, in the coming years, is to implement major structural reforms and to carry out several major projects for the development of our country.

To do that, the Government needs the usual support of the National Assembly to tackle head-on the many challenges at hand.

Moreover, the implementation of this programme will require that public authorities have substantial operational means, in view of the new constraints

imposed by the context of insecurity at the borders in the Far-North and East regions.

That is why, for greater public policy efficiency, the draft 2016 budget, submitted for your approval, is based on the realistic assumption of a 6% increase in the Gross Domestic Product and a 3% inflation rate.

It is balanced in revenue and expenditure at **4,234.7 billion CFA Francs**, against 3,746.6 billion CFA Francs in 2015, an increase of 488.1 billion CFA Francs in absolute terms and 13.02% in relative terms.

This apparent increase is justified especially by the optimisation of the expected level of traditional revenue, in addition to revenues obtainable from a Eurobond issue.

Expected revenue for the 2016 fiscal year is estimated at 4,234.7 billion CFA francs, broken down as follows:

- **397.2 billion CFA Francs** from oil revenue;
- **2,469.3 billion CFA Francs** from non-oil revenue;
- **505 billion CFA Francs** from project loans;
- **58.2 billion CFA Francs** from grants;
- **300 billion CFA Francs** from a Government bond issue;
- **85 billion CFA Francs** from other loans (budget support);
- **50 billion CFA Francs** from reserves on Eurobond;
- **250 billion CFA Francs** from bank loans;
- **120 billion CFA Francs** from privatisation receipts.

Similarly, expenditure estimates stand at **4,234.7 billion CFA Francs**, broken down as follows:

- **1,981.2 billion CFA Francs** for recurrent expenditure;

- **1,525.8 billion CFA Francs** for capital expenditure;
- **727.7 billion CFA Francs** for public debt servicing.

On the one hand, these estimates reflect the need to scale down State expenditure. This justifies the 178.7 billion CFA Francs drop observed in recurrent expenditure, compared to 2015.

On the other hand, they reflect today's security constraints and the need to factor in the costs related to the Three-Year Emergency Plan for Fast Tracking Economic Growth, as well as those incurred in preparations for 2016 and 2019 African Football Cup of Nations. They also reflect the priority given to poverty reduction and the fight against the rising cost of living.

This expenditure breakdown explains the 375.8 billion CFA Francs increase in capital expenditure.

It is worth noting that the public investment budget accounts for **36.04%** of the overall volume of the general budget in 2016, against **30.7%** in 2015 and **30.9%** in 2014.

This upward trend is a positive indication of Government's commitment to boost public investments.

The Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Such is the substance of Government's Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for fiscal year 2016, for whose implementation, Government is seeking the support and backing of Members of Parliament.

To conclude, I would like to seize this opportunity to commit the entire Government, on whom the **Head**

of State has just bestowed his confidence, to work tirelessly to achieve the objectives of this programme.

Thank you for your kind attention.-