

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND

**GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2021
FINANCIAL YEAR**

**PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH DION NGUTE
PRIME MINISTER, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT**

YAOUNDE, 25 NOVEMBER 2020

**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 delighted to take the floor before the National Assembly to present the Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for the 2021 financial year prepared by Government, in compliance with the provisions of our Constitution.

This programme is hinged on national policies, as defined by the **President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA.**

Mr. **Speaker**, permit me to acknowledge the constant support of this Honourable House, towards Government action under my leadership, especially in these trying times.

As you are probably aware, our country is facing multiple and complex challenges.

The first challenge is **SECURITY**. For close to four (4) years now, our compatriots in the Far North, North West, and South West regions have been suffering as a result of the atrocities committed by terrorist groups.

Other Regions, such as the East and Adamawa, are confronted with cross-border criminality.

Regardless of whether they claim to be *Boko Haram* or pursuing an illusory secessionist agenda, we are more than determined to track them down wherever they may be.

I would like to spare a special thought for the victims of these armed groups and once again, commend the professionalism of our valiant Defence and Security Forces.

In the ten regions of our country, our Defence and Security Forces are toiling to restore peace and preserve the territorial integrity of Cameroon, under the Command of the **Head of State**, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

We owe them an eternal debt of gratitude.

The second challenge is **HEALTH**. Like other countries, Cameroon is faced with the Corona virus pandemic. Since March, Government has been implementing a response and economic and social resilience strategy with a view to curbing the spread of this virus and mitigating its effects in our country.

I am pleased with the actions taken by the different authorities involved in slowing down the spread of the disease and saving lives.

I would like to seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the remarkable work that the medical and health personnel, and many volunteers, are doing every day to curb this pandemic, even at the risk of their lives.

Moreover, support measures as prescribed the **President of the Republic** made it possible to assist the most fragile households and most distressed sectors of activity.

It is obvious that the efforts undertaken so far must be maintained, considering the persistence of this health crisis and its effects on our economic and social fabric.

This is why the third challenge our country is facing is **ECONOMIC RECOVERY**.

The COVID-19 pandemic has weakened our public finances, already strained by the economic and financial situation faced by States of the Central Africa Sub Region.

Mindful of the situation, we have defined and are implementing a strategy for economic recovery to mitigate the effects of the health crisis.

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

I will begin the presentation of this Programme with an overview of what Government has achieved in 2020 that is ending. This will be followed by the prospects of Government action in 2021.

In 2020, Government's activities focused on consolidating the achievements of previous years and addressing new challenges.

After growing by **2.9%** in 2019, the world economy, faced with the COVID 19 crisis, is expected to experience its sharpest decline estimated at **-4.4%** in 2020, since the Great Depression of 1929.

However, this recession would be less severe than the one projected in June 2020, that is, **-4.9%**, due to the de-confinement that has begun in many countries.

At the national level, the budget balance deteriorated slightly due to the effects of COVID-19. It stood at **-2.3%**, against an initial target of **1.1%**.

In this context, the execution of the Finance Law of the 2020 financial year was put to the test, in particular, due to the socio-economic and financial effects of the health crisis.

This led Government to resort to a supplementary budget.

This is the substance of the Ordinance of 3 June 2020, to amend and supplement certain provisions of the Law of 24 December 2019 on the Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for the 2020 financial year.

A Special National Solidarity Fund for the fight against the coronavirus and its economic and social effects was created and replenished to the tune of **180 billion CFAF**.

In terms of the mobilization of non-oil revenues, despite the economic situation, we were able to record, as at 30 September 2020, overall internal resources of about **1 941 billion 900 million CFAF**, that is, an estimated **78%** recovery rate.

Regarding resources, oil revenues amounted to **73 billion 800 million CFAF**, while non-oil revenues, especially taxes and customs, amounted to about **1 868 billion 100 million CFAF**.

In this regard, tax authorities continued to simplify certain procedures, in particular through:

- ✓ the use of telepayment of taxes and duties for large and medium-sized enterprises;
- ✓ the abolition of the proportional registration tax on public orders placed by public companies;
- ✓ the effective implementation of the **"FUSION"** computer system, a platform for pooling tax and customs data.

Furthermore, Government has commissioned a new customs information system called **Cameroon Customs Information System**, which aims to consolidate the electronic processing of customs operations, in a totally virtual environment, owing to social distancing imposed by COVID-19.

Also, we have intensified the fight against illegal trade throughout the country as part of Operation "*Stop Illegal Trade*". This has led to the seizure of various goods for an estimated value of **10 billion CFAF**.

Regarding the management of the **Public Treasury and the financial sector**, the activities carried out include:

- ✓ the cleaning up of the financial sector through the restructuring of certain national banks;
- ✓ the raising of **614 billion CFAF** on the money market, to cover the State's cash flow needs and to finance development projects;
- ✓ the payment of all compulsory State expenditure relating to **debt servicing**, for an amount of **1 776 billion CFAF**, as well as **326 billion CFAF** for the clearance of State arrears.
- ✓ the realisation of **40 billion CFAF** in budget savings, thanks to the dematerialisation of cash vouchers and the implementation of the individualised payment process;
- ✓ the finalisation of the transposition of CEMAC directives, with the signing of the Decree on the General Regulation of Public Accounting on 7 July 2020.

Within the framework of the **strengthening of development partnership and regional integration**, Government continued reviewing projects in need of funding from the various technical and financial development partners.

To date, **368 billion 720 million CFAF** has been raised to finance projects included in the 2020 debt plan.

May I seize this opportunity to once again thank our bilateral and multilateral partners for their multifaceted contributions to the economic and social development of our country.

As part of **strengthening the strategic planning process**, the 2020-2030 National Development Strategy was elaborated as an extension of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper.

With regard to **Governance**, particular emphasis was laid on improving the public contracts system and strengthening control mechanisms for their execution.

As concerns **Territorial Administration**, it is worth noting the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to create the joint border commission between Cameroon and Congo.

In addition, preparations towards regional elections led to the update of the index of traditional chiefdoms, thus making it possible to identify:

- ✓ **80** 1st class chiefdoms;
- ✓ **597** 2nd class chiefdoms;
- ✓ and **12 thousand 686** 3rd class chiefdoms.

In the area of civil protection, Government's activities focused on:

- ✓ continuing the implementation of the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan for the North West and South West Regions;
- ✓ revising the National Contingency Plan;
- ✓ monitoring the management of refugees and migrants;
- ✓ providing Government assistance to victims of natural disasters.

I would like to welcome the election of our compatriot, **Ms. Mariatou YAP**, to the prestigious position of Secretary General of the International Civil Defence Organisation. Her election is undoubtedly an acknowledgement of our country's unwavering efforts in this domain.

With regard to **security**, in addition to recruiting new staff into the various defence and security corps, several facilities were constructed, rehabilitated or equipped for the military, gendarmerie and national security units.

In the same vein, Government continued to make operational and reinforce the capacities of the **National Committee for the Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration of ex-combatants**. Progress recorded here includes:

- ✓ the reception in residential establishments of **157** ex-combatants in Meri, **175** in Bamenda and **132** in Buea, for a total of **464**;
- ✓ the reintegration in 2020 of **68 residents from the Buea and Bamenda centres**;
- ✓ the completion of the construction of the Bamenda DDR Centre and the launch of the construction of the Buea Centre.

The implementation of the **Decentralisation** process has been one of Government's focus areas in 2020.

The municipal elections organised on 9 February 2020 resulted in the renewal of the council map by **59.4%**.

The recently installed municipal councils will give greater legitimacy to the Regional Councillors who will be commissioned after the 6 December 2020 elections.

Furthermore, this election was a response to certain issues raised during the Major National Dialogue. These include, among others, the appointment of Government Delegates and the creation of a Special Status for the North West and South West Regions.

At the institutional level, the **National School of Local Administration** was established and its social organs are already fully functional.

This institution is in charge of training staff of the local civil service whose specificities are being determined.

As for normative production, out of the **32 enabling instruments** envisaged, **26 have been drafted**. Six **instruments have** already been signed and **20** are being validated.

With regard to **local development**, **36 billion CFAF** was set aside under the General Decentralisation Grant for Investment with each council receiving **100 million CFAF** for the funding of **1 776** council projects.

With regard to **Justice**, Government is continuing the methodical implementation of its construction and renovation projects of court and penitentiary facilities.

Furthermore, the crackdown on corruption resulted in the transfer of **6 billion 533 million 577 thousand 467 CFAF** to the public treasury in 2020.

Regarding **Public Service and Administrative Reform**, Government focused on updating the mapping of workstations and the file of State personnel and the generation of service numbers for **10 thousand 524** public employees.

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

With regard to the Three Year Emergency Plan to Accelerate Economic Growth, contracts awarded during the 2020 financial year stand at **43 billion 708 million 412 thousand 920 CFAF**.

Till date, the total amount for contracts awarded since the start of the Plan stands at **855 billion 960 million 466 thousand 524 CFAF**.

Some components of this Emergency Plan have already been completed. For instance, the "**Livestock**" component which consisted in the construction of an industrial slaughter house and three refrigerated warehouses was completed in 2017.

This is also the case with the "**housing**" component involving the construction and reception by the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation of 600 low cost houses and related facilities in Maroua, Garoua, Ngaoundere, Bertoua, Ebolowa, and Bafoussam.

As you are probably aware, the construction of low-cost houses in the cities of Bamenda and Buea had been suspended due to insecurity. In view of the gradual normalisation of the situation, work could resume in 2021.

I wish to specify that the construction of low-cost houses in Bamenda and Buea will be completed once the security situation returns to normal.

Other components are being finalised. They are:

- **"urban development"**, with the rehabilitation of 73 kilometres of roads in Yaounde and Douala in addition to the 32 kilometres already constructed as part of the first phase.
- **"Security"**, with the reception of 41 gendarmerie posts out of the 46 earmarked, the completion of 6 police residential quarters out of the 12 earmarked and 13 border security posts.

With regard to **Health**, focus was on completing the infrastructure and upgrading the technical facilities of the Douala and Yaounde General hospitals. Similar works are underway in the Yaounde Teaching Hospital.

Regarding the construction of **eight (8)** regional hospitals, I am pleased to announce that those of Ebolowa and Bafoussam are near completion and are being equipped. They will be commissioned not long from now.

The physical completion rate of other regional hospitals is as follows:

- Ngaoundere: **77%**;
- Garoua: **75%**;
- Bertoua: **62%**;
- Maroua: **39%**.

As is the case for low-cost houses, the construction of the Bamenda and Bea Regional Hospitals will resume immediately the security situation returns to normal.

As for “**Regional Development**”, ongoing work in the Far North Region to develop hydro-agricultural spaces covers a surface area of **12 thousand 346 hectares**.

Studies are ongoing on already identified additional surface areas.

Regarding the construction of dikes, works launched in the Far North Region include the rehabilitation of the Ouazzang dike and the construction of new dikes in **six (6)** other localities.

Furthermore, studies launched on **16 sites** in the North region are underway for a total of **636 million 397 thousand 187 CFAF**.

Regarding the establishment of agropoles, the construction of the Meiganga and Banyo Beef agropoles is ongoing. The Nyamboya maize agropolis has also been supplied with production equipment and farm input.

In the road sector, the progress of the construction of access roads to farm holdings is as follows:

- Maroua-Bogo: **84%**;
- Mandjou-Akokan: **53%**;
- Bonepoupa-Yabassi: **45%**;

- Akokan-Batouri: **45%**;
- Douala-Bonepoupa: **36%**;
- Foumban-Koumpamatapit-West/North West border: **12%**;
- Ngaoundere-Paro: **5%**

The contract to construct the **Soa-Esse-Awae** stretch of road was terminated on 8 October 2019 following the non-compliance of the contracting company after it was re-awarded in April 2020, the execution rate is **7.5%** for the Soa-Esse section and **2%** for the Esse-Awae section.

Furthermore, the maturation process of the firm and conditional phases of other roads is ongoing.

In the **water** sector, **900** boreholes and **19** potable water points earmarked for the first phase have been received.

As for the second phase which involves the construction of **3 thousand** additional boreholes in the 23 Northern regions, **588** boreholes have already under construction, with an average physical execution rate of **78%**.

In the **agricultural** sector, technical and architectural studies are being approved with regard to the construction of 6 supply markets at Obala, Ngong, Gazawa, Dibombari, Foubot and Mamfe.

This is also the case with the maize seed storage and packaging complex in Batchenga.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Preparations for the African Nations Championship, **TOTAL CHAN CAMEROON 2021** and the Africa Cup of Nations, **TOTAL AFCON CAMEROON 2022**, are going on smoothly.

The situation is as follows on the various sites:

▪ On the Yaounde competition site:

- construction works of the **60 000-capacity main stadium** of the **Olembe Sports Complex** with covered stands are **95%** complete;
- the two annex stadia with a capacity of **1 000** seats each and covered stands, are **92%** complete;
- the commercial centre is **75%** complete;
- the **70**-room four-star hotel is **55%** complete.
- the 40 000-seat AHMADOU AHIDJO Omnisport stadium is operational, as well as its two annex training stadia;
- the BEAC Complex is being upgraded to CAF standards to serve as a training field, as well as the Annex No. 3 of the Mfandena Omnisport stadium. The works stand at **90%** and **50%** respectively;

- the Ngoa Ekelle military stadium which served as a COVID 19 response centre is being refurbished.

- **On the Douala competition site:**
 - construction works on the **Douala-Japoma Sports Complex** are **97%** complete;
 - rehabilitation and extension works on the **Douala Reunification Stadium**, with a capacity of **30 thousand** seats have been completed and received on 27 July 2020;
 - rehabilitation works on the **Bonamoussadi training stadium** and the Mbappe Leppe stadium are **90%** complete. Given that it was used as a COVID-19 response centre, the pitch of the Mbappe Leppe stadium was also degraded and is also being refurbished;

- **On the Limbe/Buea competition site**, existing infrastructure is functional and Government is ensuring the maintenance of the infrastructure. Additional work to equip these sites is ongoing.

- **On the Garoua competition site:**

- rehabilitation and extension works on the **ROUMDE ADJA stadium**, its annex and the construction of a 4-star hotel, are almost complete. The provisional acceptance was done on 27 July 2020.
- The implementation rate of work on other training stadia is as follows:
 - *GENDARMERIE and POUMPOURE: 69%;*
 - *COTON SPORT: 79%;*
 - *CENAJES: 79%.*
- **On the Bafoussam competition site:**
 - the **KOUEKONG** main stadium, with a capacity of **20 thousand** seats is functional. Some additional work to equip the stadium, as required by CAF, is ongoing;
 - rehabilitation or construction works on **five (5)** training stadia are **87%** complete.

Furthermore, prior to these two sports competitions, Government has continued the construction of other related infrastructures. These include:

- the rehabilitation or construction of access roads to the various competition sites;

- improving technical facilities in hospitals,
- increasing the array of hotels, especially where there are few, such as Bafoussam and Garoua;
- optimal deployment of a video surveillance system.

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

In 2020, other public sector policies also recorded significant progress in their implementation.

With regard to **electricity production**, Government continued the implementation of the following projects:

❖ The project to construct the toe of dam plant, station, and transmission line of the Lom Pangar dam:

The construction of the dam, with an installed capacity of **30 Megawatts** (MW) and an energy transmission line between Lom Pangar and Bertoua, stands at about **23%**.

The commissioning of the first station of **7.5 megawatts** is planned for December 2021; while the completion of work on the transmission line is expected in June 2021.

❖ The project to construct the Memv'ele hydropower plant with a capacity of 211 megawatts:

The construction of the dam has been completed and the transmission line is 92% complete.

The final commissioning of the transmission line is planned for March 2021.

❖ The Mekin hydropower development project with a capacity of 15 Megawatts

This plant was powered-up in June 2019, with a stand-alone power system that supplies electricity to surrounding localities. There are ongoing procedures by the HYDROMEKIN company to optimise the functioning of this power plant.

❖ The Nachtigal Upstream hydropower development project with a capacity of 420 megawatts

Construction works effectively started on 1 February 2019 and the implementation rate stands at about **30%**. The commissioning of the first turbine is expected in March 2023.

❖ **Implementation of the project to construct the Chollet electricity generation infrastructure with a capacity of 600 Megawatts**

Born of the will of Presidents **Paul BIYA** of Cameroon and **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO** of Congo, this project seeks to provide their respective countries with electricity generation and transmission infrastructures.

Till date, actions carried out mainly concern the finalisation of the process to select a partner to carry out studies, construct and operate the hydropower plant.

Regarding the **electricity transmission segment**, 2020 has been characterised mainly by the continuation of construction works on transmission lines between several localities, as well as strengthening and stabilising of the electricity network in Yaounde with a total realisation rate of **66%**.

With regard to the electrification of urban, peri-urban and rural areas, several projects were carried out such as the

electrification and connection **of 4 thousand 500** households in rural and peri-urban areas.

With regard to electrification using **renewable energy**, Government action mainly concerned the continuation of the first phase of the electrification project for "**166 localities**" with photovoltaic solar systems.

Similarly, we started the works for the second phase of "**184 localities**" and finalised the technical and administrative maturation of the third phase of "**200 localities**".

Regarding the project to construct a **small 1.4 megawatt hydropower plant** at Mbakaou Carriere, in the Djerem Division, access roads have been rehabilitated and the site facilities have been completed.

The water intake and headrace canal are **80%** complete, and the surge tank is **20%** complete.

In the **oil and gas products** segment, following the fire incident at SONARA on 31 May 2019, Government established, on the instructions of the **Head of State**, a mechanism to regularly supply the country with petroleum products.

This mechanism sought to ensure the availability of products at competitive costs to reduce pump price subsidies.

Since the new mechanism went operational, a volume of **916 thousand cubic metres** of all products combined has been supplied to Cameroon. It enabled the State to make budgetary savings evaluated at about **10 billion CFAF per month** in the form of pump price subsidies.

Moreover, a support line of **47.88 CFAF per litre** for the refinery was introduced in the oil products price structure.

Budgetary savings made under this mechanism have helped to avoid pump price increases. About **26 million CFAF** have already been collected as support for the refinery.

Specifically concerning **SONARA's production tool**, the **Head of State** instructed Government to brainstorm on the rehabilitation and modernisation of SONARA.

The first series of evaluations by the firms that manifested interest in these files established the cost of rehabilitation at around **250 billion CFAF**.

Negotiations have already begun with several technical and financial partners.

Moreover, this fire incident revealed the need to reinforce SCDP's storage capacity in order to limit imports.

To this end, the transition rate was increased by **2 CFAF per litre** to enable SCDP to increase its storage capacity, which is **60%** occupied by the State's security reserves.

Regarding the development of natural gas resources, the floating liquefied natural gas facility operated by the SNH/PERENCO/GOLAR consortium started producing since 29 April 2018.

As at 30 September 2020, our country's exportation of Liquefied Natural Gas stands at **6 million 182 thousand 204 cubic metres**. About 2 000 Metric Tons of domestic gas are obtained monthly from to supply the national market.

The implementation of **programmes and projects to distribute oil and gas products** continued with the construction and commissioning of **six (6) new filling stations**. This brings the total number of filling stations to **841** as at 16 October 2020 throughout the national territory, with **35%** in rural areas.

Similarly, **8** authorisations were granted in 2020, thus increasing the number of companies authorised to distribute petroleum products to **59**.

Moreover, the programme for the chemical labelling of petroleum products helped to reduce the pollution rate from **36%** in 2011 to **1.7%** as at 30 September 2020.

In the **potable water** sector, several projects have been, and continue to be implemented, including, among others:

- the completion of **construction, rehabilitation and extension works on potable water supply systems in 52 urban centres.**
- the continuation of the second phase of work on the **Nine Towns Project funded by Eximbank China**, with an overall progress rate of 98%.
- the continuation of the **Project to Supply Potable Water to Yaounde from the Sanaga River**, with an overall implementation rate of **67.8%**;
- the **project to improve potable water supply in Yaounde and three secondary towns, namely Edea, Bertoua and Ngaoundere**, with an overall implementation rate of **81%**;
- the implementation of the **project to supply potable water to 7 secondary centres**, with an overall implementation rate of **65%**;

In the **public works** sector, several road and motorway projects recorded significant progress:

- the **Yaounde-Douala motorway (Phase 1)**, for a linear distance of **60 km**, which is **91%** complete. The first **40** kilometres have already been asphalted, while the last **20** are **65%** complete. Their acceptance is planned for 2021.

The second phase of this motorway from Bibodi to Douala, which covers a linear distance of **136 km**, is segmented in two portions, namely: **Bidodi-Edea (70 km)** and **Edea-Douala (66 km)**. The procedure to select a private partner to finalise this project is underway;

- the **Kribi-Lolabe motorway** covering a linear distance of 38.5km is **88.2%**. The procedure to select a private partner to carry out phase two (Edea-Kribi) is underway;
- **the reception of 145 kilometres of newly asphalted roads;**
- the construction of **1 738 linear** metres of **engineering structures;**
- **the rehabilitation of 65 kilometres of asphalted roads,;**
- the maintenance of **2 446 kilometres;**
- the completion of technical studies of various road projects.

In the **housing** sector, **120** new houses were built, including **80** in Douala on the Mbanga-Bakoko site and **40** in

Yaounde on the Olembe site, within the framework of Government's programme.

In order to improve the urban environment in the city of Douala, **2 kilometres** of drainage systems have been built as part of the city's rainwater drainage project.

The procedure to award the contract for the construction of **7 kilometres** of new drains and roads in the same city is underway.

Similarly, in terms of sanitation, the construction of the **sewage treatment plant** in the city of Garoua are **40%** complete.

Regarding the development of urban infrastructure, about **26 kilometres of** roads have been constructed, including **4.8 kilometres** in Douala, **20 kilometres** in Bafoussam and **4.1 kilometres** in Yaounde.

With regard to the **Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway**, works on the open-country section are ongoing and are **90%** complete.

Concerning works undertaken as part of the **Urban C2D Regional Capital Cities**, we have the following achievements:

- In **Bafoussam, 16 kilometres** of paved roads covering a distance of 19 kilometres 900 metres, that is, an execution rate of **94.7%**;
- In **Bertoua, 12 kilometres** of paved roads and 700 metres of pavement tiles covering a distance of 14 kilometres, that is, an execution rate of **72%**;

- In **Garoua**, **6 kilometres** of paved roads and **2 drains** built on a linear stretch of 19 kilometres, that is, an execution rate of **46.1%**.

In order to make some urban roads motorable, more than **138 kilometres** of roads were maintained in 2020 in secondary towns with funds from the Road Fund.

In the **Transport** sector, Government focused on:

- implementing CAMAIR-CO's Restructuring Plan, as prescribed by the **HEAD OF STATE**;
- continuing the modernisation of the infrastructure of the Douala Port Authority, by securing it and acquiring new equipment;
- continuing the operationalisation of the Kribi Port Authority, whose activities are constantly increasing;
- continuing to secure transport documents;
- reorganising the Limbe Port Authority following the decree of 5 May 2020.

With regard to **Post and Telecommunications**, the following points are worth noting:

- Drafting enabling instruments of the law of 23 April 2020 to govern postal activity in Cameroon;
- continuing the restructuring of CAMPOST, and the implementation of the State-CAMPOST plan contract, whose total cost is estimated at **22 billion CFAF**;
- launching works to lay **1,000 kilometres** of optical fibre in the South and East Regions;
- connecting some public administrations to the broadband internet network.

Scientific Research contributed to the **COVID-19** response strategy. Government mobilised a total sum of **7 billion CFAF**, to produce medicines, hand sanitizers and face masks.

With regard to **intensifying research for the modernisation of production mechanisms**, the activities carried out by the Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD) led to the following significant results:

- the production of over **one million** cashew tree seedlings and their distribution to producers;
- the mass production of improved seedlings of several crops.

In the **Industry, Mines and Technological Development** sectors, the year 2020 was marked by:

- the continuation of the implementation of the ALUCAM restructuring plan, the major highlight being the ALUCAM-SOCATRAL merger;
- the signing of an agreement with national investors to relaunch activities on the former CELLUCAM site in Edea.

With regard to **Trade**, Government efforts led to the following achievements:

- the construction of **5** post-harvest cocoa-processing Centres of Excellence, thereby increasing the number to **10** at the national level;
- the promotion of the construction of commercial spaces and supermarkets in Douala and Yaounde;
- the strengthening of operations to fight against fraud and counterfeiting to promote equity in business transactions.

The **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises sector** also recorded several noteworthy achievements:

- the operationalization of the National Pilot Business Hub of Edea whose first batch graduated on 22 July 2020;
- the affiliation of **183** craftsmen to the National Social Insurance Fund;
- the setting up of a Bureau to facilitate the exportation of arts and crafts in airports, seaports and land borders;

In the **Tourism and Leisure** sector, Government continued to improve tourist sites by rehabilitating, constructing or equipping several tourist sites, such as the Mbe cliff.

Particular attention was paid to the improvement of hotels, through the continuation of construction, rehabilitation or extension works, in the various sites hosting CHAN 2021 and AFCON 2022.

In this vein, the BENGO Hotel in Ebolowa was inaugurated on 30 January 2020, while extension works of the *Centre d'Accueil de Kribi* are **80%** complete.

In the **forestry and wild life** sector, Government action focused on:

- the management and renewal of forest resources;
- the securing of wildlife resources and protected areas;
- the enhancement of timber and non-timber forest products. A forestry seed bank was constructed and equipped in Mbalmayo, while **291 hectares** of land was set aside as reserves.

Moreover, over 7 billion CFAF was mobilised to finance the management of wildlife and protected areas.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Government activity equally focused on the development and promotion of **agro-pastoral and agro-industrial** activities.

In the area of agriculture, Government has spared no effort to attain food self-sufficiency. In addition to the production of species such as cocoa, coffee and cotton, actions carried out in 2020 enabled the production of:

- **250 thousand tonnes** of cotton seeds;
- **300 thousand tonnes** of pineapple;
- **700 thousand tonnes** of tomatoes
- the more than **50%** increase in the production of root vegetables and tubers, namely:
 - ✓ ***6 million tonnes of cassava;***
 - ✓ ***350 thousand tonnes of Irish potatoes;***
 - ✓ ***500 thousand tonnes of yams;***
- The purchase of equipment, fertilisers and plant materials for some priority sectors in the **5** agro-ecological zones.
- the development of lands and agricultural infrastructure;

In the area of **livestock breeding**, noteworthy is the production of:

- **113 thousand 164 tonnes** of meat from controlled slaughter operations;
- **41 thousand 374 tonnes** of table eggs;
- **90 thousand 078 tonnes** of milk;
- **1 296 tonnes** of honey;
- **68 thousand 290 tonnes** of fish and other fisheries products;
- the supply of **6 million** fingerlings to fish farmers;

In **State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure**, Government secured about **946 thousand** of land as **land reserves** and upgraded the land tenure technical platform.

With regard to **Communication**, Government's key actions include:

- making operational the Virtual News Agency whose pilot phase will require the mobilisation of about **70 million FCFA**;
- acquiring and commissioning communication materials and equipment towards the organisation of CHAN 2021 and AFCON 2022, whose cost stands at **31 billion CFAF**;

In **Education** sector, Government continued to execute the programme to construct and equip classrooms and amphitheatres at all levels of education.

In **Public Health**, the fight against the coronavirus pandemic caught Government's attention throughout 2020.

From the discovery of the first case of this pandemic in our country, a response strategy was prepared and implemented.

Measures taken by the **Head of State** helped to contain the spread of this disease all over the country.

However, faced with the resurgence of this pandemic, we must remain vigilant and observe safety measures.

Furthermore, progress has been recorded in the introduction of universal health coverage.

A partnership contract was signed on 27 August 2020 with the *Santé Universel Cameroun* Company, which was chosen to accompany Government in this area.

In the **Employment and Vocational Training sector**, priority was given to the promotion of decent jobs and the regulation of labour.

In the **Labour and Social Security** sector, the number of insured people rose to **1 million 597 thousand 200** people. Old-age, incapacity pensions and death benefits paid by the National Social Insurance Fund were increased in accordance with the Presidential Decree of 8 July 2020.

In the area of **Youth and Civic Education**, noteworthy is the ongoing training of **8 thousand 474** youths nationwide and the approval of **32 thousand** business plans for youths under the Three-Year "Special Youth" Plan.

With regard to **Social Affairs**, the fight against human trafficking was intensified. Government ensured the school enrolment of **1 295** disabled children or children born to disabled parents.

Furthermore, financial assistance was granted to **1 856** poor and needy families or persons.

In the area of **sports**, Government supported twenty-two (**22**) national sports teams in the preparation and participation in international sports competitions.

**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 Government's programme for the 2021 financial year.

As you would imagine, the implementation of this programme will depend on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We therefore need to put in place economic and social resilient strategies to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

In the area of **Public Works**, the following projects have been earmarked for reception:

- ✓ **98 kilometres**, for Phase 1 of the Yaounde-Douala and Kribi-Lolabe motorways;
- ✓ **423 kilometres** of newly asphalted roads;
- ✓ **472 linear metres** of constructed artwork and **532 linear metres** of refurbished artwork.

In addition, the construction of some symbolic roads and artwork will also kick-off effectively in 2021. They include:

- ✓ the Ebolowa - Akom II - Kribi road;

- ✓ the Meyomessala Council roads;
- ✓ the bridges over the Dja at Assock, and over the Lobo at Ngala, as part of the construction of access roads to the Mekin Dam;
- ✓ the maintenance of the Mbalmayo – Sangmelima road;
- ✓ the continuation of the construction of the MIZAO bridge in Maroua and the completion of the Maroua-Mora road.

Moreover, with a view to increasing the durability of earth roads and ensuring the maintenance of asphalted roads, Government plans to move to the experimental phase of concrete pavements. This new option will promote the import substitution policy by replacing asphalt with locally produced cement.

In the **housing and urban development** sector, Government will lay emphasis on:

- continue the ongoing execution of various programmes to construct low-cost houses;
- start the rehabilitation of the Yaounde Municipal Lake and the renovation of the MINGOA valley;
- launch road works in several secondary towns such as Batouri, Ngaoundere, Bafoussam, Bertoua, Maroua and Garoua;
- complete the construction of rainwater drainage systems to limit floods;

- complete and commission the open-country section of the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway.

In the **Water and Energy sector**, public authorities will focus on projects to construct electricity transmission lines and the Bini hydropower dam in Warak.

The Electricity Sector Development Fund recently created by the **President of the Republic** will also go operational and the maturation of other anchor hydroelectric development projects will continue, including the Kikot, Grand Eweng, Katsina and Colomines projects.

Regarding **petroleum and gas products**, Government plans to launch the rehabilitation of **SONARA** and increase storage capacities.

As for **renewable energy**, Government will continue drafting the legal and regulatory framework for renewable energy and conclude the handing over of the management of solar systems.

In the area of **water and liquid sanitation**, Government will:

- fast-track the implementation of the project to supply potable water in the city of Yaounde and its environs from the Sanaga river;

- continue studies on the Rural Drinking Water Supply Project in **350** localities;
- begin the rehabilitation of **350** SCANWATER stations throughout the country.

In the **transport sector**, Government will focus on:

- continuing the implementation of the CAMAIR-CO restructuring plan;
- opening the cabotage line between the Kribi and Douala seaports;
- conducting a feasibility study on the construction of a railway line linking Ngaoundere and Ndjamena;
- finalising the study on the construction of a pilot bus station in Limbe;
- boosting meteorological and climatological services.

In the **Posts and Telecommunications** sector, Government action in 2021 will focus on expanding network coverage, improving the national postal coverage, and optimising telecommunications networks and services.

Connecting public administrations to broadband internet and train their personal in cybercrime will equally be prioritised.

A digital collaboration platform for secondary schools in Cameroon will also be established.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Government activity will also give priority to the improvement of **agropastoral and fish production**, as well as the processing of our main raw materials and other local products, in order to reduce imports, which are widening our trade balance.

Thus, in the area of **agriculture**, Government will work to:

- continue preparatory activities for the general agriculture and livestock census;
- develop irrigation systems adapted to the size of farms;
- promote agricultural mechanisation throughout the agricultural value chain;
- promote the creation of agricultural inter-professions.

In the **livestock, fisheries and animal industries sector**, actions envisaged will focus on:

- implementing the investment plan for the Wakwa, Kounden and Lougguere breeding stations;
- financing **1 000** investment projects for producers' organisations, for a total of **1 billion 400 million CFAF**;
- financing projects for **150** fish farmers, representing an overall cost of **1 billion 500 million CFAF**.

In the area of the **environment, nature protection and sustainable development**, Government efforts will focus on the continuing the restoration of degraded land as part of the Green

Sahel operation and intensifying the crackdown on the use of non-compliant plastic packaging.

In the **forestry and wildlife sector**, Government will focus on:

- improving the supply of seeds by establishment of seed banks of forest species and reference nurseries;
- ensuring the professionalization of actors in the Non-Timber Forest Products sectors;
- building the capacities of woodworkers.

Government prospects in the **mines, industry and technological development** sector will give priority to the implementation of the following activities:

- finalise negotiations for the signing of a Mining Agreement to exploit the Lobe iron in Kribi;
- negotiate and sign **2** Mining Agreements to exploit marble in the North Region;
- finalise the file related to the selection of technical and financial partners for the exploitation of the Mbalam, Cameroon and Nabeba, Congo mines;
- implement the project to supervise small-scale sand exploitation.

With regard to **trade**, Government efforts will focus on:

- the local valorisation of our cocoa, particularly with the commissioning of the Kribi processing unit, which will increase the installed capacity for the local processing of cocoa to about **110 thousand tons**;
- the commissioning of a new production unit for margarine, mayonnaise, seasoning cubes, tomato paste, pasta, milk and its by-products;
- the supervision of national economic operators, with a view to deriving maximum benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area.

As for **small and medium-sized enterprises, social economy and handicrafts**, Government will particularly focus on:

- the dematerialisation of start-up procedures, through the **my-business.cm** application, with a target of **40 thousand** small and medium-sized enterprises created online;
- the setting up of the National File for small and medium-sized enterprises, with a target of **50 thousand** registered SMEs,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

As far as **education** is concerned, Government plans to increase infrastructure, digitalise teaching and strengthen measures

to fight against drug consumption and violence in schools and universities.

In addition, Government will also work to finalise the study on the establishment of **High Schools specialised in Digital Professions.**

With regard to **employment and vocational training**, Government aims at reaching the **500 thousand** decent job threshold. To achieve this, the following actions are envisaged:

- ✓ increasing the number of vocational training programmes through the completion of construction work and equipment of non-agricultural Training Centres in Bandjoun, Ndop, Ebebda, Maroua, Ngaoundere and Bertoua;
- ✓ the construction of Vocational Training Centres in Industrial Maintenance, Transport and Logistics in Edea, as well as in agro-industry in Douala with C2D funds;
- ✓ the commissioning of the Trades Training Centre in Nanga Eboko;
- ✓ the enhancement of the Advanced Vocational Training Centre for Industrial Trades in Pitoa.

As concerns **labour and social security**, Government's activities will focus on continuing the implementation of the National Action Plan on the elimination of child labour.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Government's prospects with regard to **public health** will revolve around:

- the continued implementation of the health component of the response plan for COVID-19, other epidemics and public health emergencies;
- the effective implementation of Universal Health Coverage;
- health coverage for CHAN 2021;
- completion of the ongoing construction and rehabilitation of health facilities.

With regard to **youth and civic education**, Government plans to provide support to youths of the diaspora, through the Assistance Programme for the Return and Integration of Youths from the Diaspora.

Regarding sports **and physical education**, Government will give priority to the standardization and control of the functioning of sports organisations and associations, and the implementation of a

strategy towards the maintenance and enhancement of newly-constructed or rehabilitated sports facilities.

With regard to **social affairs**, Government will ensure the launch of the modernisation of the Maroua Child Welfare Centre, and strengthen actions to protect socially vulnerable persons.

Government will also intensify measures to combat against all forms of violence against women.

In the area of **Governance**, Government intends to increase mechanisms to **protect public funds** and check the actions of authorising officers.

With regard to **public contracts**, priority will be given to consolidating the mechanism to anticipate the holding of Public Contracts Programming Conferences, in order to start consultations as soon as possible and award all contracts latest by the end of the first quarter.

In the **regulation of the public contracts system**, Government will complete the normative framework setting out, inter alia:

- ✓ the terms and conditions for carrying out public works contracts;
- ✓ the nature and thresholds of contracts reserved for craftsmen, SMEs, grassroots community organisations, and Civil Society Organisations;

- ✓ the procedures for implementing design-build contracts.

With regard to **public service and administrative reform**, Government will focus on the following prospects:

- continuing the process to dematerialise administrative examinations;
- ensuring instruments organising ministries are coherent with the programme budget, the law to institute the general code of regional and local authorities and that on the promotion of official languages.

In the area of **justice**, Government will work on the implementation of the following:

- continuing the computerisation of judicial services;
- finalising the draft bilingual Civil Code, as well as the bilingual Civil and Commercial Procedures Code;
- elaborating preliminary bills on the execution of alternative sentences;
- continuing the construction and rehabilitation prisons and other infrastructures.

As far as **territorial administration** is concerned, Government will focus on:

- the organisation of bilateral meetings on cross-border issues with Central African Republic, Nigeria, Congo and Equatorial Guinea;
- continuing the implementation of the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan for the North West and South West Regions;
- setting up territorial branches for civil protection.

In terms of **decentralisation and local development**, the aim will be to consolidate the achievements of the special status of the North West and South West Regions, by implementing all the envisaged measures.

In addition, Government will focus on:

- the finalisation of the enabling instruments of the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities;
- the finalisation of the revision of the law governing civil status;
- the revision of the law on local taxation;
- the establishment of regional councils;
- making NASLA completely operational.

With clear vision and leadership from the **HEAD OF STATE, His Excellency Paul BIYA**, Cameroon's **Diplomatic Corps** will, undoubtedly, maintain its course towards consolidating friendly ties with other countries that share the same values of peace, democracy, dialogue and development.

Hence, Government specifically aims to:

- constantly mobilise its technical and financial partners to take initiatives to combat the COVID-19 pandemic;
- implement specific measures to rekindle confidence among the Cameroonian Diaspora;
- continue spearheading the drive towards placing Cameroonians in international organisations,;
- improve the quality of service in our diplomatic and consular missions.

Regarding **security**, several infrastructures will be renovated, constructed and equipped to improve the operational capacity of our defence and security forces.

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

From 16 January to 7 February 2021, our country will host the **CHAN TOTAL CAMEROON 2021**. Preparations towards satisfactorily hosting this important competition are almost complete.

I hereby seize the opportunity to invite the Mayors of the towns that will host the various pools of the African Championship to give their towns a facelift.

It is incumbent on them to intensify clean-up campaigns, and beautify the towns concerned in order to give our guests the warmest welcome.

As a prelude to the **2022 Africa Cup of Nations**, Government will:

- refurbish and construct roads and access routes to stadia;
- construct hotels;
- complete the interconnection of the various sites to the various networks.

In that light, special attention should be given to respecting the deadlines for completing construction work on the East wing of the City of Douala, which will equally be the main access point into the Japoma Sports Complex.

Same goes for the ongoing construction work on the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway, to ease traffic at the entrance of the capital city.

In 2021, with regard to the **Three-year Emergency Plan for Economic Acceleration and Growth**, Government will follow up on ongoing projects, until all components of the plan are completed.

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

Government's Economic, Financial and Cultural Programme for the 2021 financial year is based on the objective of stimulating economic activity, given the multiple negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our economy.

To this end, appropriate measures will be taken in the customs, taxation and financial sectors to support our companies.

Thus, this budget proposal is based on a number of elements of the macroeconomic framework.

At the global level, the economy, faced with the COVID-19 crisis, is expected to decline sharply to **-4.4%** in 2020, after recording a **2.9%** increase in 2019.

In 2021, global growth is expected to reach **5.4%**, under the assumption of a gradual recovery of economic activities in almost all countries.

Regarding inflation, developed countries are expected to move from **0.8%** in 2020 to **1.6%** in 2021. In the group of developing countries, the inflation rate is estimated at **5%** in 2020 and is projected at **4.7%** in 2021.

In the CEMAC Region, growth is expected to drop to **-3.1%** in 2020 against **2.1%** in 2019, before bouncing back to **3.4%** in 2021.

The decline observed in 2020 is mainly due to lower demand from Asia and Europe and the fall in the price of a barrel of oil.

Growth in 2021 will be boosted, among other things, to the control of the pandemic, the rise in the prices of raw materials and the resumption of activities among economic partners.

Inflation is expected to rise from **2.6%** in 2020 to **2.7%** in 2021, after a level of **2%** in 2019.

At the national level, economic growth is expected to be - **2.6%** in 2020, compared to **3.7%** in 2019. It will bounce back to **3.3%** in 2021 under the assumption of a gradual recovery in economic activities.

In the non-oil sector especially, growth is expected to be **3.4%** in 2021. It will experience a slight growth of **1%** in the oil sector.

With regard to prices, inflation will remain stable at 2.5% between 2020 and 2021 and the world price of a barrel of oil will rise slightly to **43.8 dollars** in 2021, compared to 41 dollars in 2020.

Also, the projected budget deficit is based on an assumption of **2.8%** of Gross Domestic Product, which remains below the convergence criterion set by CEMAC at **3%**.

In this macroeconomic context, the state budget for the 2021 financial year is balanced in supply and use to the sum of **4 thousand 865 billion 200 million CFAF**.

It is broken down as follows:

- ✓ **4 thousand 670 billion CFAF**, as general budget;
- ✓ **195 billion 200 million CFAF** for special allocations accounts.

Such is the substance of Government's Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for which Government is seeking the support of the Nation's Members of the National Assembly with a view to its implementation during the 2021 financial year.

Thank you for your kind attention./-