

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace-Work-Fatherland

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

**SERVICES DU PREMIER
MINISTRE**

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

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**PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL
DECENTRALIZATION BOARD MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2020**

Yaounde, Wednesday, 7 October 2020

The Prime Minister, Head of Government, Chairperson of the National Decentralization Board, His Excellency Joseph DION NGUTE, this Wednesday 7 October 2020, from 10 a.m., chaired the first ordinary session of the said Board for 2020, which was attended by statutory members of this Board.

The following items featured on the agenda, namely:

1. the report of the activities carried out by the Permanent Secretariat of the National Decentralization Board during the inter-session period, presented by the Permanent Secretary of the NDB;
2. report on the implementation of some previous instructions by the Minister of Basic Education and the Minister of Public Works;
3. statement of the Minister of Decentralization and Local Development on: *“the state of play of the projects undertaken to speed up decentralization with a view to establishing Regions”*;
4. statement of the Minister of Finance on: *“financing of activities to establish the Regions and the definition of the quota of financial resources to be allocated to Regional and Local Authorities”*;
5. statement of the President of the Association of United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (UCCC) on: *“the major concerns of Regional and Local Authorities at the dawn of the new legal system, together with the recommended solutions”*.

In his opening address, the Prime Minister pointed out that this session was held following the convening of the electoral colleges by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA, to elect Regional Councillors. This would speed up the decentralization process according to the will of the vast majority of Cameroonians and in accordance with the recommendations of the Major National Dialogue.

The Permanent Secretary, while reporting on the activities carried out during the inter-session period, pointed out that this body has notably taken steps to follow up the implementation of the instructions of the Head of Government, the organization of and participation in meetings to review draft instruments on decentralization.

In their respective reports on the implementation of the previous instructions, the Minister of Basic Education pointed out that the distribution of the minimum package is on-going despite the various constraints. The Minister of Public Works noted that the financial resources for the roadside vegetation management have been sent to most of the beneficiary councils.

In his statement, the Minister of Decentralization and Local Development, outlined the general background of decentralization in Cameroon and the state of play, before addressing issues relating to the establishment of Regions as Regional and Local Authorities.

He stated that, the draft instruments required to set up the Regional Councils, are being finalised. It is same for discussions to determine the necessary resources to set up Regions.

In his speech, the Minister of Finance indicated that appropriate financial measures have been taken for the organisation and smooth running of the forthcoming regional elections of 6 December 2020, as well as for the assumption of office of the Regional Councillors. With regard to the quota of financial resources to be transferred to the Regional and Local Authorities for the 2021 fiscal year, an interministerial team is at work to determine the

calculation basis on which the 15% fraction, enshrined in the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities, will be based.

In his presentation, the Vice-President of the Association of United Cities and Councils of Cameroon highlighted some issues likely to limit the proper functioning of councils, including inadequacy of the public procurement system in force, the strong supervision of the RLAs by the State, the low-yield local taxation, and the insufficient and poorly qualified human resources.

At the end of the deliberations and taking note of the opinions and contributions of Board members, the Prime Minister, Head of Government, instructed all Members of Government concerned by the devolution of powers to the Regions to forward to **The Minister of Decentralization and Local Development**, within eight days, the relevant draft instruments, together with their specifications, for their sanction. He further instructed him to speed up the process for drafting instruments enforcing Law No. 2019/024 of 24 December 2019 to Institute the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities, especially the one related to the setting up of the Local Public Service. Moreover, he was instructed to submit the Annual Report on the state of decentralisation and the functioning of Local Services no later than 30 January 2021;

To the Minister of Finance, the Head of Government instructed the completion of the process to set up the new architecture of the Single Treasury Account, to finalise the reform on local taxation and to submit his conclusions latest on 30 October 2020.

To conclude, the prime Minister congratulated the Association, United Councils and Cities of Cameroon, for its relevant proposals, and instructed the Administrations concerned to be carefully reviewed them.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Yaounde, _____

FOUDA Séraphin Magloire
SECRETARY GENERAL,
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE