

**GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL PROGRAMME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015**

PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY PHILEMON YANG
PRIME MINISTER, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

YAOUNDE, 25 NOVEMBER 2014

**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 today before the National Assembly to present Government's Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for the 2015 financial year.

I thank the **Right Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly** for his kind words to me and the entire Government.

I also hail the constant collaboration and support that this august House continues to lend to Government in the discharge of the missions entrusted to it by the President of the Republic, the Head of State, **His Excellency Paul BIYA**.

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

The presentation of Government's Programme for 2015 will be preceded by a **brief assessment** of Government action in 2014.

This report of Government activities is patterned on that of 2013 – year in which Government initiated programme budgeting. Fiscal year 2015 will mark the end of the first three-year cycle of programmes.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Government action in 2014 allowed *inter alia* for continuing the implementation of the new Financial Regime of the State adopted by the Law of 26 December 2007.

This law provides a framework for improving public management in Cameroon. Government also worked in earnest to consolidate what has been achieved in our country's quest for emergence by 2035.

Significant progress was achieved, especially in the political, economic, socio-cultural spheres as well as in governance.

Electoral reforms were continued with the update of electoral registers by ELECTIONS CAMEROON (ELECAM).

In 2014, several far-reaching actions were undertaken.

These include but are not limited to:

- the working visit the **Head of State** paid in February 2014 to Buea, South-West Region, for 50th Anniversary celebration of Reunification;
- the process of decentralization gained momentum with the finalization of the **transfer of powers** and regular **transfer of resources** to local authorities. Over **41 billion 389 million CFA Francs** was distributed to councils as council tax for the first semester of the current year. In the same period, over seventy (70) council projects were financed by the Special Council Support Fund (FEICOM) for **10 billion CFA Francs**;
- the instructions of the **Head of State** on the distribution scheme of the fixed monthly allocation paid to traditional rulers, estimated at **8 billion 434 million CFA Francs** yearly, were effectively implemented;
- security was tightened within the national territory and at the borders;
- civil status centres were renovated and the archival system of civil status registers improved across the country;

On the diplomatic front, Cameroon's presence at international forums and symposia was remarkable. Several bilateral and multilateral

cooperation agreements were signed. We were also always attentive to the concerns of Cameroonians of the diaspora who, as you are aware, now benefit from the right to vote.

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

Our action in 2014 was just as positive in the area of **governance**. Government remained steadfast to the strong options adopted by the **President of the Republic** to preserve the common weal, modernize Government departments, reform the justice system and clean up the public contracts sector.

In the area of justice, the main actions undertaken concern *inter alia*:

- the rehabilitation of some prisons in Dschang, Buea-Upper Farms, Wum, Ntui, Djoum and Foumban;
- the regular recruitment and redeployment of staff of various judicial professions and the corps of prisons administrators;
- the war against corruption and embezzlement was continued. The specialized corps of Police Detectives was effectively commissioned in the Special Criminal Tribunal (SCT). At the same time, the mechanism to facilitate the handing back of the main evidence is in progress.

In the same vein, Government strove in earnest to modernize Government departments by the following key measures:

- the reduction of the time frame for processing recruitment files of new Government employees,
- the design of output standards and procedures manuals,
- the automatic processing of the incremental positions of State personnel by extending the SIGIPES computer application to several ministries.

Good governance was also felt in the public contracts sector. Progress was made in streamlining public procurements to better meet the expectations of the populations and businesses.

The Ministry in charge of Public Contracts has, since its inception, strove to promote fair competition in this sector nationwide. It has reduced time frames for awarding contracts related to the **Programme of Major Accomplishments** decided by the **Head of State**, thus improving the rate of the award of these contracts.

Let me say this very clearly: it is the effective award of public contracts which determines effectiveness in procurements. The **rate of award** of contracts, which is up to **94.8%** in 2014 must not be confused with the **rate of execution** of contracts. Based on the commitment level on 30 September 2014 the rate of contract execution is **68.52%**. This is partly attributable to the multi-year schedule of construction of some infrastructure.

Based on the findings of the National Follow-up Committee of the physical and financial execution of Public Investment set up by Government in 2013, this figure has increased by **21%** compared to 2014.

In the public procurement sector, Government always ensures that public contractors display effectiveness and discipline for the timely completion of their contracts.

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

As far as the economic aspect of our action in 2014 is concerned, it is noteworthy that the turbulence experienced by the global economy these past years has spared neither Africa nor Cameroon.

In its World Economic Outlook, published on 7 October 2014, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), predicted that global growth will contract by 3.3% in 2014, just like in 2013.

Within CEMAC, the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) situates internal economic growth at 5.7% in 2014. In Cameroon, Government places it at 5.8%.

In this context, we have concentrated on:

- the modernization of the production machinery and development of promising growth sub-sectors;
- the strengthening of economic management and surveillance by assessing measures taken earlier to fight the rising cost of living in Cameroon and the economic impact of the security crisis on the northern part of the country and at the borders with the Central African Republic;
- the promotion of youth employment through labour-intensive public investment activities;
- the strengthening of the strategic development planning process and intensification of regional development actions;
- the independent administrative assessment of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) which made it possible to assess the ground covered since 2010 and to chart the way forward to adequately steer the country to emergence by 2035 ;
- the improvement of the business climate through implementation of Cameroon Business Forum (CBF) recommendations;
- the implementation of the Law of 18 April 2013 relating to private investment incentives was seen in the issuance of authorizations to several eligible businesses.

These satisfactory results are attributable to the pursuit of the construction of infrastructure, through overarching projects that create direct and indirect jobs in several sectors.

With regard to the Kribi Industrial and Port Complex, Phase 1 works are already complete. These consisted mainly in:

- the construction of a 670-metre wharf, a 300-m protection dyke, a container terminal, a multi-purpose terminal, and administrative buildings;
- the supply of wharf and park equipment as well as the procurement of two tugboats.

Construction works on the access road linking the port to Kribi are nearing completion.

It will be recalled in this connection that the first ship berthed at the Port on 13th February this year. Other ships have followed suite.

Further, negotiations for financing of the Kribi-Edea motorway have been clinched and part of the financing has been mobilized. Similarly, for the second phase, discussions are in progress with various partners for the construction and operation of other terminals.

For its part, the implementation progress of the Lom Pangar project is satisfactory overall and the dam is expected to be commissioned in a few months' time.

In the **road sector**, the emphasis was on road construction and maintenance as well as on the conduct of engineering studies.

Several projects made significant progress in 2014, including on the sub-regional integration-promoting corridors and roads linking Cameroon to neighbouring countries. Thus, a total of **373 kilometres** of roads were constructed in 2014.

The following are the noteworthy completion rates achieved:

- 89%, for construction works on the Ndop-Kumbo section of the Ring Road;
- 77%, for construction works on the Foumban-Manki section towards Tibati ;
- 57%, for construction works on the Bachuo-Akagbe-Mamfé-Ekok section on a linear distance of 83 kilometres;
- 40%, for construction works on the 83-kilometre Djoum-Mintom section and 19% for the Sangmelima-Bikoula section;
- 37%, for construction works on the Nkolessong-Nding road and 19% for the Nding-Mbgaba stretch ;
- 62.7%, for construction works on the Zoétélé-Nkolyop road;
- 23%, for construction works on the second bridge over Wouri River (the structure will comprise a 756-metre 6-lane road and a dual-track rail bridge;
- 32%, for construction works on a 144-m bridge on Mayo-Galké at Galké ;
- 12%, for construction of a 70-metre bridge on Mmem River at Olorunti ;
- 30%, for construction of a 51-metre bridge on Ntem River at Kakar ;
- 100%, for construction works on the Bamenda-Batibo-Numba road section;
- 100%, for construction works on the Nandéké-Mbéré road section over a linear distance of 89 kilometres ;
- 100%, for the tarring of a 39-kilometre service road to the Kribi Deep-sea Port between Kribi and Lolabé.

Also noteworthy here is the signing, after the authorization of the **Head of State**, of the railway concession for the Mbalam-Kribi railway

section and the port concession for the ore terminal of the Kribi Industrial and Port Complex.

Further, Government continues to open up agro-pastoral production, tourist and border zones. By end-2014, road maintenance works on the main priority network will reach **87%**, corresponding to a linear distance of 249 kilometres of rehabilitated roads.

The road sections which, due to their advanced state of degradation which caused many accidents, were the target of sustained attention are:

- Mora-Dabanga-Kousseri;
- Yaoundé-Bafoussam-Bamenda;
- Yaoundé-Mbalmayo-Ebolowa;
- Ngaoundéré-Garoua; and
- Figuil-Magada.

Government action in **Urban Development** in 2014 made it possible to complete studies for the tarring of the urban section of the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway; improve urban roads in Yaounde, Limbe, Ebolowa, Bamenda, Mbalmayo and Maroua and ensure the tarring of about **80 kilometres of roads** in some thirty principal and secondary towns.

With regard to **urban planning**, several towns were endowed with planning documents.

Government's programme to construct 10,000 low-cost housing is continuing. Formwork has been completed for 660 houses in Yaounde as part of the project to build 1,500 low-cost houses with funding from the People's Republic of China.

The extension of housing works in towns other than Yaounde and Douala will be effective in the coming months with the start-up of the Limbe construction site.

Also noteworthy is the private sector effort in this regard with the ongoing construction of 640 low-cost houses in Yaounde.

In the **Transport sector**, Government laid special emphasis on the port and maritime sector. The Douala Port was decongested by constructing new warehouses.

With regard to the Limbe-Isongo Port, a partnership contract was signed between the Government and LIPID (LIMBE PORT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION) for the construction, operation and maintenance of a Multi-purpose Terminal.

In the air transport sub-sector, apart from the transformation of Maroua-Salak into an international airport, the Garoua, Ngaoundéré, Douala and Maroua-Salak airports were rehabilitated and the equipment in Yaoundé-Nsimalen was renovated.

The national carrier CAMAIR Co. is forging on towards maturity. It now serves several sub-regional destinations and operates an intercontinental line to Paris. It also recently successfully carried out the HADJ 2014 operation.

In meteorology, several meteorological stations were rehabilitated throughout the territory and 24 climate stations were built, with 6 in Nkongsamba, 6 in Ebolowa, 6 in Yokadouma and 6 in Santa.

Concerning railway transport, the Batchenga-Ka'a and Eséka-Makak railway lines were rehabilitated; and passenger transport by *Intercity* between Yaounde and Douala and between Yaounde and Ngaoundere was re-launched after the acquisition of new locomotives and coaches.

With regard to **land transport**, Government action has been to intensify the control of operating conditions of travel agencies, vehicle road worthiness centres, driving schools and road users.

In the **Telecommunications** sector, efforts centred on the construction of landing points of sub-marine cables along the country's

coastline, and the extension of the completion of the multipurpose community tele-centres in the Bakassi area, including Akwa and Ngosso. The Government undertook an extensive programme for deployment of urban optical loops in Douala (50 kilometres), Yaounde (67 kilometres), Buea (29 kilometres), Limbe (35 kilometres) and Maroua (49 kilometres).

Similarly, it facilitated the launching of commercial activities of the third mobile operator, **NEXTTEL**, and granted a new licence to **CAMTEL**.

In the **Water and Energy** sector, noteworthy actions include:

- the continuation of the dam construction works;
- rural electrification of 87 new locations across the ten (10) regions;
- the completion of works to extend the power grid in 49 localities of the ten (10) regions of the country;
- completion of 2,000 connections made to households in 33 villages in the North, North-West, Centre and South-West regions;
- electrification of 143 villages and connecting 25,000 households through the extension of the North and South interconnected networks;
- extension of electrical transmission and distribution networks to construct 100 kilometres of lines of 90 kilovolts between Mbalmayo and Ebolowa followed by the electrification of 423 villages and connecting 100,000 households;
- pursuit of the Emergency Water Management Programme to rehabilitate or build drinking water supply schemes in the country;
- sinking of 363 manually-operated bore-holes and 20 mini water supply schemes in the 10 regions;

- start of extension works of the CAMWATER network funded by the World Bank to the tune of 4.2 billion CFA Francs;
- construction and expansion of the Yatto treatment plant in Douala;
- continuation of the rehabilitation of drinking water supply in the Limbe, Buea, Tonga, Nanga Eboko, Bikok, Tokombéré, Kribi, Maroua, Mfou, Mbouda, Abong-Mbang, Foumbot, Akomnyada and Meyomessala centres;
- the finalisation of negotiations for harnessing the Yaounde Drinking Water Supply Project on River Sanaga.

Government actions under the **mining and geological** sector in 2014 focused mainly on:

- supervising the hitherto informal artisanal mining activities;
- improving geological and mining information through the airborne geophysical campaign, with World Bank support which helped to cover 57% of the national territory;
- launching a study to design a new Industrialization Master Plan for the country;
- identifying the strategic partner tasked with construction of Mbalam Iron Ore Project infrastructure and continuing negotiations to mobilize the necessary financing;

Some major industrial projects are far advanced. These include:

- completion of the construction of two cement factories in Douala by Moroccan and Nigerian partners;
- the construction of a steel industry in Kribi in joint venture with the Korean company, POSCO.

In the **Forestry and Wildlife** sector, the Government provided appropriate answers to issues related to illegal logging; access to timber resources; financing of the wood industry and capacity-building of industrialists, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) and craftsmen in wood processing in Cameroon. These efforts will continue in the areas of security and recovery of wildlife resources and protected areas.

In terms of **Environment**, the Government has carried out a strategic audit of the flooding in the North and Far-North regions and finalized the design of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). These measures will enable people and economic agents affected by natural disasters to adapt, based on agro-ecological zones of the country.

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

In **agriculture**, the Government negotiated with its development partners to fund the investment project for the development of agricultural markets to cost 100 million US dollars. The same is true of the Programme for the promotion of youth agro-pastoral entrepreneurship to benefit from 22.5 million US dollars in US Government funding.

Similarly, in addition to carrying out the preliminary works of the General Agriculture and Livestock Census, Government's attention was focused on upgrading infrastructure in rural areas. Efforts were also made to improve the productivity and competitiveness of certain agricultural sub-sectors such as maize, rice, cocoa, coffee, cotton, cassava and palm oil.

As for the Agricultural Bank, all administrative measures are taken to accelerate the launch of its operations in the near future.

In the area of **Livestock and Animal Industries**, the priorities of our work focused on modernizing plantations and production tools, organizing sectors, and training farmers. Government also focused on improving the safety of animal and fish products and fighting animal diseases to protect the health of consumers.

On **Fisheries and Aquaculture**, the Government: (1) continued its programme to build housing for fishermen in the Bakassi area; (2) promoted intensive aquaculture; (3) fought against illegal fishing.

With regard to **Small and Medium Size Enterprises**, Government action in 2014 resulted in the continued improvement of their competitiveness, the promotion of private initiative, collective entrepreneurship and improvement of the profitability of Very Small Enterprises (VSE).

In this sector, the Government launched a programme for the identification and registration of craftsmen in 360 councils in the country. Thus, their expertise is valued each year at the **Cameroon International Crafts Exhibition** (SIAC). Institutions such as the Agency for Promotion of **SMEs** and the **SME Bank** will soon be used to support and supervise the sector.

On **Tourism and Leisure**, holiday camps were organized. Furthermore, the construction of 3-star hotels in Ebolowa and Mundemba, the tourist camp in Manenguba around the twin lakes and the Maga and Lagdo nautical stations was continued.

In **Trade**, the Government intensified actions to fight against illegal trade practices and further promote the consumption of locally-made products. New trade agreements were signed especially with Nigeria.

In the **Land tenure and surveys** domain, the Government continued its efforts to modernize Land registry, protect State property and build land reserves and State-owned lots.

To reassure the business community, a procedures manual and an entrepreneur's guide on land issues were prepared and are being disseminated. Ten (10) one-stop shops for land transactions are already functional in the regional headquarters. This operation will be extended to the divisions and 360 councils.

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

In the area of **Communication**, the key actions undertaken by the Government in 2014 include:

- the implementation of the project to revitalize communication in land border areas, especially in the Bakassi Peninsula, in Ambam in the South and Batouri and Yokadouma in the East;
- the continuation of works for the digital switch-over; the technical restructuring of the Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV) and the intensification of public communication actions.

In **Education**, actions in **Basic Education** concerned:

- the recruitment of 3,060 Grade I teachers;
- free distribution of textbooks to 900,000 primary one pupils in both francophone and anglophone sub-systems;
- the creation of 405 new schools followed by the construction of more than 1,500 new classrooms equipped with 45,000 benches;
- an inventory of 1,485 functional literacy centres as part of the implementation of the national literacy programme.

With regard to **Secondary Education**, Government's action in 2014 consisted in:

- increasing education opportunities through the construction of **587** ordinary classrooms in **secondary schools**, **230** classrooms in **secondary technical and vocational schools** and 8 new ordinary classrooms in teacher training colleges;
- pursuing the policy of subsidizing private education with close to **900 million CFA Francs** allocated to beneficiary schools;

- building regional delegations to the tune of 750 million CFA Francs and headquarters for the *Office du Baccalauréat* and the GCE Board, to the tune of 220 million CFA Francs.
- the creation, transformation and the opening of several secondary schools across the country.

In **Higher Education**, university governance continued towards professionalization. Noteworthy actions here include the construction of several infrastructure which increased enrolment capacity in State universities to 98,044 seats.

New technological and professional schools have started activities. These include the Higher Technical Teacher Training College which is under the University of Buea and two faculties in the University of Maroua.

The recent organization of the 17th CAMES *aggregation* examination in Cameroon is proof of the credibility of our higher education system.

Moreover, research allowances amounting to 9 billion 600 million CFA Francs were paid regularly to lecturers as well as the excellence premium granted by the Head of State to the best students in Cameroon universities amounting to 4 billion 500 million CFA Francs per year.

Government's **Social Action** in 2014 was marked by an intensification of social protection for vulnerable persons, stronger national solidarity and social justice.

In **Public Health**, Government strove in earnest to improve maternal, infant and adolescent health and generally that of the population.

Thus, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel increased by **56%**; vaccination coverage for children also increased.

The Government has also increased the availability and accessibility of drugs, reagents and essential mechanisms. Thanks to improved hospital hygiene, the overall and integrated care of patients is better.

Similarly, the efficient deployment of the National Response and Plan against EBOLA fever has made it possible to preserve our country from this epidemic.

In **Employment and Vocational Training**, Government's efforts have helped to control the unemployment rate of youths aged between 15 to 24 years and to create **89,993 temporary** or **seasonal jobs** and supervise **42,675 apprentices** in vocational training centres.

As concerns **Labour and Social Security**, Government focused this year on:

- guiding the terms and conditions for managing self-insured persons in the old age, disability and death insurance schemes;
- negotiating and revising national collective agreements in some sectors of activities;
- increasing the Guaranteed Minimum Wage in the private sector and the salaries of civil servants.

With regard to **Women Empowerment and the Family**, 2014 witnessed the institutionalization of gender; capacity-building for women in production techniques, storage and processing of agro-pastoral products; and the setting up of women's empowerment and family centres.

In the area of **Culture and Arts**, 2014 was marked by the launching of the process of computerizing historical archives; the erection of the 50-Years Independence and Reunification monument in Buea. Cultural industries also received fresh impetus with film co-production partnership, better collective management of copyrights and related rights and the

completion of the project to build the technical-artistic wing of the National Institute of Arts and Culture.

In **Sports**, the key noteworthy initiatives are: the continuation of works on the Bafoussam stadium, the completion of construction works of the Limbe Omnisports stadium and the Bertoua and Ngaoundere sports platforms; the revitalization of national sports federations. The Head of State re-organized the functioning of national football selections, and Cameroon football through the creation of a Football Academy, the continuation of the construction of stadiums and the participation of our athletes in various international sports events.

With regard to **Civic Education**, Government continued building on the outputs of the National Civic Service for Participatory Development since its inception, ensuring the supervision and economic advancement of youth across the country.

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

This overview of Government actions in 2014 is ample proof that our country is calmly and methodically moving towards its emergence.

The development of a Nation is not rigid, it requires common effort, effectiveness, efficiency, but mostly a radical change in behaviour and mentality.

Before presenting the outlook of Government action for 2015, permit me to dwell on the State's core medium-term sector objectives as outlined

in the budget programmes featuring in the Finance Bill which will be tabled for your approval.

The vast majority of the actions therein aim to complete the first three-year cycle of programme budgeting, from 2013 to 2015, and consolidating the indispensable priority choices to take Cameroon to its emergence.

Budgetary choices have been made based on medium-term priority action plans and expenditure frameworks backed by the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper, as well as the new programme budgeting paradigm.

Specifically, in terms of prospects, the Government will strive in 2015 to consolidate the achievements of last year, concentrate and consolidate public investments in priority sectors with a high impact on economic growth.

As concerns **Infrastructure**, special emphasis will be laid on the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the national road network, ensuring strict compliance with relevant technical specifications and the completion of ongoing studies in some cases.

In this respect, Government's action will especially concern:

- the construction of the first section of the Douala-Yaounde motorway;
- the actual start of works on the Kribi-Edea motorway, the first phase of which is the Lolabé-Kribi town section;
- continuation of construction works on the second bridge over the Wouri;
- the construction of a bridge and its access roads on the Mayo Soulabé in Banyo, and about fifty other infrastructural projects throughout the country;

- the continuation of the works on the Ring-Road, and the Obala-Batchenga-Bouam, Nkolesseng-Nding roads;
- construction of the Kumba-Mamfe road;
- asphaltting of the Sangmelima-Bikoula-Djoum-Mintom-Congo Border road, etc.

In the same vein, the road networks in our towns and big cities will be significantly improved by:

- continuing the construction of the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway, the open-country section;
- constructing the main entrance roads into Yaounde and Douala;
- maintaining roads in Yaounde and Douala.

In addition, a vast Programme to open up major agro-pastoral production basins and tourist zones in the country shall be implemented.

In the water management sector, activities in 2015 shall focus on:

- the Yaounde drinking water supply project from Sanaga River;
- the realization of drinking water supply projects in seven regional headquarters;
- the rehabilitation of SCAN-Water stations across the country;
- construction of over 300 drinking water supply systems in secondary towns and rural areas;
- construction of 277 bore-holes in six Regions.

In the field of **energy**, the Government will focus especially on continuing the construction of the Mekin, Lom-Pangar and Memve'ele dams, as well as on its Rural Electrification Programme which will concern about 250 localities.

The **renewable energies** sub-sector is not left behind. The Government intends to promote alternative energies by implementing the National Solar-powered Street Lighting Project and a National Power Saving Programme.

In **transport**, several projects are in the pipeline, especially:

- creating modern logistics platforms with storage areas at the entrance to Yaounde, Douala and Ngaoundere to durably decongest the Douala port ahead of the commissioning of the Kribi deep-sea port;
- continuing the rehabilitation and modernization of airport infrastructure;
- preparing an appropriate legislative and institutional framework to better manage the national railway sector and preserve the heritage of the State pertaining to it;
- accelerating the process of automated toll gates in order to streamline traffic and optimize State revenue in this domain;
- intensifying sensitization and enforcement of road safety campaigns to significantly reduce the number of accidents and victims on our highways.

In the field of **Post and Telecommunications**, we shall focus, among others, on:

- developing postal infrastructure to ensure universal postal service;
- constructing a third landing point of submarine optical fiber cables in Kribi;

- constructing two Internet exchange points (IXP) in Douala and Yaounde.

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

In **agriculture**, special emphasis will be placed on conducting the general census of agriculture and livestock and continuing the development of agricultural sectors with high added value and increased productivity.

The objective in the domain of **livestock and fishery** shall be mastering the development of dairy and fish production through the genetic improvement of the herd and the promotion of commercial aquaculture.

In 2015, **forestry activities** shall be marked by intensification of local processing of wood to supply at least 40% of locally-made furniture to Government departments.

Concerning the **environment and sustainable development**, the Government will continue, among others, to restore degraded ecosystems as part of Operation "Green Sahel"; promote green jobs as well as monitor the implementation of the Social and Environmental Management Plan of anchor projects.

In the **mining and geological sector**, a major challenge will be the creation of a development company. Specific actions will be continued to

concretize the Mbalam iron mining project and to supervise miners' activities in the country.

Concerning **industrial development**, the Government action will focus on protecting and securing the national industrial fabric and supporting industrial sector competitiveness.

For **Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SME)**, the high point of the action of public authorities in 2015 will be the effective establishment of the SME Agency. The supervision of craftsmen will be also strengthened with the full construction of special handicraft villages in Mbalmayo and Fouban.

With regard to the **trade sector**, the Government shall continue setting up infrastructure to develop cross-border trade; promoting the export of locally-made products; and promoting the local consumption of local products.

Similarly, emphasis will be placed on **supporting local enterprises** to upgrade them to meet the constraints of competition induced by the signing of the Economic Partnership Agreements. A corporate capacity-building Office will be set up.

In that regard, Government will continue modernizing the land register by increasing the national geodesic network and constitute land reserves and State land plots: 300,000 hectares for agro-industry; 2,300 hectares for social housing and 11,000 hectares for State housing schemes.

Moreover, 2015 will come with special overtones in **sport** with preparations for the organization of the African Cup of Nations for females in 2016 and for males in 2019.

This will require building substantially more sports infrastructure like the omnisport stadia of Bafoussam, Yaounde and Douala and several others, as well as developing access roads to the Limbe omnisport stadium.

In the **tourism** sector, we will embark on a programme to upgrade State-owned hotels, to develop the main tourist sites and construct at least two four star hotels in Garoua and Foumban.

The year 2015 shall also see the modernization of our **Public Service** and the deepening of administrative reforms to guarantee more effective service to users.

In the area of **Decentralization**, the Government will further deepen the process of transfer of powers and resources to Local Authorities. State interventions for local development will be optimized by completing the ongoing institutional reform of the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance (FEICOM) and the National Participatory Development Programme (PNDP).

The **communication** sector will also experience changes, particularly the establishment of a legal framework to govern digital audio-visual communication; support the digital switch-over process through the Cameroon Digital Television (CAM-DTV) programme; create a National Advertising Council and construct two audio-visual broadcast centres in Banyo and Wum.

In the **justice sector**, Government will consolidate achievements with regard to strengthening the rule of law, improving penitentiary policy

and fighting against embezzlement of public funds. It will focus on the optimal functioning of courts.

In addition, **university governance** will continue with the professionalization of training courses, improvement of infrastructures and the quality of teaching. There are plans to increase technological and professional training opportunities as well as to improve access to university research and digital infrastructure.

At the level of **secondary education**, the equipping and operationalizing of several schools, especially technical schools, set up across the country, will be emphasized.

In the **basic education sector**, the Government intends to (i) recruit 3,060 new general education teachers to reduce the number of PTA teachers in government primary schools; and (ii) equip 50 literacy centres across the country. We also plan to build 40 new staff residential houses for primary school teachers to stabilize them in inaccessible rural and borders areas, and to transfer at least 74% of the sector's investment resources to Local Authorities.

Concerning **Civic Education**, the Government plans to train at least 9,000 volunteers and to supervise about 6,000 new workers; construct 6 new multi-purpose youth empowerment centres in Isangele, Ngoyla, Misaje, Darak, Manoka and Kye-Ossi.

With regard to the **Social** policy, the Government intends to focus on supervising and protecting socially vulnerable persons, especially street children, persons with disabilities and elderly people, to make them development actors.

In the area of **Public Health**, Government's priorities in 2015 will centre on the following key actions:

- provide universal health-care coverage by improving the supply of health services and care to populations;
- strengthen the system of prevention and response to major epidemics such as the Ebola hemorrhagic fever;
- continue the project to construct dialysis centres.

As concerns **Labour and Social Security**, in addition to promoting employer/employee dialogue, the Government will strive to strengthen the capacities of members of the Committees for Hygiene and Safety at the Workplace. Government shall also strive to fight against child labour and build an Information and Training Centre for trade union leaders in Yaounde.

With regard to **Employment and Vocational Training**, one of the objectives targeted by the Government will be to streamline and ensure the coherence of Government actions in youth integration.

In the area of **Women's Empowerment and the Family**, our action will primarily focus on better gender mainstreaming; expanding and equipping women's empowerment and family centres; strengthening the capacities of rural women in the techniques of production, preservation and processing of agro-pastoral products.

Government's 2015 **Arts and Culture** programme envisages especially:

- the organization of the 2nd edition of the Yaounde Book Fair;

- the implementation of the project to construct a national library;
- the continued sanitizing of the management of copyright and neighbouring rights.

Government also plans to rebuild the collective memory of our country by capturing our historical records on microfilm.

This list, I stress, is not exhaustive since Government's projects are much more numerous and varied.

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

This Governmental Programme will be implemented in a difficult global economic context marked, as you know, by stagnation and, at the national level, by cross-border security constraints.

These factors have consequences on our public finances and impact negatively on economic activities.

However, the Government will spare no effort to guarantee the stability of our economy and maintain the balance of our public finances.

This will necessarily require improving the quality of expenditure, optimizing the level of revenue collection and strictly monitoring balanced cash flows.

The private sector will also have to fully play its role in creating wealth and employment, in order to meet the expectations of our populations.

I will engage all Government departments to participate in the process of simplifying procedures in their spheres of competence, and to eliminate obstacles to the seamless implementation of the State budget.

The 2015 draft budget was prepared based on the following assumptions:

- a growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product estimated at 6.3%;
- an inflation rate contained at 3%.

It is balanced in revenue and expenditure at **3,746.6 billion CFA francs** against **3,312 billion CFA francs** in 2014. This represents an increase of **434.6 billion CFA francs** in absolute terms and **13.12%** in relative terms.

This increase is attributable to the fact that Government expects the Gross Domestic Product to grow by about 6.3%. Furthermore, it expects a net increase in budgetary resources with the coming into force of the Law of 18 April 2013 laying down private investment incentives in Cameroon. Account has also been taken of preparatory activities for the 2016 and 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), as well as other major priority projects.

The 2015 Finance Bill reflects Government's will to lighten the tax burden on companies, in accordance with commitments we took during sessions of the Cameroon Business Forum.

A number of key measures are planned in 2015:

- the corporate tax will be reduced from 35% to 30%;
- the minimum discharge tax will be increased from 1% to 2%;

- No Value Added Tax will be levied on fees collected from travel agencies for international flights;
- No Value Added Tax refund will be made for transactions in cash;
- Airport stamp duty will be collected by airlines,
- Electronic tracking of Value Added Tax will be introduced for company invoicing operations;
- The taxpayer notification period will be extended from 8 to 15 days;
- The deposit of 10% of contested costs at the first stage of appeal in administrative courts will be eliminated;
- For administrative procedures, only one document will be required, the attestation of non subscription.

Revenue expected in fiscal year 2015 amounting to **3,746.6 billion CFA francs**, will come from internal and external resources.

Internal resources which stand at **3,342 billion 48 million CFA Francs**, against **2,983 billion CFA Francs** in 2014, will come from:

- oil royalties: **774 billion 900 million CFA francs**, against 733 billion CFA francs in 2014; equivalent to an increase of 41 billion 900 CFA Francs in absolute terms and 5.71% in relative terms;
- non-oil revenue: **2,247 billion 58 million CFA Francs**, against 1,970 billion CFA francs in 2014, corresponding to 14.09% in relative terms;
- bond issue: **320 billion CFA Francs** against 280 Billion CFA Francs in 2014, corresponding to an increase of 40 billion CFA Francs in absolute terms and 14.28% in relative terms;

For their part, **external resources** stand at **404 billion 117 million CFA Francs**, against 329 billion CFA Francs in 2014, or an increase of 75 billion 117 million CFA Francs in absolute terms and 22.83% in relative terms. They are sourced from loans and grants.

- Loans will amount to **345 billion 917 million CFA Francs** against 274 billion CFA Francs in 2014, corresponding to an increase of 71 billion 917 million in absolute terms and 26.24% in relative terms;
- Grants will total **58 billion 200 million CFA francs**, against 55 billion CFA Francs in 2014, corresponding to an increase of 3 billion 200 million CFA Francs in absolute terms and 5.81% in relative terms;

With regard to expenditure, three priorities are considered, namely:

- Direct operating expenses, which are evaluated at **2,159 billion 900 million CFA Francs**, against 2,009 billion 200 million CFA Francs in 2014, up by 150 billion 700 million CFA Francs in absolute terms;
- Capital expenditure, which stands at **1,150 billion CFA Francs**, against 1,000 billion in 2014, up by 150 billion in absolute terms;
- Public debt servicing, estimated at **436 billion 700 million CFA Francs**, against 302 billion 800 million CFA Francs in 2014, corresponding to an increase of 133 billion 900 million CFA Francs in absolute terms.

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

Such is the Government's Economic, Financial, Social and Cultural Programme for fiscal year 2015, towards the realization of which Government is soliciting the support of the Honourable Members of Parliament.

I would like to conclude by inviting all social stakeholders to strive in earnest for the success of all the projects we intend to implement in 2015, under the stewardship of the Head of State, **His Excellency President Paul BIYA.**

I thank you for your kind attention.