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 Finance & Budget Committee Commission des Finances et du Budget

**REPORT**

**of the Second Quarterly Meeting held on 25 June 2024 between Members of the Finance and Budget Committee and**

**those of the Technical Support Unit**

The 2nd Quarterly Meeting for the current legislative year held on Tuesday, 25 June 2025, in the Committee Room of the Yaounde Conference Centre under the chairmanship of **Hon. MOUTYMBO Rosette Julienne épouse AYAYI,** Coordinator of the parliamentary missions of controlling State revenue and expenditure.

Besides the Chairperson, the following persons were in attendance :

* the General Rapporteur for revenue;
* the Special Rapporteurs in charge of public expenditure ;
* the Secretary General of the National Assembly ;
* the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Legislative and Linguistic Affairs ;
* the Representatives of the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court ;
* the Experts of the Advanced Programme of Specialization in Public Finances (PSSFP) ;
* the members of the Technical Support Unit.

The following presenters (Members of Government accompanied by their closed collaborators) were also present within the framework of the seminar meant to build the capacities of the Parliamentarians and their Technical Support Staff:

* **Mr Emmanuel NGANOU DJOUMESSI**, Minister of Public Works;
* **Mr Paul TASONG TCHOUTANG**, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development ;
* **Mr Calistus Gentry FUH**, Acting Minister of Mines, Industries and Technological Development.

In keeping with the customary practice, the Chairperson opened deliberations by welcoming her Colleagues and the Members of Government, including their accompanying officials, as well as the Members of the Technical Support Unit to the said meeting.

She then expressed her Committee’s gratitude to the Members of the Executive and to the team from the Advanced Programme of Specialization in Public Finances for their availability and commitment to the efficient parliamentary work already emanating from the partnership existing with the Advanced Programme of Specialization in Public Finances, the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court, and the Finance and Budget Committee.

The civility phase ended with the adoption of a two-item agenda :

 **The first** was a presentation of papers by the three Members of Government ;

**The second** was a discussion with Members of the Technical Support Unit.

**On the first item on the agenda,** three practical themes linked to our country’s performance determinants (road infrastructure, economic and mining development) were the main focus. The Members of Government made very enriching presentations that enabled a better understanding of the themes and the challenges relating thereto.

The first presentation made by the Minister of Public Works, assisted by the Director of General Affairs, was captioned ***“Cameroon Road Policy: formulation, implementation and challenges”****.*

The presentation x-rayed road infrastructure not only as a factor for socio-economic growth but also as a determinant of sustainable development.

The presentation dwelt on the following aspects:

1. Road policy as defined in Cameroon’s development strategy, which seeks to bridge the gaps noticed and to focus on emergence by 2035 ;
2. The six main road intervention planning tools *(Road Master Plan, Road Infrastructure Connection Programme, Infrastructure Disparity Reduction Strategy, Integrated Multimodal Transport Infrastructure Strategy, Priority Investment Programme, Coordination of Interventions to Open up Agro-pastoral Production Basins)*.
3. The stakeholders *(implementation stakeholders, funding stakeholders, support stakeholders and coordination stakeholders).*
4. Implementation modalities *(signing of contracts with enterprises, sharing of risks, self-implementation of projects and signing of conventions within the framework of carrying out public service missions).*
5. Guarantees of sound implementation *(allocating 39% of the funds meant for technical studies to the search for funding, actions of the public investment budget of the Ministry of Public Works, permanent updating with a view to improving the business climate).*

The presentation also dwelt on the delays in realizing the objectives set in the road policy, the reasons behind the delays and the use of innovative solutions to enhance performance at the level of the Ministry of Public Works.

The second presentation focused on “***Public-Private Partnerships and their impacts in the financing of the State budget***”.

After defining the notion of Public-Private Partnership (PPP), stating three forms of PPP using some public infrastructure realized following the model in Sub-Saharan Africa (Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea Conakry), the Minister Delegate to the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, seconded by the President of the Support Council for the Realization of Partnership Contracts (CARPA), focused their presentations on two aspects :

1. PPP : an innovative tool that makes public contribution of finances possible and helps in mobilizing private funds to improve the efficiency of the public investments necessary to bridge the infrastructural gap.

1. PPP : an ambivalent impact tool for the financing of the State budget as the partnerships help to increase the budget revenue on the one hand and make it possible to contract public debt on the other hand.

The third presentation made by the Acting Minister of Mines, Industries and Technological Development, assisted by the Director of Mines and Geology, focused on *“****Mining projects being developed in Cameroon”****.* The following four points were the main thrust of the presentation:

1. Artisanal mining sector: the processing of gold gravel obtained from semi-mechanized artisanal mining before the reform and the processing of gold bearing gravel in restricted areas, the areas meant for such activity and the expected results notably restricting child labour in mining, green mining, increasing State revenue, increasing the State gold reserves.
2. Major mining projects such as the Kribi-Lobe iron ore exploitation, the Bipindi-Grand Zambi (Akom II) iron ore exploitation, the Mbalam Iron ore exploitation, the Colomine small iron ore mining, long and medium-term projects as well as expected results.
3. Critical iron ore mining termed as iron ore mining on contract basis and iron ore mining likely to be researched into.
4. Economic and social fallouts.

MPs raised several concerns during the discussions that emanated from the presentations.

**Concerning the Ministry of Public Works, the concerns focused on :**

* the deterioration of road networks ;
* the uncertainty looming over the Yaounde-Douala motorway, after Boumyebel;
* the absence of sanctions against defaulting enterprises ;
* the issue of self-constructed roads where maintenance is often left to councils which are technically incapable;
* the urgent need to rehabilate roads ;
* the issue of carrying out road projects using PIB via the urgency procedure ;
* the situation of cancelled contracts (for exceeding deadlines), of late consumption of investment budgets and of unexecuted contracts;
* the advantage of adopting the import substitution concept ;
* the shortcomings of the policy, which does not lead to the creation of sufficient roads;
* cases of defaulting companies whose contracts were cancelled for technical reasons;
* the need to increasingly send engineers from the Ministry of Public Works on mission with specified incentives;
* lack of experience by the three companies working on the National Road No. 9 (Mbalmayo-Sangmelima) ;
* the assurance that the funds allocated to unexecuted projects are available;
* the issue of paying service-providers regularly ;
* the issue of lack of money to transfer to the Road Fund accounts;
* questioning the legality of suspending the convention between BEAC and the Road Fund on the disbursement of five millions each month for payment of outstanding bills ;
* the obligation to create by-pass roads where road projects are being executed (Nkambe-Ako) ;
* the absence of a well-thought philosophy on road policy that does not prioritize works ;
* lack of knowledge on the strategy to ensure field integration of multimodal infrastructure ;
* the need to rehabilitate rail and maritime transport infrastructure.

**Regarding the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, the concerns focused on:**

* the fate of the tollgates closed down;
* the violation of the Principle of Single Treasury Account evidenced by the transactions carried out by CARPA in the customs sector ;
* the reasons for authorizing companies to recover funds when the Treasury has staff specialized for recoveries ;
* the need to popularize CARPA;
* the risk of scattering or sharing State revenue within the framework of the PPPs ;
* an update on the evaluation of the PPP system ;
* the need to carry out a formal study of our environment before implementing the PPP system;
* the issue of genuine automatic tollgates ;
* the fact that PPPs are not popularized in our environment.

**Regarding the Ministry of Mines and Technological Development, the concerns focused on:**

* the need for clarifications on the Minim Martap bauxite ;
* the issue of sharing mining production ;
* electricity-related problems which are attributed mainly to means of transportation;
* measures taken to adapt our roads to the sizes of vehicles transporting the mining produce ;
* the advantage the population have from the railway line linking Mbalam with Kribi which will not be used for mining only ;
* the palpable impact of the exploitation of the Kété iron ore on the people ;
* the need for clarifications on the control of the gold mining sites;
* imposing a laboratory for gold miners;
* the likelihood that some iron ores will be out-dated if they are not quickly exploited ;
* the provision of information on the time frame for exploiting all sites ;
* the consideration of ecological problems and the need to involve the riparian population ;
* the identification of jobs that mining is likely to generate;
* the need to take the Far North Region into account as it is equally endowed with underground resources ;
* the issue of setting up an iron ore exploitation system ;
* insufficient mining royalties (10 %) ;
* insufficient customs tariff on mining (5 %).

 **The second item on the agenda** was not dealt with because of the long presentations that were made during the day. The reports expected from members of the Technical Support Unit were simply handed to Special Rapporteurs to acquaint themselves with.

Two recommendations were made at the end of this meeting:

* That the Special Rapporteurs should go through the reports from the Technical Support Unit;
* That the Advanced Programme of Specialization in Public Finances should finalize the general report of this meeting and hand it to the Finance and Budget Committee.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairperson re-expressed her gratitude to the Right Honourable Speaker for his constant quest to enhance the performance of the august House and for his assistance to the Finance and Budget Committee in carrying out its action plan of building the capacities of its members and its technical support staff.

Lastly, she expressed her unreserved gratitude to her Colleagues for their active participation in the rich information-sharing meeting that helped to shed light on several aspects, to the Members of Government who presented papers, to the representatives of the Audit Bench and to the experts from the Advanced Programme of Specialization in Public Finances for their technical support and expertise.

The meeting ended at 5 :30 pm.