

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

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**MINISTERE DE L'HABITAT ET
DU DEVELOPPEMENT URBAIN**

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, MR.
AHMADOU SARDAOUNA, ON THE OCCASION OF
PRESENTATION OF 2018 NEW YEAR WISHES,**

TO

**THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, HIS EXCELLENCY MBWENTCHOU
JEAN CLAUDE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR HOUSING, MRS DIBONG MARIE ROSE**

Yaoundé, on 24 January 2018

Your Excellency, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development;

Your Excellency the Minister of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure;

Your Excellency, Madam Secretary of State,

The Board Chair of the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation;

The General Manager of the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation;

Government Delegates;

Lady and Lord Mayors;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Distinguished guests.

I am very pleased to be among you in this warm atmosphere on behalf of the entire staff of MINH DU's central and external services and the larger family of the Urban Development sub-sector and the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation as well, on the occasion of the solemn ceremony of presentation of the 2018 New Year wishes to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Jean Claude MBWENTCHOU and Madam Secretary of State for Housing, Mrs. Marie Rose DIBONG.

It is also a great pleasure because there is a strong mobilization MINHDU's, especially officials from the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation and structures under MINHDU's supervisory authority, which on undoubtedly reflect the commitment by all in a synergy of actions to build a strong and supportive team working in a spirit of family un your leadership.

Your Excellency, permit me to strongly appreciate the presence by your side of the Minister of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure, which portrays constantly and efficiently government solidarity desire by top hierarchy.

Before I proceed, permit me to fulfil a pleasant task of welcoming all, guest or partners, who have come to share this joyful occasion with us. Your presence by our side undoubtedly is an eloquent testimony of your interest for city dwellers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This occasion which is taking place in an atmosphere of reunion and friendliness, gives me the opportunity to present all the respect we have for our hierarchy and to reiterate our collective determination to firmly support their actions whose genuine responsibilities will enable them to effectively implement the 2018 plan of action of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

Your Excellencies,

Our pleasure of being together this afternoon, is as significant as the outstanding balance sheet of the just ended fiscal year. Under your collective impetus, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has strongly engaged in its statutory responsibilities, in a bid to achieve the government's goal contained in the 2035 Development vision, whose operational application is presented in the Growth and Employment Strategic Paper (GESP) vision 2035. This development is as a result of the mobilization of all staff that, on this occasion, reaffirms their commitments to work harder so as to contribute in the construction of our dear and beautiful country.

This commitment was materialized during the last 12 months with the implementation of projects portfolio awarded to our ministry, despite the very difficult context. Projects executed during this period are the outcome of the pace set on 26 January 2017, during the presentation of New Year wishes ceremony. On that day, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, supported by the Secretary of State, called upon the staff to **“increase their zeal for work and remain vigilant, be objective and serious in treating files.”**

Also, the year 2017 unfolded in a peaceful environment marked by the adoption of measures to cut State spending and implementation of the economic and financial reforms program with the IMF and the substantial budgetary program.

In this regard, the Head of State's guidelines and commitments made by our country were broken down into strategic points grouped into the 2017 programmes of action. Their implementation led to the start/ pursuit of many projects and to the consolidation of some achievements. Also, with regards to the number of actions carried-out in 2017, some major achievements include:

- organization of the second International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU II);
- implementation of major projects ;
- pursuit of projects under the Three-Year Emergency Plan to Speed-up Economic Growth (PLANUT) ;
- preparation for the organization of the 2019 African Cup of Nations ;
- Sanitation of the living environment in big cities.

**Your Excellencies;
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Despite the above mentioned challenges, the year 2017 witnessed a special atmosphere in our ministry, marked by the involvement of all in the organization of the second International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU II) at the Yaoundé Conference Centre, from 12 to 14 December 2017, under the theme “ Smart Urban Development : from local to global actions”.

This conference was attended by 480 participants from the Government institutions, Regional and Local Authorities, Parliament, Universities and research institutes, civil society, private sector, financial and technical partners and media from 25 countries across the world, all of whom came to discuss and share knowledge on sustainable and smart urbanization. Proceedings were built around six plenary sessions, five roundtables, five special sessions and about thirty side-events with 3 to 4 speakers each.

These working sessions led to discuss on themes such “Smart **City**” which stands for a city that uses information and communication technologies to improve the quality of urban services or to reduce its cost of living; Sustainable development whose most popular definition is a development that meets the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Mr. Minister, we are very happy because these concepts already familiar to MINHDU are owed to your action, for it brought together international experts to reflect on future cities.

The credit of successful organization of this important conference is due to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, whom under the Distinguished Patronage of the Head of State His Excellency Paul BIYA, and his capacity as personal representative of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, prepared and chaired the conference which is the first of its kind in Africa.

Concerning the fallouts, the organization of ICCCASU endowed Cameroon with a Regional Centre

of Excellence for Sustainable Urban Development in Africa in Yaoundé, of which MINH DU's technical services are working towards effective implementation.

Just as importantly, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development was appointed as ICCCASU's president for the next two years (2018 -2019).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The implementation of MINH DU's 2017 plan of action led to the following achievements.

With specific regard to major projects, main achievements include:

- **completion of 1520 houses** in Yaoundé, Douala, Limbé, Sangmélina, Bamenda and Bafoussam with Chinese cooperation ;
- **pursuit with good execution pace of** works under the construction of the first **1675** housing units entrusted to local Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Olembé and Mbanga-Bakoko, as part of the Government Programme to construct **10 000** low-cost housing units, executed to the tune of 81% and 67%, respectively. In

addition, the commercialization operations are underway. In Yaoundé, over the 440 housing units on sale, 237 were purchased cash, 75 were sold through long-term loan with the Cameroon Housing Loan Funds (CFC).

- **Effective start of works** to construct 530 housing units over 1050 planned in Douala, whereas the construction of 500 housing units over 900 in Yaoundé is underway, with regard to the implementation of the first phase of the project christened “ Fiftieth Anniversary Complexes instructed by the Head of H.E Paul BIYA in Douala and Yaoundé” ;
- **finalization** of preliminary work for effective start of phase I of the Municipal Lake tourist and economic development and Mingoa Valley redevelopment project. The services under this grand project aim to develop, drain and lighten the banks of the Lake ; construct restaurants, leisure packs, stores and parking lots and develop a nautical sport area;
- **completion of** studies for the issuance of bid invitations for the construction of infrastructures in Bafoussam, Garoua and Bertoua, with regard to the Regional Headquarter component of the Urban C2D Programme;
- **ongoing maturation** with World Bank support of inclusive and resilient cities development project in Ngaoundéré, Batouri, Douala, Yaoundé and Kumba ;
- **start** of preliminary studies for **10 000 housing units** and related socio-cultural amenities and an industrial

base for prefabrication of construction structural element by the PIZZAROTTI company in Mbankomo;

- **construction underway of 640** housing units with the support from COFFOR company and for which 31 platforms with invert have be completed and 2 sample buildings are under completion ;
- **ongoing start of** studies to develop a multifunctional hub at the periphery of Yaoundé (Nkozoa) over 102 ha;
- **award of the contract on** the study to restructure the surroundings of FEICOM Headquarter building in MIMBOMAN, Yaoundé.

In the same vein, work to construct the Yaoundé-Nsimalen Highway, open country section, are underway with **86%** progress level on the released section. It should be underscored that the studies on the works to construct the Yaoundé-Nsimalen Highway, urban section are completed.

With regard to the Three-Year Emergency Plan to Speed-Up Economic Growth (PLANUT), major achievements include:

- **satisfactory continuation of** works to construct 100 housing units in each Regional Headquarter, apart from Yaoundé and Douala, with the progress rate of 80% in Ebolowa, 25% in Bertoua, 29% in Buéa, 20% in Bafoussam, 30% in Ngaoundéré, 27% in Garoua, 25% in Maroua and 6.1% in Bamenda ;

- ongoing execution of works under the second phase of PLANUT road component.

Under preparations in prelude to the organizing of 2019 African Cup of Nations works to construct the access road to the Olembé Stadium, Yaoundé stand at **26%** execution rate. Also, Preliminary and Final Design Studies for rehabilitation and/or construction of access roads, health and hotel facilities in Douala, Limbé, Buéa, Bafoussam, Garoua, Bandjoun and Mbouda in prelude to the organizing of 2019 AFCON are completed.

As concerns drainage and sanitation, it should be noted that during 2017, urban sanitation was a burning issue. However, the actions undertaken by the Government enabled resumption of household wastes collection and treatment activities in big cities. Still regarding drainage and sanitation, the activities below were carried-out:

- in Yaoundé, the construction of **14 km** of drains under the second phase of Keep Yaoundé Clean Project (PADY II) is underway with **80%** execution rate for lot 1 and **65%** for lot 2, representing 10 km of drains constructed ;
- in Douala, the construction of **39 km** of drains, reshaping of **9 km** of earth channel, landscaping of channel banks and pavement of **20 km** quayside road under the Douala storm water drainage project is under execution with **27%** progress level for lot 1 and 20% for lot 2.

This fiscal year also witnessed the following achievements:

- **rehabilitation** of **35.648 km** of paved road mainly in Yaoundé, Douala, Monatélé, Tcholiré, Ngaoundéré, Tignère, Galim Tignère.
- **Execution of the** study on the creation of a special Low-cost Housing Funds;
- **Continuation of** studies on formulation of a national urban policy and crafting of a housing and construction code that aims to assist the various housing stakeholders in securing design, construction, planning and security standards for living environments comprising houses, community facilities, various infrastructure and networks;
- **Launching** of the environmental and social impact study, and of technical studies for Sawa Beach project in Douala.
- Ongoing construction of **120 street lighting equipment** in Bafia, Batouri, Kaélé, Douala and Dschang.

In any case, the year just ended yielded good results for the construction of safer and more inclusive cities for all, where the feeling of exclusion is curbed through training of 700 youth in difficulty on petit urban trades of the urban sector, including manufacturing and laying of slabs, manufacturing of compressed earth bricks, and on the area of composting in the councils of Batchenga, Massamgam, Meyomessala, Ndobian, Makenene, Makak and Fouban ; community capacity building for three squatter neighbourhoods as part of

implementation of the participatory budget in line with the inclusive city and opening-up of an under-fitted neighbourhood.

In order to improve the working environment and conditions for MINH DU staff, several steps have been taken, including rehabilitation of MINH DU's Regional Delegation for South, Divisional Delegations for Banyo, Meiganga, Manfé; continuation of construction of the buildings that will host the Regional Delegation for Far-North and Adamaoua and pursuit of construction of buildings that will host the Divisional Delegations for Djerem, Koung-Khi, Ndé and Nyong and Kellé.

With a view to capacity building of MINH DU's staff, the action undertaken by the Head of Department enabled:

- Training of 25 senior technical staffs in France, China, Israel, Canada, India and France within the framework of Cooperation Grant.
- Training of 100 senior staff at the Yaoundé Pilot Linguistic Centre as part as part as promotion of bilingualism.

Excellencies Madam and Mister Ministers,

Here is a brief presentation of the balance sheet of activities carried-out by our ministry during fiscal 2017. Far from being exhaustive, such balance sheet reflects the commitment, mobilization and determination of the staff to turn the objectives you set for them into concrete actions.

Yet, it is worth acknowledging, to be more concise, that some shortcomings were identified in various areas. Indeed, the responsibility of addressing such shortcoming lies with us.

From a more global stand point, and considering the achievements made under your supervision, Mister Minister, I would like to express in the most solemn way the satisfaction of all MINH DU's staff who thank you for the tireless effort you make for them. This staff that globally acknowledges the difficult working environment urges you to always work for constant improvement of their working conditions.

Also, while commending the sense of selflessness and responsibility of most of your collaborators, I wish to restate our readiness to work with you in the fulfilment of the missions entrusted to you by the Head of State. These missions challenge all of us, for they provide each and every one the opportunity to be and feel helpful.

Excellencies Madam and Mister Ministers,

It is with this firm will and determination that on behalf of the entire personnel of MINH DU, and on my own personal behalf, I wish very solemnly and respectfully to re-express to you and your families and all those dear to you, our sincere wishes of health, happiness and success.

Long live the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development!

Long live Cameroon!

I thank you for your kind attention.