

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
PAIX – TRAVAIL – PATRIE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
PEACE – WORK - FATHERLAND

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

**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

**ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, MR.
AHMADOU SARDAOUNA, ON THE OCCASION OF
PRESENTATION OF 2019 NEW YEAR WISHES,
TO**

**THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, HER EXCELLENCY CELESTINE
KETCHA COURTES AND THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR HOUSING, MRS DIBONG MARIE ROSE**

Yaoundé, on 25 January 2019.

Your Excellency, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development;

Your Excellency, Madam Secretary of State;

Your Excellencies Ambassadors;

The Board Chair of the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation;

The General Manager of the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation;

General Managers;

Government Delegates;

Presidents of Professional Orders;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Distinguished guests.

It is with pleasure and enthusiasm that the large professional family of MINHDU, the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation and the Urban Development sub-sector as well, to be in this esplanade on the occasion of the solemn ceremony of presentation New Year wishes to the Minister of Housing and urban Development and Madam Secretary of State for Housing.

Before I proceed, permit me to renew our warm congratulations and encouragements to the Minister of Housing and urban Development, for her brilliant

promotion to the prestigious post of Minister of Housing and Urban Development. Indeed, following decree n° 2019/002 of 4 January 2019 reorganizing the Government, the Head of State entrusted to her the preparation and implementation of the Government's policy on housing and urban development as part of the seven-year term "Great Opportunities". This sign of confidence, from His Excellency the President of the Republic, reflects the recognition of your merits and your high qualities as a stateswoman to continue to work for the positive transformation of Cameroonian cities and hence improve the living conditions of the populations.

Your various national and international activities sufficiently justify the merit of the very high confidence given to you. Under your leadership, the Bangangté Municipality has taken significant actions to ensure hygiene, sanitation, drinking water supply, public lighting, rural electrification, school infrastructure, health and sports. This led you to various awards including the FEICOM award for local best practices in local development and the UN Public Services Excellence Award, in "Improving service to the people". This is to confirm that the issue of resilience, attractiveness, competitiveness and social inclusion of cities are not strange to you. So, Madam Minister, do feel fully at home.

Since you took office on Monday, January 7, 2019, your impetus has genuinely changed the way we do things. This is the moment for us to appreciate your first actions in the field especially on the Essos site where the instruction given in favor of social mobilization has yield fruits such as the opening of a bypass road to ensure

the movement of people and goods during execution of works, also the preparation of a sanitation action plan for the three neighborhoods affected by the project as part of a citizen mobilization pilot operation.

In each of your site working visit to access the exact state of road arteries in Yaoundé, we were able to discover the population's expectation in the Housing and Urban Development component, within the framework of the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA seven-year term "Great Opportunities".

Our congratulations also go to Mrs. DIBONG Marie Rose for her reappointment as Secretary of State for Housing.

Your Excellencies,

This ceremony, although solemn, is always a special and exceptional occasion full of emotions and attention, because concentrated in the balance sheet of the just ended year and the outlook for this New Year.

Also, pursuant to administrative practices, it is up to the Secretary General, to carry out the so exhilarating mission to lead such an exercise whose double symbolic and solemn character strengthens, the honor which dwell in me by acquitting today of this noble and precious task.

Thus, I have honor to present to you: Mrs. Celestine KETCHA COURTES, Minister of Housing and Urban Development and Mrs. DIBONG Marie Rose, Secretary of

State for Housing, our wishes for happiness, health, success and prosperity. These wishes are more sincere and welcoming because they also have a collective impact and especially that they are presented to two highly remarkable professional and human people, as well as to all those who are dear to them.

Your Excellencies,

We can only experience, in this friendly atmosphere, feelings of genuine honor. That is why, all the staff here present, reaffirms their commitment to give the best of their abilities, to progressively and methodically continue the transformation of our cities so as to make them more resilient, sustainable, safe, clean, prosperous and a good living standard, where all current and future social groups can enjoy the same rights and benefit equitably from the opportunities offered by the city.

Apart from recurring symbols of fraternity, friendship and solidarity driving such a ceremony, this season of wishes is traditionally an opportunity to have a look and make a balance sheet of the just ended fiscal year.

Your Excellency, MINH DU's achievements increases every day, so much so that in a few years, many actions were implemented. In 2018, tangible achievements were witnessed in the following areas:

- promotion of decent houses in urban area ;
- construction of drainage structures for sanitation in urban area ;

- significant improvement of urban mobility over the national territory;
- improvement of staff working conditions.

Your Excellency,

Specifically, the summary of major achievements is presented as follows:

With regard to construction of new houses, significant progress was recorded under the implementation of the Government Programme of which the pilot phase that focuses on 1675 housing units in Yaoundé (Olembé site) and Douala (Mbanga-Bakoko site) witnessed good execution pace during 2018. As such,

- **420** housing units have been completed and the average progress rate for the remaining houses stands at **75 %**;
- **1520** housing units have been completed with support from the Chinese cooperation in Yaoundé Douala, Bamenda, Bafoussam, Limbe et Sangmélina;
- **100** housing units were completed and accepted in Ebolowa in the course of the year, as part of the housing component of the Three-Year Emergency Plan to Speed-up Economic Growth (PLANUT). In addition, the progress rate of works in others cities stands at **30%** in Bamenda and **60%** in average in others cities apart from Yaoundé and Douala;

To date, total **2040 housing units** have been completed within the framework of the Government Programme besides the houses constructed with the support of private real estate developers.

In addition, there is ongoing realization in Mbankomo of the preliminary studies for the construction of **1000** housing units under the pilot phase of a set of **10,000** housing units and associated socio-cultural amenities, as well as an industrial base for the prefabrication of housing components with support from the Italian PIZZAROTI Company

As regards improvement of the Urban Environment, it should be underscored that actions undertaken are aimed at improving drainage in urban centers, and more specifically in our two big metropolises of Douala and Yaoundé. This included continuation of the Douala storm water drainage project over **39 km linear** being executed satisfactorily with an average progress rate of **57.5%** and the Keep Yaoundé Clean project II (PADY II) over **14 km linear** with an execution rate **93%**. It should be noted that these important projects are already portraying visible effect on the field.

As concerns Development of Urban Transport Infrastructure, actions undertaken under this Program during the year that just ended have leveraged various financial sources and were towards significant improvement of urban mobility. In this regard, there are projects falling within special financing, on the hand,

and activities falling MINHDU's ordinary internal resources, on the other hand.

In general, **400 km** of road are under construction across the national territory. The projects are structured as follows:

Ongoing rehabilitation/construction of **132.507 km** of access road and redevelopment of **386.800 m²** of parking lots in Yaoundé, Bafoussam, Bandjoun, Foumban, Bangou, Bangangté, Garoua and Douala as part as preparations ahead of male African Cup of Nations our country is going to host. Globally, all projects have reached their cruising speed after heavy rains with an average progress rate of **43.78%**. Completion of all these works is slated for late March 2019, at the latest.

As part of execution of emergency urban road rehabilitation work across the national territory instructed by the Head of State to the tune of global FCFA 50 billion, **119.954 km** of roads are under rehabilitation in the ten Regions of Cameroon. To date, companies have been mobilized on the field with a work execution rate of nearly **15%**.

As regards the road component of the Three-Year Emergency Plan to Speed-up Economic Growth, which includes rehabilitation of **116.381 km** of secondary roads in Douala and Yaoundé, broken down into 2 (two) phases:

The first phase that focuses on rehabilitation of **32.411 km** of roads to the tune of F CFA 32 billion has been entirely completed.

The second phase focuses on rehabilitation of **84.301 km** of roads to the tune of global FCFA **92 billion**. Related works are under execution with **75%** overall progress rate.

Concerning activities under Ordinary Internal Resources, it should be highlighted that all road rehabilitation and construction projects are under execution.

As regards rehabilitation of the road network, major achievements include:

- rehabilitation work on some road tracks in the Lake neighbourhood ENAM-National gendarmerie Junction and connecting ramps ; ENAM junction-main entrance to the official residence of the Prime Minister with **72%** progress rate ;
- rehabilitation work on the brigade de gendarmerie – hôpital des sœurs road stretch in the Mvog –Betsi neighborhood with **5 %** progress rate;
- upgrading of the access road to the housing units constructed with Chinese cooperation in Douala with **53 %** progress rate;
- rehabilitation of the cow-boy junction-former CUB road stretch in Bamenda with **10%** progress rate.

As concerns construction of urban roads, major achievements include:

- continuation of construction work on the Yaoundé-Nsimalen Highway, open country section, with a progress rate of **85.56%** ;
- work underway to open-up the Golf neighbourhood in Mbankolo, Yaoundé, with an execution rate of **32%**;
- contract award process underway for the upgrading of urban roads in Maroua ;
- start of tarring work on the access road to the Bamenda MAGZI industrial zone over **1.15 km**.

It should be underscored that works under the "Regional Headquarters I" C2D were launched in Garoua (**28.49 km**), Bafoussam (**19.89 km**) and Bertoua (**14.51 km**).

The Urban Sub-Sector Governance and Institutional Support Program enabled monitoring and implementation of the plan of actions of your Ministry through rehabilitation of MINHDU's external services in some Delegations, continuation of construction of the buildings that will host the Regional Delegation for Adamaoua and the Divisional Delegations for Ndé and Nyong and Kellé. In addition, trainings were provided to some staff members to build their capacity in various fields. It is also worth mentioning that some officials were sensitized on the provisions of Law N°2018/011 of 11 July 2018 to lay down the Cameroon code of transparency and good governance in public finance management and on the innovations contained in the new public contracts code.

Your Excellency Madam Minister,

Those were the major lines of the report of activities undertaken by your ministry during fiscal 2018, a year of rich, intense and full activities. This balance sheet, far from being exhaustive is the fruit of the work of a resolved team mobilized around the objectives set in January 2018 here in this venue during a similar ceremony.

Furthermore, strengthening ethics, discipline, assiduity, respect for the hierarchy and celerity in the processing of files were also respected scrupulously.

On another front, notably the management of human resources, it should be noted that considerable progress was recorded with regard to the management of certain payment deeds that already operational within the services of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. These includes

- direct management of new personnel's salary;
- processing of family allowances ;
- direct entry of deeds of non housing, subjection, maintenance of vehicles, and change in the marital statute.

Your Excellency Madam Minister,

This coming together offers us once again the opportunity to strongly reiterate to you our resolved commitment to provide you constant, total and franc collaboration under your leadership in a bid to meet the numerous challenges ahead of us, both national and international. For it should be recalled that at the

international level, the New Urban Agenda for Cities (NUA), which is in line both with SDGs and Agenda 2063 of African Union is mainly geared towards **“Sustainable cities and human settlements for all”**. We should therefore meet this goal through the implementation of our 2019 plan of actions. In this respect, I can assure you of the responsibility, seriousness and abnegation of all staff of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and staff working for projects under its supervisory authority.

Yet, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would not conclude my statement without raising the grievances of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development’s staff, who request in general substantial improvement of their working conditions. I know that I can bank on your great sense of humanity and notion of family.

Lastly, I would like to extend to you my best wishes for the year 2019.

Long lives Cameroon!

Long lives the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development!

Thank you for your kind attention./.