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**NATIONAL INSTITUTE
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RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

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**INSTITUT NATIONAL
DE LA STATISTIQUE**

**WORKSHOP ON THE APPROPRIATION OF THE NEW PERFORMANCE
MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS AT THE NIS**

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY MR. TEDOU JOSEPH,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
STATISTICS.**

Meeting room B704 - NIS, January 21, 2021

- ✓ **Mr. Deputy Director General;**
- ✓ **Mr. Inspector of Services;**
- ✓ **Distinguished Directors and Heads of Departments of the National Institute of Statistics;**
- ✓ **Distinguished Heads of Regional Offices;**
- ✓ **Distinguished Heads of Divisions;**
- ✓ **Distinguished Heads of Units;**
- ✓ **Dear Research Officers;**

It is a singular pleasure, which I believe, is shared with all staff members since December 29, 2020, memorable day of the solemn inauguration, by His Excellency Joseph DION NGUTE, Prime Minister, Head of Government, in his capacity as Personal Representative of the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, of this architectural jewel which today hosts this workshop of central and devolved services on the central theme “**Workshop on the appropriation of the the new performance management instruments at the NIS**”. I wish you all, especially those who come from afar, welcome in this beautiful meeting room B704, the largest meeting room that we have.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear collaborators;

The year 2020 which has just ended has been difficult not only for the whole Nation, but also for the National Statistical System. To the insecurity in certain localities of the Far North attributable to the terrorist sect Boko Haram and in the North-West and South-West regions maintained by separatist terrorists, are added security tensions at the borders with the CAR because of a socio-political crisis as a result of the ongoing elections in this neighbouring country. Faced with these crises, the Government, on the very high instructions of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and National Defense, is putting up fierce resistance and adapted responses combining dialogue, openness and targeted strikes.

This context of insecurity has undermined a number of data collection activities in those parts of the country. These include operations completed as from 2016, especially the GCEs, CS-CHS4, FinScope, PETS3, CAMPHIA and CDHS5.

To these security constraints was added the COVID-19 pandemic, which was reported in Cameroon in March 2020, and which also negatively impacted the activities carried out by the NIS. This mainly concerns the study on cross-border trade for the improvement of national accounts. The GCEs-3, SEIS-3 and CHS-5 are national operations that may also suffer from insecurity and pandemic crisis in their mapping and field data collection phase, if these constraints are not softened.

It should also be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has also led some technical and financial partners to suspend disbursements on their funding, or to require the inclusion in the data collection budgets of expenses related to compliance with and strict application of barrier measures, which resulted in an increase in costs.

These constraints mainly resulted in the slowing down of statistical production; especially some NIS staff members who have not been spared by this pandemic. Some have also lost their loved ones. To them I extend the deepest sympathy of the NIS to which I associate the expression of my compassion. By the way, I hail the courage and bravery of staff members who, in strict compliance with the barrier measures, have continued to work continuously so that the NIS remains efficient and above all, honours its commitments reflected in the agreements and conventions signed with certain administrations and public institutions, as well as TFPs.

Examples include the two Standard Letters of Agreement signed with the UNDP in April and May 2020, which made it possible to collect and publish the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 on households, enterprises and regional and local authorities (RLAs) in Cameroon.

Whatever the case, the outbreak of coronavirus is not yet behind us; the proof being that instead of an annual conference extended to all Heads of Structures, we had to opt for a reduced plan in the form of an appropriation workshop, for a strict application of the very high directives of the Head of State. In his speech to the Nation on December 31, 2020, he reiterated them in these terms and I quote: *“At a time when, everywhere else, there is a second wave of the epidemic, coupled with the appearance of a new and more contagious strain of the virus, I urge you once again to put on your face masks, to wash your hands regularly and to consult a physician or any other health*

personnel if you notice any symptoms. This is the only way to save lives and to curb the spread of the virus”.

I urge you and your respective families to scrupulously apply these guidelines because, as the Head of State continued, “*negligence by a single individual can seriously harm the entire community. We should therefore not be complacent”.*

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the year 2020, the National Institute of Statistics was also in the centre of much attention. The promulgation of the law to regulate statistical activity in Cameroon redefined the role of the NIS as coordinator of the National Statistical Information System (NSIS). It enshrined the implementation of statistical activities as part of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and brought many other innovations. I do not wish to dwell at length on these two documents, an exhaustive presentation of which will be made to you in the next few minutes.

In contrast, I would like to emphasise one of the major challenges facing the NIS since last year and which will continue throughout this decade, namely the monitoring of the implementation of the National Development Strategy by 2030 (NDS30), the document of which was officially presented on November 16, 2020 by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development.

The steering mechanism for the said Strategy provides for a National Monitoring and Evaluation Committee for its implementation, in which the NSIS coordination units are involved. The aim will be to inform the four pillars of this NDS30 in terms of quality indicators, especially:

- the structural transformation of the economy;
- the development of human capital and welfare;
- the promotion of employment and economic integration;
- the governance, strategic management and decentralisation of the state.

With regard to the pillar on decentralisation, you are aware that the decentralisation process was completed last December with the election of the Presidents of Regional Councils. More than ever, this state of affairs is of concern to the NIS in the context of

making disaggregated statistics available from the local and regional authorities up to the regional level. It is true that the Institute had already undertaken to carry out regional monographic studies, but this exercise will now have to be continued and systematised.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Collaborators,

As I said at the beginning of my statement, the National Institute of Statistics is now housed in a building worthy of the projects it carries out on a daily basis. You all still have in mind the building that housed the Institute's central services. We all agree that it was cramped and uncomfortable. One might venture to say that it was a real act of heroism to have worked all these years in this shelter. The Head of State himself, in full awareness of the role of statistics in the management of the country's development, gave his approval for funding of around 12 billion FCFA to be made available for the construction of this beautiful seven-storey building, including two basements, with one restaurant, one fitness room, one medical and nursing office, as well as one archive room. It is in a more pleasant setting that the staff of the central services should work. This is a performance tool.

On behalf of the Head of State, the Prime Minister, Head of Government has honoured us with the solemn inauguration of the said building on December 29, 2020. It was a beautiful ceremony that brought together an impressive array of government officials and technical partners. I would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate all those who have contributed to the success of this event.

We do not intend to stop there. The acquisition of plots for the construction of the Institute's regional offices began a few years ago and is still in progress. I can also reassure the heads of the Regional Offices that they will be proud of their respective head offices.

At the close of its 31st ordinary session on last December 31, the Board of Directors adopted the Resolution on the Performance Project for the 2021 financial year. It is important that both parties take ownership of its content. The same applies to other budget management instruments, especially the Finance Bill and its implementation

Circular. This will involve appropriating the new Law of July 20, 2020 to regulate statistical activity in Cameroon.

The challenges that await us are many and important, and in the words of the Head of State in his speech of May 20, 2020 "*we can meet it together as we did in many other circumstances*".

I know I can rely on your ability to come up, on this single day of January 21, 2021, with relevant recommendations, the implementation of which should contribute to improving the performance of our Institute.

On this note, I declare open the "Workshop on the appropriation of the new performance management instruments at the NIS".

Thank you so much for your kind attention.