

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix-Travail-Patrie

MINISTERE DE LA COMMUNICATION

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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace-Work-Fatherland

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION

Yaounde, on 07 JUL 2020

**1ST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
SCRUTINY OF APPLICATIONS FOR STATE INSTITUTIONAL
SUPPORT TO PRIVATELY-OWNED MEDIA**

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The work of the 1st session of the National Commission for the Scrutiny of Applications for State Institutional Support to Privately-Owned Media was held on July 1, 2020 in the Conference room of the main building of the Ministry of Communication, under the effective chairmanship of Mr. René Emmanuel Sadi, Minister of Communication, President of the said Commission and in the presence of all the members of this body.

The main item on the agenda was the scrutiny of applications for institutional support to privately-owned media for the 2019 financial year.

In his opening address, the Minister of Communication indicated that he was highly delighted to chair for the first time the session of this body and went further to justify that the delay in the holding of this session was due to the financial difficulties and the health crisis prevailing in Cameroon.

This delay was put into use to review the legal framework for this Government support by virtue of Decree No. 031/MINCOM of April 13, 2020.

The State's Institutional Support for Private-Owned Media which is now in place has been reviewed to involve only print and online media.

The instruments also provides for the reorganization of the structure empowered to scrutinize applications, the reorganization of the criteria for the selection of applicants and the establishment of a mechanism to track and control the funds allocated to the media.

With regard to privately-owned audiovisual organs, the State Institutional Support for this media category will now be deployed within the framework of the Special Fund for Audiovisual Development, provided for by Law No. 2015/007 of April 20, 2015 governing audiovisual activity in Cameroon and whose effective implementation is still awaited.

The Minister of Communication, President of the Commission invited members of the committee to work in all rigor, serenity, objectivity, and mindfulness so as to translate into concrete terms the objective to streamline the State Support for private media sector pursued by the new instrument.

The Commission scrutinized 102 applications, among which 94 print and 08 online media. At the end of the session, and after the approval of the Minister of Communication, 85 media organs were altogether declared eligible, among which 78 print and 07 online media.

The selection by the Commission of the media organs proposed to be eligible for State Institutional Support was guided by the principle of compliance with the regulations in force, the ethical and deontological rules governing the practice of media professions, the effectiveness and regularity in their productions, as well as the republican alignment of media organs.

In his closing remarks, the Minister of Communication, President of the Commission, commended the members for the quality and strength of the deliberations and promised a careful examination of the submitted proposals.

While lauding their effective presence at the session, the Minister urged the members to demonstrate the same availability during the next stages of the process, which will consist of regularly monitoring the use of funds that will be allocated.

The Minister ended up by urging stakeholders to improve compliance with the instruments governing the operation of media organs.

With no other item left on the agenda, the Minister of Communication, President of the Commission ended session by thanking all the participants for their contributions to the work.

Done in Yaounde, on July 1, 2020



René Emmanuel Jadi