



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION
MINISTÈRE DE LA COMMUNICATION

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION

CLARIFICATIONS

ON THE DISTURBANCES ON THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY NETWORK IN MANY URBAN, PERI URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN CAMEROON

MINCOM – MINEE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

OF

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MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION,
GOVERNMENT'S SPOKESPERSON

YAOUNDÉ, 1 APRIL 2021

- **Mr Minister of Water Resources and Energy;**
- **Distinguished Directors General;**
- **Distinguished Media Professionals;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Thank you for attending this joint press conference on the situation that several urban, peri-urban and rural areas of Cameroon have been experiencing for some time, due to recurrent disturbances on the national electricity network.

The population has increasingly been deploring the poor quality of the public electricity service, characterised in particular by voltage drops and surges, regular disruptions and frequency variations, as well as recurrent fires in electrical circuits.

Obviously, our compatriots are asking themselves a number of questions, especially with regard to the match between their expectations as electricity consumers and the service provided by operators in the electricity sector in Cameroon.

It is therefore the responsibility of the Government to identify the real causes of this deterioration of the public electricity service, in order to devise appropriate solutions.

As you know, the energy issue is, for all countries in the world, and particularly for countries on the path to emergence, like Cameroon, a key issue for both the national economy and the population.

This justifies the importance that the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL BIYA, and the Government attach to bridging the energy divide in our country.

There is no doubt that this is a very sensitive issue, which, a few years ago, was already a priority concern for the entire Nation.

Indeed, we still remember the difficulties that the electricity sub-sector experienced, due in particular to the low water level observed throughout the country, all of which led the powers that be to resort to mechanisms for electrical energy rationing, also known as load shedding.

In both large cities and rural areas, this sparing distribution of electricity helped households and industrial plants to cope with the difficulties that were then acute.

Taking the full measure of the situation, the HEAD OF STATE had prescribed strong measures to bring lasting solutions to electricity problems in Cameroon. And this resulted, among others, in the construction of many hydroelectric dams.

In this respect, and without being exhaustive, it is worth listing some major structuring projects in the electricity sector:

1. I will start with ongoing or completed projects:

- The Lom Pangar Dam, a 30 megawatt reservoir dam and footprint plant;**
- Memve'ele, with a potential of 211 Megawatts;**
- Mekin, 15 Megawatts;**
- Warak on the Bini River, 75 Megawatts;**
- Menchum, 72 Megawatts;**
- Kpep, with a capacity of 450 Megawatts.**

2. Secondly, the projects at development phase:

- Nachtigal-Upstream Project, with a capacity of 420 Megawatts;**
- Platinum at Makai, with a potential of 360 Megawatts;**

- **Hydromine, at Grand Eweng, with a capacity of 1200 Megawatts**

All these projects should enable Cameroon to substantially increase its energy potential and improve its electricity supply.

It was against this backdrop that the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC instructed the Government to optimise all this hydroelectric infrastructure, with the aim, in particular, to enable our country meet the main challenges it has been facing for several years, in order to :

- **improve the security of energy supply;**
- **increase household access to modern energy services;**
- **meet the growing energy needs, taking into account climate hazards;**
- **build institutional capacity for planning, diagnosis, analysis and implementation of appropriate solutions to energy problems;**
- **develop local expertise in the construction and operation of energy production, transportation and distribution systems.**

However, despite these considerable efforts and the mobilisation of the various competent State institutions, it must be noted that Cameroon continues to face real difficulties with regard to the supply of electrical energy.

This state of affairs unfortunately translates into intermittent power cuts, with all the harmful consequences thereof for both the population and the country's various industrial plants.

The explanations put forward include the problems experienced by the electric power transportation segment, which impact the quality of service through:

- **technical losses**
- **the obsolescence of the transportation network**
- **acts of vandalism on masts;**
- **overloading and inadequacy of source stations;**
- **lack of infrastructure maintenance.**

In addition to this, there are other problems relating to the transport and distribution of electricity, which the Minister of Water Resources and Energy will elaborate on during this press conference.

Furthermore, in view of the factual findings and in the light of the opinions of experts in the field, we must note that there is an upward trend in the demand for electrical energy resulting from population growth.

In the same vein, one cannot ignore the natural hazards, which are essentially unpredictable, and which very regularly cause damage to the electrical energy transport circuits.

Faced with this situation, it is the duty of the Government of the Republic to provide the population with reliable information. Hence the presence at this joint press conference, of the Minister of Water Resources and Energy, Mr Gaston ELOUNDOU ESSOMBA, to whom I extend a warm welcome in our Auditorium.

He will of course avail himself of this opportunity to take stock of the situation and provide the national community with necessary additional information for a proper understanding of the situation prevailing in the energy sub-sector in Cameroon, aware as he is, just as all of us, of the inconveniences the situation causes, and consequently, of the strong desire of our fellow citizens to see the powers that be find effective, lasting and permanent solutions to these issues.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**The Minister of Communication,
Government's Spokesperson,**

(Signed) René Emmanuel SADI