



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION
MINISTÈRE DE LA COMMUNICATION

GOVERNEMENT COMMUNICATION

SCHOOL REOPENING ON JUNE 1, 2020 IN CAMEROON

**MINCOM - MINESUP - MINESEC – MINEDUB
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE**

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

OF

H.E. RENE EMMANUEL SADI
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION

Yaoundé, May 29, 2020

- **Mr. Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education;**
- **Mr. Minister of Basic Education;**
- **Madam Minister of Secondary Education;**
- **Distinguished Media Professionals;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Thank you for your presence at this joint press conference which will be focused on school reopening on June 1, 2020 in all levels of education, and mainly, on the set of measures prescribed by the Government of the Republic, with a view to ensuring the health security of pupils, students and teaching staff in the current context marked by the coronavirus pandemic.

This Government communication therefore aims to inform and reassure the national education community about the measures taken by those responsible for the various levels of education to enable pupils and students to complete their academic year without running the slightest risk of jeopardizing each other's health in any way whatsoever.

In this regard, I am particularly pleased to welcome in this Auditorium of the Ministry of Communication, the Members of Government who are directly responsible for the education and training of our young fellow citizens at the basic, secondary and higher levels, namely, the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques FAME NDONGO, the Minister of Basic Education, Professor Laurent Serge ETOUNDI NGOA, and the Minister of Secondary Education, Professor Pauline NALOVA LYONGA, whose presence here I have the pleasure to acknowledge, and to whom I extend a very warm welcome.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you are all aware, within the framework of the effective implementation of the National COVID-19 Response Strategy prescribed by THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, His Excellency Paul BIYA;

On March 17, 2020, the Prime Minister, Head of Government, His Excellency Joseph DION NGUTE, in his Special Communication on the first thirteen barrier measures then enacted by the Government to deal with the coronavirus, had, on instruction of the Head of State, prescribed the closure of all

nursery, primary, secondary and higher education schools throughout the national territory.

After several weeks of evaluation of the pandemic situation in our country, and in the face of a twofold requirement relating, on the one hand, to the health response to COVID-19, and on the other hand to the absolute necessity of ensuring that our young learners, at primary, secondary and university levels, do not have to endure the torments of a truncated academic year because of the ongoing health crisis, the Government has assumed its responsibilities by choosing to organize as of June 1, 2020, that is, as of next Monday, a reopening of schools, which obviously accounts for the specific and special context of the coronavirus pandemic.

In this regard, it is worth noting the two priority issues for the Government, for which specific directives were issued by the President of the Republic and widely relayed by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, namely:

- Ensuring the smooth completion of the school and academic year in the ten regions of the country;**

- Scrupulously ensuring the health safety of our children, pupils and students throughout the country.

These are two imperatives whose importance everyone can assert.

Moreover, the choice made by the Government of the Republic is the result of broad consultation at different levels, during which several opinions were sought and considered.

Likewise, the final decision, which was aimed at preserving the school and academic year for a section of the school and student population, in particular pupils and students in official examination classes, was carefully analyzed.

Of course, in parallel with the set of measures already put in place for the resumption of classes, substantial steps have also been taken to anticipate the risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic, which obviously continues to be a concern for our country.

In any event, the Government of the Republic reassures the educational community that the officials responsible for the various educational bodies are mobilizing themselves efficiently and optimally to ensure that schools reopen safely, not

only for pupils and students but also for the teaching staff.

Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, to enable you have a better appraisal of the state of preparations within the education family in Cameroon, I shall now give the floor in turn to the Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jacques FAME NDONGO, the Minister of Basic Education, Professor Laurent Serge ETOUNDI NGOA, and the Minister of Secondary Education, Professor Pauline NALOVA LYONGA.

Thank you for your kind attention.

The Minister of Communication,

(é) René Emmanuel SADI