



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION
MINISTÈRE DE LA COMMUNICATION

JOINT MINCOM - MINMIDT PRESS CONFERENCE
ON THE NEW CONFIGURATION OF CAMEROON'S
MINING SECTOR WITH THE LAUNCH OF MAJOR
PROJECTS AND THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE
GOLD SECTOR

Introductory Statement by:

H.E. René Emmanuel SADI

Minister of Communication

Government Spokesperson

Yaoundé, 15 July 2026

The Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development;

Dear Media Practitioners;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for honouring my invitation to take part in this joint press conference, which will focus primarily on Cameroon's mining sector and the launch of major projects in this field.

It is, in fact, for this very purpose that I have invited the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development, Professor FUH CALISTUS GENTRY, to join me, in my capacity as Minister of Communication and Government Spokesperson, to provide the national and international public with the necessary insights to understand the facts and issues surrounding this important sector.

It is therefore a pleasure for me, Mr Minister, to extend a warm welcome to you on this occasion.

I also wish to commend the strong turnout of media practitioners at this meeting, which is clearly of great interest.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is needless to remind you that the mining sector is today one of the most significant pillars of our economy.

It therefore seems imperative to provide information on the strategic decisions taken in this area.

In this regard, several projects have been launched.

Among the most significant, we would mention the following, though this list is by no means exhaustive:

- the Bipindi Grand-Zambi iron ore mining project, undertaken by a company that is wholly Cameroonian-owned;**
- the Kribi-Lobé iron ore mining project;**
- the Minim-Martap industrial bauxite mining project in the Adamawa Region;**

- **the Bidzar and Biou Sud industrial marble mining project;**
- **the Colomine gold mining project in the East Region.**

Furthermore, during the year 2026, other projects, such as the Mbalam iron ore mining project in the East Region, that of Nkout and Ngovayang in the South Region, as well as the Mborguéné gold mining project in the East and that of Bibemi in the North, are in the process of being launched under the stewardship of the Ministry in charge of Mines.

In a different vein, the Government is currently pursuing the implementation of its policy on the development of critical minerals and rare earth elements identified in various Regions of our country, which are in high demand by many world-renowned mining companies.

As a matter of fact, achieving these objectives requires our institutional framework to be efficient

and sufficiently attractive to major investors in the sector, in order to position Cameroon as the leading country in Africa in the exploitation of these minerals.

It should be pointed out that these minerals are recognised as essential to the energy transition, understood as the shift from a model based on fossil fuels and polluting energy sources to a system founded on renewable and decarbonised sources of energy.

This historic structural transformation, in which Cameroon is resolutely engaged, reflects the State's determination to make the mining sector a major driver of growth, industrialisation, job creation and the improvement of the living conditions of the population.

However positive this momentum may be, it cannot thrive in a context where certain artisanal or semi-mechanised mining activities continue to operate outside the legal, fiscal and environmental

framework laid down by the laws and regulations in force in Cameroon.

With specific regard to the illegal exploitation of gold resources, the indicators suggest that the situation on the ground is, to say the least, a cause for concern.

The presentation by the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development will provide a detailed overview of the current situation.

In light of the situation, the Government intends to fulfil its responsibilities to the full.

In this regard, the measures undertaken are aimed not only at restoring the authority of the State, but also at ensuring that the wealth of Cameroon's subsoil benefits Cameroonians first and foremost, in compliance with the law, with due regard for the environment and in the interest of future generations.

In the same vein, the Government intends to place greater emphasis on bringing all identified operators

into compliance, and to ensure that their activities comply with the laws and regulations in force.

This reform is political, in that it affirms the State's sovereignty over its strategic resources; economic, in that it aims to increase public revenue; and social, because it is expected to generate more formal employment, more community projects and greater direct benefits for local populations.

In other words, this is a stabilization process aimed at promoting the responsible, transparent and sustainable exploitation of national resources, in keeping with the vision of the Head of State, with a view to achieving the objective of Cameroon's emergence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, the national mining sector is an undeniably powerful lever and a key driver for the

successful implementation of our National Development Strategy 2020–2030 (NDS30).

As a matter of fact, the major projects launched through the firm resolve of the Head of State are not merely extractive ventures. They also represent thousands of direct and indirect jobs, essential technology transfer, and substantial fiscal returns to the State budget, all of which are necessary to improve the living conditions of our people.

In other words, the Government's position is clear and unequivocal in that the abundance of our wealth can under no circumstances justify disorder or anarchy, let alone the plundering of our common wealth.

This is how one might summarise the letter and spirit of the high-level directives and instructions issued by the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, with a view to the rational and rigorous management of this sector, for the primary benefit of the Nation.

The Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development, who will take the floor after me, will provide further information on this subject, particularly with regard to the restructuring measures that have been undertaken and the economic and social prospects they hold for our country.

Thank you for your kind attention.