REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
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MINISTERE DES MARCHES PUBLICS

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
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PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC CONTRACTS

RADIO PRESS RELEASE

On Monday, 3rd August 2020 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of Public Contracts, Mr. **IBRAHIM TALBA MALLA** chaired an important coordination meeting of the Central Services of the Ministry of Public Contracts extended to Regional Delegates of Public Contracts. The agenda of this meeting that took place through videoconference notably focused on the mid-term evaluation of the implementation, by Project Owners, of their contracts award Plans programmed for the 2020 financial year.

After listening to the reports of Regional Delegates, it emerged that as of 30 June 2020, the award and execution rates of contracts for the 2020 financial year, for every Project Owners and Delegated Project Owners, compared to the same period of the past financial year, witnessed an overall decline, with commendable performances for some and mixed for others.

In addition to the context linked to covid19 which is unfavorable to the hitch free award and execution of programmed contracts, the immaturity of programmed projects, the late preparation and forwarding of draft Tender Files by Project Owners, delays in formalities and, above all the poor understanding of the new normative framework by stakeholders in general and by the new municipal executives in particular, have been identified as major causes of this mixed performance, without letting out the constraints related to the organisation of the twin legislative and municipal elections of 9 February 2020.

While lauding the cooperation that prevails between stakeholders of the public contracts system, despite some misunderstandings generally noted here and there in their reciprocal relations, the non-payment of Tenders Boards allowances by Project Owners and Delegated Project Owners and the systematic non-transmission by the latter to MINMAP of the documentary bundle generated by the award and execution of contracts were also mentioned among the huddles that warrant special attention. The discrepancies in the interpretation of some provisions of the Public Contracts Code, relating to MINMAP visas on detailed payments on account were also mentioned persistently.

At the end of the evaluation, the Minister Delegate urged his collaborators to redouble their efforts in supporting Project Owners and Delegated Project Owners, in order to make up for the delays recorded in the implementation of their programming.

He equally enjoined them to obtain from Project Owners, the transmission of the documentary bundle generated by the public contracts activity and to intensify the controls of the execution of contracts in the field, according to thresholds to be defined for central and devolved services. In order to harmonize the presentation of the related reports, he urged his close collaborators to submit to him, as soon as possible a proposal of standard report template which will be binding on everyone.

As concerns the persistent non-payment of allowances of Tenders Boards, the Minister Delegate undertook to hold consultation meetings with the government services concerned (MINAT, MINDDEVEL, MINEPAT and MINFI) in order to find urgent and appropriate solutions.

Finally, he enjoined Regional Delegates to forward to him without delay, updated lists, of service providers who have abandoned, in their respective areas of competence, the execution of contracts for the 2018 and 2019 financial year, in order to enable him to complete the list he published recently and, where applicable, to initiate proceedings intended to exclude from any participation in public procurement, in accordance with the regulations in force.

Yaounde, 3 August 2020.

Pour le Ministre Délégué
et par Délégation,
le Secrétaire Général

Chancel Aka Takem
Administrateur Civil Principal