



DAYS 81–90

YOUTH & WOMEN

Empowering the Nation's Greatest Resource: Its People

Cameroon's greatest asset is not its oil, minerals, forests, or fertile land, it is its people. More than half of the country's population is under the age of 30, and women play a vital role in raising families, running businesses, producing food, educating children, and strengthening communities. Yet many young people struggle to find employment, while many women face barriers to accessing finance, land, markets, training, and business opportunities.

A nation cannot reach its full potential if its youth remain unemployed or if women are unable to fully participate in the economy. When young people have meaningful work and women have equal opportunities to build businesses and careers, poverty declines, families become more financially secure, and the economy grows stronger.

During Days 81–90, the government will launch initiatives designed to unlock the potential of young people and women by improving access to finance, practical work experience, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunities.

These programs are investments in the country's future workforce, innovators, and business leaders.

1. Launch the Youth Enterprise Bank

One of the biggest challenges facing young entrepreneurs is access to capital. Many young people have innovative ideas but cannot secure loans because they lack collateral, credit history, or financial resources.

To address this challenge, the government will establish the **Youth Enterprise Bank**, a specialized financial institution dedicated to supporting young entrepreneurs and small business owners.

The Bank will provide affordable financing alongside training, mentorship, and business advisory services to help young entrepreneurs build sustainable businesses rather than simply providing loans.

Its mission is to create job creators rather than job seekers.

Begin National Registration

During the first phase, the government will begin registering eligible young entrepreneurs interested in accessing services through the Youth Enterprise Bank.

Applicants will be invited to submit information about:

- their business ideas,
- existing businesses,
- educational background,
- business experience,
- training needs,
- financing requirements.

Registration will help the government understand the needs of young entrepreneurs while ensuring that support programs are delivered fairly and transparently.

Priority consideration may be given to businesses with strong potential for job creation, innovation, and community impact.

Financial Products and Services

The Youth Enterprise Bank will gradually introduce services such as:

- startup loans,
- low-interest business financing,
- microcredit,
- business grants for selected programs,
- savings accounts,
- financial literacy training,
- investment readiness support,
- mentorship programs.

Young entrepreneurs will also receive guidance on preparing business plans, managing finances, marketing products, and expanding their businesses.

Providing both funding and education increases the likelihood that new businesses will succeed.

2. Launch the National Internship Program

Many graduates leave school with academic qualifications but limited practical work experience.

Employers often require experience before offering employment, creating a difficult situation where young people cannot gain experience because they cannot find work.

To bridge this gap, the government will establish a **National Internship Program** that connects students and recent graduates with meaningful workplace experience.

The program will help young people develop practical skills, improve employability, and build professional networks.

It will also provide employers with opportunities to identify talented future employees.

Partnership with Government Institutions

Government ministries, departments, and public agencies will participate by creating structured internship opportunities across various sectors.

Interns may gain experience in areas such as:

- public administration,
- healthcare,
- education,
- engineering,
- agriculture,
- finance,
- technology,
- communications,
- environmental management.

Government internships will expose young people to public service while strengthening the capacity of public institutions.

Partnership with the Private Sector

Private businesses will be encouraged to participate by offering internship placements in exchange for government support, recognition programs, or other appropriate incentives.

Industries may include:

- manufacturing,
- banking,
- agriculture,
- construction,
- telecommunications,
- tourism,
- information technology,
- logistics,
- retail.

Businesses benefit by developing future employees who already understand workplace expectations and organizational culture.

Partnership with Universities and Technical Institutions

Universities, colleges, and technical training institutions will work closely with employers to better align education with labour market needs.

Internships will increasingly become an important component of academic programs, allowing students to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings.

Educational institutions will also assist students with:

- career guidance,
- resume preparation,
- interview skills,
- professional development,
- workplace readiness.

Closer collaboration between education and industry improves graduate employment outcomes.

3. Launch the Women's Economic Empowerment Program

Women contribute enormously to Cameroon's economy through agriculture, commerce, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and family care.

However, many women continue to face barriers that limit their economic potential.

The government will launch the **Women's Economic Empowerment Program** to expand opportunities for women to start businesses, increase incomes, access financing, and participate more fully in national development.

The program recognizes that empowering women strengthens entire families and communities because increased household income often leads to better nutrition, improved education, and greater economic stability.

Support for Small Businesses

Women-owned small businesses will receive targeted support to help them grow and compete successfully.

Assistance may include:

- affordable financing,
- business development services,
- financial management training,
- marketing assistance,
- digital skills,

- export readiness,
- legal and regulatory guidance.

The objective is to help women move from small informal businesses to sustainable enterprises capable of creating employment for others.

Strengthen Women's Cooperatives

Cooperatives allow individuals to pool resources, reduce costs, negotiate better prices, and improve access to markets.

The government will strengthen women-led cooperatives operating in sectors such as:

- agriculture,
- food processing,
- handicrafts,
- textiles,
- fisheries,
- retail,
- tourism,
- manufacturing.

Support will include organizational training, financial management, leadership development, and improved access to equipment and markets.

Strong cooperatives help women increase productivity and improve household incomes.

Promote Women's Entrepreneurship

The government will introduce programs encouraging women to pursue entrepreneurship across both traditional and emerging industries.

Support will include:

- entrepreneurship training,
- mentorship,
- networking opportunities,
- innovation competitions,
- access to technology,
- incubation centres,
- leadership development.

Particular attention will be given to encouraging women to participate in higher-growth sectors such as:

- technology,
- renewable energy,
- manufacturing,
- agribusiness,
- healthcare,
- digital services.

Women should have equal opportunities to become business owners, innovators, employers, and national economic leaders.

4. Build a National Culture of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship should not be viewed only as an alternative for those who cannot find employment. It should be recognized as a respected career path that drives innovation, creates jobs, and strengthens the economy.

The government will begin promoting entrepreneurship through:

- national awareness campaigns,
- entrepreneurship education in schools,
- business competitions,
- startup exhibitions,
- innovation awards,
- mentorship networks,
- partnerships with successful entrepreneurs.

Celebrating entrepreneurial success inspires young people to transform ideas into businesses that benefit their communities and the nation.

5. Promote Financial Inclusion

Access to financial services is essential for economic participation.

Many young people and women remain outside the formal banking system, limiting their ability to save, invest, obtain credit, or grow businesses.

The government will work with financial institutions to encourage:

- affordable banking services,
- mobile banking,
- digital payments,
- savings programs,
- financial literacy education,
- responsible lending.

Greater financial inclusion supports entrepreneurship, reduces poverty, and strengthens economic resilience.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the first 90 days, the government will have taken significant steps toward expanding economic opportunities for young people and women. The Youth Enterprise Bank will begin registering aspiring entrepreneurs and preparing to provide affordable financing and business support. The National Internship Program will create pathways for students and graduates to gain valuable workplace experience through partnerships with government, private employers, and educational institutions. At the same time, the Women's Economic Empowerment Program will strengthen women-owned businesses, expand cooperatives, and promote entrepreneurship across multiple sectors. Together, these initiatives will help reduce unemployment, encourage innovation, foster inclusive economic growth, and empower two of Cameroon's most important drivers of national development.