DAYS 21–30

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Building a Strong Foundation for Sustainable Growth

After restoring confidence in government and strengthening public institutions during the first three weeks, the administration will turn its full attention to revitalizing the economy. A healthy economy creates jobs, attracts investment, reduces poverty, and improves the quality of life for every citizen.

Cameroon has enormous economic potential. The country is rich in fertile agricultural land, natural resources, talented people, and a strategic location that connects Central and West Africa. However, years of poor governance, corruption, inadequate infrastructure, and limited support for businesses have slowed economic growth.

The objective during Days 21–30 is to begin laying the foundation for a modern, competitive, and inclusive economy that creates opportunities for all Cameroonians.

1. Launch the Cameroon Economic Recovery Taskforce

The President will establish the **Cameroon Economic Recovery Taskforce**, a temporary team of respected experts and stakeholders charged with developing a comprehensive national economic recovery strategy.

Rather than relying solely on government officials, the Taskforce will bring together people with practical experience from different sectors of society. This ensures that policies reflect the realities faced by businesses, workers, farmers, and communities across the country.

The Taskforce will examine the country's most urgent economic challenges and recommend practical, evidence-based solutions that can stimulate growth, create employment, and improve the business environment.

Its recommendations will help shape both short-term recovery measures and long-term economic reforms.

Composition of the Taskforce

To ensure broad representation and diverse expertise, the Taskforce will include members from the following groups:

Economists

Experienced economists will analyze Cameroon's economic performance, public finances, inflation, debt levels, employment trends, and investment climate.

They will identify policies that promote sustainable economic growth while ensuring responsible management of public finances.

Their role is to provide data-driven recommendations rather than politically motivated solutions.

Business Leaders

Successful entrepreneurs and private sector executives understand the challenges businesses face every day.

They will provide practical advice on issues such as:

- reducing unnecessary regulations,
- improving access to financing,
- lowering the cost of doing business,
- encouraging investment,
- increasing exports,
- supporting industrial growth.

Their experience will help government create policies that allow businesses to grow and create jobs.

Farmers and Agricultural Experts

Agriculture remains one of Cameroon's largest employers and has tremendous potential to drive economic growth.

Farmers and agricultural specialists will identify barriers affecting food production, processing, transportation, storage, and market access.

Their recommendations will focus on increasing productivity, reducing food imports, improving rural incomes, and expanding agricultural exports.

A stronger agricultural sector benefits both rural communities and national food security.

Youth Representatives

Young people make up a significant portion of Cameroon's population, yet many face unemployment or limited economic opportunities.

Youth representatives will contribute ideas on:

- employment,
- entrepreneurship,
- digital innovation,
- education,
- vocational training,
- technology,
- access to financing.

Including young people ensures that future economic policies reflect the aspirations and creativity of the next generation.

Diaspora Representatives

Millions of Cameroonians living abroad possess valuable skills, experience, professional networks, and financial resources.

Diaspora representatives will advise on ways to:

- attract investment,
- encourage skilled professionals to return,
- facilitate knowledge transfer,
- simplify diaspora investment,
- strengthen international business partnerships.

Their global perspective can help Cameroon compete more effectively in the international economy.

Universities and Research Institutions

Universities play an essential role in innovation, research, and workforce development.

Academics and researchers will provide evidence-based analysis and propose solutions grounded in scientific research and international best practices.

They will also help identify emerging industries and technologies that Cameroon can develop in the future.

Deliver Recommendations Within 90 Days

The Taskforce will be required to submit a comprehensive Economic Recovery Report within 90 days.

The report will include practical recommendations covering:

- job creation,
- investment,
- infrastructure,
- industrial development,
- agriculture,
- digital transformation,
- tax reform,

- education and workforce development,
- export promotion,
- public finance management.

The report will also prioritize recommendations based on urgency, expected economic impact, implementation costs, and timelines.

Publishing the report promotes transparency and allows citizens to understand the government's economic direction.

2. Launch the "Made in Cameroon" Initiative

One of the most effective ways to strengthen the economy is to increase the production and consumption of goods made within Cameroon.

The **Made in Cameroon Initiative** will encourage government, businesses, and consumers to support locally produced products and services whenever possible.

Increasing local production creates jobs, strengthens industries, reduces dependence on imports, and keeps more money circulating within the national economy.

This initiative is not about discouraging international trade. Instead, it seeks to ensure that Cameroonian businesses have a fair opportunity to compete and grow.

Local Procurement Policy

Government is one of the country's largest purchasers of goods and services.

A new Local Procurement Policy will require government ministries, departments, and agencies to purchase Cameroonian-made goods and services whenever they meet acceptable standards of quality, safety, and price.

Examples include:

- office furniture,
- school supplies,
- uniforms,
- agricultural products,

- construction materials,
- information technology services,
- vehicles assembled locally where feasible.

Government spending should help create jobs at home before seeking suppliers abroad whenever practical.

This policy also gives local businesses a more predictable market, encouraging them to expand production and hire more workers.

Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Incentives

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of most successful economies because they create a large share of employment and innovation.

The government will introduce incentives that make it easier for SMEs to start, grow, and compete.

Possible measures include:

- easier access to affordable loans,
- reduced business registration costs,
- simplified licensing procedures,
- tax relief for new businesses,
- training and mentoring programs,
- export assistance,
- government procurement opportunities.

Supporting SMEs strengthens local communities while creating sustainable employment.

Industrial Policy Review

Many of Cameroon’s industrial policies were developed years ago and may no longer meet the needs of a modern economy.

The government will conduct a comprehensive review of industrial policies to identify barriers to manufacturing, value addition, and industrial competitiveness.

The review will examine industries such as:

- food processing,

- textiles,
- timber,
- mining,
- pharmaceuticals,
- renewable energy,
- construction materials,
- digital technology.

The goal is to encourage more products to be manufactured and processed within Cameroon instead of exporting raw materials and importing expensive finished goods.

Adding value locally increases incomes, creates skilled jobs, and strengthens economic resilience.

3. Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund

The government will establish an **Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund** to support individuals and businesses with promising ideas but limited access to capital.

Many talented entrepreneurs never start businesses because traditional banks often require collateral or charge interest rates that are difficult for new businesses to afford.

The Fund will provide financial support, mentoring, technical assistance, and business development services to help entrepreneurs succeed.

Investing in entrepreneurs today creates employers for tomorrow.

Startup Financing for Youth

Young entrepreneurs often possess creativity and innovation but struggle to obtain financing.

Dedicated funding will support youth-led businesses with:

- startup grants,
- low-interest loans,
- business training,
- mentorship,
- incubation programs,
- networking opportunities.

Priority will be given to businesses with strong potential to create jobs and solve community challenges.

Financing for Women Entrepreneurs

Women own and operate thousands of businesses across Cameroon but often face greater obstacles accessing finance, land, and business opportunities.

Special financing programs will help women expand businesses in sectors such as:

- agriculture,
- retail,
- manufacturing,
- healthcare,
- technology,
- education,
- tourism,
- creative industries.

Empowering women economically strengthens families, communities, and the national economy.

Agricultural Entrepreneurship

Agriculture is more than farming—it includes food processing, storage, transportation, marketing, equipment manufacturing, and agricultural technology.

The Fund will support innovative agricultural businesses that increase productivity, reduce food waste, and improve food security.

Priority areas include:

- irrigation,
- mechanization,
- food processing,
- livestock,
- fisheries,
- greenhouse farming,
- agricultural technology,
- rural cooperatives.

Supporting agribusiness creates jobs throughout the entire food value chain.

Technology and Innovation

Technology is transforming economies around the world.

The government will encourage startups developing solutions in areas such as:

- financial technology (FinTech),
- healthcare technology,
- educational technology,
- artificial intelligence,
- cybersecurity,
- digital government services,
- software development,
- renewable energy technologies.

Developing a vibrant technology sector positions Cameroon to compete in the global digital economy and creates high-value employment opportunities for young professionals.

4. Establish the Tax Reform Commission

An efficient and fair tax system is essential for economic growth. Businesses need clear rules, reasonable tax rates, and a system that is easy to understand and comply with.

The President will establish an independent **Tax Reform Commission** to review the country's tax system and recommend reforms that encourage investment while ensuring government has the resources needed to provide public services.

The Commission will consult businesses, tax professionals, economists, civil society, and ordinary citizens before making recommendations.

Review Business Taxes

The Commission will examine whether current business taxes encourage investment and job creation or place unnecessary burdens on entrepreneurs.

The goal is not simply to reduce taxes but to create a balanced system that supports business growth while generating sustainable government revenue.

A broader tax base with higher compliance often produces better results than excessively high tax rates.

Review Investment Incentives

The Commission will evaluate existing incentives designed to attract domestic and foreign investors.

It will recommend ways to make Cameroon more competitive by offering incentives linked to measurable outcomes such as:

- job creation,
- technology transfer,
- local manufacturing,
- export growth,
- environmental sustainability,
- regional development.

Incentives should reward businesses that contribute meaningfully to national development.

Modernize Customs Administration

Efficient customs procedures are vital for international trade.

The Commission will review customs regulations to reduce unnecessary delays, simplify import and export processes, combat smuggling, and improve revenue collection.

Modern digital customs systems can reduce corruption, lower costs for businesses, and speed up the movement of goods across borders.

This makes Cameroon a more attractive destination for trade and investment.

Review SME Regulations

Many small businesses struggle because regulations are overly complex, expensive, or time-consuming.

The Commission will identify unnecessary administrative barriers and recommend simpler procedures for:

- business registration,
- licensing,
- tax filing,
- reporting requirements,
- inspections,
- permits.

Reducing bureaucracy allows entrepreneurs to spend more time growing their businesses instead of navigating paperwork.

A business-friendly regulatory environment encourages innovation, attracts investment, and supports the growth of a dynamic private sector that benefits the entire nation.