



NO. 0154 /C/MINH DU/CAB

Yaoundé, **18** JUL 2025

## **PRESS RELEASE/RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT**

**The Minister of Housing and Urban Development** hereby informs the public that following heavy rains on the night of 12 to 13 July 2025, in the Far North Region, floods occurred in the city of Maroua.

Although fortunately no human lives were lost, significant material damage was recorded, disrupting mobility in the Palar, Doursoungo, Ziling, Ouro-Tchedé, and Louguéou neighborhoods.

In this sad circumstance, the Minister expresses her full compassion to the affected families and economic operators.

She wishes to remind that given the recurrence of these floods in urban centres, significant investments are being made by the Government, following the instructions of the HEAD OF STATE, His Excellency Paul BIYA, to improve sanitation in these cities. The ongoing initiatives, particularly in the city of Maroua, include:

- The multi-year project for the construction of main drains, which has, to date, allowed the realization of approximately 4,000 linear meters of drains in Doursoungvo neighborhood;
- Urban road rehabilitation works, executed as part of the C2D, Regional Capitals 1 Programme, which enabled the construction of nearly 17,000 linear metres of gutters and 4,000 linear meters of drains in the city;
- The urban development of Ouro-Tchédé and Ziling neighborhoods, carried out under the Inclusive and Resilient Cities Development Project (PDVIR), with the construction of nearly 10,000 linear meters of gutters and 1,000 linear meters of drains;

These Government actions will be enhanced by the Programme for City Resilience to Disasters, whose maturation has just been completed by my Ministerial department and which includes significant sanitation, construction, and housing

projects, aimed at providing a sustainable response to flooding and mitigating their impacts on property and people.

The Minister, however, notes that while these disasters have a natural origin, being linked to climate change, their material and human impact largely results from anthropogenic factors, particularly urban disorder leading to the haphazard occupation of land and the obstruction of drains by solid waste. Also, the aforementioned efforts made by the Government in terms of urban sanitation will have a limited effect if incivility persists.

She therefore, particularly calls on the Mayors to strictly respect urban planning rules; it should be stressed that one of the objectives is to reduce disaster risks. She invites them to seek the assistance of administrative authorities to identify all populations on drains. She also prescribes a vast campaign to clear drains and other urban sanitation structures.

By drawing the attention of the populations to the climatic data of the next three months, which shows high levels of flood risks, the Minister relies on all urban actors to get involved in the sanitation efforts of our cities, prescribed by the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA.



LE MINISTRE

*Courtes née Ketcha Célestine*