As part of the ongoing assessment of the progress of the various mining projects announced by the President of the Republic, His Excellency **Paul BIYA**, in his address to the nation on 31 December 2022, the Acting Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development, **Professor FUH Calistus Gentry**, completed today the series of meetings with the Committees in charge of monitoring these mining projects.

The first meeting involving Cameroon Mining Compagny Sarl (CMC) culminated in the signing of a Mining Agreement that should speed up the effective start-up of the Mbalam Iron Ore Mining Project in the East and South regions. As a reminder, Cameroon Mining Compagny Sarl is granted a 20-year Mining Agreement, which may be renewed, as well a mining permit for this deposit, which is unique in that it is located in two neighbouring countries, namely Cameroon and Congo.

Similarly, the Minister presided over the second meeting by video conferencing between GEOVIC Managing Director and various representatives of the Ministry in charge of Mines, the National Investment Company (SNI) and SONAMINES. Considering the numerous delays in complying with the programme of activities as initially set out by the company, the Head of this Ministerial Department urged GEOVIC, who is in charge of mining the Akonolinga Rutile in the Centre region, to make concrete proposals by the end of October, failing which the Ministry in charge of Mines will be obliged to report back to the Prime Minister's Office and convene an emergency meeting with a view to engaging new partners in the project in order to speed up the work.

The meeting ended on a general satisfactory note. Also, a field visit by independent media and members of civil society is underway with the aim of assessing the actual progress of work on the various mining sites in Cameroon.