



STATE

Preparation for upcoming elections underway

Local, parliamentary, and presidential elections will be held this year, and different statutes are being adopted to prepare these elections. Decree No. 007/PR/MI, of 13 February 2023, appointed the members of the Gabonese election center (*Bureau du Centre Gabonais des Elections*), comprising a chairman and 6 other members, 3 from the ruling party and 3 from the opposition. Law No. 001/2023, of 13 April 2023, amended some provisions of the Gabonese Constitution, namely to increase the minimum age to run for the office of President, which is now 30 years, and reduce the President's term of office from 7 to 5 years. It has also introduced new provisions in the Constitution so that elections to the National Assembly and Presidency are held in just one round. More recently, Law No. 004/2023, of 7 May 2023, has modified and complemented some of the provisions of the 1996 Law governing the procedures for all elections. Other statutes should be adopted until the elections are held.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Agency to rule on selection procedures claims is established

To implement Article 6 of Ordonnance No. 009/PR/2016, of 11 February 2014 (ratified by Law No. 20/2016, of 5 September 2016), which governs public-private partnerships (“PPPs”), Decree No. 0030/PR/MPIPPPAEA, of 2 April 2023, has instituted an agency - *Agence de Régulation des Marchés Publics*, or Public Procurement Regulatory Agency –, which will rule on all non-judicial disputes concerning the selection of a private partner in the context of a PPP project, notably claims of breach of the principles of freedom of access, equal treatment, objectivity, competition and transparency of the selection procedure.

TRANSPORTS

Rules of State organization for transports sectors are adopted

The organization and scope of authority of the Ministry of Public Transports, Equipment and Infrastructure are now laid down in Decree No. 006/PR/MPTEICT, of 7 March 2023. This Ministry is responsible for implementing the Government’s policies in respect of transports’ infrastructure and equipment, including roads, ports, airports and railways, public buildings and constructions, and the drainage of water within urban areas. On the same date, the President also issued Decree No. 0012/PR/MT, of 7 March 2023, which approved the articles of organization of the *Conseil Gabonais des Chargeurs*, or Gabonese Shippers’ Council, also known as CGC. The CCG is an

administrative entity separate from the State, with financial autonomy, subject to oversight by the Minister of Transports, which congregates all importers and exporters performing activities in Gabon. It is tasked with assisting the Government in the implementation of national and international transport policies, with an advisory role.

ECONOMY

New body to aid Gabonese small and medium-sized companies

Complementing Ordonnance No. 003/PR/2021, of 26 January 2021, ratified on 29 November 2021 by Law No. 024/2021, of 29 November 2021, the President has issued Decree No. 0026/PR/MCPME, of 2 April 2023, to lay down the responsibilities and rules on the organization and functioning of a national committee overseeing subcontracting, with a view to promote the expansion of Gabonese small and medium-sized companies: the *Comité National de Suivi de la Sous-Traitance*, or National Subcontracting Monitoring Committee. This committee is now responsible for proposing actions and rules to promote the hiring of those companies and the transfer of technologies to them, and for monitoring the implementation of such actions.

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