

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND



**REPORT BY THE MINISTRY
OF JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
IN CAMEROON IN 2007**

Yaounde, October 2008

**Report by the Ministry of
Justice on Human Rights
in Cameroon in 2007**

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FOREWORD

“...All cultures have and produce positive values that should be explored and promoted in the interest of humanity”.

Paul Biya

Extract of speech at the 34th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO on 23 October 2007.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAA	: African Action on Aids
ACAFEJ	: Cameroon Association of Female Jurists
ACAFEM	: Cameroon Association of Female Doctors
ACAFIA	: Cameroon Association of Female Agriculture Engineers
ACAT/LT	: Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture
ACDIC	: Citizen Association for the Collective Defence of Rights
ADB	: African Development Bank
ADF	: Alliance for Democratic Forces
AGF	: African Governance Forum
APF	: Alliance for Progressive Forces
ADPAM	: Support Project for the Development of Small-Scale Maritime Fishing
AER	: Rural Electricity Agency
AFREC	: African Energy Commission
AI	: Amnesty International
ALVF	: Association for the Fight against Violence on Women
ANAC	: National Association for the Blind in Cameroon
ANAFOR	: General Assembly of the National Branch for Forest Development
ANIF	: National Financial Investigation Agency
APAC	: Association of African Professional Communicators
APDHAC	: Association for the Promotion of Human Rights in Africa
ARA	: Administrative Research Authorisation
ARCH	: Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped
ARH	: Adolescent Reproductive Health Programme
ARMP	: Public Contracts Regulatory Agency
ARSEL	: Electricity Sector Regulatory Board
ARV	: Anti-Retro Viral
ASBAK-Cameroon	: Cameroon Baka Association
ATER	: Part-Time Lecturer
ATC	: Approved Treatment Centres
AU	: African Union
AWARE	: Action for West African Region
BACC	: Business Action Against Corruption in Cameroon
BEONC	: Basic Emergency Obstetrical Neonatal Care
BIC	: Environmental Inspection Brigade
BHP	: Basic Health Package

BMD	: Bachelors-Masters-Doctorate
BSRA/OIT	: Central African Sub-regional Bureau of the International Labour Organisation
BTS	: Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (Higher National Diploma) (HND)
C2D	: Health Debt Relief and Development Contact
CA	: Court of Appeal
CAO	: Computer Assisted Cartography
CBC	: Commonwealth Business Council
CCAF	: Commission for Central African Forests
CIDA	: Canadian International Development Agency
CAMNAFAW	: Cameroon Association for the Wellbeing of the Family
CAMWATER	: Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation.
CAP-ASSUR	: Association of the Coalition for the Promotion of Urban Hygiene
CAPIEPM	: Teacher's Grade I Certificate
CAPP	: Provincial Drug Supply Centre
CCP	: Compagnie Camerounaise Pharmaceutique
CCPC	: Civil and Commercial Procedure Code
CCIMA	: Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Professions and Craft
CDC	: Centre for Disease Control
CDD	: Community Directed Distribution
CDIM	: Child Disease Integrated Management
CDMT	: Medium Term Expenditure Framework
CDNIPEC	: National Steering Committee for the Implementation of the International Programme for the Abolition of child Labour
CDU	: Cameroon Democratic Union
CED	: Centre for Environmental Development
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CERAC	: Circle of Friends of Cameroon
CEDOLF	: Centre for Studies and Documentation of Women Leadership
CEMAC	: Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CEP	: Certificat d'Etudes Primaires (First School Leaving Certificate for the French-speaking Sub-sector)
CENAME	: National Centre for the Supply of Drugs and Essential Medical Consumables
CER	: Common External Rate

CEPAB	: Centre for the Promotion of Craftsmen of Bafoussam
CEPCA	: Council of Protestant Churches in Cameroun
CFI	: Court of First Instance
CFA	: African Financial Community Franc
CHOC	: Change Habits- Oppose Corruption
CILIN	: Informal Committee for National Linguistic Integration
CIMENCAM	: Cimenteries du Cameroon (Cameroon Cement Industry)
CMPJ	: Multifunctional Centres for the Promotion of Youths
CMA	: Sub-Divisional Medical Centre
CNCT	: National Labour Consultative Board
CNIC	: Cameroon Shipyard and Industrial Engineering
CNRH	: National Centre for the Re-education of Handi-capped Persons
CNSS	: National Commission for Labour Health and Security
CONAC	: National Anti-Corruption Commission
CPC	: Criminal Procedure Code
CPDM	: Cameroon Peoples' Democratic Movement
CPI	: Corruption Perception Index
CPO	: Criminal Procedure Ordinance
CRAN	: Centre for Food and Nutrition Research
CRC	: Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRES	: Centre for the Re-education of Deaf Children
CRETES	: Centre for Economic and Surveys Studies
CWMNET	: Cameroon Women Managers Network
CUY	: Yaounde City Council
DDHCI	: Department of Human Rights and International Co-operation
DED	: Deutsche Entwicklung Dienst
DGSN	: General Delegation of National Security
DNC	: Department of Norms and Control
ECA	: Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	: Economic Community of Central African States
ECCI	: Exporting Countries Corruption Index
EDC	: Electricity Development Corporation
EITI	: Initiatives for Transparency in the Mining Industries
ELECAM	: Elections Cameroon
ENAM	: National School of Administration and Magistracy
EPA	: Economic Partnership Agreement
EPT	: Education For All
ESC	: Energy Steering Committee

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ESCR	: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ESIR	: Special Rapid intervention Force
ESS	: Education Sector Strategy
EEL	: Environmental Evaluation Impact
ENAS	: National School for Social Workers
ENAM	: National School of Administration and Magistracy
ENAP	: National School of Penitentiary Administration
FAASI	: Support Fund for Actors of the Informal Sector
FALC	: Fondation Medicale AD LUCEM du Cameroun (AD LUCEM Medical Foundation)
FARP	: Support Fund for Research and Professionalisation
FECAME	: Cameroon Federation of Water, Electricity and Electronic Enterprises
FEICOM	: Special Council Support Fund
FENTECAM	: National Federation of Decentralised Local Coun- cils and Trade Unions of Cameroon
FESPACO	: Pan African Cinema Festival
FESPAM	: Pan African Musical Festival of Brazaville
FHUJUC	: Association of Female Bailiffs
FPJ	: Popular Front for Young People
FSNC	: Front for the National Salvation of Cameroon
GAPE	: Support Group for the Electoral Process
GAVI	: Gobal Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization
GECEFC	: General des Caisses pour l'Epargne et le Finan- cement au Cameroun
GICAM	: interprofessional Group of Cameroon
GDI	: Global De-worming Initiative
GNP	: Gross National Product
GTZ	: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HC	: High Court
HD	: Health District
HIPC-I	: Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative
HRM	: Human Resource Management
HSS	: Health Sector Strategy
IAI	: Africa Institute of Computer Sciences
ICJ	: International Court of Justice
ICCPR	: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
INC	: National Institute of Cartography
ICT	: Information and Communication Technology

IDDP	: International Day of Disabled Persons
IFCD	: Development Institute for Training and Cooperation
IGE	: Inspectorate General of Teaching
IHC	: Integrated Health Centre
ILO	: International Labour Organisation
IMF	: International Monetary Fund
IMO	: International Maritime Organization
IMPM	: Institute for Medical Research and the Study of Medicinal Plants
INGO	: International Non-Governmental Organization
INTERPOL	: International Police
IPAVIC	: Poultry Farmers Association of Cameroon
IPT	: Intermittent Preventive Treatment
IRGM	: Institute for Geological Research and Mining
IRIC	: Institute of International Relations of Cameroon
ITN	: Insecticide-Treated Nets
IUT	: Polytechnic
LCC	: League for Cameroon Consumers
LEFE	: League for the Education of the Woman and the Child
MASA	: African Arts and Concerts Forum
MAGZI	: Industrial Areas Development and Management Authority
MANIDEM	: African Movement for New Independence and Democracy
MARPOL	: International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MDP	: Movement for Democracy and Progress
MCA	: Millennium Challenge Account
MDG	: Millennium Development Goals
MDRI	: Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
MINADER	: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAS	: Ministry of Social Affairs
MINATD	: Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
MINCOM	: Ministry of Communication
MINCOMMERCE	: Ministry of Commerce
MINDAF	: Ministry of Lands and Land Tenure
MINEE	: Minister of Water Resources and Energy
MINDEF	: Ministry of Defence
MINEDUB	: Ministry of Basic Education
MINEFI	: Ministry of Economy and Finance

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MINEFOP	: Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
MINEP	: Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
MINEPIA	: Ministry of Breeding, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry
MINESEC	: Ministry of Secondary Education
MINESUP	: Ministry of Higher Education
MINJEUN	: Ministry of Youth Affairs
MINJUSTICE	: Ministry of Justice
MINPLAPDAT	: Ministry of Planning, Programming and Regional Development
MINPROFF	: Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family
MINRESI	: Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
MINREX	: Ministry of External Relations
MINSANTE	: Ministry of Public Health
MINTSS	: Ministry of Employment and Social Security
MINDUH	: Ministry of Town Planning and Housing
MINPESSA	: Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and the Economy
MIPROMALO	: Mission for the Promotion of Local Material
MP	: Progressive Movement
MP	: State Counsel
MUBASE	: "Bayam-Sellam" Solidarity Fund
MT	: Military Tribunal
MTEF	: Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
NADP	: National Alliance for Democracy and Progress
NCHRF	: National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms
NEC	: National Education Centre
NEF	: National Employment Fund
NEO	: National Elections Observatory
NEP	: National Employment Policy
NGO	: Non Governmental Organization
NGP	: National Governance Programme
NIE	: National Inspectorate of Education
NSIF	: National Social Insurance Fund
NOSUCA	: National Sugar Company
NMWP	: Network for Women in Politics
NUDP	: National Union for Democracy and Progress
OCASC	: Catholic Organisation for Health in Cameroon
OECD	: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHADA	: Organisation for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa

OVC	: Orphans and Vulnerable Children
OPEC	: Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PAD	: Ports Authority, Douala
PACDET	: Programme for the Improvement of Detention Conditions and the Respect of Human Rights
PACE	: Pan-African Epizooty Control Project
PADER	: Rural Employment Development Project
PAIRPEV	: Support Programme for the Insertion and Rein- sertion of Vulnerable Persons
PAMODEC	: Draft Declaration Relating to Principles of the Fundamental Right to Work
PAMOFPE	: Improvement Programme for the Supply of Voca- tional Training for Employment
PANEJ	: National Action Plan for Youth Employment
PAPENOC	: Support and Promotion Project for Unconventio- nal Breeding
PANGIRE	: National Action Plan for the Integrated Manage- ment of Water Resources
PANIFD	: National Action Plan for the Integration of Women in Development
PC	: Penal Code
PDSE	: Electricity Sector Development Plan
PDUE	: Urban Areas Development and Water Supply Project
PED	: Graduate Employment Programme
PDFP	: Pig Sector Development Programme
PG	: Procureur General
PGM	: Postgraduate Diploma
PGSD	: Postgraduate Specialised Diploma
PIAASI	: Integrated Support Project for Stakeholders of the Informal Sector
PIB	: Public Investment Budget
PIPE	: Priority Investment Programme for Employment
PO	: Professional Organization
POPC	: Rural Workers Party of Cameroon
PPP	: Priority Programme for the Promotion of SME
PPSC	: Provincial Pharmaceutical Supply Centres
PRSP	: Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper
PSMNR	: Germano/Cameroon Programme for the Sustai- nable Management of NATURAL Resources
RDB	: Regional Development Bodies
RPAC	: Post Harvest Loss Reduction Project

SAD	: Strategic Action Day
SAR/SM	: Rural Craft Sections and Home Economics Sections
SC	: Supreme Court
SGBC	: Société Générale des Banques du Cameroun
SHDDP	: Small Holder Dairy Development Project
SIC	: Cameroon Housing Corporation
SDF	: Social Democratic Front
SIE-Cameroun	: Cameroon Energy Information System
SME	: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SMI	: Small and Medium-Sized Industries
SNEC	: Cameroon National Water Corporation
SNH	: National Hydrocarbons Corporation
SONEL	: National Electricity Corporation of Cameroon
SOSUCAM	: Cameroon Sugar Company
STI	: Sexually Transmitted Infections
SWAp	: Health Sector-Wide Approach
SQI	: Systemic Quality Improvement
SSDT	: Transport Documents Securitisation System
STV	: Spectrum Television
SUMOCAM	: Cameroon Modern Sugar Company
SWAP	: Health Sector-Wide Approach
UDHR	: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UFZ	: University Free Zone
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	: United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	: United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	: United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	: United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	: United Nations Development Fund for Women
UPC	: Union for the Populations of Cameroon
UPR	: Union for the Republic
VAT	: Value Added Tax
VSC	: Follow-Up and Litigation Unit
WABA	: West African Business Association
WAPES	: World Association of Public Employment Services
WHO	: World Health Organisation
WTO	: World Trade Organization
WDYP	: World Dynamics Young People
YEP	: Youth Employment Project

P r e f a c e

This is the third report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon produced after those of 2005 and 2006.

It is a continuation of work started in 2003 in the Ministry of Justice to render more visible Government action to promote and protect human rights.

If 2007 was marked in Cameroon by the intensification of the fight against corruption and the exciting and sometimes passionate debate on the possible amendment of the Constitution, these major events in no way undermined Government's daily task of promoting and protecting human rights with the support of the civil society.

The latter, with the view to ensuring full protection of human rights, is constantly aware of its role and place alongside State institutions that have the primary responsibility of guaranteeing such protection. Its reflection and activities in this domain make it a priceless partner of Government. The Ministry of Justice is delighted with the effort made by the civil society to organise networks of associations of human rights defenders. It closely associates the civil society in the drawing up and validation of human rights reports. More so, an innovation of this report is the place given to activities of the civil society.

Thus, it adopts the same style as the previous ones more especially the 2006 Report. The approach is more factual and concrete although references to international or national normative texts are sometimes used to back up analyses. The facts, events, debates and activities naturally cover 2007. However, in order to update information at the time of publication of this report, footnotes referring to events in 2008 have been included.

I should not dwell on the subject of this report that could be found in its introduction. However, I wish to emphatically state the expectations of

the Head of State and Cameroonians as a whole on the uncomplaisant judicial proceedings against predators of public wealth at a time when we are all worried about the poverty of many of our fellow citizens.

However, I hope that by reading and exploiting the 2007 Report, objective and impartial observers of our country's evolution shall be sufficiently clarified on the relentless effort of the Head of State, Government and our partners of the civil society to instil the idea of a Constitutional State and respect for human rights in state and private stakeholders.

Amadou Ali

*Vice-Prime Minister,
Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals*

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

GENERAL
CONSIDERATIONS

MINJUSTICE

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1- In 2006 and 2007, the Ministry of Justice published bilingual, English and French, versions of human rights reports in Cameroon for the years 2005 and 2006 respectively.

2- Both reports gave an account of the progress made and shortcomings observed in the national mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights. This was or is not meant to be an ideal presentation of human rights in Cameroon. No country in the world can claim to have put in place an infallible system for the protection of human rights. For, as Professor Danielle Lochak rightly wrote, *the history of human rights is neither the history of a triumphant march nor a worthless cause: it is the history of a struggle*.¹ This struggle comprises evolutions, even revolutions, but some times regressions. What is most important is to steer the course: a permanent search for more efficient protection of human rights.

3- This report is fully in line with the policy of truth and the determination to maintain the new mission conferred on the Ministry of Justice by the President of the Republic: raising the awareness of State structures on the respect of human rights and informing the national and international communities on the legislative, statutory, judicial and practical measures taken by State bodies to meet the State's fundamental responsibility of instituting human rights as stipulated in the Constitution and international instruments to which it is party. It should be recalled that nowadays, the notion of international instruments has a broad meaning in human rights. Thus, for example, they should include the general remarks of supervisory bodies of human rights treaties which provide *the correct or authentic interpretation of the provisions of the said treaties*.² Such extension of the protection of human rights that transcends related treaties is taken into account by international courts such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), as well as national courts which cite these general remarks in their judgments³. The 2006 Report had already adopted this approach by, as regards especially economic, social and cultural rights, assessing the implementation in Cameroon of some of the rights based on the general remarks by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁴.

¹ D. Lochak, *Les droits de l'homme*, la Découverte, Paris, 2002, p. 120.

² G. Abline, « *Les observations générales, une technique d'élargissement des droits de l'homme* », *Revue trimestrielle des droits de l'homme*, n° 74, avril 2008, p. 450.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 475 to 479.

4 – To talk concretely about human rights in Cameroon in 2007, some major events should be mentioned. Political rights were on the limelight with debates on constitutional amendment⁵ and the organisation of legislative and municipal elections. Economic rights, through combating corruption, that reached its climax with the sentencing to severe terms of imprisonment of some senior Cameroon State officials accused of misappropriation of public funds, equally caught the attention of observers. The important speech made on 24 October 2007, at the Headquarters of UNESCO, in Paris, by the Head of State wherein he expressed his deep conviction that intercultural dialogue and the embracing of another culture establish links between peoples and nations and also serve as factors which facilitate understanding, mutual consideration and coexistence as a result of the promotion of cultural rights.

5 – Although the following events and measures relating to human rights passed unnoticed because of poor media coverage, they equally marked the year 2007:

- intensification of the fight against the impunity of staff in charge of enforcing the law;
- assessment of application of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) after a year;
- effective liberalisation of audiovisual media;
- university reform;
- implementation of the Programme for the Improvement of Detention Conditions and Respect of Human Rights (PACDET II); and
- initial meeting of officials of the Penitentiary Administration since its attachment to the Ministry of Justice.

5-1- This is the purport of this report which provides further information on human rights progress in Cameroon. It includes, especially as regards the fight against impunity, the progress of judicial procedures instituted before and in 2006.

⁴ See Part Two of 2006 Report, concerning especially the Right to a Satisfactorily Standard of Living (p. 104, 110, 121).

⁵ This was effectively carried out with the promulgation of Law No. 2008/1 of 14 April 2008 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 96/6 of 18 January 1996 to amend the Constitution of 2 June 1972.

5-2- As it was the case in the previous reports, a brief presentation is included on the legal and institutional framework of the protection and promotion of human rights, supplemented by a non exhaustive enumeration of seminars, workshops and conferences on human rights organised in Cameroon by national and international organisations.

Signature, Ratification of or Accession to International Conventions

6- In 2007, Cameroon:

- signed the United Nations Convention adopted on 20 December 2006, for the protection of all persons against enforced disappearances on 6 February 2007;
- approved Law No. 2007/8 of 26 December 2007 to authorise the President of the Republic to ratify the Convention adopted on 18 March 2006 in Brazzaville, on the Cooperation and Judicial Assistance between Member States of the Economic Community of Central African States⁶;

Workshops and Seminars

7- The National Commission on Human Rights Freedoms (NCHRF) organised the following workshops and celebration with the support of development partners:

- Pre-validation workshop on the national plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights from 10 to 12 January 2007;
- Workshop on the orientation of members and staff of the NCHRF in Yaounde from 4 to 6 June 2007;
- Workshop on the drawing up of modules on the appropriate use of the Pedagogic Manual organised from 23 to 25 October 2007;
- Training Workshop on the universal system of human rights protection organised from 19 to 20 October 2007 at the «Centre Vie de Femmes de l'Association de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes (ALVF)» (Centre for Women's Life by the Association for the Fight against Violence against Women); and

⁶ This Convention was the subject of Ratification Decree No. 2008/110 of 12 March 2008.

- Celebration of Human Rights Days from 20 November to 10 December 2007.

8- The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa equally organised the following seminars and day in Cameroon:

- seminar on the training of trainers on the theme «*Transitional Justice in Central Africa*», from 11 to 13 June 2007;
- training seminar on «*Submission of Reports by States: International Mechanisms on the Supervision of the Implementation of Human Rights Conventions*», from 29 October to 2 November 2007;
- seminar on «*Human Rights Defenders*», from 23 to 25 November 2007; and
- Consultation day «*Conflicts in Chad and Central African Republic*», 4 December 2007.

9- *Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme Cameroun* carried out awareness activities on human rights issues by organising:

- a training workshop for paralegals on the mastery of the Criminal Procedure Code in Bafoussam from 12 to 15 March 2007;
- a training workshop on the mastery of electoral law, in Yaounde, from 5 to 8 September 2007; and
- a training workshop co-organised by the Rene Cassin Association, Cameroon and sponsored by the Ministry of Justice on human rights, in Douala from 7 to 14 September 2007.

10- The National Justice and Peace Service of the Catholic Church organised a series of training seminars for Christian election observers. Thus, 1,601 officials were trained throughout the national territory from 1 April to 7 June 2007.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

11- Like the 2005 and 2006 Reports, this report is the fruit of collaboration

between the Ministry of Justice, the following ministries and related structures that submitted written and some times oral contributions in their respective areas of competence:

- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization;
- Ministry of Social Affairs;
- Ministry of Culture;
- Ministry of Water Resources and Energy;
- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry;
- Ministry of Trade;
- Ministry of the Economy, Planning, and Regional Development;
- Ministry of Basic Education;
- Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training;
- Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection;
- Ministry of Secondary Education;
- Ministry of Higher Education;
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife;
- Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family;
- Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation;
- Ministry of External Relations;
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security;
- Ministry of Public Health;
- Ministry of Transport;
- National Gendarmerie; and the
- General Delegation of National Security.

12- The City Council, Yaounde and the following independent administrative structures equally contributed to this report:

- National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC);
- National Financial Investigation Agency (ANIF).

13- Some NGOs and associations working in the domain of human rights equally contributed especially by providing a progress report of their activities. The following can be mentioned:

- Cameroon Association of Female Jurists (ACAFEJ);
- African Action on Aids (AAA);
- Training and Cooperation Development Institute (IFCD);
- League for the Promotion of the Child and the Woman (LEFE);
- Future Africa; and
- Plan Cameroon.

Focus on 2007 Data

14- This report is based essentially on the year 2007. However, when necessary, cross-references are made in footnotes to the 2005 and 2006 Reports and to some extent to 2008 data with the view to providing updated information at the time of publication.

Participatory Approach

15- Some progress has been made as compared to the previous reports. The civil society was involved at the initial phase of drafting by submitting its contribution in writing, especially on the activities of its affiliated NGOs and associations. More so, its remarks on all measures taken by the State were duly recorded in footnotes. The Ministry associated the civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights which, it should be reiterated, is primarily incumbent on the State.

Structure of Report

16- The structure of this report is similar to that of 2006. It is divided into three parts:

- Protection of Civil and Political Rights (Part One);
- Protection of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Part Two);

PART ONE

PROTECTION OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

Introduction

17- The fight against impunity constitutes the mainstay of the struggle for the building of a society that shows greater respect for human rights. By examining the right to life, physical and moral integrity as well as the right to security, this report will give a clear picture of how the State carried out this fight in 2007.

18- Nowadays, the fight against impunity cannot be conceived without a legal framework that takes into consideration respect of the rights of the person accused of violating the criminal law. Criminal procedure, through the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) that lays down the rights and duties of all stakeholders of the criminal trial, is the barometer par excellence to guarantee the protection of the individual rights of persons charged with a criminal offence, especially their right to a fair trial. In 2005, Cameroon produced a CPC that protects human rights. This Code came into force in 2007⁷. Heads of Court of Appeal reviewed problems arising from the enforcement of this new legal instrument during their meeting of 16 to 19 October 2007. These problems and proposed solutions are mentioned in this report.

19- These two concerns relating to the respect of civil rights are compounded by that on the freedom of communication that, without doubt, has evolved considerably. In fact, the issue of the initial audiovisual licences is a decisive step that enables this sector to step out from the « *administrative tolerance* » system, characterised by the granting of temporary broadcasting authorisations to some press organs. The building of the operational

⁷ See Part One, Chapter 5 on Report by MINJUSTICE on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2006 Report.

capacity of the press will allow for the relay or denunciation, as the case may be, of progress or setbacks to human rights culture.

20- As regards political rights, the revision of the Constitution mobilised the entire political class in 2007. It is analysed here because it affects the fundamental right to participate in public affairs as provided for under Article 25 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). There was intense and passionate debate over this issue by both the political class and eminent scholars. Similarly, legislative and municipal elections organised in 2007, are activities related to the exercise and enjoyment of this right. They are appropriately reviewed here to effectively account for the rule of law, human rights and democracy.

21- All these issues will be discussed as follows:

Chapter 1: Fight Against Impunity;

Chapter 2: Right to Fair Trial;

Chapter 3: Freedom of Communication;

Chapter 4: Constitutional Reform;

Chapter 5: Legislative and Municipal Elections of 22 July 2007.

CHAPTER

1

FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

22- The fight against impunity is permanent. It is a constant concern for Government which, with the contribution of the national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, civil society and other partners, strives to curb it. These endeavours concern especially the right to security, life, physical and moral integrity as well as the prohibition of torture and inhuman, degrading and cruel treatment. Personnel in charge of enforcing the law who violate same are most often members of the forces of law and order, administrative personnel, traditional authorities and Judicial and Legal Officers. The case of the latter who are more concerned with issues of professional ethics shall be examined in the chapter on the promotion of good governance. Given that these actions constitute a continuum, it is necessary to state the progress of cases mentioned in the previous report for which final decisions were not taken.

Section 1: Matters Mentioned in the Previous Report

23- Considering that data collection is a permanent activity, it is worth mentioning that an inventory of judicial proceedings instituted in 2006 was in-exhaustive. Thus, before updating the state of matters referred to, it is necessary to mention those that were pending in 2006 before the Court of Appeal, South Province.

§1: Matters Pending before the Court of Appeal, South Province in 2006

24- The following matters should be mentioned:

CFI Ambam

- The People and SOFOPETRA (NASASAR BOUHADIR) vs ELEMVA, AKONO Cedar, BENGONO ONDOUA Michel, ESSA OYONO Mathias, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Headmaster of Government Primary School, Ambam, Agricultural Technician, High School Teacher, prosecuted for obstruction of public highway and false arrest.

HC and CFI, Ebolowa

- The People and ZO'OBO OBAM Francois vs NOMO Thobie, police officer, prosecuted for false arrest. This matter is pending.
- The People and EBOULOU nee ABANG NDO MARLYSE vs ABOULOU Alain Marcel and Others, marine officer, prosecuted for accessory in forgery of official act. This matter is pending.
- The People and NJAMEN Henri vs ABANG ONDO, police officer in service at the Provincial Division of Judicial Police, Ebolowa, South Province, prosecuted for oppression, assault and false arrest. This matter is pending.

CFI Sangmelima

- The People vs TOCHE KAMGA, Superintendent of Police, former Commander of Highway Unit at the Central Police Station, Sangmelima, prosecuted for torture, oppression and false arrest. At the hearing of 13 June 2008, the court declined jurisdiction on ground of privileged proceedings⁸.
- The People vs SAFINDAH Joachim NYO, Superintendent of Prison, Superintendent of the Main Prison, Sangmelima, prosecuted for oppression and torture. At the hearing of 5 December 2007, he was found not guilty and acquitted for want of evidence;
- The People vs PEYALE DJIWANG Michel, Sergeant, Gendarmerie Brigade, Meyomessala, prosecuted for oppression and assault. By judgment of 28 August 2007, the accused was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 24 months imprisonment. A bench warrant was issued against him;
- The People vs NKONO ESSOMBA, gendarme, Sergeant in service at the Gendarmerie Brigade, Sangmelima, prosecuted for oppression and false arrest; he was found not guilty, given the benefit of doubt and acquitted;
- The People vs KALDJOB Dieudonne, Superintendent of Police, Superintendent in charge of the Third Police District, Sangmelima, prosecuted

⁸ The prosecution appealed against the decision.

for false arrest, oppression and assault; a no-case ruling was entered in his favour on 16 October 2006;

- The People vs Mario Edouard, gendarme officer, prosecuted for oppression. The matter is pending.
- The People vs DJEUKAM Joseph, State Agent in service at the Divisional Delegation of Transport, prosecuted for oppression and false arrest. This matter is pending⁹;
- The People vs SEME Albert, Police Inspector at the Central Police Station, Sangmelima, prosecuted for oppression and assault. This matter is pending.

25- Progress made in some matters that have not been heard and determined, but mentioned in the previous report¹⁰, are worth mentioning.

§2 Matters Mentioned in the Previous Report

Court of Appeal, Far North Province

- The People vs Mezedjo Eric, Ngamessi Tsapi, Zene Emile and Ndoumbe, gendarmes in service at the 30th Squadron of the Gendarmerie Provincial Headquarters, Maroua, charged with false arrest, rape, slight harm and failure to assist. This matter is under preliminary inquiry before the Examining Magistrate of the HC Maroua;
- The People vs Metomo Minfomo Telesphore, Commander of the Gendarmerie Brigade, Bourha, Alwa Etienne, Pakagne Andre in service in the same unit, charged with oppression and accessory: this matter is pending before the HC, Mokolo¹¹;
- The People vs Kaele Malloum, Mayor of the Moutourwa Rural Council, charged with oppression and disturbance of quiet enjoyment. By judgment of 8 May 2007, the CFI, Kaele declined jurisdiction on the ground that it was a purely administrative matter;
- The People vs Wangso Mathieu stores accountant in the Rural Council Touloum, prosecuted for refusal to render due service. By judgment of 18

⁹ The last known date of adjournment is 19 August 2008.

¹⁰ See 2006 Report: Chapter One on the fight against impunity, p 10-20.

¹¹ The last known date of adjournment was 18 August 2008 for parties to appear.

September 2007, the CFI, Kaele found him not guilty. His was acquitted for want of evidence.

Court of Appeal, North Province

- The People vs BAINA DEDAINDI, Traditional Leader: a warrant of arrest issued against the abovenamed was executed and the accused granted self bail; the file is pending before the Court of Appeal¹².
- The People vs MENEMA GAOU Markus, Police Constable at the Mobile Intervention Unit No. 4, Garoua, prosecuted for oppression: by judgment in default of 18 October 2005 against the parties, he was found guilty, convicted by the CFI, Garoua and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 50,000 with costs;
- The People vs ENGUENE Magloire, former Superintendent of Police, Emi-immigration, Garoua charged with assault and false arrest; the defendant was committal for trial before the CFI, Garoua¹³;
- The People vs MOUSSA ABOUBAKAR, Lamido of Tcheboa, prosecuted for false arrest and poor treatment. This matter is under preliminary inquiry.

Section 2: Situation in 2007

26- Administrative sanctions against staff of the police and the gendarmerie, and judicial sanctions against civil servants in general are proof of Government's effective fight against impunity.

§1 Administrative Sanctions

27- Within the framework of the fight against impunity, protective measures are taken against civil servants for unethical acts or violation of rules and regulations in force, subject to judicial prosecutions.

28- Protective measures concerning some civil servants of the police are presented in the Table below.

¹² The last known date of adjournment was 21 March 2008.

¹³ The last known date of adjournment was 1 April 2008.

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

No.	NAME	UNIT	OFFENCE AND DATE OF COMMISSION	PROTECTIVE MEASURES
1.	OBAME OBAME Jean Michel, Senior Superintendent of Police	Mobile intervention Unit No. 1, Centre, Yaounde	Serious and repeated negligence in the execution of his functions, blatant violation of instructions in July, August, and September 2007	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
2.	TCHANJI Amos TANWORONG Senior Superintendent of Police	Central Police Station, Buea	Serious and repeated negligence in the execution of his functions, persistent poor behaviour at work and insolence to a superior ; acts committed on 27 July 2007 and the night of 11 to 12 August 2007	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
3.	BEKOM ESSOMBA François Alexandre, Superintendent of Police	Public Security, Mbalmayo	Abusive use of service gun resulting in death; acts committed in Mbalmayo in the night of 16 to 17 May 2007	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
4.	AMOUGOU ATANGANA Moïse, Superintendent of Police	Special Police Station, International Airport, Douala	Serious dishonesty, tarnishing the image of the Police force by extorting funds from users ; on 21 February 2007	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
5.	OWONA ASSIGA Luc Roger Superintendent of Police	General Delegation of National Security	Gross negligence in the execution of his duties resulting in the escape of a person remanded in custody on 20 February 2007	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
6.	ESSAMA Patrice Superintendent of Police	Special Railway Police Station	Non respect of instructions and negligence leading to the destruction of a service vehicle on 17 February 2007	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
7.	MONGOLO ONDOUA Guy Béatrice Assistant Superintendent of Police	Special Police Station, International Airport, Douala	Compromise and gross dishonesty tarnishing the image of the Police Force as a result of extortion of funds from users	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
8.	SAMBA NDONGO Innocent Bernadin Police Constable	Sub-Department of Recruitment and Follow-Up	Compromise and gross dishonesty tarnishing the image of the Police Force , by assault as an armed gang, in a taxi, on 12 February 2007	
9.	NJOCK NANG Ambroise Inspector of Police	PubliSecurity, Abong-Mbang	Non respect of instructions in the execution of his duties, gross dishonesty tarnishing the image of the Police Force, acts committed in the night of 29 to 30 December 2006	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
10.	MIANZUH ETOME Inspector of Police	Public Security Police Station, Abong-Mbang	Non respect of instructions in the execution of his duties, gross dishonesty tarnishing the image of the Police Force , acts committed in the night of 29 to 30 December 2006	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
11.	EVOUNG NDOUM Timothée Inspector of Police	Public Security Police Station, Abong-Mbang	Non respect of instructions in the execution of his duties, gross dishonesty tarnishing the image of the Police Force , acts committed in the night of 29 to 30 December 2006	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
12.	YAYA MOHONDE, Superintendent of Police	14 th Police District, Yaounde	Gross negligence in the execution of his duties resulting in the destruction of a service vehicle, model Toyota, minibus <i>Hiace</i> , on 20 January 2007	Suspended from duty for three (3) months
13	AYISSI NDOMO Raymond Superintendent of Police	1 st Police District, Yaounde	Gross negligence in the execution of his duties resulting in the destruction of a service vehicle, model Toyota, minibus <i>Hiace</i> , on 26 January 2007	Suspended from duty for three (3) months

Source: DGNS

29- At the level of the National Gendarmerie, some sanctions contained in the Table below are equally proof of the fight against impunity:

No.	Name	Unit	Offence and Date of Commission	Sanctions
1	Warrant Officer NJIENJOU Emmanuel	Brigade, Banyo	False pretences and attempted false pretences on 18 October 2007 against persons coming from Nigeria	20 days of detention
2	Warrant Officer Bruno BETAMO	Brigade, Djohong	Extortion of CFA 600,000 from three (3) Central African refugees on 11 September 2007	20 days of detention; Posted to a sedentary unit
3	Sergeant Vincent SIGALA NGUTI	Brigade, Djohong	Extortion of CFA 600,000 from three (3) Central African refugees on 11 September 2007	20 days of detention; Posted to a sedentary unit
4	Sergeant NTIEGE John	Brigade, Djohong	Extortion of CFA 600,000 from three (3) Central African refugees on 11 September 2007	20 days of detention; Posted to a sedentary unit
5	Sergeant SALI WOUWE	Brigade, Djohong	Extortion of CFA 600,000 from three (3) Central African refugees on 11 September 2007	20 days of detention; Posted to a sedentary unit
6	Senior Gendarme	Brigade, Nyambaka	On 3 December 2007, while in	Detached to EM/CIE

	EPIE		service at the Koggi Nyambaka Market, he arrested motorcycle taxi drivers ordering them to pay CFA 1,000 each. Unsatisfied, he shot twice at the drivers.	Meiganga. Disciplinary and judicial files pending
7	Sergeant ABESSOLO François	Company, Meiganga	Extortion of CFA 160,000 from two (2) French nationals on 19 December 2007	Disciplinary and judicial files pending
8	Gendarme TIECK Patrick Joseph	Gendarmerie Post, Batoua Godole	Extortion of CFA 160,000 from two (2) French nationals on 19 December 2007	Disciplinary and judicial files pending
9	Gendarme FOKOU Jules	Gendarmerie Post, Batoua Godole	Extortion of CFA 160,000 from two (2) French nationals on 19 December 2007	Disciplinary and judicial files pending
10	Warrant Officer 1 st Class EMINI EMINI	Brigade, Touboro	False arrest, oppression	30 days of detention; transferred to the Legion of the South West.

Source: National Gendarmerie

ADJ: Warrant Officer

MDL: Squadron Sergeant-Major

G/M: Gendarme Major

GEM: Gendarme

A/C : Chief Warrant Officer

30- Moreover, statistics by the NCHRF present cases handled by some institutions and the geographic distribution of alleged human rights violations reported.

T Y P E O F VIOLATIONS	HEADOFFICE (YAOUNDE)	SOUTH WEST BRANCH (BUEA)
Right to Fair Trial	80	2
Right to Life, Physical and Moral Integrity	88	10
Right to Security (Arrest and illegal Detention)	46	25
Abuse of Office	15	14
Torture, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment	27	00
Total Number of Cases Identified	256	51

§2: Prosecution and Judicial Sanctions in 2007

31- The proceedings and sanctions below fall under civil courts and military tribunals.

A- Civil Courts

1- Court of Appeal, Adamawa Province

CFI, Ngaoundere

- The People vs NKOUE LOKAM Dieudonne, Provincial Delegate of Labour and Social Insurance, Adamawa, prosecuted for oppression;
- The People vs Sergent ABOU SAMBO, prosecuted for refusal to render service;
- The People vs ZOGO MANGA Felix, Provincial Delegate of SNEC, prosecuted for refusal to render service.

CFI, Tibati

The People vs KOULANGA HAMAD and HASAN BECHIR, police and veterinary officers respectively, charged with, false arrest and accessory in false arrest;

CFI, Tignere

- The People vs YAYA NDOUNGOU, Quarter Head, convicted and sentenced for conditional threats and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 25,000;
- The People vs ISSA MAOUNDE alias DJAOURO ISSA, Traditional Ruler, prosecuted for false arrest.

2- Court of Appeal, Centre Province

HC, Nyong and So'o

The People vs Otabela Otabela Laurent, Prison Warder at the Mbalmayo Prison, accused of murder. On 11 December 2005 five Prison Warders, who were informed that Nkoulou Patrice who had escaped from the Main Prison, Mbalmayo the previous day, had been spotted down town attempting to leave, went for his arrest. They took him to the police post where the accused pulled out a knife from his pocket and stabbed Otabela. As a result of the ensuing confusion caused by the fight between the two men, Otabela seized a gun and weary of dissuading Nkoulou Patrice, shot and killed him. By Judgment No. 63/CRIM of 2 July 2007, the Court reclassified the charge to assault occasioning death, convicted and sentenced the accused, who was remanded in custody, to 3 years imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 200,000. Otabela appealed against the decision on 2 July 2007.

3- Court of Appeal, East Province

CFI Batouri

- The People vs Teague Pierre, Treasurer, prosecuted for oppression. He was found not guilty and acquitted for want of evidence;
- The People vs Yimane Arsene Julien, Financial Controller at the Treasury, Batouri, prosecuted for refusal to render service. He was found not guilty and acquitted for want of evidence;

- The People vs Bouleu Pierre, Mekouaki Jean Bosco and Mbaitoudji Samuel, all civil servants of the police force. They were prosecuted respectively for false arrest, misappropriation, conditional threat, and defamation. By Judgment of 20 March 2008, they were convicted and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 200,000 each. Arrest and imprisonment warrants were issued against the convicts.

4) Court of Appeal, Littoral Province

CFI and HC Edea and Sanaga Maritime

- The People and Nonga Dieudonne vs Biten Andre and Mbom Guillaume, Traditional Leader, prosecuted for oppression, provided for under Section 140 of the Penal Code (PC)¹⁴;
- The People and Njangui Joseph vs Bassang Joseph, gendarme officer, prosecuted for oppression, an offence provided for under Section 140 of the PC;
- The People and Bang Gilles vs Ngatchou Joseph, Squadron Sergeant-Major, prosecuted for oppression, provided under Section 140 of the PC¹⁵;
- The People and Ngo Ndoung Helene vs Mvondo Foe Emmanuel (L) and Mukete Joseph (L), prosecuted for accessory in oppression and indulgence provided for under Section 140 of the PC¹⁶;
- The People and Njangui Joseph vs Bassang Joseph, gendarme, prosecuted for oppression. The matter is pending.

CFI and HC Nkongsamba and Moungo

- The People vs Batchami Guy Bertrand and Others, Police Constable, prosecuted for false arrest and assault. This matter is pending;
- The People and Assale Koule Benjamin and Others vs Kana Pierre, teacher prosecuted for oppression, defamation and abuse. He was convicted and sentenced by Judgment No. 7766/COR of 8 March 2007;
- The People vs Aboubakar and Abessolo Alain Didier, tax inspector, (CDI

¹⁴ The last known date of adjournment is 25/3/08.

¹⁵ The matter was withdrawn from the Court on 11/9/07 on ground of pendencte lite.

¹⁶ The last known date of adjournment is 25/3/08.

Mbanga), tax collector (CDI Mbanga) respectively, prosecuted for oppression¹⁷. This matter is pending;

- The People vs Kana Pierre, Principal, Government High School, Dibombari, prosecuted for oppression. On 16 March 2007, he was found not guilty and acquitted;
- The People vs Songa Daniel, Village Head of Mpoula, Mpenja, prosecuted for accessory in arrest, false arrest, aggravated theft and fraudulent retention¹⁸.

5) Court of Appeal, North Province

CFI, Garoua:

- The People vs NGWAN Austin, Assistant Superintendent of Police, prosecuted for assault¹⁹;
- The People vs TOUBOUNA, Police Constable, prosecuted for oppression and theft, committed in the night of 8 to 9 August 2006;

6) Court of Appeal, North West Province

CFI, Bamenda

- The People vs EPANDA Richard, Assistant Superintendent of Police, prosecuted for assault, convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 100,000 and damages of CFA 343,643;
- The People vs BELOMO Joseph, Police Constable, prosecuted for assault, acquitted by judgment of 19 October 2007;
- The People vs MINKOULOU ESSOMBA, Police Constable, prosecuted for assault, acquitted on 22 December 2007.

¹⁷ The last known date of adjournment is 12/8/08.

¹⁸ The last known date of adjournment is 24/6/08.

¹⁹ The matter was adjourned to 8 January 2008 for identification of the accused.

7) Court of Appeal, West Province

CFI Bafang

The People vs Moualeu N. Daniel, Paramount Chief of Bayon, prosecuted for false arrest. He was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and ordered to pay damages of CFA 5,000,000;

CFI Bafoussam

- The People vs Simeu Mathieu, Gendarme Officier, prosecuted for conditional threats and attempted extortion of signature. At the hearing of 22 August 2007, he was found not guilty and acquitted for lack of evidence;
- The People vs Simo Fotso, Land Registrar, prosecuted for refusal to render service and oppression. At the hearing of 11 July 2007, she was found not guilty and acquitted for want of evidence;
- The People vs Mbou Samuel, Government Delegate of the City Council, Bafoussam, prosecuted for refusal to render service, favouritism and oppression. The matter is pending.

CFI Dschang

- The People vs Ngoua Elembe Hiop Patema, Vougmo Djua Magloire and Ngongang, respectively Legal Expert, Bailiff and Bailiff's collaborator, charged with oppression, forgery, attempted misrepresentation, destruction, theft, indulgence, fraudulent retention and accessory. This matter is under preliminary inquiry;
- The People vs Vougmo Djua Magloire, Bailiff, prosecuted for oppression and accessory. This matter is pending before the trial court;
- The People vs Squadron Sergeant Njukang Aloysious, prosecuted for assault. This matter is pending before the trial court;
- The People vs Mbia Abbe Francois and Djambou Pascal, respectively Divisional Head of Taxes and Tax Collector, charged with oppression and accessory. This matter is under preliminary inquiry;

- The People vs Nkenlifack Marius, Djoumessi Wambo Mathias and Ngueguim André respectively dethroned Paramount Chief, Second Class Traditional Leader and Bailiff, charged with theft, oppression, invasion of residence, destruction and abuse. This matter is under preliminary inquiry.

8) Court of Appeal, South Province

CFI Ambam

- The People vs NTOUSSI Cuvier, sales agent, OYIE Fabien and VOULA EVINA both police officers. The former was accused of oppression and the latter of invasion of residence, abuse and accessory. At the hearing of 24 December 2007²⁰, they were found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 8 months imprisonment, suspended for 3 years and ordered to pay damages and costs of CFA 500,000 .

CFI Ebolowa

- The People and Ayissi Messi vs OLAMA Laurent and Ambellie Zaharie, police officers, prosecuted for torture. At the hearing of 18 April 2007, they were found guilty, convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment, suspended for three years and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 50,000 each as well as damages of CFA 2,425, 000.

CFI Kribi

- The People vs NLEND Phillipe, GODJE and ONDOUA, bailiff and gendarmes respectively, accused of oppression, indulgence. The court declined jurisdiction and declared itself incompetent to entertain the civil claim;
- The People vs Monessamane Francis Joel, police officer, accused of attempted false pretences, oppression and false arrest. During the hearing of 21 February 2008²¹, he was found not guilty and costs awarded against the civil party .

²⁰ The judgment was appealed against.

²¹ About 3,846.15 euros.

HC, Mvila

- The People and Eboulou Abang Ndo Marlyse vs Aboulou Alain Marcel and Others, Marine Officer, prosecuted for accessory. At the hearing of 3 May 2007, he was found not guilty and acquitted for lack of evidence.

HC, Ocean Division

- The People vs Chief Prison Warder MANI ESSAMA Bienvenu Joseph, Warders KEMNANG NANA Jules Hubert and AOUDOU Ibrahim KOSSINGO. The persons concerned were remanded in custody on 25 January 2006 and are prosecuted for torture, murder and accessory before the HC, Ocean Division. As a result of violence, with the help of a baton, on the detainee, BOKALLY Jean, who was chained by the above named, the former was taken to hospital. He later died because of the injuries sustained. By judgment No. 28/CRM of 28 September 2007, MANI ESSAMA Bienvenu was found guilty of torture and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment while the two other accused were found guilty of accessory in torture and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment each and damages of CFA 2,500,000²² each.

9) Court of Appeal, South West Province

HC Fako

- The People vs Tang Enow Lawrence, Superintendent of Police, prosecuted and acquitted for capital murder. The decision was appealed against.

CFI, Buea

- The People vs Solomon Dibongue Ebwea, Police Constable, prosecuted for destruction. This matter is pending;
- The People vs Awan Roland, Inspector of Police, prosecuted for dangerous activities. This matter is pending;

²² About 4,000 Euros

CFI Tiko

- The People vs Chenzemba Elie, Warrant Officer, 1st Class of the Gendarmerie, prosecuted for assault and disturbance. This matter is pending.

CFI Ndian

- The People vs Ndzoga Celestine, Brigade Commander, prosecuted for misappropriation;
- The People vs Ngonjo Collins, Police Officer, prosecuted for torture. This matter is pending;
- The People vs Kumzi Joseph, Police Officer and Others, prosecuted for torture and indulgence. This matter is pending.
- The People vs Ngenso Maurice (MDLC²³) and Londo Zachary (GM) prosecuted for torture. The matter is pending; and
- The People vs Warrant Officer Tchikoua and Others, prosecuted for assault. The matter is pending.

B- Military Tribunals

Military Tribunal, Yaounde

- The People vs Guidembe Membeke (soldier) and Benson Doh (Sergeant), prosecuted for violence on a subordinate and assault. By Judgment No. 28/7 of 15 March of 2007, they were convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 25, 000 with costs;
- The People vs Ayissi Atangana (Squadron Sergeant-Major), prosecuted for false arrest. By Judgment No. 15/7 of 10 April 2007, he was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and ordered to pay costs;
- The People vs Matoumb Jean Marc (Gendarme Major) Kouamou Sep-long William (Gendarme Major), prosecuted for false arrest. By Judgment No. 45/7 of 10 April 2007, Matoumb was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of

²³ Squadron Sergeant-Major. See 2006 Report, Chapter 5, Right to Fair Trial, pp. 59-64

- CFA 200,000 with costs. Kouamou Seplong was convicted and sentenced to 6 years imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 25,000 with costs;
- The People vs Foula Robert, Private, prosecuted for violence on a superior and violation of instructions. By Judgment No. 71/7 of 7 June 2007, he was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment with costs;
 - The People vs Nyangono Georges (Squadron Sergeant-Major), Ngue Basson (GM) and Sintat Joseph (GM), prosecuted for assault and violation of instructions. By Judgment No. 76/7 of 12 June 2007, the accused were found guilty; Nyangono was ordered to pay a fine of CFA 75,000 with costs; Ngue Bassong was convicted and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment with costs; and Sintat to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of CFA 200,000;
 - The People vs Atangana Douma (Warrant officer), Otabela Bessala (Warrant officer), and Edzoa Cyrille (Squadron Sergeant-Major), prosecuted for assault. By Judgment No. 88/7 of 13 June 2007, they were found guilty, convicted and ordered to pay costs;
 - The People vs Okombo Octave (Squadron Sergeant-Major), and Eloundou Vincent (Squadron Sergeant-Major), prosecuted for oppression and false arrest. By Judgment No. 105/7 of 27 June 2007, the accused were found guilty, convicted and ordered to a fine of CFA 75,000 each with costs;
 - The People vs Ayissi Atangana (Squadron Sergeant-Major), and Ngoa Kalga Christine (civilian), prosecuted for false pretences, accessory in false arrest and assault. By Judgment No. 148/7 of 9 October 2007, they were found guilty. Ayissi was convicted and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and Kalga convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 100,000 with costs;
 - The People vs Guipougoui Guy Christian (Chief Sergeant), prosecuted for resistance, illegal detention of a gun and assault. By Judgment No. 211/7 of 6 December 2007, he was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment with costs;
 - The People vs Sayou Patrice (Squadron Sergeant-Major), and Ambassa Jean Donatien (Warrant officer), prosecuted for invasion of residence,

oppression and false arrest. By Judgment No. 217/7 of 11 December 2007, Sayou was convicted and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of CFA 100,000 and cost;

- The People vs Baonog Adolphe (Squadron Sergeant-Major), Nken Kouo Jean (Gendarme Major), and Njikam Amidou (Gendarme Major), prosecuted for false arrest. By Judgment No. 230/7 of 13 December 2007, they were found guilty of false arrest and fraudulent retention. Nken Kouo was ordered to pay a fine of CFA 4,000 while Njikam was convicted and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, ordered to pay a fine of CFA 25,000 and a bench warrant issued against him;
- The People vs Enam Ongot Michel (Private), prosecuted for murder. By Judgment No. 232/7 of 13 December 2007, he was found guilty, convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 50,000 with costs.

Military Tribunal, Garoua

- The People vs Saliou Saidou, S/C, prosecuted for assault. By Judgment No.2/7 of 11 June 2007, he was convicted and sentenced to 7 months imprisonment;
- The People vs Epoh Din Emmanuel (Sergeant), prosecuted for oppression. By Judgment No. 3/7 of 11 June 2007, he was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 10,000;
- The People vs Manase Nkwandah (Sergeant), prosecuted for assault. By Judgment No. 8/7 of 11 June 2007, he was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 50,000;
- The People vs Okala Charles Alain (Gendarme), prosecuted for assault and violence; convicted and sentenced to 2 years military confinement;
- The People vs Sambolong Theodore (Corporal), prosecuted for threat. By Judgment No. 27/7 of 12 August 2007, he was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA200,000;
- The People vs Nkolo Etambe (Sergeant), Wounehewou Nsoundjondi (Sergeant), Abba Marcel (Lance Corporal), and Bouba Emile (Lance Corporal), prosecuted for assault occasioning death. By Judgment No. 46/7 of 27 September 2007, they were convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 50,000 each and CFA 4,000,000 as damages;

- The People vs Mamat Adoum (Lance Corporal), prosecuted for assault. By Judgment No. 64/7 of 12 November 2007, he was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 200,000;
- The People vs Adjia Bone (Corporal), and Bgam (Squadron Sergeant-Major), prosecuted for assault. By Judgment No. 73/7 of 6 January 2007, they were convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 25,000 each, and CFA 750,000 as damages;
- The People vs Mediko Sona (Squadron Head), prosecuted for assault. By Judgment No.75/7 of 6 December 2007, he was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 150,000;
- The People vs Bole Arsene (Sergeant), prosecuted for assault occasioning death. By Judgment No. 36/7 of 13 June 2007, he was convicted and sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and ordered to pay damages of CFA 282,168.

Military Tribunal, Bafoussam

- The following matters were pending before this tribunal:
- The People vs Awono Kede (Warrant Officer), prosecuted for oppression, indulgence, false pretences and aggravated misappropriation;
- The People vs Ongolo Ekasi (Gendarme Major), prosecuted for false pretences and accessory;
- The People vs Kube David Ofon (Warrant Officer), prosecuted for accessory in escape;
- The People vs Gendarme Officers Minlo Owoudou Casimir, Ousseni Gomse, Mouyouri, Balandi, Nimpa Leopold, and Ndon Livingston, prosecuted for assault, oppression, false arrest and accessory;
- The People vs Kandja Fabien (Warrant Officer), prosecuted for misappropriation and oppression;
- The People vs Ebongue Francis (Warrant Officer), and Ayoudjam Bernard (Squadron Sergeant-Major), prosecuted for oppression and indulgence;
- The People vs Ongolo Ekasi Jean Claude (Gendarme Major), and Mba-poundou Jean Frederic (Gendarme), prosecuted for false arrest, fraudulent retention, destruction, theft and assault;
- The People vs Squadron Sergeants Bell Benoit and Yakeu Jean, prosecuted for false arrest and violation of instructions;

- The People vs Mbeti Dieudonné Valentin (Squadron Sergeant), prosecuted for oppression, misappropriation and breach of rules relating to the conduct of a preliminary inquiry;
- The People vs Eboka Michael Itoe (Squadron Sergeant), prosecuted for misappropriation;
- The People vs Sama Tianop Moses (Warrant Officer, 1st Class), prosecuted for false arrest;
- The People vs Bouba Derezou (Soldier), prosecuted for oppression and false arrest;
- The People vs Deffo Samuel (Warrant Officer, 1st Class), prosecuted for refusal to render service;
- The People vs Afoue Laurent (Gendarme), prosecuted for disobedience, contempt of superior and assault;
- The People vs Piata Gabriel (Warrant Officer), and Manga Maurice (Major Warrant Officer, 1st Class), prosecuted for favouritism;
- The People vs Abdou Ndjidda, Soldier, prosecuted for oppression, fraudulent retention;
- The People vs Egoro OLO Eugène (Warrant Officer, 1st Class), and Aliom (Squadron Sergeant), prosecuted for false arrest and misappropriation;
- The People vs Edzoa Angelbert (Squadron Sergeant-Major), prosecuted for contempt, attempted murder and destruction;
- The People vs Monchere Yacouba (Gendarme Major), prosecuted for oppression.

4) Military Tribunal, Buea

- The People vs Epale Jean Marie (Gendarme), prosecuted for false arrest and indulgence;
- The People vs Nzomo Ferdinand, (Commander), prosecuted for assault on a subordinate.

* *
*

32-There is a relentless fight against impunity. Besides Government determination, it requires, the effective involvement of different social stakeholders especially litigants and the civil society.

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

CHAPTER 2

RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
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33- Guaranteeing the right to fair trial largely depends on a mastery of the rule of law applicable by both professionals and citizens. Thus, after the adoption of the CPC, said to be revolutionary, and its wide publication in 2006, there was need to halt and take stock of its legal application for the protection of the fundamental rights of persons prosecuted. As such, legal and material obstacles likely to hamper its full application were examined by Heads of Court of Appeal at their annual meeting. The coming into force of this law further required attendant measures notably at the level of the Ministry of Justice and the General Delegation for National Security, the two institutions directly concerned with guaranteeing the right to fair trial. Furthermore, two tribal confrontations were registered in Bali, North West Province between two neighbouring communities: Bali-Nyonga and Bawock. The matter is pending before the court .

Section 1: CPC Application one Year After its Coming into Force

34- One of the main focuses of the meeting of Heads of Court of Appeal convened on 16, 17, 18 and 19 October 2007 was the application of the CPC. This choice was dictated by the fact that in spite of the vast popularisation campaign both at the central and local levels,²⁴ the coming into force of this new legal instrument faced a lot of difficulties of adaptation and understanding such that it is necessary to pause and make suggestions. Through exposés, participants brought out general clarifications on some issues.

§1: Presentations

35- The following issues were examined at the meeting:

- conditional bail;
- trial;
- execution of court decisions in criminal matters; and

- The impact of the implementation of the CPC in the management of prisoners.

A- Conditional Bail

36- The exposé on this theme showed that litigants must be well informed of the possibility of being granted bail either by paying a deposit or by presenting a surety.

37- Where a person is granted bail by payment of a deposit, he must guarantee his appearance before the court and where necessary, payment of costs of proceedings and possible repartitions.

38- Besides, one person may stand as surety for another person to guarantee his appearance before the courts. In this case, the surety is bound to bring the person on bail; otherwise, he assumes the responsibility. However, the surety may at any moment withdraw his surety. In this case, the defendant is bound to bring another surety; otherwise, he is immediately remanded in custody.

39- As concerns the second part, the conditions for conditional bail differ according to whether the person is detained temporarily or his sentence has become final.

40- Participants at the meeting suggested that the presentation of personalities as sureties and who, by their social status cannot be easily substituted for the detainees in case of failure to appear, be cancelled. They further suggested that the deposit take into account the personality of the detainee, costs involved and the prejudice suffered by the victim so as to protect the interests of all the parties concerned.

B- The Trial

41- Participants agreed that in accordance with the practice in the English-speaking part of the country, a court decision delivered in criminal matters must not necessarily be read in two phases. In the same way, they held that it is improper to adjourn a matter for determination on the civil interests or the sentence. The draft judgment should be signed after a full reading of the decision, but only the verdict should be entered in the extract of minutes.

C- Execution of Court Decisions

42- After the presentation of this exposé, it was noted that Sections 401 and 556 of the CPC provide for mention of costs in all court decisions and the notification of a copy thereof before any execution of a pecuniary award.

43- However, participants remarked that the decision may not be materially available at the time of its delivery, for it must be typed and signed. As concerns the risks of violation of the secret of deliberations that may result therefrom, they suggested that the decision be temporarily executed on the basis of an imprisonment warrant. Consequently, they agreed that during trial, the registrar should forward a statement of expenses to the judge to enable him to easily calculate the costs during delivery of the decision.

44- They further stressed that appeal by the Legal Department does not suspend the immediate execution of release orders. However, the Examining Magistrate or trial Magistrate must ensure the strict respect of the provisions of the law prohibiting delinquents liable to life imprisonment or death penalty from benefiting from such measures.

D- Impact of the Enforcement of the CPC in the Management of Detainees

45- Penitentiary Administration constitutes one of the links in the criminal justice chain.

46- With the adoption of the CPC, officials of Penitentiary Administration now have a change of behaviour and have harmonised the following practices in prisons:

- installation of post of officer of the week in many prisons;
- the setting up of a new organisation for the execution of production warrants;
- opening of special registrars in most prisons for the transcription of appeals before the Supreme Court and other appeals; and
- extension of the drawing up by warders, of monthly statistics of detainees for Legal Departments.²⁵

47- The new duty of prisons is to prepare convicts for social reinsertion,²⁶ and this calls for the following:

- changes in training and amendment of rules and regulations governing Penitentiary Administration staff;
- increase in material means and infrastructure; and
- appropriate amendment of laws and regulations.

§ 2: Answers to General Questions

48- Participants at the Heads of Court of Appeal meeting examined legal issues relating to the application of the CPC . In addition to the solutions provided, worthy of note is the Supreme Court's interpretation of some provisions of the said Code.

²⁵ To implement these measures, Government, in the 2008 fiscal year, allocated CFA 10,000,000 (about 15,385 Euros) to the Department of Penitentiary Administration for the purchase of material for prison registries (Jail Log, Jail file jackets, fingerprints cards).

²⁶ Read Chapter on Detention Conditions.

A- Suggestions of Heads of Court of Appeal

49- On the whole, the following clarifications were made to quell the worries of the participants:

- 1) The court may, at any time, of its own motion, or on the application of one of the parties and after the submissions of the Legal Department rule that proceedings be held in camera where public hearing is repugnant to public order or morality. In any case, judgment shall be delivered in public (Section 302 of CPC).
- 2) A leading question is any question suggesting the answer to the person questioned (Section 380 of CPC).
- 3) The accused may at any time change his mind from « *plead not guilty* » to plead « *guilty* » and when the court so accepts (Section 369 of CPC).
- 4) As concerns judgment, the Judge may either adjourn the matter for further hearing or adjourn it for judgment in the next fifteen (15) days (Section 388 of CPC).
- 5) The trial Judge may not disallow the withdrawal by a civil claimant of his claim, all the more as such withdrawal does not bar his right to claim damages before a civil court (Section 70 following, and Section 386 of CPC).
- 6) The CPC henceforth prescribes the keeping of case files in the registry of the court. The State Counsel cannot, therefore, have them in his possession or even withdraw documents from them (Sections 432, 445, 474, 479, 481, 484, 488, 499, 500 and 531 of CPC).
- 7) The civil claimant is a prosecution witness. Therefore, he, like all the other parties in the matter, may be subjected to “*cross-examination*” (Section 375 of CPC).
- 8) In criminal matters, the High Court may only be seized by a committal order of the Examining Magistrate or by a ruling of the Inquiry Control Chamber.
- 9) The CPC has repealed the former definition of crimes committed *flagrante delicto*.

- 10)** Pursuant to Section 365(3) of the CPC, the absence of evidence is a ground for discharge or acquittal of the accused.
- 11)** Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 361 and 388 of the CPC, hearing shall be closed after the submissions of the Legal Department, addresses of Counsel and the final statement of the accused. Consequently, hearing is closed before the court finds the accused guilty and delivers the verdict.
- 12)** The judgment shall be read entirely during the delivery of the verdict (Section 388 and following of CPC).
- 13)** The typed judgment is the one signed and a copy of which is issued for execution (Sections 405, 422, 471 and 529 (g) of CPC).
- 14)** The Court of Appeal entertains same jurisdiction as lower courts in matters of bail.
- 15)** Members of the public in the court hall shall refrain from manifesting approval or disapproval (Section 304 of CPC).
- 16)** The Legal Department shall effectively make its submissions on the applicable penalty after it has produced the criminal record of the accused (Section 361 of CPC).
- 17)** The Judge is neither bound by the submissions of the Legal Department nor the addresses. Assistance by Counsel for adults is optional in minor offences and obligatory in criminal matters. In criminal matters, where the accused does not brief Counsel, the court shall of its own motion assign one to him (Sections 352, 413, 417 and 518 of CPC). However, assistance is obligatory for minors (Section 719 of CPC).
- 18)** The Presiding Judge shall maintain order in court and the order shall apply to everyone without exception (Sections 304 and 305 of CPC).
- 19)** Only the Presiding Judge shall determine whether to adjourn a matter or not.
- 20)** The stage-out of a counsel from a court room without withdrawal from the case does not constitute an obstacle to proceedings, except where the person prosecuted expresses his will to brief some other counsel and where the briefing of counsel is obligatory (Section 352 of CPC).

- 21)** The Examining Magistrate shall forward the inquiry file to the State Counsel for action (Section 256(1) of CPC).
- 22)** The Court of Appeal is not bound to rehear the witnesses who had testified before the lower court. However, where one party applies for such witnesses to testify, the court shall justify its refusal (Section 451 of CPC).
- 23)** Where the accused pleads not guilty to some counts of the charge but guilty to others, the court shall proceed as if he had pleaded not guilty to all the counts, pursuant to Section 368 of CPC.
- 24)** No provision of the CPC prohibits a Judge from making an award on a date where a court session on criminal matters is not scheduled, considering that Courts have not been formally organised into chambers till date.
- 25)** No provision of the Criminal Procedure Code prohibits amendment of the charge where the matter is under deliberation. However, after annulment of the deliberations, the accused must be informed of the new charge before trial (Section 362 of CPC).
- 26)** The CPC does not prescribe any formality to the court for oath-taking. It simply defines the terms (Section 183 (2)).
- 50-** In addition to the high rate of recovery of fines and court costs, remand in custody was also stable.
- 51-** All the actors of the judicial chain should understand the spirit and letter of the Code which prescribe that freedom be the rule and detention the exception. As such the Examining Magistrate must, under pain of illegality, strictly respect time-limits prescribed in Section 221 of the CPC. However, although trial Judges are not bound by such time-limits, they must ensure diligent conduct of proceedings.
- 52-** Besides, the Ministry of Justice is invited to the drafting of a joint order to lay down conditions for the grading of Judicial Police Officers and accelerate the final drafting of instruments on the appointment of Assessors in matters of juvenile delinquency.

53- Participants further recalled that NGOs on Human Rights should not interfere in an untimely manner, with the control of gendarmerie and police charge offices. However, they may report human rights abuse to competent authorities. Conversely, the NCHRF whose duty is to serve the public may, with the assistance of the accused police and gendarmerie officers carry out all the necessary on-the-spot verification.

B- Contribution of the Supreme Court

54- The Supreme Court had occasion to establish case law in some aspects relating to the application of Law No. 2005/7 of 27 July 2005 on the CPC and notably, as concerns inquiry control and habeas corpus.

55- On inquiry control, the Supreme Court, Judgments No. 127/P and 128/P of 27 December 2007 (Barrister Gisèle Renée MBELLA Vs The People and SGBC; NANMOUJOU Jacob Vs The People and NGA MVOGO EFOULA) that *“an appeal lodged by a defendant against an inquiry control ruling is admissible for lack of quality.”*

56- As concerns the admissibility of an appeal, the Court held in Judgment No. 27/P of 9 April 2007 (The People and Douala Ports Authority Vs ETONDE EKOTTO Edouard Nathanael and others...that *« an appeal may only be lodged against a judgment [...] an extract of record cannot constitute a judgment [...], violation of the binding prescriptions of Section 443(1)(a) of the CPC cannot be covered by the permissive provisions of Section 449(3). »*

57- As concerns habeas corpus, the Supreme Court held in Judgment No. 28/P of 2 May 2007 (EKOLLO MOUNDI Alexandre Vs The People) that

“appeals in matters of habeas corpus lodged by unstamped reasoned application and [that] the competent court is the President of the Court of Appeal or any other Judge appointed by him [...]; the procedure of habeas corpus is not applicable in cases of arrest or detention as a result of a court warrant.”

58- The full application of the CPC requires not only a fair interpretation of the said Code but also a mobilisation of huge human and financial resources for concrete implementation of the many innovations contained therein.²⁷

Section 2 : Attendant Measures Made Necessary by the Application of the CPC

59- The entry into force of CPC caused new vacuums that authorities had to fill. Such needs, if met, will be considerable guarantee for the people as concerns defending their rights before law courts.

§1: Needs Relating to CPC Application

60- Heads of Court of Appeal pointed out the difficulties in interpreting the CPC, as well as those relating to the lack of human, financial and material resources.

61- On the whole, it was observed that in spite of Government effort, some basic needs had to be met to facilitate its implementation and fully meet the expectations of the people. As such, the Minister of Justice raised the need to:
- significantly increase judicial and Penitentiary Administration staff strength and improve on their training and refresher courses;²⁸

²⁷ According to Jean Louis Nadal, Procureur General at the *Cour de Cassation française* (Supreme Court of France) whose assertion is equally valid for Cameroon, “...any criminal reform must result to real budget impact...Of course, determining the budget impact is one of the essential points in the reform methodology...” in “Actes du cycle de conférences” *La procédure pénale en quête de cohérence* organized in Paris from 19 January to 22 June 2006 under the auspices of the Supreme Court of France, Paris, Dalloz, 2007, p. 68.

²⁸ The different competitive examinations and recruitment of registrars, copy-typists, Penitentiary Administration staff, and magistrates scheduled for 2008 aim at solving the problem.

- multiply and modernise court rooms and prisons;
- equip courts and prisons with computers and vehicles; and
- increase the budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Justice.²⁹

§2: NCHRF Concerns and Government's Reaction

A- NCHRF Concerns

62- The NCHRF, in its declaration of 19 October 2007, raised the problem of insecurity that causes irrational reaction from the population that usually resorts to jungle justice.³⁰ However, it limits this phenomenon only to the Littoral Province. As Government's adviser on Human Rights, the NCHRF recommends the following measures to Government in handling such problems and related issues:

- increase in the purchasing power;
- follow-up in the application of tax exemption measures on basic products;
- adoption of measures that aim at:
 - strengthening poverty reduction;
 - promoting job creation;
 - financing micro projects;
 - strengthening human rights promotion and protection institutions as well as institutions involved in governance and the fight against corruption;
- continuous sensitisation and education of forces of law and order, and their capacity building within the global framework of the fight against crime;
- continuous sensitisation of judicial actors and Penitentiary Administration staff on the need to strictly apply the laws of the Republic; and
- collaboration of the masses with a view to stamping out the phenomenon.

²⁹ For the 2008 financial year, CFA 23.089 billion was allocated as against CFA 14.143 billion for the 2007 financial year. CFA 3.8 billion was allocated to investment, and CFA 19.298 billion to recurrent budget votes.

³⁰ See 2006 Report, p. 55.

63- These proposals take into account the indivisibility or interdependence of human rights.

64- In the same declaration, NCHRF was further satisfied with “*efforts made by police and gendarmerie authorities through notably the setting up of proximity, police posts rapid intervention units, and the organisation of mixed patrol units in big towns*” and called on public authorities to further strengthen the security of persons and property.

65- Government took some measures to meet these concerns.

B- Government Reaction

66- Before delving into these actions, it is worthy to deplore the gravity and urgency of eradicating jungle justice, and the manslaughter of Fon Simon Vugah II by some individuals.

1- The phenomenon of Jungle Justice, and the Manslaughter of Fon Simon Vugah II by some Individuals

67- On 19 January 2006, Fon Simon Vugah II was beaten and burnt alive by a group of his subjects.

68- According to inhabitants of the village Fon Simon Vugah had for 20 years, installed vicious dictatorship in the village, and was the cause of it’s misfortune. He was alleged to have sold all the arable land to cattle rearers, and exposed the village to hunger.

69- The Fon who was forced to resign by the villagers is said to have submitted his resignation letter to the Senior Divisional Officer (SDO) of Mezam Division and later took up refuge in the Palace of the Fon of Mankon. Since 3 February 2004, he was considered to have abducted.

70- Vutsibuong Benjamin II, another native of the village working and residing in Yaounde was enthroned on 5 June 2004 to take over from him.

71- Fed up with his exile, Fon Simon Vugah II decided to return to his Palace on the night of 18 January 2006. The following day, he was led to the border of his village with Bambui and then assassinated.

72- The association of 21 Fons of North West denounced this barbaric act and public authorities reacted promptly, requesting the forces of law and order to carry out a visit to the locus in quo for investigations and arrest of suspects of the murder.

73- After the arrest of the first three (3) suspects, there was a serious confrontation between the forces of law and order and the villagers who were alerted by one Aloysius Gengeng, head of the rebellion, who attempted to resist his arrest. The forces of law and order suffered heavy losses: 6 elements of the forces of law and order were seriously wounded; Sub-Lieutenant Nya Gerald died in hospital.

74- Investigations continued and thirty one (31) persons were arrested, seven (7) of whom were involved in the murder of Sub-Lieutenant Nya Gerald. Aloysius Gengeng was equally arrested and remanded in custody.

75- Preliminary inquiry has ended and the matter is pending before the High Court, Mezam in Bamenda. It was adjourned for 6 March 2008.

Security Companies for Diplomats and Rapid Intervention Units

76- The General Delegation of National Security (DGSN) took measures to ensure freedom of movement of persons and goods. These measures comprise protection of the physical, corporal, and moral integrity of persons

and by extension guaranteeing persons suspected of violating criminal law, the right to fair trial by protecting them from jungle justice. These measures include the setting up of a Security Company for Diplomats **(a)**, and Rapid Intervention Units **(b)**.

a- Security Company for Diplomats (SCD)

77- On 14 September 2007, security was further strengthened with the setting up of the Security Company for Diplomats. Thus, *"pursuant to discussions with MINREX and considering the specific concerns of the Diplomatic Community, a Security Company for Diplomats has been set up."*³¹

78- The SCD that is strategically based in Bastos neighbourhood with a dense population of diplomats and persons ranking as such can be called at the toll free number 1 20. It further falls in line with the new initiatives to progressively equip police units and services, intensifying the war against criminality as well as bringing the police closer to the people. The SCD was set up after the installation of mobile police posts at some major roundabouts in main cities. In addition to the security aspect and dissuasive effect of the SCD, the following statistics show its involvement in the protection of individual rights, especially the right to life, physical and moral integrity as well as the right to own property. The statistics that do not include escorting diplomats and taking up guard at sensitive points stand as follows:

i- Protection of the Physical Integrity of Diplomats and Persons Ranking as such as well as Members of their Families: 90 cases

79- These interventions answered the many calls from the diplomatic community as concerns accidents, assaults, holdups, burglaries, threats, illnesses, misunderstandings and varying information.

³¹ Extract of the speech of the Delegate General of National Security on 14 September 2007 at the installation of the SCD.

ii- Protection of the Rest of the Population: 54 cases

80- These interventions concern reactions to distress calls made by the population. Some of such situations include accidents, assaults, holdups, burglaries, threats, illnesses, misunderstandings and various disagreements.

Special Rapid Intervention Units (ESIR)

81- ESIRs were set up to react instantly to attacks by gunmen. The Units that were initially based in Yaounde are progressively deployed to Provincial headquarters. The population is exhorted to fully collaborate with these Units to enable them to effectively guarantee their security. In fact, the success of these Units especially those already in the field depends on the full cooperation of the population that should give the exact location of their homes and stop making fanciful calls. The table below shows the difficulties the Units face as concerns the number of fanciful calls:

Total number of calls received in 2007 in absolute value:

Fanciful calls	148,381
Calls for information	6,162
Calls for intervention	972
Total	155,515
Successful interventions	715

Source: DGSN

Total number of call received in 2007 in relative value:

Fanciful calls	96.656%
Calls for information	4.166%
Calls for intervention	0.597%
Successful interventions	69.621%

Source: DGSN

82- A summary of the report based on the classification of offences recorded shows the difficulties relating to the right to life, physical and corporal integrity, as well as the right to fair trial.

Nature of offence	Number of cases recorded
Assault	1
Battery	34
Threat	10
Murder/assassination and attempt	4
Jungle justice	10
Rape	7

Source: DGSN

83- The number of persons freed from jungle justice by these Units shows that the right to fair trial should further be respected especially after the very serious event described in 2006.³²

³² See 2006 Report, Part I, Chapter 5 on Right to Fair Trial, p. 55 and following.

Section 3: Confrontations Between the Bali Nyonga and Bawock Communities in the North West Province

84- On 14 November 2006, the Fons³³ of Pinyin, Mbu and Bawock in Santa Subdivision, Mezam Division, North West Province wrote a letter to the SDO of Mezam appealing to him to plant boundary pillars between the villages of Bawock in Bali Subdivision, and Mbu and Pinyin in Santa Subdivision. The boundary demarcation was scheduled for 6 December 2006 in spite of appeal for postponement by the Fon of Bali to enable them to celebrate the "Lela," the Bali annual cultural festival. The noisy celebrations did not allow the administrative and traditional authorities to proceed with the demarcation.

85- It is worthy of note that Bawock is a village in Bali Subdivision where the inhabitants of Bawock, Bali-Nyonga, and Bosa live. The rest of the Subdivision is inhabited by the Bali-Nyonga. To go from downtown Bali to Mbu (Bafourchu), one must pass through Bawock and Mantum. Mantum is a village of Bali-Nyonga. Bawock has no territorial boundary with Mbu and Pinyin. Thus, Bawock is like a neighbourhood in Bali town.

86- In addition to the problem of demarcation of the villages, on 3 March 2007, while the Bali totem "VOMA JUJU" moved round the village to bless the land at the verge of the new rainy season, it was attacked and removed from its traditional bag in Mantum village by a former police officer of the Bawock community. The said police officer challenged the Fon of Bali by asking him to come in person and collect the said bag. The situation seemed under control but the fire set by some Bawock villagers on the Bali Palace Museum and houses exacerbated tension between the two communities. This second sacrilege gave rise to serious confrontation: Bawock Palace and property were looted, roads blocked and animals killed. No person was wounded or died during the confrontations that occurred in the night of 6 March 2007. Villagers escaped to neighbouring villages, Bamenda, and the esplanade of the Governor of the North West Province. Another version holds that in enforcement of the Head of State's Decree of 23 December 1977 to demarcate the boundary between Bawock and Bafurchu (Santa), the SDO of Mezam appointed a Commission to the field. The presence of the Commission is said to have brought about the discon-

³³ Name given to traditional rulers in the North West Province.

tent of the Bali-Nyonga people who resisted the operation by burning down the vehicle that was carrying the technicians' working material as well as the vehicle of the Fon of Bawock, Quioinon Nana Theodore III. Flyers were distributed ordering the Bawock to go back to the West Province where they came from. The flyers were followed by acts of vandalism, persecution, and extortion of foodstuffs. On 3 March 2007, a team of seven (7) persons left Bali for Mantum to perform the traditional rite. Instead of making a to-and-fro trip as is customary, the team took a short cut to Bawock Palace. On the basis of flyers that circulated before that the Bawock Palace was burnt down, the family of Limen Peter (a Municipal Councillor of Bali) intervened at the Palace. Word was sent to Bali and a band of about one thousand individuals invaded Bawock village. The Palace and nineteen (19) huts belonging to twelve (12) notables were burnt down, and Limen Peter and his children molested. On 4 and 5 March 2007, the Mayor of Bali visited the scene of action to appease the people but before his departure, the house of Limen Peter, one of his Councillors, caught fire. In the early hours of 6 March 2007, one of the bamboo huts of the Bali Palace caught fire. Thus the Bali are alleged to have invaded Bawock village accusing them of being of the authors of the said acts.

87- Initial investigations identified about 236 victims of physical violence and destruction. Detailed inquiries are ongoing to present facts and establish responsibilities. This conflict resulted in the displacement of a large number of persons to whom the Governor of the Northwest Province provided assistance.

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88- Guaranteeing the right to fair trial can only be effective with the collaboration of all citizens for, although the State should set up a proper legal framework, the civil society must support Government's efforts through sensitisation, while citizens understand the merits of respect of the rights of others. The popularisation of the CPC should not be left exclusively to Government that more than ever before, needs the support of other national and international partners³⁴ in its implementation for the benefit of all persons living under the jurisdiction of the State of Cameroon.

³⁴ The European Union within the framework of PACDET II championed this initiative.

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CHAPTER 3
FREEDOM OF
COMMUNICATION

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89- The judicial and institutional framework on freedom of communication put in place by Government³⁵ has favoured the boom of written and audiovisual press organs.

90- In 2007, the private audiovisual sector took a decisive turn with the effective issue of audiovisual licences to some press organs. However, this action which included promotion measures on press freedom was equally marked by a case of breach of press freedom.

Section 1: Promotion Measures

91- Promotion measures comprise the issue of audiovisual licences, the granting of authorization to practise, procedure and assistance to the private press.

§1: Issue of Audiovisual Licences

92- On 30 August 2007, the Minister of Communication issued four (4) licences to the following private audiovisual communication enterprises:

- Television: Canal 2 International and Spectrum Television (STV);
- Radio: Sweet FM; and
- Cabledistribution TV+ SA.

93- It should be mentioned that Decree No. 2000/158 of 3 April 2000 lays down the terms and conditions to set up and exploit private audiovisual communication enterprises. While waiting for its effective implementation, the sector is governed by a system dubbed « administrative tolerance». The Minister of Communication granted temporary authorization for the use of cables and frequencies for broadcast by some private audiovisual communication services on themes of general interest. This system prevailed until 2007 when the first audiovisual licences were issued.

³⁵ See pp. 81-94 of 2005 Report.

94- To obtain a licence, the sum of CFA100 million³⁶ for television and CFA50 million³⁷ for radio must be paid into the Public Treasury. The licence is valid for five (5) years renewable for radio with local coverage and ten (10) years for television. After the opinion of the National Communication Board, the Prime Minister, Head of Government signed four (4) orders. The licences were given to the beneficiaries during a ceremony presided by the Minister of Communication on Thursday, 30 August 2007.

95- The granting of licences allows for redressing the sector, offers many advantages such as the possibility of negotiating bank loans, buying programmes from suppliers and signing partnership contracts.

96- Besides, these press enterprises are required to ensure job security, regular payment of salaries and especially NSIF contributions.

§2. Authorisations to Advertising Agencies

97- In April 2007, the National Advertising Board held a meeting after which the following 87 authorizations were granted:

N°	NAMES OF STRUCTURES	ACTIVITIES	LOCALITIES
1-	GROUPE KIM	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
2-	PLANETE MEDIA	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
3-	ORIFLAME	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
4-	PUBLI-SERVICE	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
7-	EQUATEUR	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
8-	REVELATION SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
9-	OPINIONS MESURES MEDIAS MARKETING	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
10-	PUBLICIS-COM	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
11-	DJOUNGO ART	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
12-	EQUINOXE SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
13-	NATIONAL .COM	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE

³⁶ About 153,846.15 Euros.

³⁷ About 76,923.07 Euros.

14-	LIBERALIS	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
15-	CRTV MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION AGENCY (CMCA)	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
16-	MEGATOUR	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
17-	REGIE 2	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
18-	WORLD ADVERTISING BUSINESS	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
19-	SOPECAM MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
20-	OPTI MEDIA	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
21	ANNONCES ET PUBLICITES DU CAMEROUN APC-SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
22-	DIRECT MARKETING (DM)	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
23-	BETA CONSULTING	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
24-	FEINDIS	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
25-	ABM IMAGE ET STRATEGIES	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
26-	INNOVA –TRADE	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
27-	AGENDA	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
28-	TENDANCE	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
29-	ANYPOL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
30-	SAYONARA	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
31-	MEDIA TARGET	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
32-	MEDIA.COM	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
33-	HARMONY	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
34-	PYRAMID	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
35-	IMMA SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
36-	GLOBAL OUTDOOR SYSTEMS	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
37-	SUPPORTS ET MEDIA	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
38-	CAMEROUN-PUBLI-EXPANSION	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
39-	MEDIA-PLUS	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
40	POSEIDON	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
41-	AGENCE PUBLIC	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
42-	OMNIUM DES SERVICES DU LITTORAL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
43-	ON AIR CAMEROUN	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
44-	AFRIQUE MEDIA-CONCEPT-EDITION (AMCE)	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
45-	AMOC	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA

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46-	EXCEL COMMUNICATION LIMITED	ADVERTISING AGENCY	BAMENDA
47-	SACIA SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	BAFOUSSAM
48-	LA GARANTIE SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	NKONGSAMBA
49	MOSAIC COMMUNICATION NETWORK	ADVERTISING AGENCY	BAMENDA
50-	PROCOM	ADVERTISING AGENCY	GAROUA
51-	ADEQUATE	ADVERTISING AGENCY	SANGMELIMA
52-	AFRI-PUB INTERNATIONAL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	LIMBE
53-	C QUEST SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
54-	IMAGE CAMEROUN	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
55-	CS CONTACT LIVRE D'OR	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
56-	EXCELLENCE	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
57-	JBO CONNECTION	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
58-	AFRIQUE PLURIEL SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
57-	CITY PUB SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
58-	DIRECT SUD CONSULTING	ADVERTISING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
59-	GRAPHIC INDUSTRIE	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
60-	SPECTRUM ADVERTISING	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
61-	CAM COM INC	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
62-	EXPRESSION-PUB SARL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
63-	EXHIBIT INTERNATIONAL	ADVERTISING AGENCY	DOUALA
64-	PIONEER CORPORATION AGENCE	ADVERTISING AGENCY	BAFOUSSAM
65-	E2C SARL	COUNSELLING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
66-	JAMA CONSEIL	COUNSELLING AGENCY	YAOUNDE
67-	INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION GROUP (ICG)	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
68-	TENDANCE SCENIC	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
69-	VOODOO COMMUNICATION	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
70-	OCEAN CENTRAL AFRICA	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
71-	NELSON CAMEROUN	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
72-	ASCESE	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
73-	D-B EXIT INTERNATIONAL	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
74-	UNKNOWN-AD	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
75-	PRESTIGE AFRIQUE RISO	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA

76-	ZEBRA .COM	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
77-	B&C COMMUNICATION	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
78-	MW MARKETING SERVICES	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
79-	SPECTRUM OUTDOORS	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
80-	SPECTRUM	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
81-	ASHANTI COMMUNICATION	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
82-	MCCANN ERICKSON	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
83-	MEKIS	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
86-	ACCENT.COM	COUNSELLING AGENCY	DOUALA
87-	D R M M A R K E T I N G CONSULTANTS	COUNSELLING AGENCY	YAOUNDE

Source: MINCOM

§3: Public Assistance to Private Communication

98- On Friday, 7 December 2007, the National Commission for the Examination of Applications for Public Assistance to Private Communication held a meeting in the Ministry of Communication.

99- This meeting was marked by the decision of the Head of State to increase the assistance package from CFA 150 to CFA 250 million³⁸.

100- At the end of deliberations, 106 files were approved and the distribution done as follows:

- 65 written press enterprises including especially two dailies;
- 1 television;
- 6 commercial radios;
- 17 community radios;
- 4 audiovisual producers;
- 4 printing presses;
- 6 professional organisations;
- 1 global communication agency; and
- 2 cybernetic press enterprises.

³⁸ That is from about 230,769. 23 to 384,615.38 Euros.

101- The following Table provides details on the identity of beneficiaries:

N°	Names of Beneficiary Organs
Special Support	
1	CONSEIL CAMEROUNAIS DES MEDIAS
2	MAISON DE LA COMMUNICATION
3	FORMATION ET RECYCLAGE DES JOURNALISTES
4	COMMISSION DE LA CARTE DE PRESSE
5	COMMISSION D'ELABORATION DE LA CONVENTION COLLECTIVE DES JOURNALISTES
Written Press	
1	LABEL
2	LES NOUVELLES DU PAYS
3	DIAPASON
4	LE JOUR
5	L'INDEPENDANT
6	LE PELERIN
7	LA VOIX DU SUD
8	CAM.NEWS
9	LE FINANCIER D'AFRIQUE
10	LA TRIBUNE DU NKAM
11	ZENITH INFO MAGAZINE
12	THE NATION
13	AFRIQUE MATIN
14	ANAGSAMA
15	LE CONSTAT
16	L'INDIC
17	EDEN NEWSPAPER
18	CRISES ET SOLUTIONS
19	LA TRIBUNE DU CAMEROUN
20	AGENDA 7
21	THE HERALD
22	TEMPETE DU RENOUVEAU
23	AFRICA EXPRESS
24	LE JOURNAL DE L'ECONOMIE
25	HERAULT NATIONAL
26	L'ANECDOTE
27	PROSPECTIVE NOUVELLE
28	LE NOUVEAU MONDE
29	THE HORIZON
30	L'INDICATEUR
31	LA PAIX
32	DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE
33	PILE OU FACE
34	LE JEUNE ENQUETEUR
35	VISION D'AFRIQUE
36	L'AVOCAT
37	LE NOUVEL OBJECTIF
38	LA METEO
39	DEPECHE DU CAMEROUN
40	REPERES
41	LA NOUVELLE VISION
42	CITY TIME
43	AGIR INFOS
44	CAMEROUN MAGAZINE
45	LA UNE
46	LE REVEIL HEBDO

47	LA LUMIERE
48	ENVOYE SPECIAL
49	THE GUARDIAN POST
50	L'EQUATORIAL
51	GENERATION LIBRE
52	L'EVEIL REPUBLICAIN
53	MEDIA NETWORK CO.
54	LE NOUVEAU FRONT
55	LE PELICAN
56	LIBERATION PLUS
57	ZOK HEBDO
58	ESPERANCE SANTE
59	L'OUEST REPUBLICAIN
60	TRIBUNE TROPICALE
61	LE TENOR DE L'INFORMATION
62	LE CONTINENT
63	ORIENTATIONS HEBDO
64	ASPECT INFOS
65	LA NOUVELLE EXPRESSION
Commercial Radios	
66	EDEN RADIO
67	SATELLITE FM
68	LAGIC FM
69	HOT COCOA FM
70	DYNAMIC FM
71	RADIO TIEMENI SIANTOU
Community Radios	
72	RADIO COLOMBE
73	RADIO DU NOUN
74	RADIO BONNE NOUVELLE
75	RADIO NKA FM
76	FEMMES FM
77	RADIO SALAMAN
78	RADIO SAVA FM
79	ODAMA FM
80	NKUL BININGA
81	RADIO MEDUMBA
82	RADIO DE LA MVILA
83	RADIO SOLEIL
84	RADIO JEUNESSE
85	RADIO YEMBA
86	RADIO EQUATORIALE
87	RADIO SITE STAR
88	RADIO BON BERGER
Printing Presses	
89	GUARDIAN PRESS
90	CAMTEPH
91	MVOMBERG
92	HIGH TECH.HOUSE
Professional Organisations	
93	GROUPES DES PRESSES INDEPENDANTES DU CAMEROUN
94	ASSOCIATION CAMEROUNAISE DES EDITEURS DE PRESSE
95	SYNDICAT NATIONAL DES JOURNALISTES EMPLOYES DU CAMEROUN
96	ASSOCIATION DES PROFESSIONNELS ET AUXILIAIRES DE LA PRESSE DU CAMEROUN
97	CLUB DES ANALYSTES POLITIQUES DU CAMEROUN
98	ASSOCIATION DE JOURNALISTES ET COMMUNICATEURS INDEPENDANTS D'AFRIQUE CENTRALE

Producers	
99	VIDEO PRO
100	INTER VILLAGE AFRIQUE
101	MOVAL COMMERCIAL ENTREPRISE
102	AGENCE AFRICAINE D'INFORMATION ET DE COMMUNICATION
Television	
103	ARIANE TV
Cybernetic Press	
104	FRONTIERE D'AFRIQUE INFO
105	ONLINE INQUIRER
Global Communication	
106	FORUM MEDIA

Source: MINCOM

102- In spite of these promotion actions, there were cases of alleged violation of freedom of communication.

Section 2: Breach of Press Freedom

103- Two cases should be mentioned: the reminder of cases relating to the publication of lists and the case involving the journalist Georges Gilbert BAONGLA.

§1: Cases on the Publication of Lists

104- In the previous Report, cases arising from the publication by journalists of the written press of lists of presumed homosexuals and the wealthy were evoked with the peculiarity that they ended with sentences³⁹.

105- It is worth mentioning that other cases that were prosecuted ended with a decision of lack of jurisdiction *ratione loci*.

- In *The People and Polycarpe ABAH ABAH vs/ Michel Michaut MOUS-SALA*, Journalist, Managing Director, the accused was sued for defamation. By Judgment of 23 March 2006, the Court declared its lack of jurisdiction for want of evidence on advertising;

³⁹ §§ 151-155.

- In *The People and BABALE née NYA DJIMILA vs Michel Michaut MOUSSALA*, Journalist, Managing Director, the accused was sued for defamation. By judgment of 23 March 2006, the Court declared its lack of jurisdiction for want of evidence on advertising;
- In *The People and BABALE née NYA DJIMILA vs MANDIO Peter Williams*, Journalist, Managing Director, the accused was sued for defamation. By judgment of 23 March 2006, the Court declared its lack of jurisdiction for want of evidence on advertising

106- Apart from these cases, it is worth emphasising on another one that attracted national and international attention.

§2: Georges Gilbert BAONGLA

107- In 2007, the arrest of the journalist Georges Gilbert BAONGLA, considered an alleged violation of freedom of the press, was brought to the knowledge of the Ministry of Justice as well as the national and international community. In fact, by a letter of 22 August 2007, to the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, the committee for the liberation of the person concerned stated that the national and international communities observe that *GEORGES GILBERT BAONGLA has been illegally detained*. It should be noted that he is the only journalist currently in prison in Cameroon for professional reasons and that this extremely illegal detention is a breach of the new CPC.

108- The facts and procedures in these cases, given that in reality there are two cases, explain this issue. In fact, the journalist was involved in two distinct procedures.

109- In execution of a production warrant by the State Counsel of the Court of First Instance, Administrative Centre, Yaounde, GEORGES GILBERT

BAONGLA was arrested on 7 April 2007 by officers of the Provincial Division of the Judicial Police, Centre Province. He was referred to the said Legal Department on 10 April 2007 and charged with obscene publications and corruption of morals provided for under Sections 74, 264 and 265⁴⁰ of the PC as evidenced by the interrogation report at the Legal Department, of that same day, relating to flagrante delicto.

110- On 9 May 2007, the CFI found BAONGLA not guilty of corruption of morals but guilty of obscene publications. He was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, suspended for three years, and a fine of CFA 500, 000.

111- While in prison, the Legal Department served him a warrant of arrest on 17 April 2007, issued on 20 September 2006, after a final judgment delivered by the CFI, Administrative Centre, Yaounde in respect of a petition of 2 February 2006 submitted by GUEYE AHMADOU BAMBA against NDOM BETTY Joseph Aurélien, his collaborator.

112- In this matter, Georges Gilbert BAONGLA was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 60,000 for complicity in false pretence committed with NDOM BETTY Joseph, who was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 80,000. Georges Gilbert BAONGLA was involved because as Managing Director of the newspaper « LE DEMENTI », he wanted GUEYE to pass for a journalist of this press organ to enable him, for a fee, obtain a Span-

⁴⁰ Section. 264 : « Whoever-

a) Publicly utters any immoral song, cry or speech ; or

b) Draws the attention of the public to any occasion of immorality», shall be punished in like manner.

Section 265 : « (1) Whoever-

a) With a view to trade, manufacture, keeps, imports, transports or exports ; or

b) Whether or not for gain, and whether or not publicly, exhibits or distributes any writing, picture or object liable to corrupt morals, shall be punished with imprisonment for from one month to two years and with a fine of from ten thousand to half a million francs.

(2) On conviction the Court may order closure for up to one year of the establishment where the offender manufactures or keeps any such writing, picture or object ».

ish visa. Given that this transaction failed, Georges Gilbert BAONGLA paid GUEYE CFA 431,000 to withdraw any proceedings against him.

113- Thus, two warrants of arrest were issued against Georges Gilbert BAONGLA in two different matters of which one is unrelated to his profession as journalist because it concerns false pretences. But his contempt of judicial authorities manifested by his refusal to honour the summons of the State Counsel certainly explains the firmness of the Legal Department that remanded him in custody. This act did not violate any law in force.

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114- To conclude, it seems that freedom of communication is being consolidated on a daily basis thanks to encouraging measures taken by the State. It is expected that these measures would foster a boom in worthy but more responsible press organs with adequate means in order to reconcile the requirements of freedom of communication with the respect of the rights and freedoms of others.

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CHAPTER 4

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS ANNOUNCED IN 2007⁴¹

⁴¹ Only the amendments will be presented in this report for, they will be the subject of a detailed discussion in the 2008 report.

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115- Generally, the amendment of a constitution entails a shake up of two fundamental bases of the State: the organisation of State authorities and the protection of citizens therein. These two aspects considered within the institutional and normative dynamics lead to political and legal changes likely to either revise or amend the fundamental law.

116- That is why the announcement of any constitutional reforms calls for reflection especially in a developing country. Between September and December 2007⁴², the announcement of an amendment of the constitution of Cameroon gave rise to debates, with people taking positions that were sometimes controversial or even passionate, but all within the purview of democratic development.

117- It is important to take a look at the different aspects of such debate that mobilised actors from all walks of life, but who, in fact, brought out the same concerns: that the constitution of Cameroon be considered more than ever before as a set of rules that convey *“a humanist ideal”* and translate *“the need to ensure the development of the human person and the respect of his dignity.”*⁴³

118- The purpose of this chapter is to situate this debate within the purview of human rights for, in addition to the true freedom of speech and/or opinion observed during this period, the different positions taken show the determination of Cameroonians to henceforth affirm their political rights.

119- It is worthy to give an objective presentation of the different positions through the arguments raised by supporters of an amendment which they consider to be urgent and through the reasons raised by deniers of an amendment which they qualify as untimely.

⁴² And at the beginning of 2008 (January to March).

⁴³ Marc Verdussen, *La Constitution belge*, Lignes & Entreliques, Le Cri, Bruxelles 2004, p...

Section 1: Supporters of an Amendment Considered to be Urgent

120- The debate on the amendment of the Constitution was initiated within the framework of political parties. To some people, it was a call for the non-limitation of the presidential term of office while to others, the desire to amend the fundamental law must be subjected to some conditions.

§1: Calls for the Non-limitation of the Presidential Term of Office

121- The debate on constitutional reform was raised within the framework of debates of political parties. The first calls were an absolute support of the current Government. To others, the amendment of Article 6 (2) of the Constitution should entail a global re-reading of the fundamental law.

A- The First Calls

122- The disputed provisions concerned Article 6 (2) which provided, *“The President of the Republic shall be elected for a term of office of 7 (seven) years. He shall be eligible for re-election once.”*

123- The Cameroon Peoples Democratic Movement (CPDM), party in power, was the first party to call for and support an amendment of the said Article with a view to the non-limitation of the term of office of the President of the Republic.

124- Therefore, a number of campaigns were organised to rally the support of militants to that effect. Reacting to such calls, militants of the Lekié Division⁴⁴ were the first to offer their support on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the accession of President Paul Biya to power.⁴⁵ They geared their support towards the amendment of Article 6 (2) *“for the suppression*

⁴⁴ A Division in the Centre Province known as one of the strongholds of the ruling party.

⁴⁵ CT No. 8972/5171 of 8 November 2007, p. 3.

of the limitation of the terms of office of the President of the Republic."⁴⁶ They considered such limitation as antidemocratic.

125- A number of similar calls were made by militants from other provinces, divisions and subdivisions throughout the country. Some of them included calls from Meyomessala⁴⁷, Ntem Valley⁴⁸, Manyu, Nyong and So'o, and Nkam⁴⁹, Upper Sanaga, Mefou and Akono, Fako, Upper Nyong, Noun, Mayo Banyo⁵⁰, Océan, Mbam and Kim, Vina-North, Nyong and Kelle, Menoua and Haut Nkam⁵¹.

126- Although some militants of the said party supported the non-limitation of the term of office of the President of the Republic, they also called for a global re-reading of the fundamental law.

B- Calls for a Global Re-reading of the Constitution

127- CPDM militants of Mbam and Inoubou Division came up with a new approach consisting in a call for «a global re-reading of the Constitution,⁵² while stressing the importance of amending Article 6 (2), the provisions of which, according to them, would meet the full prerogatives of a sovereign people.⁵³

128- Besides, some individual militants took positions in the debate to reaffirm that amendment was indispensable⁵⁴ especially as concerns limitation of the term of office of the President of the Republic. These voices were raised to justify the need for amendment relating to "vacancy, two rounds election, a return to five-year term maybe renewable once or twice (...)." According to them, amendment will further make it possible to remove from or

⁴⁶ CT No. 8972/5171 of 8 November 2007, p. 3.

⁴⁷ CT 13 novembre 2007, p. 5.

⁴⁸ CT 13 novembre 2007, p. 5.

⁴⁹ CT 14 novembre 2007, p. 5.

⁵⁰ CT 15 novembre 2007, pp. 5-6.

⁵¹ CT 19 novembre 2007, pp. 10-11.

⁵² CT 19 November 2007, p. 13.

⁵³ CT 19 November 2007, p. 13.

⁵⁴ Paul Kana, in CT 16 January 2008.

add other innovations to the draft in the interest of a “democratic and prosperous Cameroon.”⁵⁵ In fact, support for amendment with a view to the non-limitation of the term of office of the President of the Republic was vigorously affirmed, but it was not the exclusive expression of all partisans of amendment for, to a good number of them, amendment must be subjected to some conditions.

§2: Acceptance of Amendment Subject to Some Conditions

129- A little surprising to the public, a good number of opposition parties were in support of an amendment of the fundamental law. However, their perception of the amendment was different from that of militants of the ruling party. They advocated amendment of the Constitution but not of Article 6 (2) which, according to them, is the guarantor of the necessary political changeover at the presidency of the Republic.

130- To ensure transparency of such amendment, the said opposition parties advocated a referendum as the ideal means of standing against a Parliament with the majority of Parliamentarians from the ruling party.⁵⁶

131- Therefore, according to Professor Magloire, “in order to free the amendment of any suspicion, it would be advisable to subject it to a referendum...” According to him, such solution will “not only enable Cameroonians to directly express their opinion on the issue (...) but also reassure the international community, while lending credibility to the democratisation process undertaken since the second half of the 1980s.”⁵⁷

132- “There is need for a referendum, » affirmed Jean Jacques Ekindi, Chairman of the Progressist Movement (PM), and Member of Parliament⁵⁸.

⁵⁵ Cf

⁵⁶ Garga Haman Hadji in *La Nouvelle Expression*, November 2007.

⁵⁷ Ondoa Magloire, *Le Messager* No. 2496 of 12 December 2007, p. 11.

⁵⁸ *Le Jour*, Edition du 07 décembre 2007, p. 3

133- Within the ruling party itself, some militants felt that a referendum would be the best guarantee of the respect of popular opinion. They therefore, held, *“it is for the people to decide whether or not to amend the fundamental law.”*⁵⁹

134- The Secretary General of the Union of the Populations of Cameroon (UPC), proposed a simplified procedure consisting in the holding of a tripartite conference. Such procedure had once been used and it resulted to the adoption of the 1996 Constitution. He held, *“if the Constitution is to be amended, a new tripartite conference should be convened.”*⁶⁰

135- Worthy of note is the position of the main opposition party, the *Social Democratic Front (SDF)*, that accepted the principle of amendment but on condition that it be done within the framework of a national conference through which the people will freely express their acceptance or rejection of the amendment plan.

136- Elisabeth Tamajong, Secretary General of the SDF alleged, *“the people must be consulted on the issue and it is its voice that should be heard. Of course, this should be done within the framework of transparency and equity.”*⁶¹

137- The SDF further held that it would accept amendment only if it did not aim to enable the current President of the Republic to seek another term of office at the end of his seven-year term of office in 2011. Its Chairman saw the amendment as *“an initiative with unforeseen consequences.”*⁶² According to the SDF, amendment can be carried out only after 2011.

138- To the Cameroon Democratic Union (CDU), an amendment of the

⁵⁹ CPDM Vina South Section President, *Le Messenger*, 12 November 2007, p. 10.

⁶⁰ Augustin Frédéric Kodock, *Voix du Cameroun*, 7 November 2007, in *Le Jour*, 7 November 2007.

⁶¹ *Le Jour*, 7 November 2007, p. 2.

⁶² www.apanews.net, 30 December 2007.

Constitution is necessary but on condition that it is done in its entirety and remains “an issue for every body where everyone feel involved.” L’on ne devait pas, selon ce parti « se laisser divertir par les appels pour la révision de l’article 6.2 et se laisser distraire par ceux qui s’affrontent autour de cet article ». They further held, “we should not focus on calls for amendment of Article 6 (2) and be distracted by those who are fighting each other around this Article.” The Socialist Union for Progress held the same opinion.⁶³

139- The Union for the Republic (UFR) of Antar Gassagay further argued that maintaining Article 6 (4) on the organisation of elections in case of vacancy was as dangerous as amending Article 6 (2), on the ground of the unrealistic period provided for.⁶⁴

140- The Leader of the Cameroon National Salvation Front (CNSF), Issa Tchirouma, seemed to hold the same opinion.⁶⁵

141- A certain class of the civil society supported the amendment of the Constitution. Women of the « *More women in Politics* » network, for example, were in favour of an amendment of the Constitution from the perspective of a parity institution, as a necessary prerequisite to real equality of sexes.⁶⁶

142- Besides these arguments in favour of an amendment of the Constitution, there were even fiercer arguments against such amendment which was considered as untimely.

⁶³ CT 26 February 2008, p. 11.

⁶⁴ CT 20 February 2008.

⁶⁵ CT 20 and 22 February 2008, p. 4.

⁶⁶ CT 29 January 2008, p.5.

Section 2: Refusal of an Amendment Considered as Untimely

143- To express their freedom of opinion, some political parties and personalities wrongly stood against any steps towards the amendment of the Constitution. Some of them stood against the amendment of the provisions of Article 6(2) of the Constitution as well as required the full implementation of the whole Constitution as it was. They further expressed how untimely such amendment was in the face of the current problems that the nation faces.

§1: Refusal of Amendment of Article 6(2) of the Constitution

144- A large number of Cameroon political actors refused any eventual amendment for; they saw it as a move to enable the current Head of State to seek another term of office after his last term of office within the framework of the current Constitution, in 2011. To them, the insistence of militants of his party on amendment of Article 6(2) was eloquent proof, and they considered such plan as an electioneering manoeuvre.

145- According to them, *"The Constitution of a country may neither be amended by caprice nor denial of changeover."*⁶⁷ Any attempt at amendment will be a *"personalised manipulation of such law."*⁶⁸

146- According to Bernard Muna, Chairman of the Alliance of Progressive Forces (APF), *"... the Constitution in its form... was not adapted a multi-party and democratic political system."* However, he refused *"the manipulation of consciences for the amendment of the fundamental law in the interest of one individual."*⁶⁹

⁶⁷ Garga Haman, *Le Jour*, 29 November 2007, p. 8

⁶⁸ Cf.

⁶⁹ *Le Jour*, November 2007, p. 2.

147- Cameroonians living overseas equally expressed their refusal against amendment in a manifesto published on 6 December 2007. They unanimously condemned such initiative by holding: «We, Cameroonians living in France for political and other reasons (...) deeply regret (...) any attempt to manipulate the Constitution with the sole objective of maintaining Mr Paul Biya and his system in power.”⁷⁰

148- A certain plate-form of the civil society evoked a “new national consensus to be established at the end of President Paul Biya’s term of office in November 2011.”⁷¹

149- Some ten youth associations, assembled under a movement known as “Dynamique Mondiale des Jeunes” (DMJ) called for the respect of the Constitution while exhorting the people to stand against any amendment that would make the current Head of State re-eligible. As such, they organised national explanation and sensitisation campaigns comprising lecture forums and meetings as well as giant posters especially in Douala, to “induce a culture of changeover enshrined in the fundamental instruments of the Republic.”⁷²

150- The Group of Patriotic Citizens headed by Madam Pauline Biyong, President of LEFE declared their support of the President of the Republic in the accomplishment of his duties but announced their strong opposition to any constitutional amendment.⁷³

151- Some University Professors expressed their opinions on the subject on different radios, televisions and newspapers. Mathias Eric Owona, political pundit, for example, held that calls for amendment were a political

⁷⁰ *La Nouvelle Expression*, 17 December 2007, p. 5.

⁷¹ Civil society plateform on Democracy, *Le Messenger*, 12 November 2007, p. 11.

⁷² www.apanews.net, 18 October 2007.

⁷³ Touc-pasconstit@yahoo.fr.

move aimed at reducing the chances of democratic changeover at the Presidency of the Republic.⁷⁴

152- Although the amendment of Article 6(2) raised a lot of interest from some citizens, others focused on the need for an integral application of the then existing provisions.

§2: Arguments on the Need to Implement the Already Existing Provisions

153- Some schools of thought held that it was premature to envisage an amendment of the Constitution of 1996 given that some of the institutions provided for and that would have improved on the governing of the State have never been installed. The installation of the Constitutional Council and the Senate are of great concern.

154- Others thought that the debate was untimely except that the intention was to practise “legalism,” that is, thinking that “by changing a subparagraph of an article of a constitution would be changing Cameroon.”⁷⁵

155- Still others believed that there was some « nonchalance with which there was no hurry in the implementation of the Constitution of 18 January 1996. ⁷⁶.

156- According to Maïdadou Sadi, “all the provisions of the current Constitution should be more operational by the end of the term of office.”⁷⁷

157- Social arguments were added to political arguments. In fact, to some people, the debate on the Constitution seriously hindered focus on the real problems faced by Cameroonians.

⁷⁴ *La Nouvelle Expression*, 6 December 2007.

⁷⁵ Célestin Monga, *Le Messenger*, 21 December 2007, p.11.

⁷⁶ Garga Haman, *Le Jour*, 29 November 2007, p. 8.

§3: Uselessness of Amendment as Compared to the Recurrent Problems of Poverty and Poor Standards of Living

158- Some people made reference to the interview President Paul Biya granted a French television channel on 30 October 2007,⁷⁸ in which he evoked the prioritisation of poverty issues against a possible amendment of the Constitution. They used that declaration to argue that the political debate was untimely.

159- Their opinions seemed to be supported by demonstrations by the people on price hikes of basic products and their poor standards of living. However, according to them, since the democratic issue could not be separated from the social issue, they refused any amendment that would overshadow the real social problems of the society.

160- The African Movement for New Independence and Democracy (MANIDEM) and partisans of the radical wing of the National Union for Democracy and Progress (NUDP)⁷⁹ expressed this same idea in a number of newspapers.

161- Their main argument held that the ruling party intended to stay in power at all costs, and their officials launched the debate on amendment of the Constitution to deviate focus from serious issues, notably the standards of living of Cameroonians.⁸⁰ That is why they described the debate on amendment as “superfluous,”⁸¹ and a means for top officials of the rul-

⁷⁷ AFP member, *Le Jour*, 7 December 2007, p. 3

⁷⁸ See the full interview granted Ulysse Gosset of *France 24* in CT 31 October 2007.

⁷⁹ Especially Mr. Anicet Ekane for MANIDEM and Mr. Célestin Bedzigui for NUDP.

⁸⁰ Anicet Ekane, in www.lanouvelleexpression.net/details_articles.php?code=1&code_art=7410&code_j=2095

⁸¹ Célestin Bedzigui, in www.lanouvelleexpression.net/details_articles.php?code=1&code_art=7410&code_j=2095 Célestin Bedzigui, in *La Nouvelle Expression*, 28 December 2007.

ing party to defend their personal interests, without any concern for general interest.⁸²

162- The debate on amendment was thus described as “a distraction of the Cameroon people,” given that there are “more serious and important problems for the people that deserve such deployment of energy.”⁸³

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163- The above opinions and arguments show how heated the debate was. In any case, they all show that there is the need for a better management of the State and an improvement on the democratic framework and exercise of the political rights of Cameroonians. They contain everything to show the interest citizens have in the management of public affairs as well as their expectations as concerns institutional organisation (notably, the effective installation of an efficient Constitutional Council, providing the NCHRF with a constitutional rules and regulations, the possible amendment of the rules and regulations governing the opposition and the drawing up of a constitution of communication regulatory organs), and the normative guarantee of some rights (procedure before the Constitutional Council, examination of prejudicial questions before trial courts, constitutional rules and regulations governing the woman and enshrinement of the duty to teach human rights).

* *
*

164- In any case, national representatives ruled on the issue, and amendment was carried out. A summary of the conduct of the amendment will be included in the 2008 Report.

⁸² Cf.

⁸³ Celestin Bedzigui in *La Nouvelle Expression*, 28 December 2007.

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CHAPTER 5

LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL
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165- Progress in democracy was particularly illustrated in the legislative and municipal elections of 22 July 2007.

166- Government was particularly concerned with the said elections. That is why, in recalling the stakes of the twin elections, the Head of State, in his address to the nation on the eve of the commencement of campaigns, stated, “*Measures have further been taken to guarantee fairness and transparency of the polls so that the attendant results may not be contested.*” Such political declaration completed measures taken by the Government to ensure transparency and fairness of the electoral process. Courts handled disputes relating to the said elections in an independent manner and without partiality.

Section 1: Improvement of the Electoral System

167- In 2006, Government took measures to improve on the electoral system. In a bid to attain this objective, institutional, normative and Practical measures taken to lay down favourable conditions for the organisation of free and fair elections made it possible to move a step ahead in consolidating democracy in Cameroon.

§1: Institutional Measures

168- The institutional measures taken by Government include the effective set up “ELECAM”⁸⁴ setting up new deconcentrated and decentralised administrative units and authorising the formation of new political parties.

A- Measures to Effectively set up ELECAM

169- Given that, according to Law No. 2006/11 of 29 December 2006, ELECAM had to go operational only 18 months after its set up,⁸⁵ the 2007 legislative and municipal elections were still organised by MINATD and supervised by NEO. Nevertheless, Government deemed it necessary to commence moves in 2007 towards the effective operationalisation of the new structure. In this regard, an ad hoc inter-ministerial committee⁸⁶ to facilitate the installation of *Elections Cameroon* (ELECAM) was set up by Decree No. 87/PM of 16 April 2007 and comprising representatives from the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and

⁸⁴ *Elections Cameroon*

⁸⁵ Law No. 2008/5 of 29 June 2008 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2006/11 of 29 December 2006 to lay down the set up, organisation and functioning of *Elections Cameroon* (ELECAM) has extended to six months, the maximum period for the effective set up the steering organs of ELECAM.

⁸⁶ This Committee has already performed its duties and submitted its report to authorities for assessment.

Decentralization, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The Committee was in charge of:

- drawing up the internal rules and regulations of ELECAM; and
- proposing measures that will facilitate the appointment of members of ELECAM.

B. Creation of New Sub-divisions and Councils

171-In a bid to ensure greater participation of the people in the elections, the Head of State set up 51 new subdivisions by Decree No. 2007/115 of 23 April 2007 (1) and 59 new councils by Decree No. 2007/117 of 24 April 2007. These new subdivisions and councils caused a further set up and distribution of new constituencies. The above-mentioned instruments brought together in most cases, the territorial area of a subdivision and that of a council. Such harmonisation aimed at a better organisation of elections.

Decree No. 2007/115 of 23 April 2007 to set up new subdivisions

171- The table below illustrates the territorial distribution of the new subdivisions.

No.	Province	New Subdivision	Total number of new Subdivisions
1	Adamawa	-Ngaoundere I -Ngaoundere II -Ngaoundere II -Nganha -Nyambaka -Martap Vina	6
2	Centre	-Kiiki -Kom- Yambetta Inoubou -Yaounde VII Mbam Et Mfoundi	3
3	East	-Bertoua I -Bertoua II -Mandjou Lom et Djerem	3
4	Far North	-Maroua I -Maroua II -Maroua III Diaméré	3
5	Littoral	-Nkongsamba I -Nkongsamba II -Nkongsamba II -Dibamba -Edea I Maritime -Edea II -NgweI -Douala VI Moungo Sanaga Wouri	8
6	North	-Garoua I -Garoua II -Garoua III -Mayo Houma Bénoué	4
7	North West	-Nkum -Bamenda I -Bamenda II -Bamenda III Bui Mezam	4
8	West	-Njimom -Banka Noun Haut - Kam	

		-Fongo- Tonga -Bafoussam I -Bafoussam II -Bafoussam III	Menoua Mifi	6
9	South	-Meyomessi -Ebolowa I -Ebolowa II -Efoulan -Biwong- Bulu -Kribi I -Kribi II -Lokoundje	Mvila Ocean	8
10	South West	-Limbe I -Limbe II -Limbe III -Kumba I -Kumba II -Kumba III	Fako Meme	6

Source: MINTAD

2) Decree No. 2007/117 of 23 April 2007 to Set up Councils

172- The Table below illustrates the territorial distribution of the new councils.

Number	Province	Division	New Councils	Total number of new Councils
1	Adamawa	Vina	-Nghanha -Ngaoundere I -Ngaoundere II -Ngaoundere III -Nyambaka -Martap	6
2	Centre	Mbam et Inoubou	- Bafia - Kiiki - Kom - Yambetta	4
3.	East	Lom et Djerem	- Bertoua I - Bertoua II - Mandjou	3
4.	Far North	Diaméré	- Maroua I - Maroua II - Maroua III	4
		Logone et Chari	Darak	
5	Littoral	Moungo	- Nkongsamba I - Nkongsamba II - Nkongsamba III	8
		Sanaga-Maritime	- Dibamba - Edea I - Edea II - Ngwei	
		Wouri	Douala VI	
6	North	Benoue	- Garoua I - Garoua II - Garoua III - Garoua IV	4
7	North West	Bui	- Kumbo - Nkum	5
		Mezam	- Bamenda I - Bamenda II - Bamenda III	
8	West	Haut – Nkam	- Bafang - Banka	9
		Menoua	- Dschang - Fongo - Tongo	
		Mifi	- Bafoussam I - Bafoussam II - Bafoussam III	
		Noun	- Foumban - Njimom	
9	South	Dja et Lobo	- Sangmelima - Meyomessi	

		Mvila	- Ebolowa I - Ebolowa II - Efoulan - Biwong - Bulu	10
		Ocean	- Kribi I - Kribi II - Lokoundje	
		Vallée du Ntem	- Kye - Ossi	
10	South West	Fako	- Limbe I - Limbe II - Limbe III	6
		Meme	- Kumba I - Kumba II - Kumba III	
Total number of new councils				59

Source: MINTAD

173- The setting up of these new subdivisions and councils shows the political will of Government to strengthen local governance. The two decrees mentioned above were supplemented by the following two decrees: Decree No. 2007/118 of 25 April 2007 to determine the number of municipal councils per council and special redistribution of some constituencies; Decree No. 2007/119 of 25 April 2007 to lay down the distribution of seats in the said constituencies. In fact, the ultimate aim of this institutional progress is to increase at least the number of people involved in the management of public affairs.

C- Formation of New Political Parties

174- To further strengthen multiparty politics, a condition for equal political opportunities in a democratic State, Government authorised the formation of more political parties in 2006 and 2007.

175- The Table below shows the list of the newly formed political parties.

1	Mouvement pour la Réconciliation et l'Unité des Camerounais	Decision No.155/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 5 July 2006	Douala	M.R.U. C	PO Box 1401 Tel. : 959 31 62	Chairperson: NZESSEU TCHIENG ABG Mathieu
	s (Movement for the Reconciliation and Unity of Cameroon)					SG : NGAHO NGABA Marceline Treasurer: MBIAKOP Etienne
2	Mouvement pour le Développement Intégral de la République (Movement for the Integral Development of the Republic)	Decision No. 195/D/MINATD/DAP/S DLP/SPP of 6 December 2006	Yaounde	M.D.I.R	PO Box: 7041 Tel. : 603 43 96	Chairperson: ZAMBO Paul SG: MOUDI KI François Treasurer: ABESSOL O Jules Germain

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3	Parti du Cameroun Nouveau (Party for a New Cameroon)	Decision No. 257/D/MINATD/DAP/S DLP/SPP of 6 December 2006	Douala	P.C.N	PO Box: 4934 Tel.: 97 2 39 60	Chairperson: MBOULE DJAKA Guillaume SG: BINGNA Jean Paul
4	Mouvement pour la justice Sociale, le Développement et la protection de la Nature (Movement for Social	Decision No. 258/D/MINATD/DAP/S DLP/SPP of 6 December 2006	Yaounde	MOUS ODENA	PO Box: 2555 Tel.: 56 4 67 14	Chairman: TCHAMDE Guy Alain Treasurer: DJOUFAC K Olive
5	La Nouvelle Dynamique pour la Prospérité (New Dynamics for Prosperity)	Decision No. 259/D/MINATD/DAP/S DLP/SPP of 6 December 2006	Yaounde	N.D.P.	PO Box: 6472 Tel.: 76 3 59 76	Chairperson: AYINA née BIDZOGO Brigitte SG: NKOUM Jacques Joseph Treasurer: YONTA Gabriel
6	Alliance Nationale pour la Paix, la Démocratie et le Progrès Social (National Alliance for Peace, Democracy and Social Progress)	Decision No. 13/D/MINATD/DAP/S DE/SPP of 6 February 2007	Yaounde	A.N.P.D .P.S	PO Box: 15293 Tel.:	Chairperson: LELE YOUNBIS SI DEFFO ABORDE SG: BISSECK NGUIMBO US Jean Marc Treasurer: EYEFA EYEFA Zacharie Bienvenu
7	Rassemblement des Citoyens Camerounais (Cameroon's Citizens Movement)	Decision No. 15/D/MINATD/DAP/S DE/SPP 8 February 2007	Douala	R.C.C	PO Box: S/C 5686	Chairperson: TONY Jean Alphonse SG: YINDA NYOM Ernest Treasurer: BOTSOMO KO NGUEDI
8	Révolution Pacifique	Decision No. 34/D/MINATD/DAP/S	Bafoussam	R.P.C	PO Box:	Chairperson:

	du Cameroun (Peaceful Revolution of Cameroun)	DE/SPP of 2 March 2007			893 Tél.: 75 0 57 25	DJOUKEN G Michel SG: KEUNANG Gaston
9	Mouvement Réformateur (Reformation Movement)	Decision No. 34/D/MINATD/DAP/S DE/SPP of 2 March 2007	Yaounde	M.R.	PO Box: 12137 Tél.: 93 1 23 49	Chairperson: BILONG Samuel SG: MESSI Justin Patrice
10	Parti de l'Esprit d'Avril 48 (Party for the Spirit of April 48)	Decision No. 34/D/MINATD/DAP/S DE/SPP of 6 March 2007	Douala	PEA 48	PO Box: 1933 Tél.: 67 2 24 83	Chairperson: NGOSS Jean Pierre Treasurer: EWOUDO U DJENE Rose
11	Parti Travailliste Camerounais (Cameroon Labour Party)	Decision No. 34/D/MINATD/DAP/S DE/SPP of 21 March 2007	Yaounde	P.T.C	PO Box: 25595 Tél.: 583 82 74	Chairperson: Louis Thierry ONGONO Secretary: TSE Hilary
12	Front pour le Salut National du Cameroun (Front for the National Well-being of Cameroun)	Decision No. 34/D/MINATD/DAP/S DE/SPP of 3 April 2007	Yaounde	F.N.S.C	B.P.: 33179 Tél.: 95 6 03 34	Chairperson: I S S A TCHIROM A BAKARY
13	Parti de la Reconversion du Peuple (Party for the Re- conversion of the People)	Decision No. 34/D/MINATD/DAP/S DE/SPP of 3 April 2007	Yaounde	P.R.P.	PO Box: 4537 Tél.: 95 0 64 74	Chairperson: ATEBA Henri 1st Vice Chairperson: EDIMO Paul

Source: MINTAD

§2: Implementation of the Electoral Process

176- This concerns supervisory and regulatory measures of the whole electoral process, and they include the decree of the President of the Republic to convene the electorate, the Order of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation to lay down management of public freedoms before and during elections, financial and technical support to political parties, as well as air time to political parties.

A- Convening the Electorate

177- The electorate was convened in accordance with Section 67 (new) of Law No. 91/20 of 16 December 1991. Pursuant to this Section, *Electors shall be convened by decree of the President of the Republic. The interval between the publication of the said decree and the date of election shall be at least ninety (90) days.*"

178- It is worthy of note that Decree No. 2007112 of 20 April 2007 to convene the electorate in view of the election of Members of Parliament, and Municipal Councillors fixed the date of polls on 22 July 2007, that is, at ninety-two (92) days interval. This was in conformity with the law.

B- Order No. 6/A/MINATD/DAP of 17 July 2007 to Govern the Exercise of Some Freedoms and Activities During the Legislative and Municipal Elections of July 2007

179- The organisation of elections in a State is a delicate issue that may cause public unrest. Therefore, it is often an exceptional situation that requires Government to take timely measures to ensure respect of the internal security of the country. Besides, it is necessary for the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation to sign an order to govern the exercise of some fundamental freedoms during the election period.

180- Article 1 of the order governs amongst others, the exercise of some freedoms and activities during the legislative and municipal elections of 22 July 2007, notably the freedom of movement of persons and goods, and the exercise of income-generating activities. Article 2(1) of the said order provides, *“national boundaries shall be closed forty eight (48) hours before polling day”* and Article 2(2) provides that the national boundaries *“shall be re-opened the day following the close of voting.”* Article 3(1) prohibits from 21 July 2007 from six (6) pm to 22 July 2007 at six (6) pm, movement of persons and goods by road, railway or air. Article 3(2) provides that paragraph 1 applies to the following:

- “a) Persons and goods circulating within the urban area or in the same locality in the rural area;*
- b) Drivers of vehicles, notably security services and ambulances, holders of special pass issued by the competent Governor of the Province of Senior Divisional Officer;*
- c) Aircrafts with pass provided for in paragraph (b) above where their circulation is in connection with the functioning of security services, health evacuation, transportation of election material;*
- d) Aircrafts exercising international flights;*
- e) Members and delegates of the National Elections Observatory (NEO), and duly accredited national and international observers, and journalists issued badges and accreditation letters.”*

181- Government support comprised financial assistance to political parties and supply of campaign papers.

1) Financial Assistance to Political Parties

182- To ensure that all the political parties standing for the twin elections had equal chances of carrying out campaigns all over the national territory, Government gave a subvention of CFA 1,500,000,000.

183- In accordance with the relevant provisions of Law No. 2000/15 of 19 December 2000 on Government subvention to political parties and electoral campaigns, the above amount was divided as follows:

- CFA 750,000,000 to the political parties taking part in the legislative elections, and
- CFA 750,000,000 to those participating in the municipal elections.

184- These amounts were further subdivided as follows:

- CFA 375,000,000 to the political parties that took part in the last elections of 30 July 2002, and
- CFA 375,000,000 to those taking part in the 22 July 2007 elections.

185- Tables 1 to 4 below clearly illustrate the distribution of subvention allocated by Government to political parties.

a) CFA 375, 000,000 allocated to political parties that took part in the last legislative elections, proportionately to the number of seats won at the National Assembly:

Number	Political party	Number of seats at the National Assembly	Amount allocated
1	CPDM	149	310,416,666.1
2	SDF	22	45,833,333.26
3	CDU	05	10,416,666.65
4	UPC	03	6,249,999.99
5	NUDP	01	2,083,333.33
TOTAL		180	374,999,999.1

Source: MINTAD

b) CFA 375, 000, 000 allocated to political parties taking part in the legislative elections of 22 July 2007 proportionately to the lists presented and validated in the different constituencies:

Number	Political party	Number of lists presented and validated	Amount allocated
1	CPDM	85	103,155,339.50
2	SDF	52	63,106,795.96
3	NUDP	36	43,689,320.28
4	UPC	20	24,271,844.60
5	CDU	18	21,844,660.14
6	AFP	17	20,631,067.91
7	ADD	09	10,922,330.07
8	ANDP	07	8,495,145.61
9	CNC	05	6,067,961.15
10	POPC	05	6,067,961.15
11	PDS	04	4,854,368.98
12	MDR	04	4,854,368.98
13	PSU	03	3,640,776.69
14	UDP	03	3,640,776.69
15	MNPC	03	3,640,776.69
16	RCPU	02	2,427,184.46
17	NPC/BUSH	02	2,427,184.46
18	FUC	02	2,427,184.46
19	CPP	02	2,427,184.46
20	MDP	02	2,427,184.46
21	MANIDEM	02	2,427,184.46

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22	CFA	02	2,427,184.46
23	NDP	02	2,427,184.46
24	UPR	01	1,213,592.23
25	UFDC	01	1,213,592.23
26	MP	01	1,213,592.23
27	RCR	01	1,213,592.23
28	RNDD	01	1,213,592.23
29	UDT	01	1,213,592.23
30	PLD	01	1,213,592.23
31	RCP	01	1,213,592.23
32	AMEC	01	1,213,592.23
33	MEC	01	1,213,592.23
34	MLDC	01	1,213,592.23
35	OPDC	01	1,213,592.23
36	REPAC	01	1,213,592.23
37	PLC	01	1,213,592.23
38	MDIR	01	1,213,592.23
39	FSNC	01	1,213,592.23
40	MCNC	01	1,213,592.23
41	UNITOC	01	1,213,592.23
42	FPLP	01	1,213,592.23
43	MDPC	01	1,213,592.23
44	MN	01	1,213,592.23
45	POUC	01	1,213,592.23
TOTAL		309	374,999,998.70

Source: MINTAD

c) CFA 375, 000, 000 allocated to political parties that took part in the 30 July 2002 election, proportionately to the number of seats obtained in the National Assembly:

Number	Political party	Number of seats obtained in the National Assembly	Amount allocated
1	CPDM	149	310,416,666.10
2	SDF	22	45,833,333.26
3	CDU	05	10,416,666.65
4	UPC	03	6,249,999.99
5	NUDP	01	2,083,333.33
TOTAL			374,999,999.10

Source: MINTAD

d) CFA 375, 000, 000 allocated to political parties proportionately to the lists presented and validated in the different constituencies:

Number	Political party	Number of lists presented and validated	Amount allocated
1	CPDM	358	164,522,057.50
2	SDF	136	62,499,999.52
3	NUDP	122	56,066,176.04
4	UPC	51	23,437,499.82
5	MDR	28	12,867,646.96
6	CDU	25	11,488,970.50
7	AFP	25	11,488,970.50
8	NADP	14	6,433,823.48
9	MDP	08	3,676,470.56
10	ADD	08	3,676,470.56
11	MLDC	06	2,757,352.92
12	FSNC	05	2,297,794.10
13	RCPU	04	1,838,235.28
14	UPR	03	1,378,676.46
15	PLC	03	1,378,676.46
16	ARN	02	919,117.64
17	MDPC	02	919,117.64
18	UDP	02	919,117.64
19	PDS	02	919,117.64
20	MN	01	459,558.82
21	PUR	01	459,558.82
22	NDP	01	459,558.82
23	UNITOC	01	459,558.82
24	MERCI	01	459,558.82
25	MP	01	459,558.82
26	MCNC	01	459,558.82
27	PLD	01	459,558.82
28	FNSD	01	459,558.82
29	PSU	01	459,558.82
30	MPR	01	459,558.82
31	RDMC	01	459,558.82
TOTAL			374,999,999.70

2) Supply of Campaign Papers to Political Parties

186- In a bid to ease the activities of political parties, Government provided them with campaign papers. The campaign papers that were printed by the two National Printing Presses were withdrawn by the respective parties from the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation on Saturday, 7 July 2007, when campaigns began.

187- The campaign papers, like the air time and subvention were printed and distributed to the political parties proportionately to the number of lists presented throughout the national territory. The papers were of two types, one for municipal elections and the other, legislative elections. The campaign papers, marked as such, carried the mark, logo, and colour of the party concerned. They were aimed at enabling the candidates and their respective political parties to show the indications to their potential voters with a view to guiding their choice on polling day.

188- Printing orders for the campaign papers were issued by officials of the political parties themselves. This measure was intended to obtain the printing order on the party mark, logo and colour of the political parties for the subsequent printing of the ballot papers. At this level, the election organiser had to adopt the printing order solely on the text. This provision, in addition to the measure taken by the Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation on the printing of NUDP and SDF ballot papers, met the expected objectives. In fact, no motion on notice was filed as concerns colours of ballot papers.

189- In addition to the 25,000 transparent boxes acquired in 2004, Government further obtained 27,000 transparent boxes. This gave a total of 52,000 transparent boxes for the elections.

D- Air Time to Political Parties

190- In a bid to provide appropriate communication of political parties through the public audio-visual media, the Minister of Communication signed, after consultation with the National Communication Council, the following two (2) important orders:

- Order No. 6/MINCOM/CAB of 6 July 2007 to lay down the conditions for the production, programming and broadcast on public audio-

visual media of campaign programmes in view of election of Members of Parliament and Municipal Councillors of 22 July 2007;

- Order No. 7/MINCOM/CAB of 6 July 2007 to determine the order of broadcast and air time allocated to political parties within the framework of campaign programmes in view of the election of Members of Parliament and Municipal Councillors of 22 July 2007.

191- The following order of broadcast and air time took largely into consideration the number of constituencies in which political parties had nominated candidates:

Order of broadcast	Political party	Number of constituencies per political party	Representative rate per political party	Percentage of hours per day/Radio (in minutes)	Percentage of hours per day/TV (in minutes)
1	CPDM	84	22.4 %	26.48	13.24
2	SDF	61	16.1 %	19.18	9.36
3	NUDP	54	14.2 %	17	8.30
4	UPC	31	8.2 %	9.48	4.54
5	AFP	24	6.3 %	7.30	3.42
6	CDU	22	5.8 %	6.54	3.24
7	NADP	11	2.9 %	3.24	1.42
8	ADD	10	2.6 %	3.60	1.30
9	MDR	9	2.3 %	2.42	1.18
10	CNC	5	1.3 %	1.30	0.42
11	PDS	5	1.3 %	1.30	0.42
12	POPC	5	1.3 %	1.30	0.42
13	UDP	4	1.0 %	1.12	0.36
14	MNPC	3	0.7 %	0.48	0.24
15	PSU	3	0.7 %	0.48	0.24
16	RCPU	3	0.7 %	0.48	0.24
17	CFA	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
18	CPP	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
19	FUC	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
20	MANIDEM	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
21	MDP	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
22	NDP	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
23	NPC/BUSH	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
24	PLD	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
25	UFDC	2	0.5 %	0.36	0.18
26	AMEC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
27	ARN	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
28	FPLP	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
29	FNSD	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
30	FSNC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
31	MCNC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
32	MERCI	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
33	MDIR	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
34	MDPC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
35	MEC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
36	MLDC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
37	MN	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
38	MP	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
39	MPR	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
40	OPDC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
41	PLC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
42	POUC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
43	PUR	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
44	RCP	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
45	RCR	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
46	RDMC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
47	REPAC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
48	RNDD	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
49	UNITOC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
50	UPR	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6
51	UDTC	1	0.2 %	0.12	0.6

Source: MINTAD

192- In addition to the air time, public audio-visual media freely provided political parties with technical production teams, studios and tapes that meet professional standards.

§3: Improvement of the Electoral Process

193- Practical measures to improve on the electoral process consisted in the computerisation of the electoral system and capacity building of election officials.

A- Computerisation of the Electoral System

194- In 2006, Government commenced the computerisation process of the electoral system.⁸⁷ In a bid to carry forward this measure in 2007, IT equipment and material were acquired and distributed to the 58 divisional computer units, the 10 provincial computer units and the national computer unit located at MINATD in Yaounde.

195- Government equally recruited and trained personnel who would effectively carry out the computerization work. Computerisation proper began by the end of January 2007.

196- The aim of this operation was to computerise the whole electoral card index built up from the revision of the 2004 voters' register and its subsequent updates of 2005 and 2006. This initial and temporary electoral card index was communicated to voters and all elections stakeholders from 15 March 2007 using all modern ITs.

197- In fact, it was posted on the notice boards of all administrative units and on the web site of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation⁸⁸ for online consultation. Besides, an infoline was connected at MINATD for telephone consultation. However, the said card index contained the following irregularities:

- multiple registration;
- registration of dead persons;

⁸⁷ See 2006 Report, p. 69.

⁸⁸ www.minatd.net.

- registration of minors; and
- wrong information on voters.

198- From 15 March to 2 July 2007 when the final electoral card index was published, the temporary card index was entirely updated with data from the updates of 1 January to 30 April 2007 when the electorate was convened.

199- The revision of voters' register went operational throughout the national territory from January 2007, in accordance with the provisions of the law. In fact, from January 2007, all Senior Divisional Officers were availed of the acts to set up Joint Commissions to revise voters' registers in their respective councils. The acts to set up the Commissions were followed by acts on their compositions. One of the difficulties encountered at this level and which, in some cases, slowed down the adoption of these statutory acts was the unwillingness of some political parties to appoint their representatives to the said Joint Commissions.

200- As soon as the legal framework was set up, the different Commissions began effective work on the one hand, to register voters who had attained majority as at 1 January 2007 and those who had recently taken up residence in their respective constituencies, and on the other hand, strike off the voters' register, names of voters who had moved constituency or who were dead.

201- In addition to the electoral card index, computerised and secured voters' cards were also produced. In fact, contrary to the former voters' cards which were filled and signed manually by Administrative authorities, which was an additional load and stress for them, the voters' cards used in the 2007 elections were produced from computerised electoral data. The cards were printed, packaged and forwarded to the respective polling stations and constituencies. They also carried the digital signature of the administrative authority in charge of elections.

202- Computerisation made it possible for voter's cards to be distributed in time, from 17 June 2007; that is, forty (40) days before polling. Voter's cards that were not yet distributed on the eve of polling were taken to their respective polling stations where their owners could freely collect them on polling day.

B- Strengthening Capacity Building of Election Officials

203- In a bid to ensure a better participation of the different election actors, Government took some measures and carried out some activities at the preparatory phase of the elections. Some of these measures and activities are as follows:

- organisation of capacity building seminars;
- education and sensitization of the public;
- consultation meetings; and
- curbing voter-apathy;

1) Capacity Building Seminars

204- By Service Note No. 4/MINATD/SG/DAJ of 29 March 2007 to lay down the organisation of seminars on capacity building of administrative authorities in view of the legislative and council elections of 22 July 2007, the Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation organised a series of seminars to enable administrative authorities to have a better mastery of the then electoral process.

205- The seminars that were presided over by the Inspector General in charge of elections were organised in three (3) successive phases according to the following calendar:

- Yaounde, 4 and 5 April 2007 for administrative authorities of the Centre, South, and East Provinces.
- Bafoussam, 10 and 11 April 2007 for administrative authorities of the West, North West, South West, and Littoral Provinces.
- Garoua, 14 and 15 April 2007 for administrative authorities of the Far North, North, and Adamawa Provinces.

206- At each seminar, seven (7) presentations were made on the following themes:

- the legal framework of the 2007 Legislative and Council elections: continuity and innovation;

- the material organisation of the 2007 Legislative and Council elections;
- the computerised management of the 2007 polls;
- constituencies and technical distribution of seats during the 2007 Legislative and Council elections;
- handling of the different election documents;
- accusation of the Government during electoral disputes : remarks and lessons; and
- terms and conditions of end of term and installation of newly elected councillors.

207- At the end of the presentations, participants were advised to:

- have a perfect mastery of the spirit and letter of the legal framework applicable to elections, especially as concerns extension of deadlines, management of candidature, and the number of seats per constituency;
- ensure that voting takes place in full transparency and the strict respect of the laws and regulations in force;
- ensure the maintenance of law and order before, during and after voting;
- show proof of loyalty, especially neutrality and avoid acts that would lead to founded electoral disputes;
- continue registration of voters until the electorate is convened;
- imperatively suspend registration of voters once the electorate is convened, without giving in to whatever pressures;
- make the necessary corrections on the voters' registers with a view to obtaining a consensual and viable electoral card index;
- ensure the installation and functioning of the different mixed electoral commissions, the deliberations of which representatives of political parties must participate as much as possible;

- ensure the availability of members of the said commissions as well as their prior training;
- ensure the reception and dispatch of election material as well as their qualitative and quantitative conformity before hand;
- avoid putting doubtful or insufficient election material especially ballot papers in polling stations on voting day;
- ensure the distribution of voter's cards by applying the new deadlines prescribed by the law;
- provide voters with adequate description of polling stations; and
- dispatch the results and report on the conduct of polls to higher authorities;

208- In addition to these seminars, two quarterly conferences were organised for Provincial Governors on 14, 15, and 16 February, and 8 and 9 May 2007 respectively on the general theme « 2007 Elections. »

209- In a bid to implement some of the recommendations of the seminars, the administrative officers in turn organised seminars throughout the national territory to train the Chairs and members of local joint commissions.

210- The seminars focused on the following themes:

- the legal framework applicable to the Legislative and Council elections;
- the role of the Chairs and members of the local commissions;
- the conduct of polls;
- voting and repartition of seats;
- identification and guidance of voters;
- maintenance of law and order in polling stations;
- settlement of minor disputes;
- vote counting;
- handling of election documents;
- publication of results of polling stations; and
- dispatch of reports to competent commissions.

211- All the relevant documents published by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation were then distributed to the participants for a perfect mastery and harmonious application of the provisions therein on polling day. Such documents include the « Legal framework applicable, » « Guide for Chairs and members of polling stations » and « Order to lay down the organisation and functioning of polling stations. »

212- The purpose of these seminars was to build the capacity of administrative officers so as to better equip them for free and fair elections. On the whole, the positive impact of all these seminars could be attested by the smooth running of the 2007 Legislative and Council elections.

2) Education and Sensitisation of the Public

213- The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation carried out a series of information and education activities targeting all election stakeholders.

214- As such, the Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation met with leaders of political parties on 15 March 2007 to discuss the conduct of the then upcoming elections.

215- Another meeting was held with resident diplomats in Yaounde within the framework of activities of the Elections Support Group (GAPE). This Committee held a number of meetings in preparation of the elections.

216- As concerns the education phase, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation published the following two (2) manuals : « Guide for Chairs and Members of Polling Stations » and « Legal Framework applicable to the 2007 Legislative and Municipal Elections. »

217- Sensitisation activities included the production of bilingual radio and television feats, the broadcast of which began on 15 March 2007. Some of these feats called on voters to register on the voters' register while others gave them voting tips.

218- *Cameroon Tribune* also carried messages calling on voters to register on the voters' registers.

3) Consultation Meetings

219- Government organised meetings with political parties in a bid to continue communication activities within the framework of the said elections. Of course, the aim was to put all the stakeholders at the same information level and especially, collect their remarks and proposals with a view to improving on the then ongoing process.

220- Thus, the following two (2) meetings considered highly significant will be discussed in this report.

221- On 15 March 2007, the Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation had a meeting at the Conference Centre with officials of active political parties who wish to take part in the elections then ongoing, as well as officials of the National Elections Observatory (NEO).

222- In his opening speech, the Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation informed all the actors of the level of preparedness and the main innovations for the said elections.

223- The question and answer session enabled the Minister of State to quell down the worries of some political parties on the transparency and conduct of administrative authorities within the different Joint Electoral Commissions. The working session was followed by a visit to the national elections computerisation hall on the ground floor of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation.

224- During the visit, officials of political parties were shown the different computerisation activities. They consulted the electoral card index and saw for themselves the significant progress made by the election machinery.

225- On 11 April 2007, the Prime Minister, Head of Government also held a meeting with officials of political parties to confirm Government's determination to organise free and fair elections.

226- Before then, the Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation had held a meeting in camera on 13 March 2007 at

the Conference Centre with development partners under the Election Support Group (GAPE).

227- At the end of the meeting, the development partners also visited the national election computerisation hall as well as both the computerisation halls of the Mfoundi Division and of the Centre Province. However, on 9 February 2007, the Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration summoned political parties who wished to take part in the said elections to confirm their corporate marks, logos and colours of their political parties for the establishment of computerised political parties card index, a first step in the production of campaign flyers and ballot papers.

Section 2: Electoral Disputes

228- The organisation and conduct of the 22 July 2007 twin elections generated a number of disputes referred to the competent courts.⁸⁹ Therefore, it is important to distinguish between pre-electoral disputes, post-electoral disputes and rerun electoral disputes.

§1: Pre-electoral Disputes

229- A pre-electoral dispute is a dispute arising from the publication of lists of candidates for the legislative elections, subject of Order No. 1/A/MINATD/SG/DAJ of 31 May 2007, (A), and municipal elections, subject of Order No. 2/A/MINATD/SG/DAJ of 31 May 2007, (B) respectively.

A- Pre-electoral Disputes from Legislative Elections

230- Twenty nine (29) petitions were registered on pre-electoral disputes arising from the publication of the list of candidates for the legislative elections. The matters brought before the Supreme Court sitting as the Constitutional Council pursuant to the transitory provisions of the Constitution were heard on 7 June 2007, nine (9) of them declared founded, and the other twenty (20) declared inadmissible or unfounded.

231- On the whole, the Supreme Court sanctioned the Defendant for omission of a list of candidates, a change in the initial ordering of the list of can-

⁸⁹ See ONEL's Report entitled "*Report on the conduct of the 2007 Legislative and Municipal Elections,*" pp 141-153

didates, or a change of list of candidates by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation.

232- The following nine (9) cases consequently required supplements or readjustments:

- In UNDP V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), a petition was filed against the latter for omission of the UNDP list in the Mefou-and-Akon constituency in the Centre Province. By judgment No. 2/CEL/7 of 7 June 2007, the Court ordered MINATD to publish the UNDP list in the said constituency.
- In AFP V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD) the petitioner prayed the Court to order MINATD to rectify an error made on the AFP list in the Mezam-Centre constituency in the North West Province. By judgment No. 3/CEL/7 of 7 June 2007, his prayer was granted.
- In Banmi Emmanuel Dingha V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), Gabsa Nyugha Sixtus, CPDM, the petitioner prayed the Court to annul Gabsa Nyugha Sixtus's candidature in favour of his in the Ngo-Ke-tunjia-South constituency in the North West Province. By judgment No. 11/CEL/7 of 7 June 2007, the Court granted his prayer.
- In AFP V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner prayed the Court to order the rectification of an error made by MINATD on the AFP list in the Benoue-West constituency in the North Province. By judgment No. 22/CEL/07 of 7 June 2007, the Court ordered MINATD to rectify the said error.
- In UNDP V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner filed a complained against MINATD's rejection of the UNDP list in the Haut-Nyong constituency in the East Province. By judgment No. 4/CEL/07 of 7 June 2007, the Court ordered MINATD to accept the said list.
- In Fogue (UDC) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner challenged MINATD's rejection of the UDC list in the Mifi constituency in the West Province. By judgment No. 13/CEL/07 of 7 June 2007, the court ordered the reinstatement of the UDC list in that constituency.

- In Okolo Marie Michelle (UPC) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner complained against MINATD's rejection of the UPC list in Mbam-and-Inoubou constituency in the Centre Province. By judgment No. 17/CEL /07 of 7 June 2007, the Court ordered MINATD to accept the said list.
- In Fotso Robert (UPC) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner complained against the rejection of the UPC list in the High-Plateaux constituency in the West Province. By judgment No. 20/CEL/07 of 7 June 2007, the Court ordered the reinstatement of the said list.
- In AFP V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner filed a petition against the rejection of the AFP list in Bamboutos in the West Province. By judgment No. 23/CEL/07 of 7 June 2007, the Court ordered MINATD to publish the said list.

233- The following 20 other matters were considered inadmissible or unfounded:

- Enang Ajang Aloysius (CDU) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Ayah Paul Abine (CPDM) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- CNC V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Hamadou Moustapha (ANDP) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Mpoulan Sylverstre Julien V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Minyem Nguen (UPC) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- AFP V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Bernard Acho Muna V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Engoh Ringo Akrobo V. The State of Cameroon;
- Jean-Jacques Ekindi, MP V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- RUN V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- UCIDI V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Dr Sende (UPC) V. Charly Gabriel Mbock & Ors, Mouvement Nationale (MN);
- Hassan Oumarou (UPC) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Abchebes Mahamat Oumar (UPC) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- UPC V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Kiyeck Jock (UPC) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);
- Mbang Luc Frederic (FPJ) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD);

- Doumba Maga Syvain (CPDM) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD); and
- Bile Bidjang Martin V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD).

B- Pre-electoral Disputes from Municipal Elections

234- The amendment of Law No. 92/2 of 14 August 1992 to lay down conditions for the election of municipal councillors by Law No. 2006/10 of 29 December 2006 has transferred jurisdiction that was formerly conferred on Council Supervisory Commissions to the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court to entertain disputes on lists of candidates for municipal elections. Besides, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court heard and determined, for the first time, the said disputes arising from the 22 July 2007 municipal elections. In all, one hundred one (101) matters on the cause-list were heard and determined by the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court in its court session of 12 June 2007.

235- The Administrative Bench applied, like in disputes on lists of candidates for legislative elections, administrative tolerance by ordering the acceptance of files of some candidates completed before 1 June 2007. Besides, it disallowed lists of candidates duly drawn up on the grounds that they contained the names of candidates who are militants of other political parties. The Court also ruled against lists of candidates that were amended after deposit, as well as the ineligibility of some candidates.

236- Among the thirty-three (33) cases in which the Court ordered rectification by MINATD, the case of the Lobo council is worth mentioning. In fact, the CPDM list, the only one in competition, was disallowed on the ground filed by the out going Mayor of the constituency, militant of the party, that one of the candidates on the list was also a candidate on the POPC list for the legislative elections in the Lekie-West constituency.

§2: Post-electoral Disputes

237- Post-electoral disputes relating to the legislative elections will be examined separately from those relating to the municipal elections.

A- Post-electoral Disputes on Legislative Elections

238- The Supreme Court sitting as the Constitutional Council held its court sessions on 7 and 8 August 2007 on disputes on the 22 July 2007 legislative elections. Out of the one hundred three (103) matters heard and determined, ninety seven (97) did not succeed for various reasons: some were declared inadmissible for violation of Sections 49 and/or 55 of Law No. 2004/4 of 21 April 2004 to lay down the organisation and functioning of the Constitutional Council while others were simply disallowed for lack of evidence.

239- The Constitutional Council delivered six (6) major rulings.

240- Following a recount of votes by the National Commission for the Final Counting of Votes, the Court confirmed the SDF seat in the Mezam-South constituency.

241- However, the Court cancelled elections in the following five constituencies:

- Wouri-East (4 seats);
- Nyong-and-Kelle (3 seats);
- Mayo-Tsanaga-North (4 seats);
- Upper-Nkam (3 seats); and
- Moungo-South (3 seats).

242- The brief facts of these cases are examined herein below:

- In Nintcheu Jean Michel (SDF), Etroukang Jean Pierre (UNDP) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner contended that the 22 July 2007 legislative elections in the Wouri-East constituency were marred by fraud and irregularities. By judgment No. 30/CEL of 7 August 2007, the Supreme Court annulled the said elections.
- In Kodock Augustin Frederick (UPC) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner filed a suit urging the Court to order a rerun of the 22 July 2007 legislative elections in the Nyong-and-Kelle constituency on the grounds that the said elections were characterised by irregularities, which included the corruption of voters. By judgment No. 11/CEL of 7 August 2007, the Supreme Court annulled the said elections.

- In *Njana Marie Joseph (MDP) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD)*, Njana Marie Joseph, candidate and representative of the MDP list for the Moungo-Sud constituency, for the 22ⁿ July 2007 legislative elections for the above constituency, contended that the elections were fraught with a number of irregularities which included intimidation of voters, expulsion of MDP representatives from some polling stations. By judgment No. 116/CEL of 7 August 2007, the Court annulled the said elections.
- In *Basil Yagai (UNDP) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD)*, the petitioner seised the Supreme Court to annul the 22 July 2007 legislative elections in the Mayo Tsanaga-Nord constituency. He contended that the elections were fraught with irregularities which included the falsification of the report of Boula 'C' polling station. By judgment No. 118/CEL of 7 August 2007, the Supreme Court annulled the said election and accordingly ordered its rerun.
- In *Kwemo Pierre (SDF) V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD)*, the petitioner contended that the 22 July 2007 legislative elections in the Haut-Nkam constituency were fraught with irregularities, which included the intimidation of voters and exclusion of SDF representatives in polling stations. By judgment No. 119/CEL of 7 August 2007, the Supreme Court annulled the legislative elections in that constituency.

B- Post-electoral Disputes on Municipal Elections

243- The Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court heard and determined two hundred sixteen (216) disputes on the 22 July 2007 municipal elections in its court sessions of 22, 23 and 24 August as well as 3 and 4 September 2007. Two hundred sixteen matters were filed before the Court. The disputes arose from the conduct of the elections and the election of Municipal Councillors. On the whole, the Administrative Bench took fair and just decisions.

244- In fact, the Court cancelled the said municipal elections in ten (10) constituencies in the following Councils: Mogode, Pette, Mokolo, Kekem, Bafang, Bana, Douala 5th District, Matomb, Messondo, and Bafoussam 3rd District. A summary of the decisions is as follows:

- In *NTJAM YEBGA Pauline V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD)*, Mrs Ntjam Yebga Pauline, candidate for the 22 July 2007 municipal elec-

tions in Biyouga Rural Council seized the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court by petition dated 2 August 2007, to annul the elections of Mayors and deputy mayors for the said Council, on the grounds that the sociological components of the constituency were not considered in the elections of mayors and deputy mayors. By judgment No. 285/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court cancelled the 22 July 2007 elections of mayors and deputy mayors in the Biyouga council constituency for violation of Section 18(e) of Law No. 92/2 of 14 August 1992.

- In Kwemo Pierre V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner, candidate and representative of the SDF list for the Bafang council for the 22 July 2007 municipal elections in the said council, filed a petition urging the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court to cancel the elections in the said council. By judgment No. 289/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, the Administrative Bench cancelled the municipal elections in the said council for irregularities.
- In Kosna Badadi V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), the petitioner urged the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court to cancel the municipal elections in Mokolo Rural Council for violation of Sections 10 (2) and 33 of Law No. 92/2 of 14 August 1992. By judgment No. 288/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court considered the petition as founded and accordingly annulled municipal elections in that council.
- In Solt Fone Daniel, Nganhoui Anatole V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD), CPDM and PSU, the petitioners, candidates for the PSU list and CPDM list for Bafoussam 3rd District Council respectively, for the 22 July 2007 municipal elections, filed a petition on the grounds that the elections were fraught with a number of irregularities which included selective registration of voters and distribution of voter's cards and intimidation of voters. After dismissing the allegations of the first petitioner as unfounded, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court approved those of the second petitioner and by judgment No. 290/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007 ordered a rerun of elections in the Bafoussam 3rd District Council.
- In Kalamback kollo Jean Debonnaire V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD) and Kadji Deffoso Joseph, the petitioner alleged that the 22

July 2007 municipal elections in the Bana council were fraught with a number of irregularities which included the selective registration of voters, participation of chattered and ambulant voters, multiple voting and corruption. By judgment No. 283/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court ordered the rerun of the said elections.

- In Issola Blaise, Moussi Paul Simplicie and Ekoh Ebombou Christine V. The State of Cameroon and Sop Jean Georges, the petitioners filed a suit urging the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court to annul the municipal elections in Messondo council constituency. They alleged that the said elections were characterised by massive fraud and irregularities. By judgment No. 191/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, the Court annulled the elections in the said council.
- In Doug Boniface, Adolphe Joseph Doumbe & Others V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD) and Mrs Foning Françoise, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court by judgment No. 284/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, annulled the council elections of 22 July 2007 in the Douala 5th District Council for fraud and irregularities.
- In Nyobe Nyobe V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD) and Lone Jean, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court, by judgment No. 286/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007 annulled the council elections of 22 July 2007 in the Matomb Rural Council for violation of Section 8 of Law No. 92/2 of 14 August 1992 and for irregularities.
- In Bouba Hamadou V. the State of Cameroon (MINATD) and ANDP, the petitioner, a CPDM candidate for the Pette council, for the 22 July 2007 municipal elections, urged the administrative Bench of the Supreme Court to annul the elections for the said Council. By judgment No. 282/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, the Court annulled the council elections of the Pette council for irregularities.
- In Silatchom Pierre V. The State of Cameroon, Tchotchoua Tchoky Dfadjo and Ketchaya Lundjeu Celestin Silatchom Pierre, SDF candidate for Kekem council, for the 22 July 2007 municipal elections in the said council, seised the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court

to rectify the results of the municipal elections for the said council. By judgment No 181/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, the Administrative Bench declined jurisdiction.

- In *Yema Gilbert V. The State of Cameroon (MINATD) and Ayuk Takuchung John*, the petitioner, candidate and representative of the list of the CPDM for the Mogode council for the 22 July 2007 municipal elections, urged the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court to annul the elections in the said council. He contended that the elections were fraught with a number of irregularities which included intimidation of CPDM militants by those of the NUDP and the corruption of some Chairs of local commissions by NUDP militants. By judgment No. 153/06-07/CE of 29 August 2007, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court held, *inter alia*, that the said elections were fraught with irregularities, and accordingly ordered their rerun.

245- The above rulings of the Administrative Bench were appealed against before the Plenary session of the Supreme Court.

246- However, such appeals are not a stay, and until a *res judicata* decision is delivered, the contested Municipal Councillors as well as the Mayors and Deputy Mayors shall remain in office.

§3: Disputes on the Re-run Elections

247- In accordance with legal provisions, a rerun of the legislative elections was organised on 30 September 2007 in the constituencies where they were cancelled. But before then, a list of the candidates concerned was published to meet the corrections made by the Court especially the spelling of a candidate's name, MBAPTE, in the Moungo-South constituency. This new publication of lists of candidates further gave rise to disputes.

248- As such, on 25 September 2007, the Supreme Court sitting as the Constitutional Council heard and determined four (4) petitions.

249- KOUNGA Bruneau (SDF), TAKAM Joseph (SDF), and NJANA Marie Joseph (MDP) in their petitions as read together, sought the cancellation of Order No. 350/A/MINATD/SG/DAJ of 13 September 2007, and the

disqualification of the CPDM list for the 30 September 2007 rerun elections in the Moungo-South constituency.

250- The petitions for disqualification of the CPDM list were declared inadmissible while those for the cancellation of the said Order, unfounded.

251- The Court ruled that the rectification of Mr MBAPTE's name, second substantive candidate on the CPDM list as on the said Order was welcome and timely.

252- The petition by Mr NINTCHEU Jean Michel (SDF) for the disqualification of the CPDM list for the 30 September 2007 rerun legislative elections in the Wouri-East constituency was declared inadmissible.

253- Furthermore, a new list of candidates was published following a new dispute, for the rerun municipal elections in the Lobo Council where voters did not go to the polls for lack of the list of candidates in competition.

* *
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254- The consolidation of democracy is still an objective to be attained. This requires the destruction of a monolithic order and rather a build of a pluralistic policy dominated by a true will to be governed by law without any manoeuvre. In 2007, Government made another step in this direction. The institutional, normative, and practical measures taken greatly improved on the conduct of elections and guaranteed both the quantitative and qualitative participation of the different actors. Besides, the handling of electoral disputes, seen from the human rights perspective, respected the principles of right to fair trial. The number of petitions and the time the competent court used to hear and determine them illustrate respect of the principles of impartiality and independence of the competent court, reasonable period, access to a judge, and the right to appeal. Such extension of fair trial rules to a particular public law dispute such as electoral dispute may serve as a benchmark to assess the consolidation of the Constitutional State in Cameroon.

CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

255- This presentation on civil and political rights in Cameroon in 2007 reveals both the progress made and lapses redressed.

256- Thus, the fight against the impunity of staff in charge of enforcing the law as well as efforts made to guarantee the right to fair trial to persons facing a criminal charge is effectively carried out. More so, the determination to consolidate freedom of communication by public assistance to private communication granted to press organs is welcome.

257- Furthermore, the debate on the amendment of the Constitution, and the legislative and council elections gave political actors the opportunity to defend their political manifesto and citizens to participate in the management of state affairs through freedom of expression and by voting. Government on its part was bent on improving the electoral system. The Supreme Court settled disputes in accordance with major principles on fair trial. It contributed in rendering the electoral process credible although the latter, just like the promotion and protection of human rights, can be improved upon.

258- In this regard, the eradication of jungle justice is a task that must be done. It is necessary to take attendant measures to ensure the efficient enforcement of the CPC. Besides, democracy should be further consolidated to provide a climate that is favourable to economic development and allow for the better enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights.

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PART TWO

PROTECTION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

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INTRODUCTION OF PART TWO

259- A State that seeks to guarantee the fundamental human rights to equality and non discrimination of its people must promote good governance. It must wage a relentless war against corruption that deprives the State of resources necessary for the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. Resources accruing from the reduction of external debt servicing as a result of the attainment, in 2006, of the HIPC Initiative, raised high hopes for the masses who expected the improvement of their living conditions with regard to feeding, access to health, reduction of unemployment, the education of children, and access to quality housing. Was there a glimmer of such hope in 2007? Was culture that is very often overlooked in development projects, although it should constitute their mainstay, been given further consideration based on the important speech made by the President of the Republic at the 34th Session of the General Assembly of UNESCO? Does Government now pay more attention to the environment given that UNESCO shows increasing interest in this domain especially by declaring some ecological heritages, like Cameroon's forests reserves, sanctuaries? Although this human rights, sui generis, dubbed human rights of the third generation, is not considered an economic, social and cultural right, it deserves to be treated as such given the influence of a healthy environment on the health of the masses. Thus, it is necessary to review all the measures taken for its promotion and protection.

260- This and the preceding concerns shall be discussed in the following chapters.

Chapter 1: Promotion of Good Governance

Chapter 2: Right to Adequate Standard of Living

Chapter 3: Right to Education

Chapter 4: Right to Work and Social Security

Chapter 5: Right to Health

Chapter 6: Right to Culture and the Benefits of Scientific Progress

Chapter 7: Right to Healthy Environment

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CHAPTER

1

PROMOTION OF GOOD
GOVERNANCE

261-It should once more be reiterated that good governance is a method of governing that favours an original management approach in a context involving many stakeholders each having decision making power. Like in the previous years, improvement of governance was a major aspect of Government action in 2007. It was meant for the continuous education of Cameroonians on fundamental universal values indispensable for the emergence of a State where the rule of law prevails as well as sustainable development as advocated by the Head of State. It was equally meant to adapt the national approach to the requirements of the international community.

262-Thus, good governance is considered both as a requirement for the rule of law and a phase in the construction of a democratic society⁹⁰.

263-In the former case, the promotion of good governance involves combating corruption. In fact this cankerworm eats both into the pillars of the mechanism that ensures the separation of powers and human rights. These reasons justify the multidimensional fight against corruption by Government that was intensified in 2007.

264-In the latter case, the aim of the promotion of good governance is to construct a democratic society by taking local governments into consideration. In 2007, Government did not only continue with the decentralization process, but it equally undertook to identify conditions for the existence of a capable state within the more general framework of participatory governance.

Section 1: Combating Corruption

265-Combating corruption was marked by progress in its preventive phase and major achievements in its repressive phase.

§1: Preventive Phase

266-In 2007, we noted with interest the joint action by the State and development partners, Government initiatives, and the support of the INGO Transparency International.

⁹⁰ See Report by MINJUSTICE on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2005, pp 163 et seq. No. 573 et seq.

A- Joint Action by the State and Development Partners

267- Development partners and stakeholders were visibly involved in combating corruption in 2007 through the drawing up of the CHOC Programme, and recommendations by investors.

1- CHOC Programme

268- Combating corruption was intensified with the support of development partners (Germany, Canada, United States, France, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, World Bank, African Development Bank, European Commission, network for Governance of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCDE), and UNDP.

269- In fact, an agreement was signed between these development partners represented by Sophie de CAEN⁹¹ and Government on 23 February 2007, comprising the commitment to work together against corruption and entitled Change Habits - Curb Corruption (CHOC). The CHOC programme, the effective implementation of the Paris Declaration on the new support strategy for development partners, is the result of recommendations by a joint mission of OCDE countries to Cameroon in July 2006, initiated by Government. Its goal is to follow up the implementation of the National Governance Programme (NGP), for three years, in combating corruption.

270- The following common joint priorities were identified:

- formulation of a policy to combat corruption;
- modernization of the repressive criminal structure to combat corruption;
- capacity building of institutions for combating corruption, especially by the guarantee of their independence and financial autonomy; and
- capacity building of the civil society to enable it play an effective role in combating corruption⁹².

271- Within the framework of the CHOC Programme, UNDPs support was manifested by funding worth about CFA 1 billion⁹³. Donors and ADB agreed to unite their efforts to provide Government with coordinated and harmonized support for the said sum.

⁹¹ She was the Resident Representative of UNDP.

⁹² Government in Action 2002-2007, p. 36.

⁹³ About 1, 538, 461. 6 Euros.

2- Investors Recommendations

272- Combating corruption did not attract the attention only of Government and the civil society in 2007. In fact, on 2 February 2007, investors and business leaders presented a recommendation entitled Business Action against Corruption in Cameroon (BACC) to the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

273- This recommendation which marks the concerted approach adopted for several years is the fruit of a meeting convened by BACC which grouped about 120 investors and Government officials. The meeting with the Prime Minister was marked by the presence of Richard Howe from the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) and the representative of the West African Business Association (WABA).

274- The main reason for the mobilization of investors around the Government of Cameroon falls within the framework of dialogue between the public and private sectors and the civil society. Its primary objective is to ensure synergy on the understanding of good governance and combating corruption.

275- It is worth mentioning that this declaration is a logical conclusion of the results on the national survey on corruption in 2006 carried out in 835 enterprises by the *Centre de recherche et d'Etudes en Economie et Sondage (CRETES)*. According to heads of enterprises, high level of corruption in the public sector tends to be the major obstacle to the growth of their enterprises.

B- Government Initiatives

276- In 2007, these initiatives included the definition of new working policies for the State Audit, new education approach against corruption, computerisation of transport documents, the activities of the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court, CONAC, and ANIF.

1- State Audit

277- In accordance with Decree No. 98/273 of 22 October 1998 to reorganize the Presidency of the Republic, the missions of the State Audit attached to the Presidency of the Republic are:

- promotion of transparency in the management of public affairs and combating corruption, misappropriation of public funds, laxity and dysfunction of public life in Cameroon; and
- counseling and management support through contributions made by verification missions within the framework of the annual verification programme approved by the President of the Republic.

278- The moralisation of public accountants, good management of public affairs and promotion of the fight against corruption that is eating up the public life of developing countries are therefore the major aspects of the action of the State Audit ⁹⁴.

279- With the increased call for productivity and good governance, Government illustrates its determination to curb corruption through repression. Thus, a workshop to raise the awareness of internal audit organs of ministries and central services of the State was organized with the view to enhancing the pedagogic and methodological support for internal auditors.

280- The aim of this pedagogic support is to illustrate that adequate management verification is a requirement of good governance. It is based on two specific objectives:

- detection of loopholes at various levels of the administrative chain; and
- harmonisation, generalisation and systematisation of control activities of internal auditors.

281- The State Audit was committed to enhancing the competence of internal auditors, and especially to enable them to work on the basis of a scheme that will permit them to control the performance of structures placed under their authority.

282- This new orientation is in line with the new notion of budget by objective that vote holders are increasingly mastering. It is hoped that with the advent of internal auditors who are experts in verification, the poor use of public funds will drop significantly in the short term ⁹⁵.

⁹⁴ See Website of the Presidency of the Republic: www.prc.cm.

⁹⁵ The State Audit Control envisages the drawing up of verification guides in different administrations in the near future

283-Besides, the pedagogic support of auditors, the State Audit continued its activities in 2007 through its Budget and Finance Discipline Board. Thus, its communiqués and deliberations were published. For example, it adjourned some matters for supplementary inquiry⁹⁶ in its communiqué of 1 June 2007.

284-By deliberation of 9 August 2007⁹⁷, and after debates and publication of the results by the commission of inquiry, it decided that:

Mr ASSAMBA Nana was guilty of management offences in the organisation of public competitive examinations in 2004-2005. He was inflicted with a special fine of CFA 2,000,000; a suspension of 5 years was pronounced in accordance with Section 14 of Law No. 74/18 of 5 December 1974 relating to the control of vote holders of public funds and State enterprises as amended by Law No. 76/4 of 8 July 1976.

285- Persons involved in other matters were acquitted⁹⁸ while other matters were adjourned⁹⁹.

2- New Education Approach against Corruption

286-A new educative approach based on combating corruption through entertainment was introduced in 2007. In fact, combating corruption has been taken out of the habitual discreet forums which are State bodies and courts into the audiovisual media. A film entitled "*Le Repenti Actif*" that is 20 minutes long, educative and ethical produced by Toussaint Adrien Eyango was projected at the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF) premises.

⁹⁶Re: EKOU MOU DIMI Dieudonné, former Director of Maritime Affairs and Navigable Water Ways, Douala; Re ASSAMBA NANA and YERE David respectively former Director of Human Resources in the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform, and Service Head for Competitive Examinations at the Divisional Delegation of Youth and Sports of the Ntem Valley; Re: Matter TAGNE NOUTOUM Pierre, Director of National School of Post and Telecommunications; Re: Matter HELL Joseph Victor, MGBA MANI Etienne and OUMAROU Haman Toukour respectively Director, Service Head for Financial and Administrative Affairs and Financial Controller of IRGM.

⁹⁷Published on 13 August 2007 under the Chairmanship of the Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of the State Audit.

⁹⁸Re: Matter MOBY ETIA Paul, Managing Director of the National Institute of Cartography (INC); Re: Matter ZE GA Theophile, former accountant of the Institute of Geological and Mining Research (IRGM).

⁹⁹Re: Matter MBALLA ESSAMA Henri Louis, Bursar at the Government Technical High School, Yaounde.

287- The film presents a worker specialised in the recovery of pension premiums faced with a dubious employer. In fact, the expert worker who is the main actor of the film stumbles on employees of a fictitious company called Future Security. He puts questions to one of them. Have you ever heard of the NSIF? The old man, very surprised, replies, I have never heard of it. Thus, the controller undertakes to meet the employer of this company. The latter who is guilty, attempts to corrupt the controller. Although he is facing hard times, he succeeds in causing reason and honour to prevail by convincing the employer to fulfil his duties vis-à-vis the NSIF. He goes an extra mile to propose to him the scheduled payment of his social debt.

288- The aim of organizing this projection in the presence of the Coordinator of the NGP, was to create awareness among NSIF staff on the importance of values such as honesty and probity in the professional milieu. The impact of this approach is to prove that combating corruption requires primarily a change of mentality and consequently the repressive arsenal is the *ultima ratio* in this issue. It is envisaged that this short film will be projected extensively in 2008.

3- Computerisation of Traffic Documents

289- The Traffic Document Protection System (SSDT) ¹⁰⁰ put in place since 20 November 2006 tends to be a source of conflict between Government that is determined to put an end to a perennial practice and various networks specialised in « fraud » instituted for about fifteen years now in the process for the issue of traffic. During the launching in January 2007 of this system, the Minister of Transport affirmed that it will henceforth be difficult if not impossible to fraudulently issue a traffic document.

290- However, the efficiency of such a system will depend on the constant control by the Minister of Transport. The implementation of these control mechanisms implies that this ministry fully carries out its supervisory role.

4- Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

291- The Audit Bench, set up by the Constitution of 18 January 1996, was finally put in place in 2005. It started its activities on 1 January 2006. Its mission is to:

¹⁰⁰ The Transport Document Security System– (SSDT) comprises the registration book, driving licence, wind-screen licence, marines' cards and vessel registration certificates.

- control and decide on all public accounts including those of the State, public administrative establishments, public and semi-public enterprises, and regional and local authorities;
- assist the executive in producing an annual progress report and a report on the State accounts addressed to the President of the Republic; and
- assist Parliament by submitting an opinion on the law on payment in the State budget.

292- It carried out some activities in 2007.

293-The Audit Bench completed its internal organisation by increasing staff in charge of control and judgment, organising its registry and by putting in place a training and cooperation committee.

294- As of 31 December 2007 it had verified 164 accounts. It identified several irregularities. These were related to the management of travels by public workers, the awarding of public contracts, public orders, handling of funds, and the salaries of officials in public establishments and public and semi-public enterprises. Thus, the Audit Bench addressed 85 questionnaires to the officials concerned, produced 29 investigation reports and delivered 10 judgments which were served on the persons concerned.

295- To sensitise structures under control, the Audit Bench, as a result of the small number of improperly kept accounts received, organised sensitisation seminars on the obligation to render account and to produce quality accounts for the said structures. This concerned especially 74 stores accountants of administrative public establishments, 339 council treasurers and 13 senior treasury accountants.

296- Finally, with regard to assisting the Executive, the Audit Bench produced its maiden progress report for the year 2006 in 2007 which, in accordance with the Law, was forwarded to the President of the Republic and the Speaker of the National Assembly. It compiled a list of irregularities and made 31 recommendations. It equally completed its audit on State accounts.

5- CONAC

297-CONAC, set up by Presidential decree of 11 March 2006¹⁰¹, is an independent public body placed under the authority of the Head of State¹⁰². Its mission is to follow up and assess the effective implementation of Government plan against corruption.

298- By three decrees (Decree No. 2007/77 to appoint the Chair and Vice-chair of CONAC, Decree No. 2007/78 to appoint members of CONAC's coordination committee and Decree No. 2007/79 to appoint the Permanent Secretary of CONAC) signed on 15 March 2007, the Head of State confirmed his determination to translate into actions the different official declarations to step up the fight against corruption. The swearing in of these officials on 30 May 2008 in accordance with Article 25 of Decree No. 2006/88 above marked the effective implementation of the State body considered government's main weapon to combat corruption.

299-In August 2007, as a prelude to going back to school, CONAC prepared and programmed meetings with the education sector, within the framework of its mission to inform, educate and create awareness on the fight against corruption in this milieu. Thus, on 7 September 2007, the Chair of the Commission presided over an important meeting in which the Ministers of Basic, Secondary and Higher Education, participated. The main objective of this meeting was to give directives and include the fight against corruption in secondary school syllabus.

300-During the World Day on the Fight against Corruption held on 9 December 2007, the Chair of this institution affirmed that three divisions of the Permanent Secretariat shall be charged with the execution of CONAC's Plan of Action. These include the:

¹⁰¹ See Report by MINJUSTICE on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2006, p. 91, No. 343 et seq.

¹⁰² As concerns the direct authority of the Head of State on CONAC or its attachment to the Presidency, several criticisms have been levied by the public denouncing the institution's lack of autonomy and independence which jeopardise its efficiency. But some people hold that CONAC replaces the National Observatory for the Fight against Corruption, placed under the authority of the Prime Minister, Head of Government. This transition from Observatory to Commission, from the authority of the PM to that of the President may equally be seen as the determination of the Head of State not to influence the activities of CONAC but rather to supervise given the prevailing situation. Nowadays, it is known that the organisation of an institution largely depends on the current socio-political context under which it was set up.

- Investigations Division;
- Preventions and Communication Division; and
- Studies and Cooperation Division.

301-To ensure greater efficiency, CONAC should work in close collaboration with the different Legal Departments and draw up a reliable national policy especially to combat corruption.

6- ANIF

302- In 2007, ANIF reinforced its human resources by the appointment of officials provided for in its organisational chart especially Unit and Bureau Heads. Furthermore, civil servants of the national security were placed at its disposal. At the operational level, thirty four (34) files, with a financial incidence estimated by the Board at CFA 57,568,576,956, were forwarded to the competent State Counsel.

C- Contribution by Transparency International

303-On 22 February 2007, Transparency International, organized a workshop in Yaounde, on the theme *The Role of the Judiciary in Combating Corruption in Cameroon*, aimed at reinvigorating the “pillars” of integrity in Cameroon. Several officials including the Director of Transparency International for Africa and the Middle East and the French Ambassador to Cameroon took part in this opening ceremony chaired by the Minister Delegate in the Ministry of Justice. The workshop, among others reiterated the responsibility of Judicial and Legal Officers, Advocates, Bailiffs and Notaries Public on the major role of the Judiciary in the fight against corruption by the State. In fact, it is unanimously accepted that a sound judiciary attracts investors and that its modernization is an essential condition for the respect of human rights. Moreover, in 2007, Transparency International published a study entitled Integrated National System (INS). The latter, published after other works and surveys by Transparency International such as those which resulted in the establishment of the Corruption Index of Exporting Countries (CIEC), the World Report and particularly the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), includes the project for “*the Reinforcement of the Pillars of Integrity in Cameroon*”. The implementation of INS shall concern the fundamental institutions, specific sectors of activity (called pillars),

all of which contribute to the development of integrity, transparency and the accountability of officials in society.

304-Several priorities were earmarked and recommendations adopted:

- Specific Measures to Combat Corruption

305-Persons and enterprises are expected to desist from making gifts and unofficial payments to individuals within the framework of their services, denounce requests to institutions and NGOs involved in combating corruption, act in accordance with rules and regulations in force. Government should step up controls, increase salaries, reorganize and restructure corruption prone enterprises. Thus, the principle of zero tolerance would be applied to corruption.

- Recognition and Reinforcement of Civil Society

306-The civil society is presumed to be neutral and impartial with regard to major societal problems. Consequently, its role in ethical review must be recognized and reinforced. It is vested with the duty of vigilance that renders it guarantor of the social code of good conduct.

- Coordination between Anti-corruption Institutions

307-Admittedly, the major setback of the institutional system for combating corruption is the fact that there is no global plan of action on this apparently common concern.

- Implementation of Appropriate Legislation

308-The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has stipulated incriminations but has not provided sanctions which in its view fall within the remit of sovereign Member-States. The implementation of this Convention implies that the State shall provide sanctions for these incriminations in accordance with the spirit of the Convention. A draft law to this effect is being prepared in the Ministry of Justice.

The law should be put in place for the simple reason that legal norms are meaningless unless they provide sanctions. Combating corruption will be efficient provided the Judiciary is highly involved, and not bureaucracy, as the case seems to be now in Cameroon.

Decentralisation of the Fight against Corruption

309-Corruption is rife in Local Governments. However, it is observed that only authorities in the central administration tend to be concerned with combating corruption. In fact, there are no anti-corruption relay organs in these Local Governments to act under the control of those at the central level. This lapse seems to extend to local services of the central power in particular the external services.

Role of the Media

310-Corruption, which is an exogenous and endogenous phenomenon in the media must be combated both in the private and public media. The growth of investigative journalism is a lethal weapon against the corrupt and corrupters.

Separation of Powers

311-The sacrosanct principle of the separation of power requires the executive, legislative and judicial powers to be distinct and independent.

312- It can be noted that this study is a major contribution to the difficult fight carried out by Government against corruption in Cameroon.

§2: Repressive Phase

313- The repressive phase of the fight against corruption was characterised in 2007 by severe disciplinary sanctions, pronouncement of judicial sanctions concerning ongoing proceedings and the redress of prejudice suffered by the State.

A- Disciplinary Sanctions

314- Various sanctions were taken against members of the judicial corps in 2007. Civil servants in other ministries were relieved of their duties, suspended or dismissed.

1- Sanctions against Members of the Judicial Corps

315- Ten sanctions were taken against Judicial and Legal Officers in 2007¹⁰³. These include notably:

- one temporary exclusion for the misappropriation of a vehicle belonging to a cooperation agency;
- two demotions for corruption, breach of honour, forgery of official act, breach of the Law, disloyalty and false pretences;
- five demotions in incremental positions for committing acts contrary to the oath of office;
- one delay in advancement; and
- one reprimand.

2- Decisions Relieving Civil Servants of their Duties

316- Many decisions were taken especially with regard to accountability and probity which govern school officials. Some officials of MINEFI were equally sanctioned for the same reasons.

317- Thus, by Decision No. 219/B1/146/MINEDUB/CAB of 15 June 2007, headmasters of Government primary schools found guilty of misappropriation of examination fees and diversion of files during public examinations in 2007 were relieved of their duties.

¹⁰³ Sections 60 and 61 (4) of the Rules and Regulations governing the Judicial and Legal Services lay down the conditions for the publication of disciplinary sanctions meted out on Judicial and Legal Officers.

318- The Table below illustrates the national character of this decision¹⁰⁴.

No.	Province	Division	Name	Position
1	ADAMAWA	Djerem Division	Tourkao Doua René	Headmaster GPS Malaba
2			Pagore	Headmaster GPS Mbakaou
3			Moussa Elie	Headmaster GPS Meng
4			Domga	Headmaster GPS Meidjamba
5			Weya Njitabe	Headmaster GPS Allat-Mengack
6			Hairou	Headmaster GPS A. Tibati
7		Faro-Et-Déo Division	Yaya Adamou	Headmaster GPS Mayo-Bororo
8		Mayo-Banyo Division	Fotso David	Headmaster GPS A Banyo/Gr1
9			Okene Paul	Headmaster GPS A Banyo
10		Mbere Division	Sourma Jean	Headmaster GPS Dir Gr2
11			Yaya Pierre	Headmaster GPS Bey-Baya
12			Nyako David	Headmaster GPS Badjer
13			Baba Emile	Headmaster GPS Dir Gr1
14			Moussa Marcel	Headmaster GPS Mbarang
15		Vina Division	Pouorgounal Judes	Headmaster GPS Centre Gr2
16			Bobo Jean	Headmaster GPS Burkina Gr2
17			Okka-Dong-Na	Headmaster GPS Dibi
18			Sodibe Valentin	Headmaster GPS Belel Gr2
19			Djonga	Headmaster GPS EPBelel Gr1
20	CENTRE	Mefou-et Afamba Division	Yene Nnomo	Headmaster GPS Essazok
21			Mendouga Ngono	Headmaster GPS Nkol-Foulou 1
22		Lékié Division	Tchimi Ebode	Headmaster GPS Nkengue
23		Nyong and Mfoumou Division	Nlomo Mba	Headmaster GPS Kobdombo
24		Mfoundi Division	Noa Awono Jean Pierre	Headmaster GPS Mballa 2 Gr2
25			Onana Michel	Headmaster GPS Ngoul-Mekong
26			Toko Louise	Headmaster GPS Mvog-Betsi Gr2
27		Haute-Sanaga Division	Bikoe Bindzi Jean Jacques	Headmaster GPS Mbandjock Centre 4
28		Mbam and Kim Division	Abega Antoine Marie	Headmaster GPS Mbanga
29	FAR NORTH	Diamaré Division	Yougouda Bouba	Headmaster GPS A Founangue IIA Maroua

¹⁰⁴ CT No. 8873/5072 of 20/6/07.

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30		Mayo-Tsanaga Division	Tchinda Gaston	Headmaster GPS A Gr 3 Mokolo		
31			Tchoubou Jacques	Directeur EP Fouldaï-Hina		
32			Mayo-Sava Division	Baïfam Boniface	Headmaster GPS Manawatchi-Mora	
33		Datoudi Kampete		Headmaster GPS Zebe		
34	LITTORAL	Wouri Division	Dimouamoua épse Bouba	Headmistress GPS New Deido 2		
35				Sollanga Mbango	Headmistress GPS Bonamouang 1	
36				Mbabi Charles Alex	Headmistress GPS Logbessou	
37			Nche Peter Mbangabe	Headmaster GBS GMI II A		
38			Anye Henry Mofor	Headmaster GBS GMI II B		
39	NORTH WEST	Mezam Division	Nchong Noah	Headmaster GBS Old town		
40				Nchunki Sammy Shue	Headmaster GBS Old town gr 1	
41				Limuna Christopher	Headmaster GBS Old town gr 2	
42				Njong Mathew	Headmaster GBS Atuakom 1	
43				Mbaku Titus Ndansi	Headmaster GBS Atuakom 2	
44				Bongba Isaiah	Headmaster GS Azana	
45				Chene Francis	Headmaster GPS Nibung Nkwen	
46				Foname Stephen	Headmaster GPS Ngom-Gham 2B	
47				Ajeh Jeremiah	Headmaster GS Bamenda Station	
48				Ngang Ngu Peter	Headmaster GS Ntanche	
49				Nembo Lemon Achah	Headmaster GS Mulang 2	
50					Ngeh John	Headmaster GS Ntingkag
51					Abanyi James Awat	Directeur GBS Ngom-Gham 1
52					Alombah Alfred Pepanchu	Directeur GS Awing
53			Mordikum Thérésia Afentang	Headmaster GS Tanjang		
54			Shu Kevin	Headmaster GS Adiemu-Kong		
55			Ngwa Grâce Bih	Headmaster GS Nsoh		
56			Ndonwi Loseph Che	Headmaster GS Mbebili		
57			Abonifor Alpheaus	Headmaster GS Swie		
58			M.Wanka Lucas N.	Headmaster GS Agyati		
59			Sangeh Peter	Headmaster GS Mankwi		
60			Wangie Neba	Headmaster GS Obang		
61	WEST	Mifi Division	Ngoutso	Headmaster GS Djunang B		
62			Nde Division	Samuel Ndi Nsagha	Headmaster GBS	

63	SOUTH	Mvila Division	Amvam Jean Claude	Headmaster GS Gr 2B Ebolowa
64			Ocean Division	Abouna Abouna Jean Pascal
65		Nkoulou Enyegue Raphaël		Headmaster GS Gr 3 Kribi
66		Ntem Valley Division		Ella Evina Fritz
67	SOUTH WEST	Fako Division	Tabotnjang Lawrence Tabi	Headmaster GPS Mile One Limbe
68		Kupe-Manengouba Division	Ntungwe Gabriel	Headmaster GS Nkikoh
69		Manyu Division	Takem James Abang	Headmaster GS Abonando
70			Ekena Philip Agbor	Headmaster GS Kajifu
71			Tabelot John Ayuk	Headmaster GBPS Eyumojock
72		Meme Division	Nama Florence Ezimbi	Headmaster GBPS Kumba Mbeng Gr 2
73			Ngwa Gabriel	Headmaster GPS Kumba Gr 4
74			Ntoko Raymond Ndode	Headmaster GS Fiango Gr 2
75			Njumbe Emmanuel Akume	Headmaster GS Banga Bakundu Gr 1
76			Fomenjoh Alexander Atem	Headmaster GS Banga Bakundu Gr 2
77	Matuke William Mboh		Headmaster GS Kombone Bakundu Gr 1	
78	Ngome John Mukete		Headmaster GS Bole Gr 1	

Source: MINEDUB

3- Decisions Suspending some Officials from their Duties

319- These decisions concern officials of MINEDUB and MINEFI.

a- Decisions Taken by MINEDUB

320- The following decisions can be mentioned:

Decision No.221/B2/100975/MINEDUB/CAB of 15 June 2007 to suspend M. Mohamat, Teacher Training College Tutor¹⁰⁵ for poor management of application fees paid by candidates for public examinations in 2007;

Decision No.220/B1/1464/MINEDUB of 15 June 2007 to suspend certain sub-divisional inspectors of basic education for poor management of examination fees. They include:

¹⁰⁵ He was rehabilitated because the inquiry revealed that the said funds were not forwarded to him on time by the headmasters.

- Souman Yadjji, Senior Grade III Teacher, Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education, Tibati;
- Sima Louis Jacques, Teacher Training College Tutor, Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education, Bafia;
- Epopa René, Teacher Training College Tutor, Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education, Nkongsamba;
- Nyimi Moïse Marie, Senior Grade III Teacher, Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education, Loum;
- Kombou née Mpressa Yvette, Teacher Training College Tutor, Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education, Douala 5;
- Tasse Jean Bosco, Teacher Training College Tutor, Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education, Baleng;
- Soh Justin, Senior Grade III Teacher, Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education, Bamoungoum; and
- Djeutsa Baudelaire, Teacher Training College Tutor, Sub-Divisional Inspector of Basic Education, Bangangte¹⁰⁶.

b- Suspension Decisions by MINEFI

321- The following decisions can be mentioned:

- Decision No. 7/1269/A/MINEFI/CAB of 7 June 2007 to suspend, Mr Kamgo Emmanuel, from his duties as Divisional Centre Head of Taxation, Foubot, for acts incompatible with professional ethics¹⁰⁷; and
- Decision No. 7/1127/MINEFI/GF/DGI of 4 June 2007 to suspend Mr. Ganke Alain, from his duty in MINEFI as Tax Inspector for acts incompatible with professional ethics.

4- Decisions to Dismiss Civil Servants

322- By Order No. 157/CAB/PM/7 of 12 September 2007, the Prime Minister dismissed members of a public contracts award commission.

¹⁰⁶ CT No.8873/5072 of 20/6/2007.

¹⁰⁷ CT No. 8865/5064 of 8/6/2007.

323- Pursuant to Article 1 (1) of this Order, Kanmougne Jean Tuekam , Fomuso Peter Doh , Boyoguino Abadoma Ernest, Fom Georges Bertrand, members of the public contracts award commission of MINRESI, who respectively were representing the project owner, Finance Controller of the project owner and representative of MINEFI were dismissed from the commission for poor and unethical behaviour.

B- Judicial Sanctions

324- Several sanctions were taken in 2007. However, this report will deal only with decisions that were pending in 2006 with regard to the FEICOM¹⁰⁸ and SIC¹⁰⁹ matters.

1- The People and the Special Council Support Fund (FEICOM) vs Ondo Ndong Emmanuel and Others

325- By Judgment No.371/CRIM of 27 June 2007, the High Court, Mfoundi pronounced criminal and civil sanctions against the following persons as illustrated in the Table below.

Name	Offence	Criminal Sanctions		Civil Sanctions
		Main Punishment	Complementary Punishment	
ONDO NDONG Emmanuel	Misappropriation of public funds worth CFA 257, 975, 400 ¹¹⁰ ; Co-offender in misappropriation in the sum of CFA 11,103,841,538 ¹¹¹	50 years of imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years ; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 257, 975, 400; Payment of damages worth CFA 11,103,749,326 jointly
NGUEMA ONDO Dieudonné	Co-offender in misappropriation in the sum of CFA 11,103,841,538	48 years of imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years; publication of	Payment of damages worth CFA 11,103,749,326 jointly

¹⁰⁸ See Report by the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2006, p. 93.

¹⁰⁹ See Report the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2006, p.92.

¹¹⁰ About 396, 000,88 Euros.

¹¹¹ About 17,082,833.13 Euros.

	8		judgment	
MBELA Moïse	Co-offender in misappropriation in the sum of CFA 11,103,841,538	48 years of imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 11,103,749,326 jointly
KETCHAMI Charles	Co-offender in misappropriation in the sum of CFA 11,103,841,538 Misappropriation of public funds in the sum CFA 92,855,466 ¹¹²	35 years of imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 11,103,749,326 jointly
BESSALA NSANA Jean	Co-offender in misappropriation in the sum of CFA 11,103,841,538; Interest in grant;	48 years of imprisonment	Confiscation of Property acquired with ill-gotten funds; Forfeiture for 10 years; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 11,103,749,326 jointly
OMBALLA née NOVIAVA ABLAVI KOFFIE Elisabeth	Misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 166, 176, 537 ¹¹³ , Forgery	10 years imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 79,237,637
BITYE BI EBANGA	Misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 270,262,194 ¹¹⁴	20 years imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 270,262,194
ZEH ZEH Justin	Misappropriation of public funds in the CFA 74,323,172 ¹¹⁵	30 years imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 74,323,172
ANGUE Léonie Carine	Misappropriation of CFA 140, 844,000 ¹¹⁶	25 years imprisonment	Confiscation of property Forfeiture for 10 years; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 140,844 000

¹¹² About 142,858.56 Euros.

¹¹³ About 255, 656. 07 Euros.

¹¹⁴ About 415,788 Euros.

¹¹⁵ About 114,343.34 Euros.

¹¹⁶ About 216, 683.07 Euros.

NONEMBAM ETO Alain Florent	Misappropriation of the sum of CFA 116,000,000 ¹¹⁷	30 years imprisonment	Property acquired with ill-gotten funds; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 116,000,000
TCHENTE NAMTCHUE NG Dieudonné	Misappropriation of CFA 149,362,592 ¹¹⁸	20 years imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years ; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 149,362,592
NDEMA ASSOUMOU Bonaventure	Misappropriation of CFA 37,289,418 ¹¹⁹	25 years imprisonment	Property acquired with ill-gotten funds; Forfeiture for 10 years ; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 37,189,418
KALTJOB Aaron Raymond	Misappropriation of CFA 468,642,000 ¹²⁰	20 years imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years ; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 468,642 000
PEH VI Daniel Gauthier	Misappropriation of CFA 1,302,182,850 ¹²¹	40 years imprisonment	Confiscation of property; Forfeiture for 10 years ; publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 1,302,182,850

2 - The People and Housing Loan Fund of Cameroon (SIC) vs Belinga Gilles Roger and Others

326- By Judgment No.680/CRIM of 27 September 2007, the High Court, Mfoundi pronounced criminal and civil sanctions against the above-mentioned offenders as illustrated in the Table below.

¹¹⁷ About 178, 461. 53 Euros.

¹¹⁸ About 229,788.6 Euros.

¹¹⁹ About 57,214.48 Euros.

¹²⁰ About 720, 987.69 Euros.

¹²¹ About 2003,358.23 Euros.

¹²² About 4, 225, 958.87 Euros.

¹²³ About 195, 513.36 Euros.

Names	Offences	Criminal Sanctions		Civil Sanctions
		Main Punishment	Supplementary Punishment	
BELINGA Gilles Roger	Misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 2,746,873,270 ¹²² ; co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 127.083.686 ¹²³ ; co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 225,135,000 ¹²⁴ ; co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 617,614,071 ¹²⁵ .	35 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 2,746,873 270
AMOUGOU Jules Martin	Misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 167,017,050 ¹²⁶	15 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 167,017,050
LEUZE Dieudonné	Misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 165,825,000 ¹²⁷	25 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 165,825,000
MESSY Claude Bernard Modeste	Misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 165,251,000 ¹²⁸	25 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 165,251,000
NAMA NSIMI Patrice	Co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 63.144.371 ¹²⁹ ;	15 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 63,144,371

¹²⁴ About 346,361.53 Euros.

¹²⁵ About 950, 175.49 Euros.

¹²⁶ About 256, 949.3 Euros.

¹²⁷ About 255, 115. 38 Euros.

¹²⁸ About 254, 232. 3 Euros.

¹²⁹ About 97, 145, .18 Euros.

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	accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 127,083,686			
SOPPO François Roger,	Misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 26,764,350 ¹³⁰ , co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 617,614,071	15 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 26,764,350
HAMADOU OUSMANOU	Misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 23,835,500 ¹³¹ ; co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 127,083,686 ; co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 225.135.000 ; accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 617,614,071	35 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 23,835,500
AYISSI TSALA	misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 5,976,800 ¹³²	15 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	Payment of damages worth CFA 5,976,800
NDENGUE Edmond Marie	co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 127,083,686	15 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	
NGOUNE BEBE Charles Félix	co-offender and accessory in the misappropriation of public funds in the sum of CFA 127,083,686	15 years of imprisonment	Confiscation, forfeiture for 10 years, publication of judgment	

¹³⁰ About 41,175.92 Euros.

¹³¹ About 36,670 Euros.

¹³² About 9,195.07 Euros.

Section 2: Promotion of Participatory Governance

327-In 2007, there was the determination to review the governance system by legitimating State action from the grassroots. The main aim of participatory governance is to take up the challenge of economic globalisation and especially to redistribute power to actors other than the State who are either in the private or public sectors.

328-As a process, this objective cannot be obtained unless a prerequisite, defined during this year, is met.

§ 1: Prerequisite for Participatory Governance: Building a Capable State

329- This is based on the idea that the State is guarantor of the general interest. It must play the role of catalyst in socio-economic development by presenting itself as a capable State.¹³³

330- National consultations were held during a seminar organised on 4 and 5 October 2007, coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office (National Good Governance Programme) and UNDP, within the framework of preparations for the 7th African Good Governance Forum slated for 26, 27, and 28 October 2007 at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on the theme *Capacity Building of the State in Africa*. Two hundred and thirteen (213) persons representing Public Services (National Assembly, ministries, local governments), the private sector, the civil society (representatives of universities, members of liberal professions, representatives of civil society organisations) took part in these discussions.

331- It was accepted that the main problems facing African States in general and Cameroon in particular are related to governance and that these can be resolved only through collective participation. Thus, to meet the objective of participatory governance, African States in general and the State of Cameroon in particular must have the characteristics of a capable state.

¹³³ It should be stated that « the competent State » is different from the paternalist, welfare or gendarme State. The concept of the competent State is a new concept in the search for modern governance.

In this light, one may wish to know if based on these characteristics, the State of Cameroon is a capable State. The preparatory seminar-workshop on the 7th African Forum on Governance in Africa culminated in the drawing up of a National Plan for the Building of a Capable State.

A- Characteristics of a Capable State

332- A capable State is a State that can promote and provide a real, viable and reliable framework for sustainable political, economic and social development. It serves as facilitator and regulator.

1) Capable State: Facilitator

333-The State must be a facilitator and must adopt measures to put in place a favourable framework for action which is especially accessible to other actors and development partners. It must therefore curb scourges which hinder its smooth functioning such as corruption. It must also modernise its Judiciary, build the capacity of Members of Parliament, and ensure the development of infrastructure¹³⁴. During the seminar, Cameroon's good practices towards a capable State were evoked.

a- Anti-Corruption Policy

334- The fight against corruption is real in Cameroon as shown above and by other documents including previous reports on Human Rights in the country¹³⁵.

335- At the institutional level, one can note the setting up of anti-corruption¹³⁶ units in ministries, the action of the State Audit, the setting up of the Audit Bench, the functioning of CONAC ANIF and the National Governance Programme (NGP) among others. It is evident that with the persistence of corruption, emphasis should be laid on change of mentality.¹³⁷

¹³⁴ The list is inexhaustive.

¹³⁵ Report by Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2005 p. 169 et seq;
Report by Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2006, p87 et seq.

¹³⁶ Report by Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2005, p169 et seq.

¹³⁷ See Commonwealth principles, zero tolerance to corruption.

b- Modernisation of the Judiciary

336- As regards the modernisation of the Judiciary, the characteristics of a capable State are:

- the supremacy of the rule of law;
- the guarantee of social justice;
- the protection of persons and property; and
- an independent judicial system.

337- Cameroon's Judiciary is constantly criticised in spite of intense effort by Government. These criticisms include:

- the lack of credibility of the Judiciary;
- judicial delays;
- persistent corruption;
- scarce budgetary means;
- lack of computer equipment; and
- overcrowded prisons.

338- Modernisation of the Judiciary will be carried out in two major phases:

- in the short term, by the capacity building of the Ministry of Justice especially control of courts, legal supervision of judicial and administrative courts, capacity building of the Courts, Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court;
- in the medium term, by the capacity building of courts, modernisation of codes and other laws, capacity building of penitentiary establishments in the provinces, further training of Judicial and Legal Officers, Court Registrars and auxiliaries of justice.

c- Capacity Building of Parliamentary Institutions

339- Parliament plays a fundamental role in governance through its structures (structure comprising Parliamentarians, support structure made up of the Secretariat General). It should control Government action, carry out

relevant inquiry through parliamentary commissions, oral and written questions to members of Government¹³⁸.

340- However, it seems that Parliament faces many difficulties relating to governance. The presentation on this topic identified the following difficulties:

- reduced number of parliamentary sessions of which one is entirely devoted to budget adoption;
- existence of commissions which do not always function due to poor organisation; and
- lack of legal, economic and social expertise by parliamentarians;

341- The following actions are envisaged for the capacity building of Parliament in this domain:

- setting up of a parliamentary portal to provide further information;
- capacity building of the Secretariat General;
- legal support to parliamentarians;
- reinforcement of bilingualism; and
- institution of parliamentary sessions of a minimum period of six months.

d- Development of Infrastructure

342- In this regard, the State ensured the:

- adoption of a road master plan;
- funding of road maintenance by the Road Fund;
- privatisation of water and energy sectors;
- signing of a decree to permit private operators to produce, transport and distribute electricity from non hydraulic sources;
- setting up of the Electricity Regulatory Board;
- drawing up of a rural electrification programme;
- liberalisation of the telecommunications sector;
- setting up and promotion of community telecentres;
- drawing up of the 2025 rural energy sector development plan; and
- fibre optic connection project.

¹³⁸ Article 34 (1) of the Constitution of 18 January 1996.

343- The expected impact of these initiatives is to effectively guarantee the economic, social and cultural rights of Cameroonians.

344- For the State to reinforce its actions in this domain it equally has to:

- increase the means of regulatory boards, especially ARSEL with the view to preserving the improvement of the quality of services offered and the respect of investment plans in the electricity sector; and
- liberalise the cable telephone system for increased competitiveness and free competition between enterprises to reduce cost and improve the quality of services.

1) Capable State: Regulator

345- The emergence of a regulatory State requires some prerequisites namely the:

- preservation of peace, stability and security in the country;
- peaceful defence of territorial integrity;
- continuation of subregional and regional integrity;
- preservation of national unity and integration;
- development of research and education; and
- promotion of development.

B- Drawing up of a National Action Plan for the Building of a Capable State

346- The 7th African Forum on Governance (FAG-VII) underscored the fact that the State is an inevitable actor in establishing a favourable business environment, sustainable and durable growth. Only can improve on the living conditions of a people subjugated by several years of structural adjustments. In a constantly changing world, taking measures aimed increasingly at making the State of Cameroon a facilitator and a regulator is not only necessary but imperative.

347- In this regard, special emphasis should be laid on actions and measures to build the capacity of the State with regard to the:

- promotion of a stable macro economy through a long term development policy for the country;
- drawing up of the general and sectoral strategies as well as their related short term expenditures; multiannual public investments programming¹³⁹ ;
- reinforcement of growth through economic diversification as envisaged in the country analysis document prepared by all United Nations agencies;
- putting in place of an institutional framework for the promotion of private sector development considered the growth sector in a context of keen competition;
- organisation of different professions;
- reinforcement of basic infrastructure with a view to enhancing sustained economic growth which generates jobs and income and which ensures that poverty is efficiently curbed;
- further accelerate regional integration and insertion in the world economy;
- enhancing human resources through the improvement of access to basic and technical education, health, poverty reduction in urban areas, promotion of women, social protection, insertion of underprivileged groups in economic channels curbing scourges that decimate Africans (malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) ;
- better consideration in gender issues with regard to preparing and taking decisions;
- boosting the efficiency of administrative services and institutional frameworks (putting in place of a mechanism that enables citizens to access information on the management of public affairs to enable them exercise their power of control);
- improvement of the electoral framework and electoral transparency in the electoral process;
- capacity building of control structures of public finance management at the Executive, Legislative and Judicial levels with the view to definitely institute the culture of accountability and safeguard public resources for development projects;
- capacity building to render local authorities operational;
- setting up of a healthy environment for the self structuring of civil society organisations;

¹³⁹ Indicate ministries that already have sector strategies and development programmes.

- development and application of best practices in all sectors of the nation's life and in combating corruption notably through the publication of the framework law relating thereto;
- increasing information and communication technology equipment to facilitate the insertion of the people into the world that has become a global village and gain access to markets thanks to electronic commerce; and
- protection and preservation of planned environments. Most actions relating to this plan were envisaged in 2008.

348- With regard to NGP actions and activities, the mid-term review of the revised programme should be achieved in 2008. It was envisaged that during this review, new actions should be introduced while those already taken but whose objectives were not met would be reviewed in order to meet real needs.

349- As concerns the PRSP drawn up in 2003 and reviewed several times, it was observed, upon assessment, that most actions envisaged in priority sectors such as basic infrastructures and social sectors were not realised especially due to the State's inability to find adequate funding.

350- The challenge of the optimum achievement of actions previewed in the PRSP may not be taken up unless the capacity of taxation sectors was equally enhanced for a better collection of taxes. Besides, adequate funding must be obtained for the realisation of a number of predefined actions.

§2: Objective: Decentralised Governance

351- Decentralised governance, the final goal of participatory governance, must take into account the participation and capacity building of the civil society.

A- Participation of the Private Sector

352- The participation of the private sector requires a solid public/private sector partnership and enterprise governance.

1- Public/Private Sector Partnership

353- The public/private sector partnership is a platform which enables the Government of Cameroon to initiate a sustainable development process in order to curb poverty. This partnership is characterised by the attainment of the HIPC¹⁴⁰ Initiative and the acceleration of economic growth.

354- In this regard, the challenges facing economic governance consist in setting up an environment conducive to private, local and foreign investments to wit:

- the setting up of a favourable environment for the enhancement of the competitiveness of enterprises; and
- the institution of confidence between the stakeholders.

355- These challenges take into consideration the following strategic thrusts of economic governance:

- promotion of policies, institutions and infrastructures that lend support to the private sector;
- increased involvement of the private sector in the capacity building of human resources;
- promotion of public/private sector dialogue;
- promotion of development policies for SME/SMI, microfinances and handicrafts; and
- reinforcement of the OHADA legal and judicial system.

356- The public/private sector partnership developed by Government shall permit the elimination in the short term of institutional constraints to the setting up of enterprises, the finalisation of the legal framework for investments, the opening up of markets in 2008 accompanied by the updating of local industries to be competitive¹⁴¹ at the international level. In the long term, the strategy will allow for the effective installation of structures provided for by the Investment Charter, the setting up of a funding institution and a guarantee fund for loans to SME/SMI. The Law on public/private partnership contracts as well as that on their financial, fiscal and accounting system was voted on 22 December 2006.

¹⁴⁰ See presentation on the completion point of the HIPC Initiative in the Report by the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2006, p.80 and 81.

¹⁴¹ See Lisbon Summit.

2- Enterprise Governance

357- Significant progress has been made with regard to enterprises and partnership, notably the:

- codification of ethics in enterprises;
- structuring of employers guild which enables her to participate in Government effort relating to enterprise governance; and
- setting up of the GICAM Arbitration Centre.

B- Capacity Building of the Civil Society

358- Building the capacity of the civil society implies enhancing the capacity of citizens in the management of public affairs. Thus, the State must work to:

- modernise the electoral framework¹⁴²;
- promote and protect human rights;
- publicise the law by means of ICT;
- promote the civil society; and
- address gender issues.

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359- Although the State responded effectively in 2007 to obstacles to good governance such as corruption, the complex socio-economic environment arising from participatory governance compounds the uncertainty of coordination between the different actors and the different types of governance in Cameroon, a country determined to lay down the conditions for a capable State.

360- This remark should justify recourse to new organisational models, in order to give meaning to notions like political, economic, local, labour, and urban governance.

¹⁴² See Part One, Chapter 5 on Legislative and Council Elections of July 2007.

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CHAPTER 2

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE
STANDARD OF LIVING

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361- One of Government's priorities is to provide Cameroonians with the right to an acceptable standard of living. As such, it carried out concrete actions with a view to improving their standard of living. Some of these actions included measures to control prices of basic products, guarantee access to drinking water and electric power supply and the right to adequate housing.

Section 1: Price Control of Basic Products

362- A steady increase in the prices of basic products was observed on the market. Government made efforts to control this phenomenon. Such efforts are worthy of praise considering the international context and market uncertainties. However, Government efforts to control prices were hampered by such uncertainties.

§1: Price Control Measures

363- Such measures fall under the following two categories: concertation with businessmen and assistance to efforts made by social actors to fight against high cost of living.

A- Concertation with Businessmen

364- Government focused on the application of Ordinance No. 2006/1 of 28 September 2006 to revise taxes on some basic products, and laying the foundation for curbing rupture of stock and a promotion campaign in the commercialisation of products mentioned in the said Ordinance. A number of meetings were organised between March and August 2007 on foodstuffs and some manufactured products as well as different services.

1) Foodstuffs

365- The following products were discussed in the concertation meetings: salt, rice, frozen fish, beef, pork, poultry and cooking oil.

a- Salt

366- In the meeting held on 5 March 2007 at the Ministry of Commerce, businessmen agreed to reduce the price of iodised salt. Local manufacturers specialised in processing crude salt to refined salt, whose business

dropped due to the competitive prices of imported salt from Senegal were reminded to scrupulously respect the prices homologated following the memorandum of understanding of 3 October 2006. Thus, their competitors were forced to align their prices to those of national producers. Government further exhorted salt manufacturers to consider production in packs of 1 kg. As a result, the sale of salt in cups, glasses and bowls, a practice contrary to the rules of hygiene, disappeared from the market.

b- Rice

367- Concertation between Government and wholesalers of the sector resulted in the drop of prices of highly consumed varieties in Cameroon, especially, Pakistanese rice (25%), Vietnamese rice (15%, 10%, 15%, and 25%), Indian rice (25%), Chinese rice (25%).

c- Fozen Fish

368- The actors of the sector, in concertation with Government, agreed on the new retail prices. These prices were fixed as follows:

- mackerel above grade 25: CFA 700 to 800 per kg;
- mackerel above grade 20: CFA 600 to 700 per kg; and
- Chilean mackerel: CFA 550 to 600 per kg.

369- It should be noted that the minimum and maximum price range took into consideration the handling cost.

d- Beef and Pork

370- In spite of the availability of technical services of the Ministry of Commerce, businessmen in these sectors did not express real will to become professionals. As a result, there was a constant fluctuation of prices of these products on the market.

371- In comparison with former years, the price of beef has increased tremendously.¹⁴³ Generally, the explanation to justify such increase is that butchers at the traditional production level victims of looting and ransom by armed robbers from neighbouring countries.

¹⁴³ CFA 1 800 /Kg of meat without bones.
CFA 2 500 /Kg of meat without bones.

372- The price of pork equally fluctuated due to the absence of a rational organisation to guarantee steady supply and equitable prices. Inflation further caused an increase in the prices of cattle and the presence of many intermediaries in the supply chain.

373- In the face of this situation, the technical services of the Ministry of Commerce contacted the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry (MINEPIA) in view of:

- an increase in the importation of beef; and
- a continuation of the modernisation process of beef and pork sectors by setting up groups of professionals likely to carry out group purchase of livestock in Cameroon or from abroad.

374- Besides, measures were taken to facilitate the transportation of pork from supply centres to main markets.

a- Poultry

375- Cameroon poultry farmers recorded great loss following the break-out of bird flu in 2006. As a result, a good number of poultry farms reduced or even suspended their activities.

376- The Ordinance of 28 September 2006 to reduce customs duty by 5 per cent on imported maize for poultry farms and exempt eggs for incubation from all taxes met the basic concerns of poultry farmers. However, these measures did not meet expected results due to the serious economic hardship characterised by price hike of cereals on the international market. Nevertheless, the situation gradually improved from April 2007 with the installation of new incubators by poultry farmers.

b- Palm oil

377- With the setting up of the Palm Oil Regulatory Committee, there was a steady supply of palm oil that had registered seasonal shortages in the past. In recent agricultural campaigns, crude palm oil has recorded a steady average production surplus of 6,000 tons/year. That is why there has been a relative stability in retail prices that fluctuate between CFA 400¹⁴⁴ and CFA 450/litre.¹⁴⁵ Besides, products imported from Asia have

¹⁴⁴ About 0.61 Euros

¹⁴⁵ about 0.69 Euros

made it possible to maintain prices at an affordable level for the average consumer.

378- However, Government has undertaken to protect this industry by respecting international commitments and the interest of consumers.

2- Manufactured Products and Services

379- Such products include sugar, building materials, maintenance products, water and electricity supply services and information and communication technology.

a- Sugar

380- After assessment of the level of market supply following a technical meeting held on 26 March 2007 at the Ministry of Trade, the following prices were fixed on the basis of a FOB price of 450 euros/ton:

No.	Description	Value in CFA/Ton
1	FOB price at Douala (450 Euros)	295, 180 ¹⁴⁶
2	Customs duty (14% FOB)	41,325 ¹⁴⁷
3	VAT on FOB +DD (19.25%)	64,777 ¹⁴⁸
4	Transit	6, 000 ¹⁴⁹
5	Other transformation charges	150, 000 ¹⁵⁰
6	Out of factory price tax free (1+2+3+4+5)	557, 282 ¹⁵¹
7	10% profit margin	55, 728 ¹⁵²
8	Out of factory price tax free (6+7)	613, 013 ¹⁵³
9	VAT PVSU tax free (8) 19 ,25%	118, 004 ¹⁵⁴
10	Deductable VAT (3)	-64, 777 ¹⁵⁵
11	Out of factory price tax inclusive about CFA 16, 655 per carton of 25 kg (wholesale price)	666, 237 ¹⁵⁶
12	Wholesale price tax inclusive (retailer price) About CFA 17 ,655 per carton of 25 Kg	706, 200 ¹⁵⁷
13	Market price tax inclusive (retail price) about CFA 750 per packet of 1kg	750, 000 ¹⁵⁸

Source: Ministry of Commerce

¹⁴⁶ About 450.65 Euros.

¹⁴⁷ About 63.09 Euros.

¹⁴⁸ About 98.89 Euros.

¹⁴⁹ About 9.16 Euros.

¹⁵⁰ About 229 Euros.

¹⁵¹ About 850.81 Euros.

¹⁵² About 85.08 Euros.

¹⁵³ About 935.89 Euros.

¹⁵⁴ About 180.15 Euros.

¹⁵⁵ About 98.89 Euros.

¹⁵⁶ About 1,017.15 Euros.

¹⁵⁷ About 1,078.16 Euros.

¹⁵⁸ About 1,145.03 Euros.

381- On the basis of these data, the retail price of lump sugar manufactured by NOSUCA and SUMOCAM stood at CFA 730/kg.¹⁵⁹ However, the price of SOSUCAM sugar remained the same, that is, CFA 650/kg for lump sugar and CFA 550/kg¹⁶⁰ for granulated sugar.

b- Toiletries

382- With a view to the stabilisation of prices of cosmetic products and toiletries, market norms are near completion in the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Technological Development.

383- The supply of soap to small retailers in neighbourhoods encountered the problem of prices. The Ministry of Trade, through the Department of Internal Trade and the Department of Consumer Protection, monitored the supply channels and undertook to severely crackdown on speculators.

c- Services: Water, Electricity and ICT

384- The cost of drinking water, electricity, and telephone is still very high in Cameroon, and this causes a lot of complaints from consumers. Generally, they complain of the demand charge, billing method, and the quality of metres rented to them. As concerns drinking water, low-cost connections, steady provision of metres, the respect of payment instalments are the major worries of consumers. Meanwhile, they equally request a further drop in telephone ICT rates.

385- These needs led Government to carry out the following measures:

- successful negotiations with AES SONEL with a view to correcting the adverse effects of the demand charge;
- equitable refund to customers of funds unduly collected in the form of penalties for late payment of electricity bills;
- preparation of major projects such as the Dibamba thermal plant, the Kribi gas distribution centre, the Lompangar damp, the Memve'ele hydro electricity damp;

¹⁵⁹ About 1.11 Euros.

¹⁶⁰ About 0.63 Euros.

- signing of an agreement on the Cameroon/Chad interconnection project;
- signing with the European Union of a rural electrification project ERD-RUMPI in the South West Province ;
- sensitisation by consumer associations of their members on the need to review their agreement with AES SONEP to ensure that the metre power corresponds to their real needs and facilitates the calculation of the demand charge;
- respect of exoneration of the VAT on the low-cost consumption of any volume of water consumed by a CAMWATER customer;
- standardisation of penalty calculations on suspension of water supply in accordance with the 1997 Directives of the Prime Minister, Head of Government;
- continuation of the process to reduce suspension of communications; and
- setting up of several telecommunity centres.

d- Support to Social Actors

386- Government support was directed towards associations and the facilitation of access to authorisations.

1) Support to associations

387- The following associations, Retailers Solidarity Fund and Consumers League benefited from Government support, notably from the Ministry of Trade in the fight against high cost of living.

a- Retailers Solidarity Fund (MUBASE)

388- Female retailers of foodstuffs commonly called "*Bayam selam*"¹⁶¹, obtained the following support from the Ministry of Trade to better carry on with their business with a view to stabilising prices of basic products:

- technical support comprising workshops and sensitisation campaigns on the supply channels of foodstuffs;
- material support distributed to « *Bayam Selam* » groups, transport facilities for the conveyance of foodstuffs from farm markets to urban centres; and
- allocation of funds to organised groups for the sale of foodstuffs.

¹⁶¹ This term, in Pidgin English means "*to buy and to sell*" foodstuffs.

b- Consumers League

389- The Consumers League received Government support through training on consumer protection. A seminar was organised for its members to enable them to carry out sensitisation campaigns on price hikes warning.

2) Facilitation of Access to Licences

390- Government, in order to put an end to the many complaints by businessmen on the lack of clarity in the issuance of licences to import and export some products, took measures to facilitate access to such licences. These measures were intended to increase the importation of basic products that are scarce on the market. The strategy comprises transparency based on a wide publication of lists of the sectors concerned and the documents required for the acquisition of a licence.

The priority sectors included trade and industry (with focus on the importation of foodstuffs), sale of services, development of food processing industry, crude oil industry; the exportation of cash crops like cocoa and coffee, crude oil products, foodstuffs, tea, and cotton.

391- Although Government regularly took measures to stabilise market prices of basic products, a number of factors seriously hindered such action.

§2: Hindrances to Government Action

392- Government carried out the fight against high cost of living in a difficult context. The poor organisation in the supply channels of products and the requirements of international trade, among others, hindered its action.

A- Poor Organisation of Supply Channels

393- Scarcity, the long distribution and sales channels, monopoly, and the refusal of wholesalers to share the profit margin are the main difficulties that hinder effective Government control of prices of basic products. Such difficulties are caused by the complexity of market forces dictated by private interests and which, in addition to the lack of Government staff to ensure control, render Government action much more difficult.

1-Scarcity

394- Speculations by traders often caused scarcity of basic products on the market. In fact, due to the shortage in the supply of some products, some traders stocked products without putting them on sale to cause price hikes. The Ministry of Trade conducted investigation to bring the situation under control. However, it was difficult for the Ministry to lay hands on such traders because it could not uncover such stocks or prove such conduct.

2- Distribution and Sales Network

395- The distribution network was often perturbed by the existence of a lot of trade intermediaries who fixed the price of products at different levels. Beef, for example suffered this situation for, in each livestock market, intermediary salesmen determined its price before its entry into the market. As such, it was observed that prices rose sharply as one got closer to Yaounde and Douala.

396- In the fish, rice and other sectors where products are imported, the chain of retailers often comprises five levels between the importer and the consumer. Sales at every level included an increase in profit which was finally included in the retail price.

397- Government can hardly supervise the distribution channel. Therefore, it can never know all the levels through which commodities pass before reaching the market. Traders alone have such mastery. That is why they determine prices, otherwise they would refuse to sell a commodity whose price is determined by the Ministry of Trade.

3- Monopoly

398- Some businessmen have a monopoly on the production and marketing of some products and services. As such, some companies unilaterally determine the prices of products and services provided. CIMENCAM in the cement sector is a glaring example. In October 2007, the company increased the price of a 50kg bag of cement (NC CPJ 35) by 7 per cent. In Yaounde, a bag of cement that sold at CFA 4,725 now officially sells at CFA 5,060, that is, an increase of CFA 335. In hardware shops, traders

had a document containing the new prices. This document signed by the Director of Logistics and Trade of CIMENCAM was silent on the causes of the increase. It simply indicated the new prices (local sales) in depots North and South of the country. The table below is illustrative:

Town	New price
Yaounde	5540 ¹⁶²
Belabo	5540
Garoua Boulai	6620 ¹⁶³
Kentzou	6620
Kye-Ossi	6620
Garoua, cement from Douala	7050 ¹⁶⁴
Garoua, cement from Figuil	5590 ¹⁶⁵
Maroua	5630 ¹⁶⁶
Ngaoundere, cement from Douala	5840 ¹⁶⁷
Ngaoundere, cement from Figuil	6770 ¹⁶⁸

Source: Ministry of Commerce

399- The increase in the price of cement due to high demand both at the national and subregional levels was a serious handicap to citizens in the achievement of their right to decent housing. The situation was even worse with the failure to increase the purchasing power of citizens.

400- In a bid to protect consumers, Government recalled that the prices of products of monopoly sectors such as cement are homologated before they are put on the market. The sale of cement has up till now been supervised because of its importance and Government's determination to encourage acquisition of a decent housing.

401- The Ministry of Trade confirmed the refusal by Cameroonians of CIMENCAM's decision to increase the price of cement by 7 per cent from 9 October 2007. CIMENCAM was therefore requested to suspend its decision to allow for an open and extended concertation of all the actors. It further recalled that such suspension will create a favourable atmosphere for business and social peace.

¹⁶² About 8.45 Euros.

¹⁶³ About 10.10 Euros.

¹⁶⁴ About 10.76 Euros.

¹⁶⁵ About 8.53 Euros.

¹⁶⁶ About 8.59 Euros.

¹⁶⁷ About 8.91 Euros.

¹⁶⁸ About 10.33 Euros.

402- Government further prioritised the need to include consumer associations in decision making. If not, they should at least be consulted to obviously maintain social peace.

403- All these points aimed at maintaining a good business climate in Cameroon, taking into account consumer worries, led Government to request CIMENCAM, a citizen-friendly company par excellence, to suspend its decision to allow for an open and extended concertation of all the stakeholders.

404- Besides, Government decided to liberalise the prices of cement to stimulate competition in the sector and guarantee market stability in the interest of consumers who will have to buy from the best bidder. Government was convinced that healthy competition between producers and importers will ensure a better flexibility in market prices.

405- Thus, an important concertation and information meeting was organised on 27 November 2007 in the Ministry of Trade. It was an opportunity for Cameroon businessmen to diversify their operations and conquer markets in this profitable sector both at the national and subregional levels. By diversifying the supply of the product, fair competitive conditions would be set up and this will lead to a better mastery of prices. Such situation should make the consumer a true referee between businessmen, producers and sellers.

4- Refusal to Share Profits

406- Such refusal is a major point of disagreement between businessmen and public authorities.

407- Following Ordinance No. 2006/1 of 28 September 2006 on tax amendment applicable to some basic products, new prices were fixed for basic products. A lot of businessmen held that the new prices did not give them any profit margin when compared to importation prices.

408- They further argued that the taxes they pay do not enable them to share profits with retailers.

409- The dysfunctions presented above are not exhaustive but they give an idea of the seriousness of the problem of mastery of prices of basic products in Cameroon. In most cases, national considerations influence the rules of international trade.

B- Constraints of International Trade

410- The rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) contributed to an intensive liberalisation of trade in different sectors. As concerns cement for example, officials of CIMENCAM continued to use the 30 per cent increase in the prices of raw materials in recent years to justify price increase of cement. With the increase in the price of raw materials on the world market, the cost of cement production automatically increased.

411- Increase in the price of fuel is equally related to increase in world market prices. Cameroon that produces crude oil but does not refine it suffered like all the other countries in the world constant increase in the price of a barrel of crude oil. It was therefore obvious that such increase be felt in households, transport, and industries that faced inflation in the prices of oil products on the market.

Section 2 : Access to Drinking Water and Electricity

412- Access to drinking water and electricity is one of the major conditions in the achievement of the right to an acceptable standard of living. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, at its twenty-ninth session held in 2002, stated in its General Comment No. 1 that water is an “essential element in life” and “the right to water is clearly part of the fundamental guarantees of a sufficient standard of living.”¹⁶⁹ The guarantee of access to water is closely related to the guarantee of access to electricity.

413- Government has undertaken to improve on water supply but faces difficulties in guaranteeing access to electricity.

¹⁶⁹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Twenty-ninth session (2002), General Comment No.1: the right to water, Doc, UNO HRI/I/Rev, 7, p. 116, §2.

§1: Measures to Improve on Water Supply

414- Access to water is conditioned by the supply provided by services in charge of water. In fact, public authorities have identified the following problems: absence of coordination between the different water supply actors, poor mastery of water management concepts, and insufficient call for funds. This resulted, among others, to high risks of pollution, rapid degradation of water quality, multiplication of unsupervised water supply sources, and the proliferation of water-borne diseases.

415- Therefore, Government took specific measures to increase water supply and the entire sector has been thoroughly restructured.

A-Measures to Increase the Supply of Drinking Water

416- After a presentation of the projects realised and/or ongoing Government activities and partnership agreements will be examined.

1) Projects

417- In a bid to improve access to water, Government carried out several projects set out in the Table below :

HIPC 2007

Province	Number of equipped wells	Number of drinking water supply points (DWSP)
ADAMAWA	6	
CENTRE	44	1
EAST	23	
FAR NORTH	36	
LITTORAL	25	1
NORTH	39	
NORTH WEST		12

WEST	29	1
SOUTH	30	
SOUTH WEST		16
TOTAL	232	31

Source: MINEE

Statistics of rural water supply MDRI 2007

Province	Number of equipped wells	Number of DWSP	SNEC Extension	Development of supply points
ADAMAWA	10			
CENTRE	15	2	1	
EAST	6			
FAR NORTH	14			
LITTORAL	6			2
NORTH	3			
NORTH WEST	3	3		
WEST	26			
SOUTH	20			
SOUTH WEST	1	3		
TOTAL	104	8	1	2

Source: MINEE.

Statistics of rural water supply PIB 2007

Province	Number of equipped wells	Number of DWSP	Réh San-Water	Development of supply points
ADAMAWA	10			
CENTRE	25	2	1	
EAST	9			
FAR NORTH	19			
LITTORAL	10			3
NORTH	13			
NORTH WEST		6		
WEST	17	2	1	
SOUTH	13	1		
SOUTH WEST	2	10	1	
TOTAL	118	21	3	3

Source: MINEE

418- The tables above show that some Provinces benefit from more water supply projects than others. These include the Centre, Littoral, and West Provinces due to the dense population of their urban areas, and the North, Far North, and South Provinces due to the enclavement of some of their areas.

2) Government Initiatives

419- Government has multiplied sensitisation campaigns and supplied water to some vulnerable areas. It further intends to dig more wells in sub-urban areas and rehabilitate some factory equipment in the Littoral Province (Japoma and Massoumbou). Such projects have made it possible to produce about 300,000 m³/day of water to meet the needs in the economic capital.

420- Similarly, the Kaele water supply has been inaugurated and the first phase of the Japanese water project consisting in the digging of 100 wells has been executed.

421- Government further set up a water purification strategy implemented as follows:

- finalisation of the master plans and their implementation in collaboration with regional and local authorities;
- rehabilitation of existing collective systems;
- promotion of low cost appropriate water purification techniques;
- implementation of water purification management agreements between public authorities and assigned public service water supply companies; and
- reinforcement of income recovery actions in the sector (charges and taxes).

3) Signing of Partnership Agreements

422- Guaranteeing the right of access to water is fairly difficult to achieve within the context of economic recovery. In fact, to set up and modernise

infrastructure requires mobilising huge financial resources. The State then turns to development partners for the improvement of access to drinking water.

423- Thus, in 2007, Cameroon and the World Bank signed an agreement to develop access of the population in vulnerable areas to water. The World Bank granted Cameroon a loan of CFA 1 13.5 billion¹⁷⁰ for the improvement of water supply¹⁷¹, notably through the following:

- rehabilitation of about 70,000 low cost connections;
- installation of 1,200 taps;
- rehabilitation of water production and supply plants in Yaounde and Douala; and
- capacity building of public partners in follow-up, regulation, and planning of investment.

424- Government further signed an agreement with the Peoples Republic of China to curb shortage in the supply of drinking water in Douala. As such, the Government of Cameroon was granted a preferential loan of about CFA 11 billion.¹⁷² The loan was equally used to finalise the privatisation of the National Water Corporation (SNEC).

B- Restructuring of the Water Sector

425- Restructuring of the water sector fell within the framework of the privatisation of SNEC. Thus, two structures were set up. The first is CAMWATER, a public company in charge of investment on water production infrastructure. The Second, the "*Camerounaise des Eaux*," is the backbone, and therefore, the new customers interface.¹⁷³

426- CAMWATER has defined its priorities in terms of increase and extension of water supply to urban and suburban areas throughout the national territory.

A project to strengthen and improve on water supply has been conceived. It includes the building of a production plant with a capacity of

¹⁷⁰ About 173,282,442 Euros

¹⁷¹ CT No. 8978/5177 of 16 November 2007, p.7.

¹⁷² About 16,793,895 Euros.

¹⁷³ As concerns the legal nature of these companies, see 2006 Report. p111. §1.

50,000m³/day. On 18 December 2007, the State signed a concession agreement with CAMWATER, and a lease agreement with "Camerounaise des Eaux."¹⁷⁴

427- The following Tables shows the temporary report of the restructuring activities of the water sector as at 30 May 2007:

Strategic or global objectives	Priority actions	Actions carried out
Launching of consultations on the different projects	Study on Water Supply and Purification in 12 towns	Ongoing studies
	Study on consolidation of water supply in Yaounde	Ongoing discussions with funding bodies
	Water Purification of 10 secondary towns	
Realisation of projects	Follow-up of Rehabilitation of Taps in the Sanaga Maritime Division	Works under completion
	Continuation of negotiations on financing of the remaining water projects in 16 towns	End of studies Financing of works expected
Studies	Drawing up of a policy on water supply and purification in rural and urban areas	Urban policy drawn up and validated by Government; ongoing rural policy was tabled for consultation with the civil society from 29 to 30 May 2007 in Yaounde
	statistics of water supply works	Imminent launching of statistics of water supply throughout the country
Start of projects	Continuation of Rural Water Supply Project in Batcham	Works completed and received
	Rural water projects	
	Celebration of the World Water Day	Executed
	Follow-up of organisations of the Basin	Audience granted the Executive Secretary of ABN and an ABN mission of experts (Water Charter) Interbasin water transfer project examined within LCBC and CICOS
	Completion of instruments governing water	
Continuation of activities	National Action Plan for Integrated Management of Water Resources (NAPIMWR)	Orientation document drawn up Call for funding underway
	Water for African Cities Phase II	

¹⁷⁴ CT No. 9001/5200 of 19 December 2007, p.5.

File	Priority actions	Actions carried out
Water projects financed by multilateral, bilateral, PIB, and HIPC funds.	Digging of wells equipped with pumps	<u>Projects financed by PIB</u> (Executed by Provincial Delegations). <u>HIPC Projects</u> : Contracts signed
	Realisation of gravity systems in rural Water supply projects	Tenders launched
	Realisation of urban water supply systems exploited by SNEC	
Water purification projects financed by multilateral, bilateral, PIB, and HIPC funds	Urban water purification: Institutional, normative and execution study	
	Rural water purification: digging of latrines, dust bins, drainage and sewage disposal systems	
Privatisation of SNEC	Implementation of partnership between the public and private sectors for the National Water Corporation	Ongoing selection of a backbone
Law No. 98/5 to govern water system	Drafting of enforcement instruments	
	Water inspection campaign	
	Issuance of authorisation for water catchment and overflowing	Operation continued

File	Priority actions	Actions carried out
Special allocation of fund for the financing of sustainable development projects on water supply and purification	Information and sensitisation of the different partners (Security of businessmen)	

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	Financing of sustainable development projects on water supply and purification	
Water supply and purification policies and strategies in rural areas	Preparation of SDR for international consultation with a view to facilitating the process	
	Launching invitation to tender for the selection of a consultant	Already done
	Setting up a project operational unit at the Ministry	Already done
	Diagnosis of rural water projects	Already done
	Organisation of Seminars/Workshops	The Seminars/Workshops were held on 29 and 30 May 2007
	Drafting of policies and action plan	
	Adoption and publication of policies and action plan	
National Action Plan for the Integrated Management of Water Resources NAPIMWR (GWP)	Installation of project team and Steering Committee	Already done
	Signing of MOU between GWP and MINEE	Already done
	Production of statistics	Already done
	Adoption of statistics	Orientation document adopted
	Drafting of NAPIMWR	Ongoing call for funding
	Adoption of NAPIMWR	
	Updating the PRSP to integrate GIRE related aspects	
	Organisation of Round Table of funding bodies for the funding of the portfolio of actions	

File	Priority actions	Actions carried out
Water for Africa Cities (WAC II)	Organisation – Training of private actors in the sale of water in Yaounde and Douala	- Installation of institutional framework (Steering Committee)
	Seeking funding for access of the poor to water and sanitation in urban areas	- Focal points designated
	Drafting of new Water Supply Management (WSM) instruments	- First Steering Committee meeting held
	Information exchange, partnership, pulling of experiences at regional level	
	Sensitisation of the public on the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of water and sanitation in Douala and Edea	- Drafting of SDR of the pilot sanitation project, ongoing
	Value-based education on water, hygiene and sanitation (VB EWHS)	- Drafting of Tender Document for the selection of a service provider, ongoing
	Implementation of follow-up strategies of MDG on water and sanitation in Douala and Edea	- Workshop on gender approach in all project components organised

Source: MINEE

428- The tables above show Government's general approach in the distribution of construction projects of infrastructure necessary to improve access to water. Some projects are nationwide, others are realized in urban areas and quite a good number are realized or still to be realized in rural areas.

429- Government action is further seen through supervision and promotion of partnership between the public and private sectors with a view to building new plants, and supervising resource management as well as hygiene and sanitation in the target areas.

430- The list of selected areas for different projects will be completed progressively to cover the national territory. This means that, quite some effort is still to be made as is the case of access to electricity.

§2: Guarantee of Access to Electricity: Difficulties

431- In 2007, electricity supply was of great concern to Government especially as it was a source of conflict in some parts of the country. Therefore, it was absolutely necessary to seek solutions to the problems.

A- Conflicts Relating to Poor Electricity Supply

432- In towns and rural areas, households and businesses suffered from shortage in electricity supply and/or recurrence of untimely power suspension. In most cases, suspension of electricity supply is due to the obsolescence, and overload of transportation and supply equipment of the statutory undertaker. Besides, the lack of civic education of some citizens is a permanent danger for the electricity network.¹⁷⁵

433- In fact, the equipment that were built to carry specific load are now overloaded and as such no longer meet the required standards. Regular maintenance and renewal programmes are not often respected. Furthermore, the outdated equipment, power shed, and late customer services,¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁵ Cable theft is often the source of suspension of electricity supply, and even fire on different networks.

See CT No. 8948/5147 of 4 October 2007, p. 5.

See CT No. 8938/5091 of 17 July 2007, p.11.

¹⁷⁶ Late installation of metres ; poor treatment at cash counters (absence and/or insufficient decongestion of the electricity public service) ; non assistance to vulnerable consumers.

are at the origin of the many prejudices suffered by the State, companies and the population.

434- Such multiple inconveniences were at the origin of claims and complaints by the population. In fact, it was as a result of such recurrent dissatisfaction that the people of Abong-Mbang and Kumba¹⁷⁷ took to the streets. Such demonstrations caused losses in property and human life (2 students died, 12 people wounded, 3 of whom seriously, violence against State buildings: a Senior Divisional Office and a Police Station were set on fire).

435- The reality of the problems that the population faced in 2007 led Government to further commit itself and take measures to remedy the situation.

B- Solutions Envisaged by Government

436- Considering the sensitivity of electricity related problems on the standard of living of the people and on industries, Government has set up a process for efficient management of energy resources through the settlement of disputes and readjustment of management strategy.

1) Settlement of Social Disputes Relating to Electricity Supply

437- In a bid to settling the problems recorded in Abong Mbang and Kumba,¹⁷⁸ Government took a number of actions. MINEE multiplied sensitisation campaigns in the areas concerned to bring about appeasement and consolation. Electricity equipment were installed in the affected areas to re-establish electricity supply.

438- MINEE further installed a « green telephone line » for free calls to enable the population to immediately call MINEE in case of inconveniences. In order to reduce protests and protect the rights of citizens, a Committee was set up comprising officials from MINEE and legal services of companies under its supervision. One of the duties of this Committee was to settle disputes that concern MINEE services.

¹⁷⁷ CT No. 8938/ 5137 of 20 September 2007, p.7-9.

¹⁷⁸ Situation described above.

439- Human rights activists in the electricity and energy sector such as the Federation of Water, Electricity, and Electronic Companies of Cameroon (FECAME) undertook a constructive partnership with MINEE. Treatment of consumers has since improved. Such improvement can be seen in the strategies implemented by Government in the technical management of the electricity sector.

2- Readjustment of the Management Strategy of the Electricity Sector

440- Some improvement was recorded both at the institutional and material levels.

441- In application of one of the recommendations of the Energy Steering Committee (ESC), a Survey, Development, and Property Company, Plc was set up by decree of the Head of State in November 2006. The company was requested to set up a financial pool of expertise, action, and management of State interests in the electricity sector.

442-As such, the company carried out on behalf of the State, studies on hydro-electric projects. It further supervised the realisation and exploitation of some projects of national or regional interest conferred on it by Government, as well as the accounting and financial management of public property in the electricity sector.

443- The said company built the Lom Pangar Dam of which it was the project owner and contractor, as well as the exploitation of control dams withdrawn from AES SONEL concession.

a- Privatisation of SONEL

444- There is no exaggeration in holding that the electricity sector liberalised to promote private investment and increase its contribution to the economic growth of the country has registered considerable improvement (reduction in power shed, improvement on the quality of service).

445- Within the framework of such reforms, two new organs were set up including the Electricity Regulatory Board (ARSEL)¹⁷⁹ and the Rural Electrification Agency.¹⁸⁰

446- Negotiations that began in 2005 between Government and AES SONEL to amend some clauses of the Concession Agreement and the Licence binding the two parties made it possible to consolidate partnership and strengthen relations between the Ministry and the said company. A lot of progress has been made from the signing of the initiated amendments. Some of the results obtained include annulment of the last tariff increase, two tariff indexes provided for in the agreement, and reduction of connection fees.

447- The negotiations further made it possible to review the public service duties of the concession holder and improve on the evaluation mechanisms of risks, responsibilities, and the economic and financial consequences thereof.

448- AES SONEL signed a loan agreement of CFA 170 billion¹⁸¹ with funding bodies for the rehabilitation and modernisation of its production plants, and update of the quality of public electricity supply.

449- In addition to such development, new initiatives were set up especially reduction in bills, suppression of the fixed premium, and reduction of power shed.

b- Enhancing Electricity Supply

450- To redress electricity production deficit in the country, the following projects to boost energy supply were realised:

- building in 2001 of diesel thermal energy plants of 48 MW at several points in the South interconnected network;
- building in 2004 of a heavy fuel thermal energy plant of 85 MW in Limbe and an energy-carrying line of 90 KV to carry energy to the Limbe station; and

¹⁷⁹ Organ in charge of management of the electricity sector, maintenance of economic and financial balance, and protection of the interests of consumers and operators.

¹⁸⁰ Its duty is to promote the development of rural electrification in Cameroon.

¹⁸¹ About 25.930.445 Euros

- building of a thermal energy plant of 86 MW at Yassa, and an energy-carrying line of 90 KV to the Ngoali-Bikoko transformation station to improve on the quality of electric energy in the South interconnected network.

451- Such developments made it possible to increase total power installed of the concession holder AES SONEL from 812 MW before the privatisation of SONEL to 945 MW in 2007.

452- To lay a solid foundation for the supply of electricity in the country, a study of the Electricity Sector Development Plan (ESDP) by 2030 was conducted in 2007. The study comprises the transposition in the electricity sector of Government's will to take Cameroon out of under development.

453- The challenges of ESDP 2030 include promotion of the emergence of demand and strong economic growth on the one hand, and development of a low-cost electricity supply at acceptable risk levels on the other. As concerns demand, the ESDP 2030 takes into account the flow of both the public sector demand as well as that of industries. This is the case of the aluminium industry that represents 40 per cent of the total demand for electricity in the country.

With regard to production, ESDP 2030 has, in the different cases considered, drawn up an optimal investment programme of production means for the country. It is benefiting from the rich hydroelectric potential of Cameroon (115 TWh, 80 per cent of which is in the Sanaga Basin) as well as the natural gas reserves of the country. Furthermore, it analyses the interconnection possibilities with neighbouring countries from the existing hydroelectric projects in the Inga - Calabar network.

Besides, the following production improvements identified in the Plan were drawn up in 2007 for future realisation:

- a storage dam at Lom Pangar with a capacity of 7 billion m³ of water;
- a gas plant of 150 MW in Kribi linked to an energy-carrying line of 225 kV at a cost of CFA 85 billion;
- a hydroelectric plant of 230 MW at Nachtigal at a cost of CFA 250 billion within the framework of the extension of the aluminium factory at Edea;

- a hydroelectric plant of 201 MW at Memve'ele on the Ntem river at a cost of CFA 145 billion; this project is the result of the framework agreement signed with the GLOBELEQ-SUD-ENERGIE consortium; and
- a hydroelectric plant of 6 MW which can be extended to 12 MW at Colombine on the Kadey river, and a 30 kV line to carry energy to Bertoua.

454- The proceeds of these projects will surely strengthen the economy of Cameroon, and of course, the standard of living of the people.

c- Increase in Access to Energy

455- Other priority actions focused on the start of construction works of the following:

- a storage dam at Lom Pangar, prior to the building of the Nachtigal dam by ALCAN company, within the framework of the public sector/private sector partnership;
- a gas plant of 150 to 200 MW in Kribi and a 100 km energy-carrying line of 225 kV to carry energy to Edea; and
- a hydroelectric dam at Memve'ele and a 280 km energy-carrying line of 225 kV to carry energy in the South interconnected network, and a feeder road, once the preliminary conditions have been met.

d- Promotion of Access by the Population to Energy

456- Such promotion includes:

- implementation of the rural electrification programmes financed by PIB, HIPC funds, and MDRI (Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative);
- follow-up of electrification programmes financed by development partners, notably the Electrification Programme of 26 communities along the Cameroon-Nigeria border (Financed by the Kingdom of Spain), electrification programme of 33 communities in the North, North West and Centre Provinces (financed by IDB), concertation programmes on alternative energies; and
- improvement of the institutional, legislative and statutory framework of the energy sector by ratification of the agreement to set up African En-

ergy Commission (AFREC); set up of EDC, with the help of IEPF, of an Energy Information System (SIE-CAMEROUN); follow-up of the European Union Energy Facility; draw up of different instruments (PANERP, Rural Electrification and providing the country with petroleum products); exercise of the technical supervisory service through working sessions, participation in Board meetings, and conducting sectoral studies.

457- The Table below shows progress of major projects in the electrification sector as at 30 May 2007.

Strategic objectives	Priority actions	Actions carried out
Improvement of institutional framework	Setting up of EDC	The setting up of this structure falls within the framework of continued reforms of the electricity sector
	Completion of the Electricity Sector Development Plan 2030 (ESDP 2030) study	Publication of the first part of the current study; S D R of complementary studies drawn up.
Increase in electricity production capacities	APD studies of new projects	<p>MINEE is following up files relating to the following projects: the gas plant in Kribi, the Lom Pangar storage dam, the hydroelectric dam of Memve'ele.</p> <p>Kribi gas plant project:</p> <p>Gas section: Continuation of negotiations between SNH/PERENCO Group and AES SONEL on the gas transfer amount.</p> <p>Electricity section: This section comprises the building of a plant of 150 MW and a 100 km high tension energy-carrying line of 225 kV connecting the Central unit to the South interconnected network at Edea. Invitations to tender for the building of the plant and the line have already been launched.</p> <p>Studies on environmental impact: Studies on the environmental and</p>

		<p>social impact have been conducted.</p> <p>Storage dam of Lom Pangar:</p> <p>The following complementary studies to the EIE recommended by development partners (World Bank and AFD), and the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection during validation are ongoing: (1) study on the optimisation of the storage volume of the dam, (2) study of impacts and recommended compensatory measures with a view to installing equipment and work site accommodations on the right bank of the river Lom, and (3) Study on capacity building of people living in the Deng Deng forest and an interaction study between the dam and the pipeline.</p> <p>Nachtigal hydroelectric plant:</p> <p>Completion of the study on Draft Summary Project (DSP).</p> <p>Study on Environmental Impact ongoing.</p> <p>Memve'élé hydroelectric plant:</p> <p>The construction and exploitation of this plant are determined according to the following framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction – Ownership – Exploitation – Transfer (COET). <p>APD studies have been completed. Selection of a private developer is ongoing</p>
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		<p>hydroelectric plant on river Kadey:</p> <p>Following the signature in December 2005 of a Framework-Agreement on this project between Government and MECAMIDI Group; MECAMIDI Group has a branch in Cameroon (HYDRO EST) to carry out the project.</p> <p>The company has conducted engineering studies and has already proposed to AES SONEL, a draft Energy Purchase Agreement (EPA), as well as an Exploitation Agreement of the energy-carrying line from the plant to Bertoua.</p>
	Installation of a Data bank	<p>Installation of an energy sector data bank is done within the framework of the SIE - Afrique project supported by the Intergovernmental Agency of the Francophonie (IAF). The aim of this project is to contribute to the drawing up of national energy policies in Sub-Saharan African countries by setting up national energy information systems (EIS).</p> <p>SIE-CAMEROUN organised an international seminar and a national seminar</p>
Promotion of rural electrification	Launching, follow-up and supervision of electrification programmes (PIB, HIPC, MDRI projects)	As at 30 May 2007, all 2006 HIPC projects were fully undertaken (signed and notified agreements); meanwhile, the 2007 HIPC projects have made considerable progress in the award of contracts
	Follow-up of the implementation of the National Energy Action Plan for Poverty Reduction (NEAPPR)	A draft order on the setting up and organisation of the institutional framework for the implementation of the National Energy Action Plan for Poverty Reduction

		<p>(NEAPPR) has been forwarded to the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Component 5: Building of more feeder roads in concession territory: Negotiations and the contractualisation process undertaken in 2005 to raise funds to implement different electrification programmes have continued in collaboration with the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, and the Rural Electrification Agency. The following two of the said programmes are mature and will start soon: electrification programme of 26 communities along the Cameroon – Nigeria border financed by the Kingdom of Spain, and the rural electrification programme of 33 communities financed by the IDB. Loan agreements have already been signed; and the selection process of providers is ongoing.</p>
International cooperation	Completion of studies on electricity interconnection with Chad.	Discussions between Chadian and Cameroon parties continued with the visit to Cameroon of a Chadian delegation.
	AFREC	African Energy Commission (AFREC) Agreement has been ratified by Cameroon.
	Active participation in meetings of energy sector organisations.	

Source: MINEE

458- The Table above shows that the electricity sector is fairly dynamic. The different projects carried out or underway illustrate Government concern in reforming electricity management in Cameroon. As such, increase in production capacity which is a priority objective, falls within the framework of cooperation with the private sector, countries in the subregion, and development partners. Therefore, guaranteeing access to electricity is an important aspect in poverty reduction.

Section 3: Right to Housing

459- Improvement on the standard of living of the people presupposes guaranteeing the right to decent housing. The enjoyment of this right has particularly hit headlines in Cameroon in recent years due to the apparent conflict between the maintenance of public order and the respect of the social rights of citizens. Apparent conflict because the 2007 events show that the right to housing is Government concern. In fact, Government rationally handled demolition issues, signed an enforcement instrument of the law governing housing agents, and undertook to promote real estate activities.

§1: Demolition

460- In 2007, demolition issues were of special focus both to Government and the people. The operations were in two main phases that affected the right to housing of the population in some towns, notably Yaounde and Douala¹⁸². Some cases of illegal and disorderly occupation of urban areas led to evictions (sanction-demolitions) while others resulted in expropriation-demolitions.

A- Sanction Demolitions

461- Evictions, demolitions and destructions which began on 15 November 2006 in the Etetak neighbourhood in Yaounde, concerned areas known as *“high relief zones where building is prohibited”* (mountain slopes and swampy areas), under State property, and occupants of MAGZI (Industrial Zone Development and Management Authority) land.

¹⁸² See 2006 Report, pp.108-110.

462- In addition to the material execution of such operations, it is worthy to examine the conflict between State prerogatives and the respect of the social rights of citizens.

463- The State must ensure that her citizens act in accordance with established norms. Besides, the competent authorities (MINUH, MINDAF, and City Councils) carry out evictions and demolitions without compensation. These actions were carried out for the following two reasons: to transform Yaounde and Douala into city worth living in, and fight against building in risk areas to avoid disasters (landslides), and in swampy areas to avoid floods and water borne diseases. Government acknowledged that towns and cities are civilisation centres that encourage economic development, social, cultural and scientific progress. That is why it needs to improve the standard of living and development for which it is guarantor. Such fundamental obligation aims mainly to set up sustainable human settlement and especially protect citizens against risk settlements. Thus, the City council, Douala continued sensitisation and simplified procedures for obtaining building permits. It equally set up a department for regulating and fighting against urban disorder, ordered for the studies for the drawing up of urban planning documents, set up a housing and land observatory, urban master plan and land occupation plan.

464- Furthermore, evictions raise the problem of scope of State obligations as concerns human rights in general and guaranteeing the right to decent housing in particular. This right such as provided for in Habitat II¹⁸³, « *does not consist of only having a roof over one's head, but also access to all vital systems to adequate standard of living, notably in urban areas, in particular, access to drinking water, and hygiene and waste disposal systems, schools, transport facilities, and other infrastructure vital to life in towns.* »¹⁸⁴ This UN declaration means States shall ensure that citizens effectively have decent housing, that is, secured housing.

465- Thus, demolitions and evictions are less a negation of the right to housing than its protection. However, considering State resources, it is hoped that a budgetary head be set for the resettlement of persons evicted so that the

¹⁸³ Habitat II is one of the recent UN world conferences that established the international community action programme for the years to come, entitled *World Conferences, establishing priorities for the 21st Century*, UN Information Document, p. 65.

¹⁸⁴ *Idem.*

right to housing is fully guaranteed, and all Cameroonians without discrimination feel protected by Public Authorities.

B- Attendant Measures

466- Expropriation in general terms means any operation aimed at depriving a land owner of his land or depriving a person of his landed property rights.¹⁸⁵ Expropriation is therefore directly linked to the right to housing for, by losing his fundamental right to property, the expropriated person correlatively loses his right to housing.

467- Expropriation per se must include attendant measures for victims.

468- The Table below shows that the Yaounde City Council, in carrying out face-lift works of the town, respected the fundamental rights of the population:

Works	Neighbourhood	Victims	Compensation
Acquisition of 2486m ² of land for urban development	Mini-ferme	1	CFA 11,450,000; about 1780.92 Euros
Expropriation and destruction of private buildings and houses for urban development	University of Yaounde I area, Ngoa-Ekele	15	CFA 63,000,000; about 96,183.21 Euros
Evictions for the development of urban road network	Olezoa	36	CFA 138,113,250; about 210,859.93 Euros
Expropriation and destruction of private buildings and houses for urban development	Down town (nouvelle route acropole)	No number	CFA 6,675,000; about 10,190.84 Euros
Expropriation and destruction of private buildings and houses for urban development	No description	No number	CFA 94,502,000; about 144,277.87 Euros

Source: CUY

469- The Douala City Council disbursed CFA 825,140,000 to compensate persons evicted within the framework of the Douala Infrastructure Project (DIP).

¹⁸⁵ Cornu (G), Vocabulaire juridique, Paris, PUF, 7th edition, 2005, p. 386.

470- Besides, compensation of victims censored within the road works framework financed by C2D resources is near completion. The Douala City Council further developed a resettlement area at Nkolmbong in the 3rd District. The area housed 600 persons evicted following the construction of the Douala-Yaounde highway and the Regional Fire Fighting School (ERSI).

§2: Profession of Real Estate Agent

471- The profession of real estate agent is a means of facilitating access to housing. Its regulation guarantees effective right to housing. This further presupposes that transactions may be carried out with individuals who perform the duty of middlemen to facilitate citizens' search for decent houses.

472- As such, the Prime Minister, Head of Government signed Decree No. 2007/11/38/PM of 3 September 2007 to lay down the enforcement conditions of Law No. 2001/20 of 18 December 2001 to govern the profession of Real Estate Agent.

473- The first merit of the new law is that it defines the criteria of vocational ability: Bachelor's degree (in Law, Economics or Commerce, or a diploma in Civil Engineering, Town Planning or Architecture). The second merit intended to restore the corps is the financial guarantee of CFA 15,000,000¹⁸⁶ required from persons who wish to enter their names in the Real Estate Register kept by MINUH. Lastly, the law is very clear on the Real Estate Agent's commission.

474- The will to restore order in the profession meets the development objectives of a legal framework conducive for achievement of the right to housing under conditions that guarantee legal security of persons in search of lodging.

§3: Real Estate Companies

475- Real estate companies are key actors in guaranteeing the right to decent housing. These companies include mainly the Real Estate Corporation

¹⁸⁶ About 22,901 Euros

of Cameroon (SIC), a State-owned enterprise, and other private companies encouraged in their activities.¹⁸⁷ The initiatives of some local authorities like the City Councils, Douala are worth mentioning.

476- The duty of SIC is to build low-cost houses for low income earners. It recorded a boom in 2007 especially in the following domains:

- improvement in lease management: measures were taken to review agreements with the aim of rationalising State property through the fight against subleasing, as well as restoring SIC authority through the supervision of the allocation of houses.¹⁸⁸ To do this, SIC carried out an identification of all tenants to determine those eligible for the new form of lease. Thus, an estimated 1500 tenants were already eligible for the 2300 available houses. Through these measures, it was possible to ensure coherence and transparency in the allocation of houses; and
- completion of new houses in Yaounde to re-launch investments that had been stopped since 1987 due to the three-year building plan in Yaounde and Douala. Thus, on 1 October 2007, the Minister of Urban Development and Housing inaugurated the "Cité de Mfandena" buildings comprising 160 flats with 3 to 5 rooms. The building of these houses falls under the new strategy that SIC intends to implement in favour of the population that increasingly faces the problem of scarcity and increase in the cost of houses.

477- In a bid to curb shortage of houses, the Douala City Council set up the Douala Development Company (SAD) and initiated the SAWA BEACH project. The duty of the SAD is to produce well-mapped out plots throughout the concerted development areas (ZAC). The said areas have been selected in partnership with customary land owners. ZAC areas include the huge land network of the Douala 3rd District, Bonamatoumbe in Douala 4th District and that of the Lendi project, with 168, 300 and 360 hectares respectively. Besides, mapping plots, SAD builds houses for persons of all walks of life. Thus, it completed the building of 500 low-cost houses in 2007.

The relevance of the SAWA BEACH project is under study by a Commission presided over by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing.

¹⁸⁷ CT No. 8946/5145 of 2 October 2007, p.12.

¹⁸⁸ CT No. 9001/5200 of 19 December 2007, p. 9.

The objective is to build 10,000 houses, 40 per cent of which will be destined for underprivileged persons.

478- On the occasion of the World Housing Day, Government announced its intention to carry out further investment in low-cost houses. It undertook to support all initiatives aimed at increasing supply in the real estate sector. That is why visits were made to the building sites of SIC houses at Leboudi, a public undertaking to build 500 houses at 50 houses per year.¹⁸⁹

479- Government further resolved to set up a partnership framework with a view to supporting efforts made by private sponsors in the building of low-cost houses.

480- Although the above-mentioned projects show that prospects for low-cost houses are encouraging, access to housing is still elitist; that is, out of reach of the average Cameroonian.

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481- In 2007, price control of basic products, guaranteeing access to drinking water and electricity, as well as to decent housing have been the major aspects in the promotion of the right to adequate standard of living. Government has taken a number of measures to ensure the respect of such fundamental right. Notwithstanding the enforcement of obligations undertaken by the State pursuant to international instruments that continue to cause heated debates in the society, it is worthy of note that, the efficiency of these three dimensions of the right to adequate standard of living, as most other rights, largely depends on a country's level of development. Furthermore, the right to adequate standard of living, as a social and economic right, falls between public policy and human dignity. Therefore, the State must meet these two imperatives so that one should not violate the other but rather ensure mutual promotion.

¹⁸⁹ Idem.

MINJUSTICE

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CHAPTER

3

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

MINJUSTICE

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482- The right to education, which is a fundamental right of the individual, can be viewed as a major component for the exercise of all other inherent human rights. Indeed, the right to education promotes individual autonomy, because it enables every human being with dignity to play a useful role in the society. It is one of the greatest financial investments that the State can provide to its population.

483- But, in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 (2) of the ICESCR, it is established that the effective implementation of the right to education, just like other human rights, depends on the prevailing conditions in every State. Therefore, the year 2007 in Cameroon was marked by a significant progress in education services and quality as well as the guarantee and accessibility to the right to education.

484- This improvement can be seen at the level of basic, secondary, and higher education. Vocational training, another aspect of education, is discussed in Chapter 4 on the right to work because it is a fundamental lever for the creation and promotion of employment.

Section I: Progress in Basic Education

485- The Universal Declaration of UNESCO on Education for All', states: *"The main delivery system for the basic education of children outside the family is primary schooling..."*¹⁹⁰ From this declaration, it is therefore obvious that primary education should be obligatory, free and accessible to all. If the first characteristic of basic education still seems difficult to achieve in Cameroon, taking into consideration the low rate of children in full time education, the second on its part seems to depend on political will progressively implemented through the new facilities introduced in basic education, and the teaching of human rights at this stage of training.

§ 1: Insufficient Education Coverage

486- Notwithstanding the Head of State's political will reasserted during his speech to the youths on 10 February 2007, free primary education which should offer equal opportunities to children is not yet a generalised practice. Even the PRSP which recommended the provision of nursery educa-

¹⁹⁰ Article 5 of the Declaration

tion, notably through the development of community experience in the interest of the rural masses, especially the underprivileged,¹⁹¹ did not make it possible to attain the objective of national education coverage in basic education. The gross pre-school education rate estimated at 17.41% indicates low education coverage nation-wide as illustrated by the Table below:

Academic years	Number of students enrolled						Gross preschool education rate		
	Total	Girls	Private Education	Community	English Sub-system	French Sub-system	TBS Total	TBS Girls	IPS
2003-2004	175.970	87.81 (49.9%)	64%	nd	22%	78%	16.38%	16.30%	0.97
2006-2007	217.284	108.427 (49.9%)	58.4%	4.0%	26.7%	73.5%	17.41%	17.75%	1.04

Source: Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB)

487- Therefore, the Global Education Sector Strategy in Cameroon essentially aims at generalising primary education, with the view to achieving full national primary education by 2015 as well as the management and governance of the education system.

488- The main objectives of basic education were:

- increasing access to basic education and redressing disparities;
- improving efficiency and the quality of education services;
- developing effective partnership with other members of the society; and
- extending nursery education, notably through the development of community experience beneficial to rural populations, especially the underprivileged.

489- In order to succeed, four (4) major actions were intensified in 2007 namely:

- significant reduction of failure rate to enable the average failure rate to drop from 30% to 10% by 2015;
- recruitment of qualified teachers who shall be paid regularly;
- the gradual improvement of the student/teacher ratio from 59 to 40 students per teacher by 2015; and

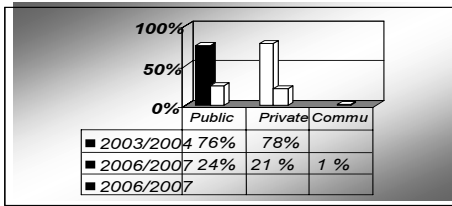
¹⁹¹ This refers to the first version of the PRSP under review.

- increasing resources significantly for pedagogic inputs and improving the various aspects of management and governance of the system.

490- At the level of primary school, the exact schooling rate is estimated at 70.2% which means 22% of children of primary school age are not in school.

491- See Tables below:

1- Evolution and Distribution of Students Enrolled



Source: MINEDUB

Academic Year	Number of Students Enrolled					Gross Schooling Rate (GRS)			Net Schooling Rate			
	Total	girls	private	Community	English System	French System	Total (GSR)	GSR girls	IPS	Total (NSR)	NSR girls	IPS
2003-2004	2,906,732	1,329,732 (45.8%)	644,906 (21%)	Nd (1%)	645,015 (22%)	226,171 (785)	100.14%	92.05%	0.85	-	-	-
2006-2007	3,120,357	1,431,624 (45.8%)	644,906 (21%)	45,431 (1%)	615,924 (20%)	250,443 (80%)	101.81%	96.37%	0.90	78.18	75.44	0.93

Source: MINEDUB

§2: New Opportunities Offered to Basic Education

492- The opportunities in question refer to the construction of new schools and the recruitment of new teachers.

493- Talking of the construction of new infrastructures, 2,294 classrooms were built in 2007 and 1,485 programmed for the 2008 financial year.

494- Concerning the recruitment of new teachers, Government fulfilled its commitment. Assisted by technical and financial development partners and increased the number of teachers nation-wide. Thus, 18,800 teachers were recruited by the end of the year 2007, and 18,400 more are to be recruited during the next three years bringing the total to about 37,200 by 2011.

§3: Basic Education: Teaching Human Rights

495- From the pedagogic perspective, measures have been taken to implement the action plan of the global programme in favour of education on Human Rights and Freedoms. To this effect, the Minister of Basic Education has taken measures in collaboration with the NCHR, notably to produce books with the view to introducing human rights in schools for the 2008/2009 academic year.

A- Drafting the Manual

496- Based on the proposal of the NCHR, MINEDUB organised a training seminar for trainers of the Ministry on the use of a manual on Human Rights Education in primary schools in Cameroon, after an awareness and exchange campaign with the said Commission. The following points were examined:

- identifying the content of the manual which is not found in official syllabuses and preparing a common syllabus;
- identifying situations, moments and disciplines for the introduction of human rights;
- choosing an aspect in the manual and identifying a case of human rights violation;
- identifying appropriate didactic material; and
- identifying follow-up and evaluation strategies.

497- Reflection continued on the following four modules:

- presentation of the manual;
- conceptual clarification, fundamental instruments and case-study;
- teaching methodology; and
- evaluation strategies.

B- Activities of The Committee in Charge of Drawing up the Action Plan of the World Programme for Human Rights Education

498- To ease the drawing up and implementation of the Action Plan of the World Programme on Human Rights Education, a committee was set up by Decree No. 748/B1/1464/MINDUB/SG/IGE of 10 November 2006 in view of the insertion of human rights in primary school syllabuses.

499- The said committee carried out the following activities until 2007:

- planning and monitoring the execution of training programmes; selecting pilot schools;
- promoting actions aimed at instilling in students and teachers a sense of responsibility;
- monitoring strategies that will enable the teachers to know fundamental human rights instruments at the international, regional and national levels;
- coordinating actions aimed at creating a favorable atmosphere for human rights education; and
- supporting activities related to the collection and the dissemination of initiatives and information on human rights education at the national level.

Section 2: Progress in Secondary Education

500- It is necessary to distinguish the objectives of the teaching sub-sector from Government efforts.

§1: Stakes of Secondary Education

501- The stakes of general secondary education were to enhance the level of the education of children to enable them pursue higher education or receive a professional training for middle executives. The sub-sector will be reformed to enable it carry out this mission adequately with the view:

- for the first cycle, to increasing the number of newly recruited teachers in general secondary education from 136,000 (2005) to 186,000 by 2010, and in government secondary schools from 87,000 to 119,000; to raise the completion rate from 28% in 2005 in general secondary school first cycle, to about 35% by 2015; take up equality between girls and boys from 0.86 in 2004 to 1 in 2015 in the first cycle of general secondary education;

- for the second cycle, to increasing the number of newly recruited teachers in general secondary schools from 55,000 (2005) to 81,000 in 2010, and those of government secondary schools from 38,000 to 49,000, to raise completion rates from 11.6% in 2005 in general secondary schools in the first cycle to about 13% by 2010; the development of an effective maintenance system;
- to making secondary technical education more accessible: the aim of this programme that is gradually being put in place is to draw up a National Technical Education Policy in the short term to satisfy job market needs and to clearly define the roles of government and private institutions according to their respective advantages. The development of this sub-sector will require a greater participation of the private sector;
- to increasing the number of students enrolled from 137,600 (2005) to 170,000 in 2010, after policy reform;
- to increasing participation of the private sector from 39.2% to 41.2 % by 2015;
- to improving internal as well as external efficiency: the programme aims at the significant reduction of drop out rates in general secondary education;
- to raising the average success rate from 17 in 2003 to about 10% for the first cycle by 2015 and from 25.6% in 2003 to about 14% for the second cycle by 2015; and
- to increasing completion rate (success, curb drop out rate) from 27% in 2003 to 35% by 2015 in the first cycle and from 11% to 13% by 2015 in the second cycle of general secondary education.

502- Generally, increasing access to general secondary education will promote the development of the first cycle in quality and quantity based on the available resources. As for the second cycle, its vocation will be to serve as the basis for quality higher education directed towards the job market.

§2: Government Effort

503- Government, through the Minister of Secondary Education, has focused on the following domains in order to achieve the above-mentioned goals:

- capacity building through pedagogic controls to ensure syllabuses are covered and by activities that better orientate pupils after the observation period; and

- management of human resources (HRM) as a key factor for the implementation of the right to education; such management emphasises on the initial training of teachers (practicum of students from Higher Teacher Training College (ENS), Yaounde, and Higher Technical Teacher Training College (Douala). This is equally the purport of the organisation of continuous training for teachers by national and provincial inspectors under the coordination of the General Inspectorate of Education (IGE) to improve pedagogic supervision.

504- For example, 1,900 teachers were recruited for the school year 2007-2008.

Section 3: New Orientations in Higher Education

505- During this year, higher education was marked by the advent of Bachelors-Masters-Doctorate (BMD) system, the modification of the list of universities and the improvement on the academic environment.

§1: Advent of BMD System

506- Government has been engaged, since 2004 in a vast project in order to concretise and secure for all interested Cameroonians access to quality higher education that meets modern requirements and the needs of the general public.

507- The programme aims at overcoming all challenges which the Cameroon university system is facing, through the new BMD system notably:

- the exponential increase of students (10,000 in 1981, 20,000 in 1986, 42,000 in 1991, close to 140,000 in 2006 and more than 300,000 students by 2015);
- poor diversification of training offered;
- very poor and insufficient development of professional, technological, and scientific training;
- poor internal effectiveness of faculties compared to sacrifices made; and
- lack of rigour in the management of resources which tends to be centralised.

508- In his speech to the Nation on 10 February 2007, the President of the Republic emphasized on the new organisation and mobilisation paradigm which can serve as a reference of competences for the social relevance of higher education, namely new university governance coupled with other innovations introduced to handle the difficulties mentioned above.

509- The year 2007 was marked by the finalisation of the BMD system. This system, which followed the 1993 reform that constituted a great dream of the State to resolve university problems in Cameroon, and the issue of university participation in the development of the country, was unfortunately impeded by the economic crisis. This system is a new approach inspired by the Anglo-Saxon system which focuses on the practical aspect of products of higher education.

510- In order to realise the new option taken by Government, the Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP), by Decision No. 6/32/MINESUP/CAB/IGA/CJ of 16 May 2006, set up operational organs to effectively implement the BMD system in higher education in Cameroon from the academic year 2007-2008.

511- The BMD system aims, in general, at making more acceptable the heterogeneous systems of our country and harmonizing grades and courses to the international context.

512- Its essential objectives among others are:

- development by contributing to the national economy and promoting the employment of degree holders;
- social, cultural and human development through the training of a new generation of executive officers equipped with a sound citizen-friendly

- training and capable of responding to the millennium challenges at the national level as well as and the Central Africa sub-region;
- promoting training in research and by research as a supporting factor of development in partnership with the social and economic sectors;
 - ensuring all parties concerned (students, parents, professionals and employers) better understand training grades and levels of professional insertion;
 - creating a new generation of polyvalent degree holders equipped with knowledge, know-how and the capacity to adapt to the changing world;
 - putting in place a training system that is flexible and competitive internationally;
 - reforming teaching programmes and diversifying training into rewarding fields;
 - setting up flexible and efficient training fields that are both academic and practical and that provide students, at all levels, the possibility of professional insertion;
 - student mobility at national, sub-regional and international levels;
 - facilitating the equivalence of certificates;
 - encouraging the acquisition of transversal competence, such, mastering modern languages, communication and information technologies (ICT); and
 - developing innovative teaching methods through ICT, distant learning and alternative education.

513- Based on all these objectives and their effective implementation during the year 2007, it appears that students have imbibed the BMD system. Thus, students and teachers have set up an academic partnership which requires the participation of each and everyone in the decisions and academic services that permanently and systematically includes students at every stage of activities.

514- It is noted that all domains of Cameroon university system have been transformed (academic, administrative, social, financial etc) therefore enabling the different components of Cameroon higher education to better express themselves.

515- It is observed that the introduction of the BMD system in higher education in our country has paved the way for remarkable evolution that falls within the promotion of human rights.

§2: Modification of the University Map

516- The modification of the university map refers to regionalisation of higher education planned by Government. To efficiently respond to the challenges mentioned above, the education sector strategy validated and adopted in June 2006 by Government and all development partners is split up, as concerns the higher education sub-sector, into 4 strategic thrusts which are the 4 fundamental pillars of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2007-2011 for higher education. They correspond to the Cameroon Government priority action plan in the domain of higher education which includes:

- increasing and diversifying fields of study to respond to the challenges of mass enrolment, in accordance with Government policy to maintain the principle of free access to higher education;
- improving the quality and relevance of courses through syllabus reform and the introduction of innovative forms of teaching; henceforth, priority is given to professionalisation;
- co-operation, regionalisation and development support which implies developing partnerships with the socio-professional sector and various forms of co-operation (inter-academic, sub-regional, South-South, North-South); emphasis is laid on the development of income-generating activities; and
- improving, among others, the governance system of higher education, by putting in place management tools and enhancing control and evaluation systems reflected by the institution of "academic new governance" under 4 phases (managerial, financial, academic and social).

517- These programmes received a boost in 2007. Works on the Higher Teacher Training College, Maroua are now going on. A delegation from MINESUP travelled to Maroua in May 2007 to assess the progress of work.

518- A project to set up two virtual universities (including a virtual University of Central Africa) was developed and financed with the support of Indian co-operation which will provide major funding. The project resulted in a consensus at national and sub-regional levels on the necessity to develop first rate higher technical education in the CEMAC zone within the framework of the Academic Free Zone (AFZ) considering that there are very few teachers of technical subjects at the national and sub-regional levels.

519- In this vein, the inter-ministerial reflection committee on AFZ set up in 2007 by the Prime Minister recommended Government to be fully involved in this project in order to lay a solid foundation for a national strategy with the view to diversifying our economy through the production of hi-tech goods.

520- Furthermore, in October 2007, CEMAC recommended the development of technology at higher education in the CEMAC zone within the framework of AFZ as suggested by Cameroon.

521- All these thrusts as well as the search for funds and the setting up of AFZ will be implemented as from 2008.

522- Therefore, it is to achieve these goals and to effectively implement this project that Decree No. 11/PM of 20 January, 2006, set up the Inter-ministerial Reflexion Committee on the project for the setting up of the Academic Free Zone in Cameroon was put in place and is working hard to execute the project.

523- In conclusion, it is left for Government, given the pressure from higher education demands, without violating quality norms and the requirements of equity to take up the challenge of diversifying opportunities, involving all stakeholders and putting in place an appropriate institutional context for improving access to higher education for all which is a fundamental orientation of the Government in order to:

- increase the number of students in State universities from 110,000 in 2007 to 215,000 in 2015; and
- raise enrolment in scientific and technology fields from 6% of students in 2007 to 10% in 2015.

524- Thus, the activity of MINESUP is geared as mentioned above towards the:

- rehabilitation of the six existing State universities and making operational all technology and professional schools;
- development of private higher education;
- setting up and opening of three new universities in Maroua, Bamenda and Ebolowa;
- development of transborder training related to science and technology within the framework of regional AFZ (CEMAC), with the view to ensuring regional integration characterised, inter alia, by the national supervision of students in the sub-region who undertake the same BMD; and
- development of innovative and non conventional higher education courses: e-learning.

§3: Promotion of a Viable University Environment

525- This concerns the rehabilitation of infrastructures in higher education the drawing up of certain projects, fighting poverty in the university milieu, the amelioration of governance as well as the professionalisation of university education.

A- Rehabilitation of Infrastructures in Higher Education

526- In 2007, Government proceeded with the struggle to improve on the infrastructures of all universities. In 2006, these efforts, among others, were manifested through the granting of a special emergency fund of CFA 2.3 billion besides the traditional investment budget of each of the universities.

527- Government specially adopted a policy aimed at overcoming the rapid deterioration of infrastructures and of difficulties relating to the increasing number of students.

528- The rehabilitation policy that aimed at future development of infrastructure and university equipment has already helped to:

- obtain construction plans and programmes and/or rehabilitation of infrastructures and equipment envisaged by the various institutions;
- harmonise the different costs of infrastructures and equipment incorporated in those plans and programmes;
- facilitate decentralised management of the various stages of the formulation of the construction plans and programmes and/or rehabilitation of the infrastructures and equipment envisaged by each university;
- facilitate technical exchange with the different State bodies and actors of the various stages in designing rehabilitation programmes, new construction and/or equipment of the components of the future university landscape; and
- exploit accumulated experience from the construction and/or rehabilitation of infrastructures and equipment of the various universities done in the past.

529- The formulation of coherent rehabilitation projects and the boosting of universities, schools of technology and professional institutions of the higher education system in Cameroon was realised. The general objective is to ameliorate the capacity of the technology and professional fields in higher education to match the socio-economic development of the country. The various institutions positioned themselves at the national and regional

levels while taking into consideration their different specificities (training field, availability of qualified trainers, reception halls, technical equipment and teaching aids, technical equipment, funding of courses, sustainable management of institutions).

530- The following projects were executed by MINESUP within the framework of the development of infrastructures and the decentralisation of activities:

- the construction of two university halls of residence, for boys and girls, with a capacity of 200 rooms containing two beds each at the campus of University of Yaounde I, Ngoa-Ekelle, at the cost of CFA 1,503,000,000¹⁹²;
- the realisation of the University Interconnection Network of Cameroon (RIC) at the cost of CFA 600,000,000¹⁹³; and
- the construction of a main building of the interuniversity centre for ICTs at the cost of CFA 450,000,000¹⁹⁴.

B-Some Projects

531- Within the framework of the development strategy for the Higher Education Sub-sector, the Minister requested and obtained the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) funds for the financing of the first phase of the Assistance Programme for the Technology and Professional Components of Higher Education for the first year of its implementation (financial year 2007) of CFA 7,893,137,877¹⁹⁵, that is, CFA 6,000,000,000¹⁹⁶ of MDRI resources and CFA 1,893,137,877¹⁹⁷ of MINESUP funds and the State Universities concerned. This Programme aims at restructuring the general, medical, and technology training fields of higher education. To kick off, a call for candidature was launched on 2 May 2007, for the recruitment of a general coordinator, an administrative and financial official, and a communication official at the Programme Management Unit.

¹⁹² About 2,312,307.09 Euros.

¹⁹³ About 9,230,769.23 Euros.

¹⁹⁴ About 692,307.09 Euros.

¹⁹⁵ About 12,143,289.04 Euros.

¹⁹⁶ About 9,230,769.23 Euros.

¹⁹⁷ About 2,912,519.81 Euros.

C- Poverty Reduction in the University

532- This issue, that is rife in the various sectors of activities and social categories, concerns students, teachers and the support staff. Several actions were taken in favour of these various components of the university community.

533- Concerning students, apart from the efforts mentioned above relating to infrastructure, aimed at ameliorating their working conditions, important assistance measures were taken such as the granting of scholarships, individual and collective allowances, or holiday jobs. This assistance also included:

- supplementary scholarships and special allowances: CFA 400,040,000¹⁹⁸;
- payment of outstanding scholarships: CFA 677,949,495¹⁹⁹;
- aid to Cameroonian students abroad: CFA 294,700,000²⁰⁰;
- miscellaneous aid to cultural services of Cameroon embassies: CFA 49,200,000²⁰¹;
- aid to students in State universities, (outstanding students, girls in scientific fields, handicap students): CFA 1 82,780,000²⁰²;
- aid to Ph.D students in State universities: CFA 65, 650,000²⁰³;
- flight tickets for repatriation and establishment of students at the beginning and at the end of training: CFA 1 60,625,350²⁰⁴; and
- aid to students' associations in State universities: CFA 23,800,000²⁰⁵.

534- Overall, 6,067 students in national and foreign universities benefited from the aid, scholarships and miscellaneous allowances costing CFA 1,989,344,845²⁰⁶.

535- As usual holiday jobs, were done in the central services of the Ministry of Higher Education, State universities and regional and local authorities (urban and rural councils). These helped quite a good number of students not only to better prepare for the resumption of the 2007-2008 academic year, but also to acquaint themselves with certain administrative and local realities.

¹⁹⁸ About 615,446.15 Euros.

¹⁹⁹ About 1,042,999.22 Euros.

²⁰⁰ About 453,384.61 Euros.

²⁰¹ About 75,692.3 Euros.

²⁰² About 281, 200 Euros.

²⁰³ About 101,000 Euros.

²⁰⁴ About 247,115 Euros.

²⁰⁵ About 36,615.38 Euros.

²⁰⁶ About 3,060,530. 53 Euros.

536- Other activities such as Work Study Programme, university games (held in Ngaoundere) and festivals were realised in this same light to foster the development of students.

537- The greatest innovation was unquestionably the organisation of the first international student's forum, from the 24 to 28 July 2007 at the Conference Centre. Placed under the distinguished patronage of the Prime Minister, this forum helped to inform the entire public on the diversity of a training opportunities offered by Higher Education in Cameroon and that of countries which traditionally welcome our students; this justifies the name "Campus 2007" attributed to this forum.

538- In order to find solutions to problems which lecturers face in the daily execution of their profession, the Government proceeded in 2007, to realise the following significant actions comprising the:

- continuation of institutional assistance to the academic mobility programme, to which the related credits should be assigned to the universities' autonomous budgets.
- revalorisation of many research laboratories;
- finalisation of the building of technical documents in support of the authorisation to apply for the recruitment of 1,000 lecturers (including 400 (Part-Time Teaching and Research Lecturers ATER) and 600 permanent lecturers) in all State universities, the first wave of recruitments had already taken place;
- continuation of operation "one lecturer, one computer";
- reinforcement of the rationalisation of procedures to finalise management acts of relating to the career of permanent lecturers. On this point, the 18th session of CCUI of May 2007 witnessed the change in grade of 67 lecturers including 3 professors and 19 Assistant Professors;
- payment of outstanding allowances to higher education lecturers; and
- signing of a common health-insurance convention with the AXA company at more advantageous conditions, in order to permit the growing number of higher education lecturers, students, as well as support staff to benefit from the advantages derived from health-insurance, comprising the best possible solutions to combat what people called "the vagrancy of lecturers". This programme was carried out under good conditions.

D-Improvement of University Education Governance and Professionalisation

539- In 2007, Government proceeded with its efforts to effectively reach the expected goals contained in above-mentioned activities. Fresh impetus will be given in 2008 for the setting-up of Research and Professionalisation Assistance Funds (FARP) within the framework of the management of course content.

540- Also, the programme titled Assistance Programme for the New University Governance for Professionalisation, Professional Integration and Boosting of Sustainable Growth, proposed for Eligibility for the MDRI funds was accelerated. The programme will be based on the following three components:

- the new academic paradigm component (redefinition of the training service and review of university syllabuses, improvement of information management system, notably administration, integration of ICT);
- the professionalisation of education component centered on the development and the acquisition of knowledge through the competence approach; and
- the professional integration component.

541- Finally, the various components of governance (management of course content and context) experienced further development in 2008, and include miscellaneous activities targeted previously in the realisation and rehabilitation of university infrastructure and other subsequent activities which will contribute to the respect of human rights.

542- In perspective, the next step envisages the:

- drawing up of a user guide;
- translation of modules in the two official languages of Cameroon, English and French; and
- organisation of training seminars at the provincial, divisional and sub-divisional levels for the intention of key stakeholders of the education community.

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543- With the reaffirmation of free basic education, the tendency to generalise secondary education and the new orientation of higher education, the right to education witnessed a great improvement in 2007. More effort is still to be made to ameliorate access to education notably in rural areas, for the professionalisation of secondary and higher education and generally for a better definition of Cameroon's school map. But Government, assisted by the main development partners, continues to struggle so that the right to education, a prerequisite for the realisation of other human rights becomes the main thrust of the PRSP of the second generation.

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

CHAPTER

4

RIGHT TO WORK
AND SOCIAL SECURITY

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

544- Actions taken by Government for the promotion and protection of labour rights in 2007 generally contributed in the consolidation of the Draft Declaration on the Principles of Fundamental Labour Rights (PAMODEC), initiated in 2006. Given that Cameroon has ratified almost all ILO²⁰⁷ conventions, the undertaking to guarantee the respect of this fundamental right throughout the national territory initially led Government to organise training sessions for social partners.

545- Statistics from MINEFOP illustrated that 14.1% of Cameroon's active population, of which 13% were youths, was unemployed. Underemployment is endemic and estimated at 75.8% with 90% of the active population working in the informal sector where working and production conditions are very precarious. Having observed that this situation in general stems from the fact that many applicants were unqualified and lacked professional experience, difficulties in obtaining loans, poor qualitative and quantitative professional training, MINEFOP, charged with the drawing up and implementation of Government policy on the promotion of employment, training and professional placement, undertook concrete actions to effectively guarantee the right to work, free trade-unionism and the promotion of the right to social security.

Section 1: Effective Right to Work

546- In order to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the right to work, Government focused on curbing youth unemployment. Thus, in 2007, it strived to maintain and create jobs mainly through the enhancement of professional training.

§1: Facilitating Employment

547- It is the duty of the State to provide decent employment for all, that is, productive employment which is free, equitably remunerated, secure and dignifying. Therefore, it is in its interest to invest financial, human and material resources required for the creation of jobs. To accomplish this mission in 2007, Government finalised the Draft National Employment Declaration Policy and carried out other actions to facilitate employment through structures and projects under its supervision.

²⁰⁷ See 2006 Report, P. 8

A-Finalisation of Document on National Employment Declaration Policy (NEP)

548- In a socio-economic context where unemployment is rife and underemployment disturbing, where the absence of a coherent and properly structured framework document on NEP could prevent the mobilisation of considerable resources for employment and ensure better coordination of related actions, MINEFOP drew up and validated a Draft National Employment Policy in 2007.

549- This draft Declaration that had been validated in 2006 both at the interministerial level and the National Labour Consultative Commission comprises five points: introduction (background, context and justification); objectives; Government commitments; Government strategy and follow-up/evaluation (key actors, roles and follow-up/evaluation mechanisms).

550- Thus, through the National Employment Declaration Policy, Government undertook, in accordance with the provisions of ILO Convention 122, to draw up a NEP for the promotion of productive, decent and freely chosen employment.

551- Specifically, NEP aims at:

- stimulating growth and economic development;
- raising the standard of living of the population;
- developing human resources to meet labour demands; and
- solving unemployment and underemployment.

552- NEP is based on principles and strategic thrusts. In fact, it seeks to promote productive investment that generates decent jobs in all sectors and branches of the economy.

553- NEP is guided by the following principles:

- employment is a national issue on which the sustainable development of Cameroon lies and which involves each and everyone;
- growth level as well as the creation of decent and valuable jobs are performance indicators of the national economy and good governance;
- employment is not only the result of economic growth but also, and especially, an inductive factor of such growth;
- promotion of decent employment for all is a strategic thrust for combating poverty and exclusion and a condition sine qua non for har-

monious and sustainable development which guarantees peace and social justice; and

- taking into consideration employment's cross-cutting and central role in economic and social policy.

554- The strategies maintained are split into eighteen thrusts. They are implemented by the services concerned in partnership with the main actors and targeted sectors, development partners and with the support of the Ministry in charge of Employment. The latter shall intervene through employment units to be set up in the main national and local services. Decentralisation will ensure that NEP does not remain purely theoretical but that it will produce results in order to assess the impact of tools provided for the realisation of human rights.

555- Besides NEP, a Priority Employment Investment Programme (PIPE) is under way. It is backed by a study carried out in partnership with MINPLADAT and ILB in 2005 and NEP.

B- Other Employment Promotion Initiatives

556- Apart from the adoption of NEP, Government has realised several other employment promotion measures. An inexhaustive list of measures aimed at promoting the employment of specific groups, employment in the informal sector and especially initiatives by the National Employment Fund (NEF) can be mentioned.

1- Promotion of the Employment of Specific Groups

557- The Annual Conference of officials of the central and external services of MINEFOP was held on 15 and 16 January 2007 on the theme: «*Youth Unemployment Crusade*». This conference laid the foundation for the promotion of the employment of all categories of youths.

558- The crusade aims at promoting the socioeconomic insertion of at least one million (1,000, 000) youths through direct employment and two million (2,000,000) youths through indirect employment for the period 2008-2011. It integrates the need to envisage the professional insertion of young Cameroonians in the diaspora as a strategy to fight against illegal migration. It equally includes assisting them for better management and efficient security of their investment in Cameroon.

559- In 2007, several other initiatives were taken or continued with regard to the promotion of employment of the youth. These include the drawing up and validation of an employment plan called « National Action Plan for Youth Employment» (PANEJ). Other similar initiatives concerned women, the handicapped, the vulnerable and the unemployed.

2- Employment Promotion in the Informal Sector

560- At the operational level and apart from studies, MINEFOP continues to promote employment in the informal economic sector through the Integrated Support Project for Actors in the Informal Sector (PIAASI) and some NEF programmes.

561- PIAASI has collected more than 10,000 projects and granted loans ranging from CFA 300,000²⁰⁸ to CFA 1,500,000²⁰⁹, for the financing of 1,450 microprojects, through partnership with Crédit du Sahel and la Générale des Caisses pour l'Épargne et le Financement au Cameroun (GECE-FIC), for a total amount of CFA 1,160 million²¹⁰. CFA 116 million²¹¹ was granted per province and should generate 4,200 indirect jobs. Similarly, the recovery of micro loans distributed in 2006 started in September 2007.

562- In terms of general outcome, this project, since its implementation in 2005, has accounted for the funding of 2,522 projects and has generated 10,582 direct and indirect jobs of the 25,000 envisaged by 2010. More than 15,000 files are pending funding in the project bank of PIAASI (source MINEFOP).

563- To render it perenial as recommended by donors, actions have been undertaken to change PIAASI to Support Fund for Actors of the Informal Sector (FAASI). This concerns especially the drawing up and transmission to hierarchy of a draft decree to set up the said fund.

3- Contributions by NEF

564- By special Government funding, and inspite of budgetary constraints, NEF continue its reception, orientation placement and complementary trai-

²⁰⁸ About 461.53 Euros

²⁰⁹ About 2,307.69 Euros.

²¹⁰ About 1,784,615.38 Euros.

²¹¹ About 178,461.53 Euros.

ning activities of candidates for employment. It implemented various programmes, trained promoters and funded several microprojects.

565- For example, through the Rural Employment Development Programme (PADER), more than 1,120 promoters of microprojects in rural areas received training and funds, and the Graduate Employment Programme (PED) enabled about 617 higher education graduates to be employed. As concerns the implementation of the programme relating to the special allocation by the Head of State in partnership with MINPMEESA, NEF funded, in 2007, 126 microprojects and trained 129 promoters in management techniques. This special programme was equally the subject of a partnership with MINAS for the implementation of the Support Programme for the Insertion and Reinsertion of Vulnerable Persons (PAIRPEV) that ended in the training in management and the funding of 84 project promoters.

566- In 2007, the NEF received and counselled more than 10,271 youths, trained more than 1,823, placed about 10,921 job seekers in salaried jobs, funded 907 projects and provided independent jobs to about 1,035 persons, that is about 11,956 persons integrated into the job market.

567- More so, on 13 December 2007, it organised the NEF Entreprises Seminar, launched by the Minister of Employment and Professional Training, and the Youth Employment Programme (PEJ). Several international cooperation actions were equally carried out especially within the framework of the World Association for Public Service Employment (AMSEP). But all these actions were possible thanks only to the emphasis on professional training.

§2: Stakes of Vocational Training

568- The state of professional training and learning in 2007 revealed some structural and functional shortcomings. Government undertook to redress this situation by underscoring the importance of professional training, putting in place strategies and introducing reforms.

A- Importance of Vocational Training

569- For a better socioprofessional insertion of graduates, obtention of a qualification and mastery of a profession is henceforth a major leverage for efficiency, given that, the latter adapt labour to the needs of a productive

system. This leverage should be competitive with a view to meeting the stakes of the environment marked by economic performance constraints.

570- The technological and scientific enhancement of professional training in Cameroon must be an economic and social imperative.

571- Consequently, it is necessary to develop synergies between the formal education system and professional training in order to professionalise the different academic levels; to implement alternative training between school and enterprise in order to facilitate the adaptation of professional and technology syllabuses to employment needs; diversify training fields with the view to mastering technology; orientate youths towards professional training to ensure greater employment possibility.

572- The education sector strategy validated in 2006 assigns the role of regulating the education system flux to professional training. It underscores especially that by 2015, 50% of primary, secondary and university graduates should be directed towards an adequate professional training.

573- This prospect explains the interest and justification of the professional training strategy adopted in 2006 by the Minister of Employment and Professional Training. Its objectives are to carry out the mission identified by the education sector strategy.

B- Improvement of the Training and Professional Orientation System and Learning

574- The Minister of Employment and Professional Training drew up a professional training strategy, reformed the Rural Craft and Home Management Sections and put in place a professional training improvement programme.

1- Professional Training Strategy

575- Several stakeholders are involved in professional training and learning and are grouped into two big entities: the public and private sectors.

576- As concerns the public sector, several ministerial sectors provide both initial and continuous professional training. Similarly, several projects and programmes aiming at the capacity building of the masses in professional training and local initiative have been implemented. These include the:

- Panafrican Epizooties Control Project (PACE), that trained 62 workers (Unit Heads, Chiefs of Post in charge of Epidemiological Control) and retrained network workers (cattle breeders, livestock traders, public workers and private veterinary Doctors);
- Small Holder Dairy Development Project (SHDDP), which set up a milk collection point in the North West, carried out 190 artificial inseminations on cows, built a wall around 26 hectares of improved pasture and 40 hectares of natural pasture, constructed 3 rotatory water points, 4 milk collection buildings, a milk processing unit with a capacity of 1000 litres, 2 water wells a packing store for artificial insemination equipment and 49 taps;
- Pig Sector Development Programme (PDFP) which envisages the increase of the number of pigs from 1.2 million in 2005 to more than 3.3 million in 2015, and which among others has:
 - constructed 36 wells in multiplication farms worth CFA 92 million²¹²;
 - distributed CFA 65,8 million²¹³ to 7 farmers organisations for pig fattening;
 - distributed CFA 20 millions²¹⁴ to 18 farmer organisations to boost breeding;
 - acquired and distributed 2,000 hybrid piglets;
 - trained 2,000 leaders of farmers organisation;
 - created awareness among 15,000 pig farmers; and
 - trained 10 provincial supervisors, 12 specialist technicians and 1,300 leaders of professional organisations.
- Support and Promotion Project for Unconventional Breeding (PAPE-NOC) put in place in 2007 in the Centre, East, West and South-West Provinces within the framework of the diversification of productions and sources of income for farmers provided:
 - CFA 35 million²¹⁵ for production to producer groups;
 - direct subvention of CFA 14 million²¹⁶ to regional development bodies (RDB); and training to 250 leaders of organisations on opportunities offered by unconventional breeding.

²¹² About 141,538.47 Euros.

²¹³ About 101,230.76 Euros.

²¹⁴ About 30,769.23 Euros.

²¹⁵ About 53,846.15 Euros.

²¹⁶ About 21,558.46 Euros

- Project for Post-Capture Loss Reduction (RPAC) electrified Mouanko, provided water supply to the Mouanko and Mbakuou sites as well as light equipment to the Mapé Unit, in addition to the training of fishermen to use and maintain the ice production unit;
- Support Project for the Development of Small-scale Maritime Fishing (ADPAM) provided CFA 30 million²¹⁷ to 8 fishing groups in the Ocean Division, constructed and equipped 2 training centres in the South West and Littoral Provinces, trained more than 100 fishermen, further trained 50 and built the capacity of 40 others.

577- National fish production in 2005 was estimated at 173,000 tons including 93,000 tons from maritime fishing, 75,000 tons from continental fishing and 5,000 tons from fish ponds. In 2007, the Littoral Province alone consumed 139,449 tons of imported fish products from a total of 169,684 tons of animal and fish products.

578- As concerns the private sector, partners of the said sector, organised and supported by the State, including promoters, funded the setting up and functioning of their own structure by emphasising on the payment of training fees by learners.

579- If professional training and learning constitute indispensable tools for training, employment and economic development, the promotion and employment mission assigned MINEFOP on which SAR/SMs depend, requires that it carries out extensive reforms on structures expected to meet the professional capacity building needs of the active population by becoming real professional training centres per agroecological zones. These centres should lay emphasis especially on agriculture, breeding, industry and other job creating, income-generating and human resources enhancement sectors.

2- Reform of SAR/SM

580- As a reminder, in 2004 MINEFOP constructed 180 Rural Artisanal and Home Economics Sections (SAR/SM), and 6 public professional training centres. It equally supervises about 250 approved private professional centres. All these structures have varied capacities which call for harmonisation and management of the sector.

²¹⁷ About 46,153.84 Euros.

581- SAR/SM reform is a specific phase of the Vocational Training Strategy. A diagnosis of these structures in 2007 reveals that they are problem-prone including especially:

- the non determination of the profile of pupils to be trained;
- the inadaptation of fields and training programmes to the needs of the productive system;
- qualitative and quantitative lack of trainers;
- inefficient management of SAR/SM;
- lack of the follow-up of the professional insertion of persons trained; and
- low social esteem for SAR/SM both by parents and learners.

582- Based on the above, the objective of MINEFOP is to make vocational training the bedrock of growth and the economic development of Cameroon. This situation is more justified because of the ambition of Cameroon to become an emerging country by 2030.

3- Implementation of PAMOFPE

583- Efforts to improve on the quality and quantity of the training system and professional orientation in Cameroon were equally made by the drawing up of the programme for the improvement of training for employment.

584- This programme is targeted towards graduates of primary, secondary and higher education estimated at more than 150,000 persons per annum, as well as children aged between 15 and 25 years who are drop outs of these cycles, workers in quest of reconversion and requalification, and unqualified job seekers.

585- Its main objective is to improve on the training offered by vocational training structures with the view to adapting to the needs of the local job market. To this end, the aim of this five-year programme is to:

- develop and experiment actions that could help in reforming current vocational public training structures;
- rehabilitate and equip seven vocational public training structures as pilot projects; and
- recruit and further train seventy trainers with the view to putting in place vocational employment training through training references drawn up in accordance with the competence-based approach in both public and private training structures.

586- PAMOFPE was developed thanks to the technical partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Professions and Craft (CCIMA), GICAM, public and private professional training structures and sectoral ministries.

587- It is steered by a pilot committee which is managed by a national coordination and backed by a consultative HIPC follow-up committee. It is supervised by MINEFOP.

588- To better organise training, a reference conception guide for vocational training was drawn up and validated during a seminar organised on 7 June 2007 in Yaounde.

589- All these initiatives to improve on the development framework of human resources for employment were compounded by concrete actions such as the granting of scholarships for vocational training for the employment of 535 youths in public and private vocational training centres throughout the national territory. These scholarships cover a gamut of professions relating to agriculture, breeding, handicraft, clothing, ICT, aesthetics, motor-mechanics, industry, administration, decoration, taxation, transit, wood processing and tourism.

Section 2: Trade-unionism and Promotion of the Right to Social Security

590- It is necessary to distinguish between the development of freedom of trade-unionism in 2007 from the new dynamics of the right to social security.

§1: Effectiveness of the Freedom of Trade-unionism

591- It is clearly seen through trade unions and the activities carried out by some people.

A- Trade Unions

592- In 2007, several trade unions were set up and registered in Cameroon as illustrated in the Table below:

LIST OF REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN 2007

No.	PROVINCE	NAME	ACTIVITY	CHAIR	REGISTRATION NO.	REGISTRATION DATE	ADDRESS + LOCATION
1		Syndicat Autonome des Travailleurs de l'Agriculture du Moungo (SATAM)	Agriculture	NGWEHA Emmanuel	CSAC/SD/4	6/3/2007	P.O.BOX 63 Nkapa
2	LITTORAL	Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs d'Assainissement de la Ville et Activités Connexes du Wouri (SYNDTAVACW)	Drainage	NGUEKAM TACHOM Gérard	SID/58	6/3/2007	P.O.BOX 2172 Douala
3		Syndicat Autonome des Travailleurs de la PHP (SYATRAP)	Agriculture	NGOME EBOULE Oscar	SID/57	6/3/2007	P.O.BOX Nyombe
4		Syndicat National des Exploitants des Mines, Carrières et Assimilés du Cameroun (SYNEMICAM)	Mining Industries	EKOLLO NLOKA François	SN/I/58	6/3/2007	P.O.BOX 11142 Douala
5		Syndicat des Artistes Musiciens du Cameroun (SAMCA)	Communication	Isidore TAMWO	SN/I/59	20/3/2007	P.O.BOX : 2145 Douala
6		Syndicat des Transporteurs d'Agrégat par Camions Benne et Camionnettes du Littoral (STACBCL)	Transport	MAMIAFO Marceline	SID/59	20/3/2007	P.O.BOX : 9449 Douala
7		Syndicat National des Groupes Transportant par Rail et par Route 55NGTR)	Transport	MOUSSA Garga	E4/154	4/5/2007	P.O.BOX :17648 Douala

8		Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs des Chantiers Navals du Wouri (SDTCNW)	Port Activites	KOMBI NDJENG Jean	SID / 61	31/ 5/ 2007	P.O.BOX : 2862 Douala
9		Syndicat Départemental des Employés de la Sécurité Privée du Wouri (SDSPW)	Security	MVONDO YENE	SID/63	18/10/2007	P.O.BOX : 6989 Douala
10		Groupe ment des Laboratoires Photographiques du Cameroun (GLAPCAM)	Services	SANGA Jean Baptiste	E4/156	5/12/2007	P.O.BOX : 3906 Yaoundé
11		Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs de traitements recyclage des Déchets et Activités Connexes du Cameroun (SYNETREDAC)	Public Works	MOUAFI Maurice	SID/66	5/12/2007	P.O.BOX : 9156 Douala
12		Syndicat National des Promoteurs des Centres de Formation Professionnelle du Cameroun (SYNAPCEFOP)	Teaching	NYOU MSSI Dieudonné	E4/157	5/12/2007	P.O.BOX : 4363 Douala
13		Syndicat des Transporteurs en Général du Cameroun (SGTC)	Transport	SIDIKI Ousseni	E4/158	5/12/2007	P.O.BOX : 6160 Douala
14		Syndicat National des Employés des Stations Services du Cameroun (SYNESSCAM)	Hydrocarbons	TONYE TONYE Oman	SN/I/57	6/3/2007	P.O.BOX : 2036 Yaounde

15	CENTRE	Syndicat National des Chauffeurs Taxi et Assimilés du Cameroun (SYNCHAUTACAM)	Transport	ZENA Ernest	SN/I/50	20/3/2007	P.O.BOX : 6421 Yaounde
16		Syndicat National des Propriétaires Transporteurs Inter Urbains du Cameroun (SYNAPROTIA-CAM)	Inter urbain Transport	KAMENI TCHUENTE Roger	E4/153	4/5/2007	P.O.BOX : 20100 Yaounde
17		Syndicat National des Travailleurs du Secteur de l'Immobilier du Cameroun (SYNATRASIM)	Real Estate	ABENA Alexandre	SN/I/61	4/5/2007	P.O.BOX : 387 Yaounde
18		Syndicat National des Apiculteurs du Cameroun (SNAPC)	Breeding	FOTSO Félix	SN / I/ 62	31 / 5/ 2007	P.O.BOX : 4664 Yaounde
19		Syndicat des Artisans et Promoteurs Culturels du Cameroun (SYNAPROCAM)	Art and Culture	RENGOU Moussa	SN/I 65	1/10/2007	P.O.BOX : 1464 Yaounde
20		Syndicat National des Exploitants des Taxis et Bus du Cameroun (SYNETABUSCAM)	Transport	NANA Roger Christophe	SN/I/63	1/10/2007	P.O.BOX 25 642 Yaounde
21		Syndicat National des Travailleurs de la Razel – Cameroun	Public Works	Paul De Gaulle NGBWA	SN/I 64	18/10/2007	P.O.BOX : 11306 Yaounde
22		Syndicat National des Enseignants Professionnels de la Conduite Automobile et de la Sécurité Routière du Cameroun (SYNEPCASERCAM)	Teaching	KAMSU Roger	SN/I/66	5/12/2007	P.O.BOX : 8227 Yaounde
23	NORTH	Tourism Establishment	Tourism	NGHODIA	SID/64	1/10/2007	P.O.BOX : 515

	WEST	Worker's Association (TEWOTU)	Pierre		Bamenda
24	WEST	Syndicat National des Exploitants des cars de Transport Rural et Inter-Urbains, Autobus et MotoTaxi du Cameroun (SYNEXPITAMOTOCAM)	MOMFOKUE ADAMOU	SN/I/60	P. O. BOX : 41 Foumban
25		Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs du Secteur Agricole de l'Océan (SYTRASA'O)	André DIOUMGOUE	SID / 62	P. O. BOX : 331 Kribi
26	SOUTH	Syndicat Général des Commerçants de l'Arrondissement de KYE-OSSI (SGCAK)	FONZIE Mamouda	SID/65	P. O. BOX : 270 Ambam
27	SOUTH WEST	Okassi Workers's Union (OKWU)	Angel Michael N. NGOYO	SID/60	P. O. BOX : 156 Limbe

Source: MINEFORP

B- Trade Union Activities

593- A number of activities were carried out by trade unions notably the Confederation of Cameroon Trade Unions (CSTC). According to statistics published by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS), following the elections of April 2007, the CSTC is the main trade union in Cameroon in comparison to the other five trade unions because it has a staff representative 53.2%.

594- In 2007, its activities focused on the following claims made since 2005:

- review of the privatisation programme of State-owned enterprises especially AES SONEL, in order to put an end to the expropriation of national shareholders and a reminder for the effective transfer to staff of its 5 per cent of the shares with all the attendant benefits;
- full payment of outstanding benefits of the 45,000 workers of the liquidated, restructured or privatised State-owned companies or enterprises (CAMAIR, HEVECAM, CAMPOST, Mont Febe...);
- implementation by ARMP, NSIF, Directorate of Taxation and partners of the clauses of the Public Contract Code and Labour Code for decent employment;
- registration at NSIF of long serving staff by the Technical Commission for the Privatisation and Liquidation of Public Enterprises;
- amendment of the provisions of the Labour Code which violates rights and freedoms;
- relaunching of the Social Security Forum suspended in December 2006;
- respect for trade unions;
- fixing the Minimum Guaranteed Interoccupational Wage (SMIG) at CFA 62,000²¹⁸. In Cameroon, the minimum tax-free wage is CFA 52, 000 per month. Considering a reduction of CFA 50,000 and occupational fees of 30 per cent per annum, the tax-free wage stands at CFA 62,000;
- protests through correspondences to Government and a declaration of 16 and 21 July 2007 against the unpreparedness and uncoordinated approach in Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA);

²¹⁸ About 900 Euros.

- protests resulting to the reabsorption of employees of State-owned companies (SIC, FEICOM, the Housing Loan Fund) acquitted in matters of misappropriation of State funds;
- calling the attention of the Minister of Trade, on 20 August 2007, on price hikes of bread and its constituents;
- ensuring the respect of the law by the CSTC Legal Secretariat in all public, private and informal sectors;
- legal aid to all registered members who were unable to brief counsel; and
- organisation of Levels I and II training seminars in collaboration with the ILO in our enterprises on tips on HIV/AIDS and the labour market.

595- On 9 May 2007, workers of 88 State-owned companies received their social insurance benefits after 20 years of interruption.

596- As corollary to freedom of trade-unionism, the right to strike is recognised in Cameroon and its exercise guaranteed. Thus, there were a certain number of strikes in 2007 organised by some trade unions whose workers were dissatisfied with their working conditions. These include the:

- strike by staff of the Douala City Council;
- march by staff of the former Satellite Insurance Company S.A.;
- strike by staff of the Bidou II sawmill (Wijma); and
- strike by staff of the Plastcam factory in Douala.

597- Government managed these strikes through social dialogue with a view to promoting a peaceful social climate in enterprises.

§2: Guarantee of Right to Social Security

598- Actions taken in 2006 to rehabilitate and reform social security were continued in 2007.

599- Cameroon thus continued to cause the right to social security to be respected.

600- The recovery of social contributions thanks to the NSIF-Taxation Department partnership produced encouraging results. On 31 December 2007, CFA 69,468,322,121²¹⁹ was recovered as technical income.

601- The technical expenditure for the 2006 financial year is presented below:

²¹⁹ About 13,520,073.21 Euros.

Head	Costs (CFA)
Family Allowance	27,848,793,761 ²²⁰
Old age, disablement and death pensions	-23,310,911,232 ²²¹
Professional risks	8,788,048,892 ²²²

* *

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602- During this year, Government focused particularly on completing the document on the National Employment Declaration Policy, the execution of some projects and especially the development of vocational training. However, it should be acknowledged that Government has not sufficiently explored the right to social security although the current trend is to develop a real law on social protection, that is, extended social security which takes all social categories into account. To this end, a concertation workshop on the strategy for the drawing up of a solidarity Code was organised in December 2007 in Yaounde. This workshop comprised six thrusts:

- defining the characteristics of solidarity groups and unions;
- identifying and promoting solidarity groups;
- drawing up of annual solidarity statistics;
- catering for solidarity unions and groups;
- proposing control norms and mechanisms of solidarity groups; and
- making proposals relating to the Solidarity Code.

603- At the end of this workshop, a draft Solidarity Code was adopted as well as the strategic plan for its elaboration.

²²⁰ See page 116 of the Report by the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2006.

²²¹ "Towards the universal access of treatment and healthcare of adults and children living with HIV/AIDS in Cameroon," in Progress Report No. 10, NACC, Yaounde, April 2008, p. 2.

²²² See Press release No. D13-226/C/MINSANTE/SG/DEP/BCC of the Minister of Health in CT No. 8943/5142 of 27 September 2007

MINJUSTICE

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CHAPTER

5

RIGHT TO HEALTH

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

604- Every human being is entitled to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health conducive to a life in dignity²²³. Hence, States are expected to respect, protect and fulfil the right to health by ensuring that health care and health care facilities are of good quality, available, accessible and acceptable to all.

605- In 2007, the Government of Cameroon endeavoured to fulfil the above obligations by prioritising activities and projects related to the eight major strategic phases of the Health Sector Strategy (HSS) namely:

- disease control;
- reproductive health;
- health promotion;
- essential Drugs and medical supplies;
- managerial process;
- improvement of health delivery;
- health financing; and
- institutional development.

606- The major achievements under these programmes are examined herein below.

Section 1: Promotion of the Right to Health

607- Promotion of the right to health was carried out through the facilitation of access to healthcare, institutional development of the health sector, and guaranteeing reproductive health.

§1: Access to Healthcare

608- Measures taken in this sector were related to access to drugs, development of health infrastructure, and traditional medicine.

A- Access to Drugs

609- Under the fourth HSS programme, and taking maximum advantage of the various grants and competitive bidding mechanisms for suppliers, the Ministry of Public Health operated a 65 per cent reduction on prices of all drugs in order to improve their affordability. Both anti-tuberculosis drugs and antiretrovirals (ARV) were free. The 2007 plan of action of the Natio-

²²³ See 2006 Report, p. 116

nal Aids Control Committee (NACC) intended to administer AFVs to 43,000 persons living with the AIDS virus by the end of 2007. This was aimed at reaching 75 per cent of persons living with HIV by 2010. To date, the rate of achievement of this objective stands at 106 per cent (that is, 45,605 PLHIV under ARVs treatment). This shows Government's strong determination to make universal access to healthcare and treatment of adults and children possible²²⁴. The costs of anti-malarials in the form of artemisinin-based combination therapies were considerably reduced in the public and private sectors.

610- Drug availability improved through:

- broadening the range of products at CENAME;
- increasing stock in some provincial pharmaceutical supply centres;
- training of drug managers of health units; and
- harmonising drug management tools.

611- Guides for the rational use of drugs were drawn up and updated.

612- Actions were continuously carried out to guarantee the quality of drugs. As such:

- 403 marketing authorisations were granted;
- 1,675 authorisations to import pharmaceutical products were issued to approved private wholesalers, CENAME, and some manufacturers for raw materials;
- 530 and 160 consignments of drugs and condoms respectively were controlled by the National Drugs Quality Control and Valuation Laboratory out of which 40 and 12 respectively were considered not to be in compliance; and
- Drug monitoring cards were designed and widely disseminated.

613- The following actions were carried out for a better control and clean up of the sector:

- a new bureau for the National Order of Pharmacists was installed, thus putting a stop to the malfunctioning noticed;
- pharmacy inspectors were trained;
- a huge stock of pharmaceutical products were impounded at the Douala airport with the help of customs authorities;

²²⁴ "Universal access to treatment and care for adults and children with HIV/AIDS in Cameroon" in Progress Report No. 10, CNLS, Yaounde, April 2008, p.2

- investigations were carried out on the illicit sale of drugs in health units and guilty staff punished;
- missions were carried out to control the availability and affordability, to ensure compliance with subsidized prices of drugs of priority programmes;
- about twenty odd-dispensing pharmacies and some manufacturing plants were controlled; and
- guidelines on the donations of drugs and other pharmaceutical products were adopted.

B- Development of Health Infrastructure

- 614-The following structures were set up:
 - 4 Health Districts;
 - 130 Integrated Health Centres;
 - 7 Subdivisional Medical Centres; and
 - 2 private denominational hospitals were authorized to operate.

615- As concerns construction in general, 406 building projects funded by the HIPC and Public Investment Budget (PIB) are ongoing. This concerns the construction of service accommodations, Integrated Health Centres (IHCs) and the drilling of wells.

616- Within the framework of the programme for the construction of 1,000 IHCs, 337 building projects were launched with funding from various sources; 193 of which has been completed; 98 are near completion; 46 building projects had been stopped and the companies concerned were given a time-limit to complete the said projets²²⁵.

617- With the help of partners like the IDB, KFW, and OPEC Fund, many health institutions are under construction or rehabilitation. The building of the Sangmelima Hospital will soon start.

618- Also, medical schools were opened at the University of Buea and University of Douala.

619- CFA 2.3 billions as against CFA 2.031 billions for 2006 (13 per cent increase)²²⁶ was allocated for equipment. Unlike in 2006 where credits were delegated, in 2007, management was centralised to guarantee quality and effectiveness. All contracts relating thereto have been awarded.

²²⁵ SWAp: Health Sector-Wide Approach

²²⁶ About 3, 384,615.38 Euros.

620- As concerns the definition of services to be provided, the Basic Health Package as well as the Complementary Health Package were defined and updated for Health centres and District Hospitals.

C- Development of Traditional Medicine

621- The practice of traditional medicine remains an important and major phenomenon in Cameroon insofar as 60 per cent of the population resorts to it due to the low doctor-patient ratio that stands at 1 doctor for 10,083 inhabitants, and 1 nurse for 22,049 inhabitants. Such ratio falls far short of WHO²²⁷ requirements.

622- In its endeavour to rehabilitate this branch of medicine, Government carried out the following activities in the course of the year:

- finalization of the bill on the practice of traditional medicine in Cameroon;
- drawing up of the strategic plan for the development and integration of traditional medicine in Cameroon;
- drawing up of the Code of Ethics for traditional health practitioners in Cameroon; and
- production of monographs of medicinal plants on priority diseases in Cameroon.

§2: Institutional Development

623- Government focused on developing human resources, partnership, and SWAp management.²²⁸

A- Human Resource Development

624- Within the framework of the 2006-2007 emergency plan, the following activities were carried out in 2007:

- absorption of 1,200 personnel under the HIPC Programme;
- recruitment of 2,480 personnel by selection test under the HIPC Programme;
- award of 15 specialisation scholarships as against 3 in 2006; and
- payment of salaries of 600 personnel recruited in 2004 under the HIPC Programme.

²²⁷ About 923,076.92 Euros

²²⁸ About 5,745,871.74 Euros

B- Development and Promotion of Partnership

625- The partnership strategy was revised using more adapted administrative and legal tools. The Ministry of Public Health put in place a subvention strategy for health NGOs and Associations. As such, more than CFA 2.2 billion²²⁹ including about CFA 900,000,000 of health C2D (Contract Debt relief Development) resources and CFA 600,000,000²³⁰ of HIPC funds were allocated to about 50 NGOs pursuing health objectives on a non-profit basis.

626- In this respect, three agreements were signed on 12 October 2007 on C2D health resources and the following amounts allocated to the NGOs mentioned below:

- the Council of Protestant Churches of Cameroon, CFA 3,734,816,634²³¹;
- the AD LUCEM Medical Foundation in Cameroon, CFA 3,194,339,303²³²; and
- the Catholic Health Organisation in Cameroon, CFA 3,240,844,634²³³.

627- At the international level, the Ministry of Public Health took active part in consolidating the vast bilateral and multilateral co-operation network Cameroon has with her partners. This resulted in the signing of ten new co-operation agreements.

628- The above-mentioned programmes were achieved with the means made available to the Ministry of Public Health as well as the invaluable contributions of health partners through a health-financing programme.

629- The budget allocation for the Ministry of Public Health for the 2007 financial year stood at CFA 105.266 billion.²³⁴ The amount devoted to recurrent expenditure was CFA 59.516 billion,²³⁵ while the investment budget stood at CFA 17.205 billion.²³⁶

630- Resources accruing from debt relief included:

- HIPC resources: CFA 18 billion;²³⁷ CFA 7 billion for running cost and CFA 11 billion for investment;

²²⁹ About 3,384,615.38 Euros

²³⁰ About 923,076.92 Euros

²³¹ About 5,745,871.74 Euros .

²³² About 4,914,368.15 Euros.

²³³ About 4,985,914.82 Euros.

²³⁴ About 161,947,692.30 Euros.

²³⁵ About 91,563,076.92 Euros.

²³⁶ About 26,469,230.76 Euros.

²³⁷ About 27,692,307.69 Euros.

- the debt relief and development contract (C2D): CFA 9 billion,²³⁸ for both running cost and investment; and
- resources from Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI): CFA 1.5 billion.²³⁹

631- On the whole, foreign funding mobilized by the Ministry of Public Health is estimated at CFA 20 billion²⁴⁰ devoted essentially to eradicating disease, reinforcing EVP, infrastructure and drugs.

C- SWAp Health Mechanism

632- Within the implementation framework of the Health Sectoral Strategy (HSS), SWAp Health mechanism was integrated in the Government development programme. In this vein, the Steering and Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of the HSS continued execution of the following SWAp preparatory activities:

- mid-term assessment of HSS 2001-2010;
- update of HSS 2001-2015 whose initial draft was validated and final development is underway;
- adoption of the Systemic Quality Improvement as situational analysis tool of 174 Health Districts encompassing Health District Services and 2,500 Public and Private Health Centres, 162 District Hospitals, 12 Provincial Hospitals and hospitals ranking as such, and 10 Provincial Delegations of Public Health including training schools, Provincial Pharmaceutical Supply Centres, and the Special Fund for Health Promotion. The situational analysis as recommended adds to the Multi-year Health Development Plan which constitutes the Common Programme which is a basic element of SWAp; and
- The commencement of work by thematic groups in charge of following up SWAp preparatory activities as well as the Coordination of studies relating thereto.

²³⁸ About 13,846,153.84 Euros.

²³⁹ Draft of *National Health Promotion Policy in Cameroon*, MINSANTE, December 2007, p.4.

²⁴⁰ Measures to ensure a drop in the price of malaria treatment include the introduction of a less costly product "Asaq", the signing of protocol agreements with international partners, and the signing of a convention between the Minister of Public Health and owners of private pharmacies downing the cost of drugs in private pharmacies. The new drug "Asaq" is a product of Sanofi-Aventis laboratories. According to Dr. Raphael Thérèse OKALLA of the National committee for the fight against malaria, "Asaq" is a combination of Artesunate and Amodiaquine, and a single dose, which is somewhat advantageous.

§3: Reproductive Health

633- Reproductive health innovations were introduced through maternal care, obstetrics and neonatal emergency care, childcare, vaccination sub-programmes and the adolescent health components. Within this framework, maternal health and child health will be taken into consideration.

A- Maternal Health

634- With a view to readjusting family planning, the contraceptive distribution system was consolidated and the training of caregivers reinforced.

635- Pertaining to obstetrics and neonatal emergency care, 105 service providers and 80 members of community associations were trained. Equipment was acquired for some 30 maternities in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF.

B- Child Health

636- Capacity building for 266 caregivers and 1,300 community relay staff in integrated management of childhood illnesses continued with a view to extending this approach countrywide.

637- Also, vaccination efforts continued with a view to further improving the national vaccination coverage rate through mass vaccination campaigns and the strengthening of routine vaccination.

638- Between January and September 2007, the coverage rate stood at 78 per cent as against the annual objective of 82 per cent (80 per cent in 2006). No case of poliomyelitis was identified. Measles is under control and the number of cases and deaths dropped by more than 95 per cent compared to the situation in 2001. Maternal and neonatal tetanus cases are on the decline while yellow fever is under control.

639- About 1,739,825 children were vaccinated against measles and 1,010,945 against poliomyelitis. The Table below shows the results of the maternal and neonatal vaccination campaigns.

<i>National Synthesis of the Extended Vaccination Programme (EPI) Vaccination Coverage (in %)</i>												
<i>Country : Cameroon</i>						<i>Period: January - December 2007</i>						
<i>No.</i>	<i>PROVINCE</i>	<i>BCG</i>	<i>DPT Hep B1</i>	<i>DPT Hep B2</i>	<i>DPT Hep B3</i>	<i>Polio 3</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Yello w fever</i>	<i>TT1</i>	<i>TT 2+</i>	<i>Vit. A</i>	<i>DPT Specific DROP OUT RATE</i>
01	ADAMAWA	83.9%	93.8%	87.3 %	86.8 %	87.3 %	74.8%	75 %	41.5 %	55.6 %	89.94 %	7.52%
02	CENTRE	83.5%	92.1%	83.4 %	83.2 7%	80.2 %	73.3%	72.7%	49.6 %	63 %	78.12 %	9.59%
03	EAST	83.6%	97.6%	87.6 %	85.6 2%	80.3 %	78.5%	75.4%	46.6 %	79.6 %	85.13 %	12.31%
04	FAR NORTH	92.9%	105.3 %	97.7 %	95.4 6%	96.3 %	89 %	87.8%	42.1 %	77.2 %	86.91 %	9.36%
05	LITTORAL	76.8%	86.3%	80.5 %	84.1 3%	81.2 %	72.9%	72.6%	43.3 %	64.2 %	67.41 %	2.51%
06	NORTH	113.4%	110.6 %	102. 2%	93.2 0%	91.9 %	82 %	81.6%	62.5 %	88.6 %	89.81 %	15.72%
07	NORTH WEST	57.3%	63.6%	61.4 %	61.1 5%	61.3 %	55.8%	55 %	22.8 %	56.7 %	52.46 %	3.78%
08	WEST	77 %	83.5%	79.0 %	79.3 9%	78.8 %	68.3%	67.8%	42%	62.2 %	67.02 %	4.95%
09	SOUTH	80.9%	90 %	85.4 %	86.1 3%	85.7 %	78.5%	88.8%	51.2 %	73.1 %	64.61 %	6.37%
10	SOUTH WEST	66.6%	72.9%	68.9 %	68.8 6%	68.3 %	64.4%	63.9%	33.2 %	54.4 %	62.15 %	5.54%
	CAMEROON	81.4%	89.6%	83.2 %	82.4 9%	81.3 %	73.8%	73.5%	42.6 %	67 %	74 %	7.89%

Section 2: Special Disease Control Programmes

640- In the course of the year, the implementation of special disease control programmes was intensified to curb all diseases. In this regard, Government laid special emphasis on the control of some pandemics, and took a number of prophylactic measures.

§1: Disease Control

641- Effective measures were taken to control diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, as well as some chronic diseases. However, some diseases were neglected.

A- Malaria

642- Malaria is still a major health problem in Cameroon. In fact, it is the main cause of mortality and morbidity of the population in general and children of less than five years old and pregnant women in particular. Current statistics hold that the scourge represents 40 to 50 per cent of medical consultation, 23 per cent of admissions in hospitals, 40 per cent of annual health expenses in homes and 45 percent of deaths in health units. It also represents 42 per cent of the mortality of children aged less than five. Be-

sides, 26 per cent of sick leaves by civil servants and other workers in the country are due to malaria.²⁴¹

643- In a bid to prevent the persistence of this sad situation, Government took the following measures:

1) The training of:

- 15,530 community relays on home-based malaria management as against 3, 000 in 2006;
- 508 health district staff in the management of stocks of antimalarials and 997 laboratory technicians in the diagnosis of malaria; and
- 2,029 drug clerks in the management of stocks of antimalarials.

2) Malaria prevention by the distribution of:

- 244,812 insecticide-treated nets in the South, South-West and East Provinces against 500 000 expected; and
- Sulphadiazine and Pyrimethamine to 850 000 pregnant women.

The global rate of use of insecticide-treated nets rose to 31 per cent.²⁴²

3) The treatment of:

2,467,325 cases of uncomplicated malaria with Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACT) subsidized to the tune of 67.15 per cent, thus reducing the treatment of uncomplicated malaria to between CFA 140 and 600²⁴³ in the public and private non-profit making health units. The Table below illustrates the drop in malaria treatment.

Table 1: Cost in CFA of Treatment of Malaria in Cameroon²⁴⁴

Name	CENAME	Public Health Unit
Artesunate + Amodiaquine 50/153 mg 3 + 3	118	140
Artesunate +	194	230

²⁴¹ See 2006 Report, p.116

²⁴² Draft of *National Health Promotion Policy in Cameroon*, MINSANTE, December 2007, p.4.

²⁴³ Measures to ensure a drop in the price of malaria treatment include the introduction of a less costly product "Asaq", the signing of protocol agreements with international partners, and the signing of a convention between the Minister of Public Health and owners of private pharmacies downing the cost of drugs in private pharmacies. The new drug "Asaq" is a product of Sanofi-Aventis laboratories. According to Dr. Raphael Thérèse OKALLA of the National Committee for the Fight Against Malaria, "Asaq" is a combination of Artesunate and Amodiaquine, and a single dose, which is somewhat advantageous.

²⁴⁴ CT No 8802/5001 of 6/03/07.

Amodiaquine 50/153mg 3 + 3		
Artesunate Amodiaquine 50/153mg 6 + 6	194	230
Artesunate + Amodiaquine 50/153mg 12 + 12	337	400
Artemeter Lumefantrine 20/120mg 6x1	236	280
Artemeter + Lumefantrine 20/120mg 6x 3	421	500
Arthemeter + Lumefantrine 20/120mg 6x 4	505	600

Source: MINSANTE

4) Malaria promotion control through:

- the signing of 43 Community radios agreement;
- capacity building of 10 organised groups (schools, churches, associations); and
- the training of 15,092 community relay workers.

B- HIV/AIDS Control

644- The comprehensive management of persons living with HIV/AIDS intensified with the decentralisation of treatment structures. Hence,

- 111 management units against 65 in 2006 and 141 Approved Treatment Centres to ensure the comprehensive management of persons living with HIV/AIDS;
- the cost of Antiretrovirals (ARV) dropped from CFA 600,000 in 2001 to zero franc in 2007²⁴⁵. Indeed, ARV treatment is free and available in Pharmaceutical Products Supply Centres (PPSC) since 1 May 2007. As at 31 December 2007, 45,605 persons living with the AIDS virus are on (ARVs) against 28 403 in 2006;
- the HIV laboratory test is subsidised and since February 2007, it has dropped to CFA 3,000;
- treatment and prevention of major opportunistic infections are equally subsidised in the health units;
- services in charge of the prevention of mother to child transmission provided counselling and free voluntary screening to 97,000 pregnant women and 188,000 persons through 12 mobile screening units as well as health units. On the whole, 32,300 new HIV cases were thus diagnosed; and

²⁴⁵ About 923.07 Euros.

- pertaining to prevention, about 29,752,819 male condoms were distributed, as against 80,730 female condoms out of the 300,000 subsidised at the cost of CFA 100²⁴⁶ a piece, by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family equally distributed through women's associations.

C-Tuberculosis

645- Tuberculosis control activities were revitalised with 24,879 new patients tested and treated as against 21,000 in 2006. Recovery rate is more than 74 per cent through the:

- opening of 197 diagnosis and treatment centres;
- acquisition of 68 microscopes for diagnosis; and
- rehabilitation of 40 hospital wards.

646- Government further developed strategies to control some chronic diseases.

D- Control of Some Chronic Diseases

647- Chronic diseases include sickle cell anaemia, epilepsy, diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

1) Sickle cell anaemia

648- The following activities were carried out:

- treatment of patients in various health facilities, including about 600 in the Central Hospital, Yaounde and 171 in the Mother and Child Centre of the Chantal Biya Foundation; and
- free screening campaigns for the cerebrovascular complications of sickle cell anaemia were carried out at the Central Hospital, Yaounde.

2) Epilepsy

649- As a follow up to the control plan adopted in August 2005, a situational analysis was carried out in 2007. In the course of the year, free screening campaigns of patients in collaboration with SANOFI AVENTIS were carried out.

²⁴⁶ About 0.153 Euros.

3) Diabetes

650- The following activities were carried out:

- follow-up of more than 17,000 diabetic patients in health facilities of the country;
- distribution of diabetes detection kits in 127 health facilities in the 10 provinces;
- training of health workers in the management and manipulation of screening devices as well as the sale of glucometers at a subsidised rate of CFA 5,000 as against CFA 40,000 in the private sector; and
- maintenance of the price of insulin at CFA 3,000.

4) Cancer

651- Cancer drugs have been subsidised by 40 to 70 per cent thanks to HIPC funds.

5) Cardiovascular Diseases

652- Focus was on the drawing up of a strategic control plan and the training of staff in charge of prescription and patient management.

E- Other Diseases, Epidemics, and Accidents

653- Other diseases include burulli ulcer, leprosy, African human trypanosomiasis, Guinea worm, schistosomiasis, intestinal worms and onchocerciasis.

654- Mass burulli ulcer screening campaigns were carried out in all endemic centres while social mobilisation took place in communities. To date, more than 180 patients have been screened and are receiving treatment.

655- Leprosy, with a prevalence of 0.25 cases per 10,000 inhabitants, is no longer a public health problem. However, epidemiological surveillance is maintained.

656- With regard to the other parasitic diseases and blindness, it should be noted that:

- 4,000,000 children of school age were de-wormed in 2007;
- 4,315,042 persons were treated with IVERMECTIN by community distributors, representing a therapeutic coverage rate of 72.96 per cent as against 71.03 per cent in 2006. The required therapeutic coverage rate for the elimination of onchocerciasis as a public health problem is 65 per cent.

- annual screening and treatment campaigns of cases of African human trypanosomiasis in the Mbandjock, Doume, Mamfe and Campo areas and epidemiological surveillance was carried out;
- although Guinea worm has been eradicated, epidemiological surveillance continues; and
- the implementation of the cataract-related blindness control project and the operation "Eyeglasses for All" resulted in 13,000 cataract operations and the distribution of 500 pairs of eyeglasses.

657- As concerns epidemics, emphasis was laid on:

- checking the yellow fever epidemic at Akonolinga and Zoetele through systematic and free vaccination of the population;
- monitoring bird flu and chikungunya by epidemiological surveillance and enhanced early warning systems through prior provision of drugs and teams for possible free treatment, the installation of protection teams and the training of staff in target provinces; and
- the effective treatment of 45,000 immigrants in the border provinces of the East and the Adamawa.

658- The most memorable medical emergencies included the:

- medical and psychosocial treatment of families of the victims of the Mbanga Pongo plane crash followed by the reconstitution and identification of bodies of victims; and
- free treatment in some national hospitals of victims of road accidents.

§2: Prophylactic Measures

659- Prophylactic measures focused on food and nutrition, and hygiene and sanitation. The popularisation of health programmes was equally included.

A- Food and Nutrition

660- The following activities were carried out:

- quality control of common foodstuffs especially bread;
- vitamin A supplements given to 2,737,560 children aged 6 to 59 months;
- the control of malnutrition through capacity building of 370 health personnel in breastfeeding; and
- the implementation of a Government order to govern the co-production and distribution of food supplements in Cameroon.

B- Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

661- In this domain, Government carried out the following activities:

- drawing up of a programme for water quality control and classification of water bodies;
- inventory of hospital wastes with a view to drawing up effective management procedures of such wastes;
- strategic and technical support to the "community-based cholera prevention" pilot project in Douala with focus on the construction, continuous chlorination of water wells and the promotion of environmental hygiene; and
- inspection of 110 agro-industries and 12 packaged water- industries.

C- Popularisation of Health Programmes

662- The following programmes were carried out:

- capacity building of 70 communicators involved in child survival and development programmes, officials in charge of communication on EVP, as well as associations in support of vaccination in the 10 provinces;
- drawing up and production of 4 and 6 teaching aids (press kits, fliers, banners, posters) respectively for integrated vaccination against measles, vitamin A supplements, the distribution of insecticide-treated nets, and the fight against alcohol, tobacco and drug addictions; and
- drawing up of a community promoter's guide for the implementation of all health programmes.

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663- Although Government provided answers to health problems in 2007, the impact of these development actions of the national health system is still to be felt at the level of mortality and morbidity reduction in Cameroon. That is why it will continue the HSS programme until 2010. The implementation of health development programmes and plans, new management process involving all stakeholders, especially communities, as well as training and refresher courses for staff remain Government priorities. Besides, improvement of the health of the people, particularly the most vulnerable classes that include children and women of child-bearing age²⁴⁷ will make it possible for the MDG "health for all...." to become a reality in Cameroon.

²⁴⁷ About 13,846,153.84 Euros.

CHAPTER

6

RIGHT TO CULTURE
AND THE BENEFITS OF
SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

664- Cultural rights provided for in Article 15 of the ICESCR requires States to grant each citizen the right to participate in cultural life, benefit from scientific progress and make the best out of the protection of moral and material interests stemming from any of their scientific, literary or artistic productions. The implementation of these rights is understood differently by artists and researchers on the one hand and government on the other hand. The former often condemn the insufficient effort made by the latter who consider that artists and researchers do not show proof of abnegation and ingenuity in their works. However, 2007 was marked by significant cultural and scientific actions especially by the speech made by the President of the Republic at the 34th Session of the General Assembly of UNESCO in Paris, the continuation of the cultural development programme, and the organisation of the first Scientific Research and Innovation Days in Cameroon (JERSIC).

Section 1: Speech of the President of the Republic at UNESCO

665-The thirty fourth session of UNESCO General Conference was held in Paris in October 2007. General Conference sessions are important moments in the life of the Organisation. Like the JOMTIEN Conference in Thailand where UNESCO adopted the Education for All Project (EFA), discussions at the 34th Session were geared towards reforming the Organisation and the United Nations Systems. It was equally a key moment for exchange given the calibre of personalities present. Seven Heads of State and Government were present including the President of the Republic of Cameroon. He addressed participants at this conference as well as the national and international communities.

666- His speech comprised three main thrusts:

- ethics of shared solidarity;
- boosting UNESCO-Cameroon Cooperation; and
- Cameroon's cultural model.

§1: Ethics of Shared Solidarity

667-The President of the Republic began his speech with a remark on the frailty of several developing countries especially in Africa. These countries are threatened by natural disasters, global warming, pandemic, war, and

terrorism. According to him, it is the duty of the international community to decidedly tackle these scourges to preserve common heritage and protect the planet for the well-being of both the present and future generations. He underscored the special attention to be given to developing countries in general and insular as well as coastal countries in particular. This attention must be manifest because of the obstacles that unequal terms of trade and the debt burden have on their development.

668- The President of the Republic timely recalled his suggestions made during the Millenuim Summit on the need to begin brainstorming and acting on the ethics of globalisation which will require the international community to reflect on how to cause all countries from the South who could be marginalised, undermined and impoverished, to participate therein. Developing countries need the assistance of developed countries to initiate sustainable growth. A more humane partnership must be developed for, *in the face of globalisation and its many challenges, an ethics of shared solidarity which is simply a lesson in history, a current requirement and a duty for the future, must be invented and promoted.*

§2: UNESCO - Cameroon Cooperation

669- The President of the Republic expressed his satisfaction on the excellent cooperation ties between Cameroon and UNESCO especially in education, scientific research and biodiversity protection.

670- As regards education, he underlined the capacity building of the pilot education system and HIV/AIDS preventive education in schools.

671- Pertaining to scientific research, UNESCO contributed to the installation of the Chantal Biya International Research Centre and the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

672- Concerning biodiversity protection, Cameroon welcomed with satisfaction the contribution of UNESCO to the preservation of the Dja reserve classified as world humanity heritage.

§3: Cameroon's Cultural Model

673- The President of the Republic lauded Cameroon`s cultural diversity which inherited two languages, English and French, from colonisation because it was not obvious that peoples split and immersed in two different

cultures could be reunited to build a common future. In Cameroon, English-speaking and French-speaking Cameroonians live in perfect harmony. Cameroonians are proud of this cultural diversity because both communities have turned a handicap into a virtue and differences into wealth.

674- Speaking about the virtues of culture, he underscored the idea that *«culture is the best antidote against disunity and violence»*.

675- Some legal instruments on this issue were evoked, especially the Preamble of the 1996 Constitution which takes into account cultural diversity and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Expression of Cultural Diversity, to which Cameroon enthusiastically acceded to in August 2006. This convention is a major break through for Cameroon which has more than two hundred (200) ethnic groups and a mosaic of languages and cultural expressions with regard to the conservation and enhancement of its rich cultural heritage. Thanks to tolerance between both individuals and groups, diversity is part of Cameroon's cultural identity. To this end, the President of the Republic declared emphatically that Cameroon is proud to participate in intercultural dialogue. Without mincing words, he expressed in fine a global vision of the cultural problem by stating that *I do not believe in the clash of civilisations, but rather in cultural dialogue, an indispensable condition for the advent of a just and supportive new international order. For we are convinced that cultures have and provide positive values that should be explored and promoted in the interest of humanity. Ignorance of these specific values engenders prejudice, misunderstanding and intolerance that generate divisions and conflicts. Rather, promoting and making cultures accessible to all creates affinities and bridges between peoples and nations for a understanding, respect and mutual coexistence as well as world peace.*

Section 2: Cultural Development Programme

676- Actions relating to the promotion of culture were implemented and geared towards the identification and conservation of cultural heritage, and the participation of the State in the realisation of several cultural projects.

§1: Identification and Conservation of Cameroon's Cultural Heritage

677-The Ministry of Culture carried out activities especially on the improvement of national conservation services, continuous installation of the National Museum, development of national languages, restauration and preservation of sites and monuments.

A- Enhancing National Conservation Services

678-To meet the ever increasing needs of researchers, the Ministry of Culture has intensified the enhancement of national archive services. These services included consultations by researchers, training of trainee archivists, and the organisation of information and awareness seminars on the duty of archivists. 1,800 national and foreign researchers visited the National Archives and were given 3,500 files. 30 probationers were trained in keeping archives.

679- Envisaged partnerships were unfortunately not established. These include especially accession to the International Archives Board, the International Association of Francophone Archives and the *Association of Community and Records Manager*. However, the Ministry of Culture has them on its agenda.

B- National Museum

680-The building housing the national museum was rehabilitated and secured.

681- Some foreign personalities and dignitaries visited the national museum. They include the First Lady of China on 31 January 2007, Baroness Ariane de Rothschild on 21 April 2007 and the Israeli Ambassador on 1 October 2007.

682- Several exhibitions were organised therein as well, especially the:

- exhibition on the theme *"Creation of Contemporary Plastic Arts and National Unity"*;
- exhibition of Chinese pictures on the theme *"Beijing 2008"*;
- exhibition by the Japanese painter Toshi Kata Imaï; and
- exhibition organised by the European Union on the theme *"Women for Peace in the World"*.

683- Thanks to these exhibitions, visits to the National museum increased as follows:

- 5,639 visitors in 2005 ;
- 9,299 visitors in 2006 ; and
- 10,830 visitors in 2007.

C- Development of National Languages

684- Promotion and development strategies of national languages continued in 2007. Several meetings were organised by the Informal Committee for the Integration of National Linguistics (CILIN), on the teaching of national languages in schools and universities.

685- A manual on the teaching of languages and cultures orally and in writing in primary school was produced. The project “*Teaching of National Languages, (ewondo, duala, ffulde, bassa, feefee) During Holidays*” was implemented from 30 July to 24 August 2007.

§2: Participation of the State in the Realisation of Cultural Projects

686- This participation englobed the promotion of cinematography and audiovisual productions, arts, concerts and cultural activities, contribution to the drawing up of legal instruments and the organisation of cultural activities in the provinces.

A -Cinematography and Audiovisual Productions

687- In six of the ten provinces, the Ministry of Culture participated in raising awareness among promoters of audiovisual communication enterprises on their duty to provide the public with films only upon authorisation.

688- The promotion of cinematography was especially expressed by the participation of Cameroon in the Panafrican Film Festival (FESPACO) from the end of February to March 2007 in Ouagadougou.

689- Apart from these actions, the Ministry of Culture took part in the drafting of a films catalogue.

B- Arts, Concerts and Cultural Activities

690- Promotion of arts and concerts essentially comprised data collection with a view to drawing up a national arts card-index in the fields of music, theatre and plastic arts. It also included information collection and the participation in some local cultural activities, the promotion of Cameroon’s culture abroad especially during the Panafrican Musical Festival of Brazzaville

(FESPAM) in July 2007, the African Arts and Concert Market (MASA) in August 2007 or arts and cultural activities during the UNESCO Summit in October 2007.

§3: Difficulties Relating to Arts Production in Cameroon

691- The production of arts and culture does not receive sufficient support. A visit to the central services of the Ministry of Culture after coordination meetings revealed the following difficulties:

- insufficient financial, material and human resources;
- insufficient trained guards and supervisors;
- lack of basic material to make an inventory of historic sites, monuments and figures;
- absence of visual documents;
- lack of specialised documents;
- conflict of competence between bodies in charge of the collective management of copyrights;
- difficulties related to the identification of original works; and
- strategy to fight against counterfeit and render piracy inoperative.

692- Solutions to these difficulties are under study.

Section 3: Scientific Research

693- The development of a country is based on the progress of scientific research. The perspicacity of researchers and their know-how, are the leverage of scientific and technological prowess of developed countries. Research is at the base of economic and social revolution and all forms of progress. Conscious of this stake, the UN requested Member-States to devote 0.50 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) to scientific research. The African Union on its part, recommended Member-States to devote 1 per cent of their GDP to the development of science and technology.

694- Based on these recommendations, Cameroon has put in place several institutions the most recent being the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation. This ministry supervises several research bodies and institutions. Actions carried out by the latter are geared towards a sustained research programme.

§1: Scientific Research Progress in 2007

695- The organisation of the first scientific research and innovation days in Cameroon was a major event in this domain. These open door days were launched because of the public`s ignorance of progress made in scientific research. Other research and popularisation programmes supplemented this action.

A-First Scientific Research and Innovation Days in Cameroon (JERSIC) 2007

696- The philosophy of these days and certain major orientations were presented.

1-Philosophy of JERSIC

697- Its aim was to put the results of research in Cameroon at the disposal of the public. The latter claims, rightly or wrongly, that research results remain in laboratories.

698- To motivate Cameroonian researchers, the President of the Republic offered a special price of CFA 20 million to the best researcher selected based on laid down criteria.

699- This offer provoked the organisation of JERSIC 2007. The price was won by Dr TEH Charles, who discovered maize species that adapt to all ecosystems of Cameroon. Thanks to this research, maize can be planted and harvested within 80 days.

700- The following decisions were taken at the end of the discussions of JERSIC held from 3 to 5 October 2007 in Yaounde.

1-Major Decisions Taken during JERSIC

701- They include:

- strategic and scientific research planning;
- intellectual property and technological innovation;
- partnerships and collaboration; and
- scientific information and enhancement.

- **Recommendations relating to strategic and scientific research planning included especially:**

- audit culture, especially scientific audit ;
- priority to the development of a critical mass of high quality researchers;
- updating the status of researcher with a view to improving on the living and of working conditions; and
- inventory of competent scientists in research and innovation found in the diaspora.

- **Intellectual Property and Technological Innovation**

702- Recommendations under this head included especially:

- setting up an attractive framework (tax measures, enterprise incubators and enhancement funds) to easy interactions between the private and public sectors with a view to substantially fund public research and innovation; and
- encouragement of researchers by MINRESI through the permanent award of prizes and the institution of the organisation of invention forums.

- **Partnership and Collaboration**

703- Recommendations included:

- association of competent stakeholders in negotiations on cooperation agreements; and
- implementation by MINRESI of funding strategies offered by international organisations.

- **Scientific Information and Enhancement**

704- The main recommendations included the:

- granting of attractive tax incentives to companies that exploit research results; and
- implementation of a research platform between decision-makers, researchers and users of research results

B- MINRESI Programmes

705- The Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation set up provincial research centres for the popularisation of research results at the provincial level²⁴⁸.

²⁴⁸ About 923.07 Euros.

706- To curb poverty, several measures were taken in the interest of the rural masses. They are also related to the popularisation of some research results.

1- Measures in the Interest of Rural Masses

707- These measures comprise the training of the Baka pygmies of Mindourou and Mayos, in the East Province, in the use of earth bricks for the construction of their houses.

708- The results of another programme were valorised in Upper Sanaga Division where women were trained in poultry farming especially in genetic crossing of corn-fed and local fowls which produced crossings that weighed upto 12 kg.

2- Popularisation of Research Results

709- In many research centres, results were put at the disposal of the public especially in:

- Nkolbisson and Foubot for maize and irish potato;
- Njombe for fruit and plantain;
- Ekona for cassava and yam;
- Nkoevone for coffee and cacao; and
- Wakwa for breeding.

§2: Actions by Bodies and Structures under Supervision

710- Actions by bodies and structures under the supervision of MINRESI, were geared towards the development of their sector programmes and the realisation of partnership actions. These structures include, the Mission for the Promotion of Local Material (MIPROMALO), the National Education Centre, the National Institute of Carthography, the Institute of Medical Research and Medicinal Plant Studies, the Food and Nutrition Research Centre and the Geological and Mining Research Institute.

A- Supervision and Training

1- MIPROMALO

711- This structure carried out several activities that contributed to the improvement of access to decent housing at affordable cost to Cameronianians in all the provinces. In 2007, a support project for the rehabilitation of the outskirts of Yaounde was realised.

712- Pilot workshops for the production of local construction material such as burnt bricks, stabilised earth bricks, micro concrete tiles, dried timber,

pottery objects and ceramics as well as cut-facing stones were organised and served as practicals for interns from universities, training centres, professional schools, technical secondary schools and unemployed youths.

713- Mobile equipment parks were put at the disposal of the masses for the manual and semi automatic production of stabilised earth bricks for constructions with local material. 1,300 Cameroonians in all the provinces were trained in workshops or experimental sites in the production and use of local material.

714- An engineering firm was set up with the support of partners to meet the needs of the masses with a view to reducing the importation of equipment that increase the cost of local material.

715- A laboratory for the specification of raw materials was set up where the masses could obtain technical and scientific information on the exploitation of raw materials.

2- National Education Centre (NEC)

716- NEC identified some street children within the framework of the study for their reinsertion and integration with a view to providing them psychological stability, integrating them into their families and subsequently envisaging socioprofessional insertion for them.

717- During the submission of the results of the study, NEC offered a minimum package to support the following NGOs: ASSEJA, Yaounde, Emmanuel Children and CAMWALP, Bamenda, and KAWTAL and BELLEL Etoile, Maroua.

3- National Institute of Cartography (NIC)

718- NIC took an active part in effectively specifying and consolidating professionalisation in State and private universities. Thus, several young students received training in computer-assisted cartography (CAC).

4- Institute of Medical Research and Medicinal Plant Studies (IMPM)

719- IMPM put in place a Health Research Ethics Committee whose main mandate is to independently assess, before their implementation and during their realisation, if all research projects which use human subjects are ethical. This decision was taken in the wake of Tenofovir (drug) trials conduc-

ted anarchically on prostitutes in Douala within the framework of research of a vaccine against HIV/AIDS. The goal of this Committee is to ensure that research projects respect the following principles:

- respect for the person especially the protection of vulnerable groups (illiterates, the poor, women and children) ;
- useful contribution of research to the individual and community; and
- special protection of vulnerable groups.

5- Institute of Agronomic Research for Development (IRAD)

720- IRAD set up by Presidential Decree No. 96/50 of 12 March 1996, was the result of the fusion of IRA and IRZV. It was reorganised by Decree No. 2002/230 of 6 September 2002. Its main duties are to efficiently meet the needs of agriculture development actors through out the national territory.

a) Research Programme

721- Concerning research, the activities of IRAD are divided into five (5) main areas and twenty (20) research programmes split as follows:

- annual cultivation (4 programmes);
- perennial cultivation (4 programmes);
- animal and fishery production (3 programmes);
- forest, environment and biodiversity (3 programmes); and
- production system, economy and rural sociology (4 programmes).

722- A total of 64 projects were under execution in 2007 and 48 new projects have been programmed for the period 2008-2012.

b) Ongoing Projects

i- Ongoing Projects with National Institutions

723- The major ongoing projects at IRAD, in partnership with national institutions are the:

- PCP (Competence Pole in Partnership with the South of Cameroon), with national research bodies and universities;
- REPARAC Project (Enhancement of Partnerships in Agronomic Research in Cameroon), with CIRAD and French Cooperation Support;
- HIPC Project on the maintenance of pre-base seeds and the production of base seeds; and

- Rural Forestry and Agroforestry Support Project (PAFRA), Support Programme for Increased Family Income in the Northern Provinces (PAR-FAR), Water, Soil and Tree Project (ESA)/SODOTON, Rumpi (South West Rural Integrated Development Project with SOWEDA), Grassfield (North West with MIDENO; with sector ministries (MINADER, MINFOF, MINEP...), NGOs development bodies.

ii- Ongoing Projects with International Institutions

724- The major projects implemented or ongoing in IRAD in partnership with international institutions are as follows:

- ASB Project (Alternative to Slash and Burn) with ICRAF;
- African Computerisation Herb Network Programme (RIHA);
- Cocoa Export Phytosanitary Quality Enhancement Project with Brazil, and Indonesia, Guinea Ghana and CIRAD.

iii- Partnership Projects in the African Sub-Region

725- At the sub-regional level, IRAD participates in the following programmes:

- Support for Regional Research for the Sustainable Development of Central Africa's Savannas (ARDESAC: within the framework of PRA-SAC, CEMAC with Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic with the support of France; African Research Centre on Banana and Plantains (CARBAP) with the support of the EU and France;
- DURAS Project (Promotion of Sustainable Development in Agricultural Production Systems in the South with Guinea, Ghana and CIRAD);
- Regional Agricultural Research Integration Project (PIRRA) in the CEMAC Zone with the support of ADB; and
- NERICA Project (Cameroon, Chad, RCA) for the Popularisation of New Varieties of Rice with the Support of CFC.

726- Actions by other bodies were meant to solve isolated problems and those relating to equipment.

B- Solutions to Isolated Problems

727- CRAN, MIPROMALO and the Geological and Mining Research Institute carried out some actions.

1- CRAN

728- CRAN executed Research-Development programmes, for a better knowledge and enhancement of local foodstuff, with a view to improving on the feeding of the masses.

729- Reliable results were obtained in the processing and conservation of foodstuffs by adapted and cheap techniques in order to reduce post harvest losses, increase food supply and enhance food security.

730- Epidemiological and nutritional enquiries carried out in some communities in the five ecological zones of Cameroon allowed for the:

- determination of the feeding habits of the masses; and
- identification of areas with high malnutrition levels and its causes in Cameroon in order to find a solution.

731- A study on local food found in the different ecological zones and the determination of their nutritive value produced the following results:

- contribution to the establishment of a food composition table;
- determination of the nutrients and oligo-elements, especially available bio-iron;
- identification of contaminants in fish and fresh sea fruits from Cameroon's coasts; and
- obtaining data bases on the bacteriological quality of food, ready for consumption, from the informal sector.

732-The following new products were developed:

- prototype of composite flour for baking and pastry;
- prototype of baby foods made from composite flour taking into consideration the child's nutritional needs; and
- prototype of enhanced micronutrient supplements for malnourished children and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

2- Geological and Mining Research Institute (IRGM)

733- This structure's actions were focused on two domains: protection of the environment and access to drinking water.

a- Environmental Protection

734- Two major operations were carried out: follow-up of Mount Cameroon's activity and degassing of Lakes Nyos and Monoun.

i- Follow-up of Mount Cameroon's Activity

735- Mount Cameroon's seismic activity in 2007 was relatively calm thanks to the rehabilitation of the seismographic networks although there was a superficial tremor of a magnitude of 2.5 which occurred on 22 October 2007 whose centre was localised at Massoumba à Bonépoupa near Douala.

736- 17 geodesic and leveling pillars were planted around Mount Cameroon. The main objective was to raise an alarm in order to provide security to persons and property around the volcano.

ii- Degasing of Lakes Nyos and Monoun

737- In the wake of the 1984 and 1986 disaster due to carbon gas emissions from Lakes Nyos and Monoun which killed many people, Government decided to degas them. The aim of this project is to ensure the controlled and complete extraction of dissolved and concentrated carbon gas from water so as to secure the areas concerned and enable the displaced to resettle.

738- Scientific data collected from both lakes and analysed indicate that the layers were subsiding normally without any significant stratification.

739- By degasing Lake Monoun it was observed that reoxygenisation was taking place because of the gradual return of fish and the brightening of the waters. It could be affirmed that gas concentration in the lake has considerably dropped and could be considered secured.

740- Similar results were observed in Lake Nyos. But the process should be urgently accelerated by the installation of other columns because the population is once more taking up residence in the valleys where it lived before the 1986 disaster.

b- Access to Drinking Water

741- The main support of access to drinking water was the project to provide water to big towns.

742- Big towns face many water-related problems. Drinking water supply, the provision and management of subscribers to water supply rarely attained 60 per cent. Consequently, low income masses are prone to water borne diseases. This project's main objective is to provide alternative solu-

tions to a single source of drinking water to the masses. The first part of this project was implemented in Yaounde and its outskirts and comprised the:

- identification and mapping of the different sources and water points in Yaounde and its outskirts;
- calibrating the different hydrometric stations installed; and
- specifying the physico-chemical and organoleptic parameters of some sources and other water points identified.

3- MIPROMALO

743- Several experimental sites were set up to serve as model for the population. This include for example the:

- construction of a primary school with 6 classrooms, a residence for the Headmaster at Afane – Mabe, Kribi;
- construction of a CETIC with 2 classrooms, a workshop, an administrative block and residence of the Headmaster at Melondo, Mvengue ;
- construction of the Women Centre at Baba I, Bamenda;
- construction of several houses in Yaounde; and
- technical assistance to the Landed Property Fund (MUPROF) for the construction of low cost housing.

744- Many people were reached through the establishment of a national partnership with several structures involved in the promotion of local materials in Cameroon. These include the «Centre de Promotion des Artisans de Bafoussam» (CEPAB) in the West Province, and SERCCADE, Bertoua, in the East Province.

745- Besides, MIPROMALO drew up a HIPC Project «*Projet de Promotion des Technologies de valorisation des matériaux locaux pour l'amélioration du cadre de vie des populations*» of which a component is the setting up of fifty (50) technology transfer centres in all the provinces, and the putting in place of an assistance fund for initiatives in the local material sector. The project was approved and it is receiving funding.

4-IRAD

746- The following major products developed by IRAD are popularised or could be popularised for the different research areas:

- Plant cultivation (annual and perennial cultivation);

- 3 maize varieties for acidic soils (3.5-5 t/ha) in forest zones;
 - 3 high-yielding maize hybrids (8- 10 t/ha);
 - 4 new irish potato varieties;
 - 2 high-yielding sorghum varieties;
 - insect-resistant plantain varieties;
 - 2 high-yielding cassava varieties (38t/ha);
 - striga resistant niebe;
 - 3 varieties of cotton popularised by SODECOTON;
 - development of fruit trees multiplication techniques; and
 - increase of national collection by the introduction of 9 citrus fruit varieties.
- animal and fish production;
 - production of animal feed from sub-agricultural products for cattle, poultry, small ruminants and fish farming;
 - production of animal traction equipment;
 - vaccination protocol for small ruminants popularised in North Cameroon;
 - production and distribution of cattle semen through artificial insemination;
 - distribution of alevins and fodder seeds; and
 - putting in place of a sustainable management method of fish resources.
 - Forests, Soils and Environment;
 - domestication of non timber products (*Gnetum africanum*, *Dacryodes edulis*, *Irvingia gabonensis*);
 - training of more than 1,000 pilot farmers for the rearing of ruminants in 9 provinces;
 - sustainable management methods of natural forest resources and plantations;
 - discovery of new endemic plant species in Cameroon; and
 - 5 volumes of 'Flora of Cameroon' and 5 regional flora or check-list of products
 - Production, Economic and Rural Sociology Systems;
 - production of knowledge for action;

- production of sustainable development tools and methods (integrated fight against cocoa, cotton, coffee diseases, counselling approach);
- production of biscuits from maize and cocoa;
- production of bread from local flour (cassava, potato, yam); and
- procedures for the processing of plant products (onion, yam, cereals, fruits, vegetables and cocoa) and animal products (cheese, dairy products, dried beef and fish).

747- MINRESI, MINFOF, and MINESUP signed Framework Agreement No. 15/7 of 27 June 2007.

The objectives of this Agreement were to:

- define conditions for the enhancement of means of research in forestry, wildlife and the environment as envisaged in the mid-term by PSEFE; and
- facilitate the match of research programmes to needs and ensure the enhancement of results.

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CHAPTER

7

RIGHT TO A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT

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748- The right to a healthy environment requires not only a healthy habitat but also an atmosphere, continental waters, flooded areas, coastal and maritime waters, soils and subsoils free of toxins and danger to life. It is therefore, a human right indispensable to the enjoyment of the other human rights.

749- In addition to international instruments on environmental protection ratified by Cameroon, the right to a healthy environment is enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of 1996 which provides: *“Every person has the right to a healthy environment. Environmental protection shall be the duty of every citizen. The State shall ensure the protection and improvement of the environment.”*

750- In order to meet its conventional undertakings, Government took a number of measures to promote and protect the rights of persons to a healthy environment. These measures concern participation in international activities, cooperation with partners, assessment of environmental impact, as well as sustained actions of competent Government institutions and local authorities.

Section 1: Participation in International Activities

751- Government expressed concern about the different ways of protecting the environment. It explored the possibilities of renewing its commitments with other African States in order to promote environmental management. On 10 September 2007, the Prime Minister held a meeting with representatives of the Congo Forest Fund, the objective of which is to protect the Congo Basin forest.²⁴⁹

752- Government further took measures to effectively examine issues relating to climate change. As such, it took part in important negotiations to implement global objectives and identify global actions so as to effectively examine climate change.

753- On 24 September 2007, Cameroon attended the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly in New York²⁵⁰ where issues relating to the dangers of global warming and climate change were discussed. At the summit, the Head of State reaffirmed Cameroon’s commitment to environmental

²⁴⁹ CT No. 8831/5130 of 11 September 2007

²⁵⁰ CT No. 8941/5140 of 25 September 2007.

protection. At a round table on climate change, the Head of State further presented Africa's worries by calling on world leaders to adopt measures to reduce climate change in Africa.²⁵¹

754- Government further attended many other conferences and meetings organised in 2007 on environmental protection.

755- On 12 September 2007, Cameroon joined the international community to celebrate the preservation of the ozone layer under the theme "*progress achieved since 20 years in the protection of the ozone layer.*" Activities to mark the celebration were presided over by the Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection.

756- On 28 September 2007, Cameroon further joined the international community to celebrate the World Sea Day under the theme "*IMO's Response to Environmental Challenges.*" Such commitment shows Government is ready to join the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in the reduction of maritime pollution through the implementation of the Convention on the Prevention of Pollution by Vessels (MARPOL).

Section 2: Cooperation with the Civil Society

757- The sensitisation and education of the public on the sustainable management of the environment and nature protection was intensified through the collaboration of MINGS with local communities, NGOs, and international organisations. Activities focused on the setting up and redynamisation of Environmental Clubs, clean-up committees in towns through "*Operation keep our towns clean.*"

758- Furthermore, aware of the fact that most of the environmental problems that Cameroonians face are due, amongst others, to the lack of adequate infrastructure, Government signed partnership agreements with multinationals to raise funds for such structures.

759- Within this framework, a German-Cameroon Programme of CFA 8 billion²⁵² for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (PSMNR) in the South West Province was launched in Buea on 23 November 2007 by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.²⁵³ The priority concern of PSMNR is nature conservation and sustainable management of resources.

²⁵¹ CT No. 8941/5140 of 25 September 2007

²⁵²

²⁵³ CT No. 8986/5185 of 28 November 2007.

760- Government further signed a partnership agreement with the NGO, “*Young Agenda 21 on Environmental Activities for Children.*”

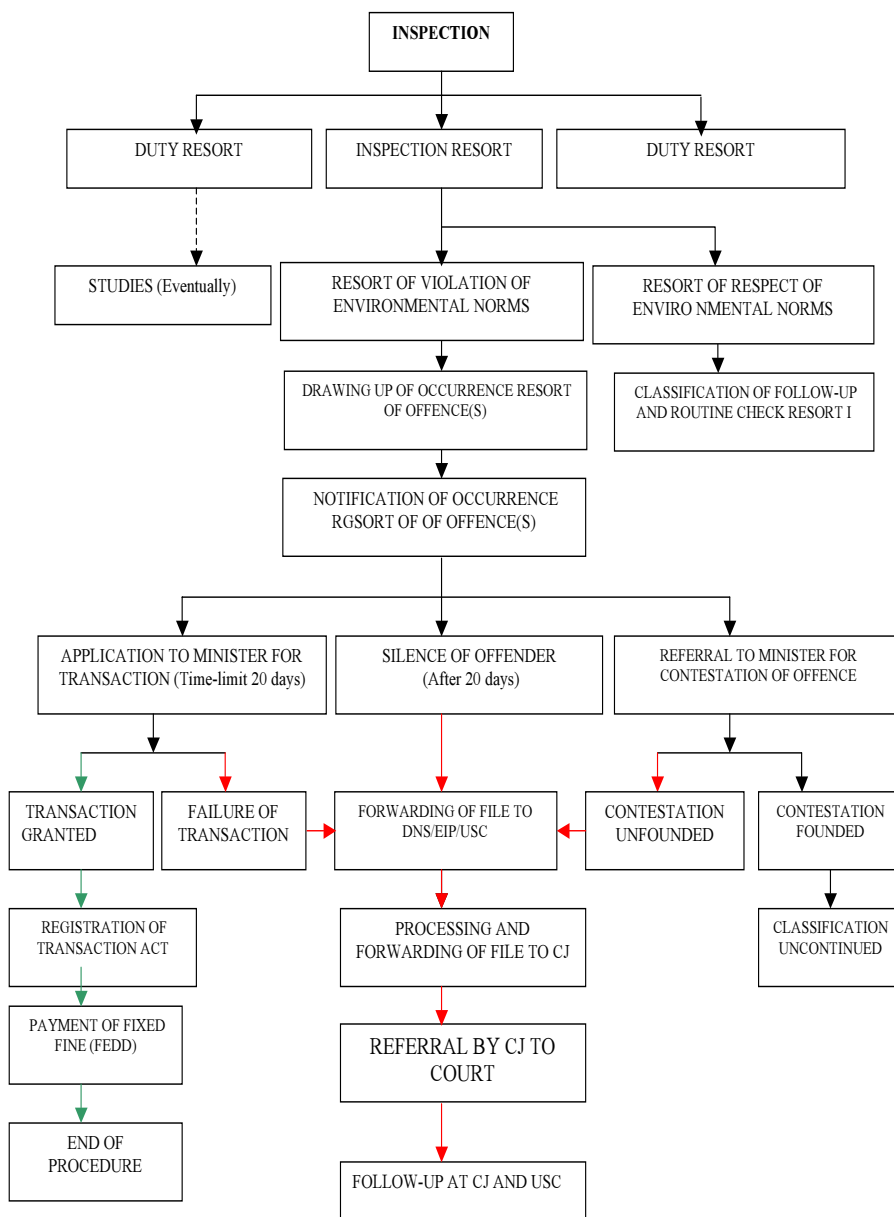
Section 3: Environmental Impact

761- Assessment of Environmental Impact (AEI) is a major instrument Government uses in taking environmental decisions. The AEI helps in maintaining ecological balance for it makes the follow-up of environmental development projects possible. It makes it possible to ensure that the said projects are in no way dangerous to the environment but rather ecologically healthy. The instrument further makes it possible to assess the environmental impacts of laws, policies and new plans in this domain.

762- Government used the AEI to ensure that the socio-economic and environmental costs and benefits of some projects are properly assessed and explained to avoid harmful environmental consequences. GEOVIC – CAMEROUN, a multinational company, for example, involved in the exploitation of cobalt and nickel passed through AEI from 2004 to 2007.

763- The Table below shows the Assessment of Environmental Impact.

Environmental Inspection Follow-up and Disputes



DNS = DIVISION of Norms and Supervision

EIP = Environmental Inspection Post

FDU = Follow-up and Disputes Unit.

Section 4: Measures taken by Government Institutions and Local Authorities

764- A good number of practical measures were taken by competent ministries and authorities of decentralised communities to fight against environmental degradation in the country.

765- By Decree No. 2007/1029/PM of 9 July 2007, Government set up the Dja reserve with an area of 526,004 hectares and covering the South, and East Provinces. It is a significant step towards sustainable management of the protected area. Its importance in biodiversity conservation was recognised at the international level as it was classified among the UNESCO international network of biosphere reserves on 15 December 1981 and UNESCO World Heritage on 11 December 1987. The reserve offers a good number of advantages. Besides preserving fauna and flora, the reserve also protects water dams, absorbs harmful substances such as carbon dioxide, and produces oxygen that is indispensable to a healthy life.

766- Furthermore, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing focused on the need to guarantee the right to a healthy environment. As such, it intensified the Urban Development and Water Supply Project (UDWSP) in 2007. The Minister of Urban Development and Housing published an invitation to tender on 20 July 2007, indicating among other things that the aim of the project is to improve access of town dwellers especially those living in poorly equipped neighbourhoods, to infrastructure, and social services especially access to water. He explained that the project reflects Government's determination to improve the standard of living of its citizens so as to enable them to enjoy a healthy environment.

767- Forest protection measures have equally be adopted. They include measures aimed at reducing poverty and promoting good governance in forest and environmental resource management, the subject of discussion at the first General Assembly of the National Forest Development Agency (ANAFOR), held on 27 September 2007.

768- In the same year, Government involved children in the environmental protection process by hosting the African Children's Regional Conference on the Environment TUNZA-UNGS bringing together about three hundred

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(300) children from thirty five (35) African countries and Norway. The conference was organised by the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection in collaboration with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). During the five days of interaction and exchange of ideas, the children planted more than five hundred (500) trees in Yaounde.

769- Government further strengthened the right to a healthy environment by implementing hygiene and sanitation in primary schools and nurseries. The Minister of Basic Education built latrines and water points in schools throughout the national territory as shown in the Table below:

PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	N o . BLOCKS OF 6 LATRINES	O F	TOTAL PER LOT		
Adamawa	Djerem	Tibati	1	GBPS Tibati	1	15			
		Ngaoundere		GS Pangar	1				
	Faro and Deo	kontcha		GS school Ngaoundal	1				
		Galim tignère		GS Kontcha Centre	1				
		Mayo Baleo		GS Galim Tignère Grp II	1				
	Mbere	Meiganga		GBPS Meiganga	1				
		Djohong		GS Djohong	1				
	Mayo Banyo	Banyo		GS Banyo Grp IV	1				
		Bankin		GS Bankim	1				
		Mayo Darlé		GBPS Mayo Darle	1				
	vina	Ngaoundéré			GS Annexe Grp I & II			1	
					GBPS Ngaoundéré			1	
		Mbé		GS Mbé Grp I	1				
	Belel		GS Belel Grp II	1					
TOTAL ADAMAWA					15				
PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	N o . BLOCKS OF 6 LATRINES	O F	TOTAL PER LOT		
CENTRE	Mfoundi	Yaounde 3	2	GS Administrative Centre I	1	18			
				GS Administrative Centre II	1				
	Nyong and kelle	Makak		GBPS Etoug Ebe	1				
				GBPS Makaka Grpe I	1				
	Haute Sanaga Lekie	Mbajnoek Monatéle		GBPS Mbajnoek GS Montalélé	1 1				
PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	N o . BLOCKS OF 6 LATRINES	O F	TOTAL PER LOT		
		Okola		GS Okola Grpe I	1	18			
		Mefou and Afamba		Mfou	GSA Mfou			1	
		Mefou and Akono		Akono	GS Akono Grpe li			1	
		Nyong and Fomou		Ayos	GS Ekok			1	
					Mbam and Inoubou			Ndikimineki	GS Ndikimineki
		Mbam and Kim		Bokito	GS Bokito II			1	
					Ntui			GSA Ntui Grpe I & II	1
					Yoko			GS Yoko Grpe -I	1
		Nyong and So'o		Ngoro	GS Ngoro ville			1	
					Akoemman			GS Ngoumbou	1
Ngomedzap	GBPS Ngomedzap		1						
	Nkol-metet	GS Nkolmetet	1						
Total Centre					18				

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PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	No. OF BLOCKS OF 6 LATRINES	TOTAL PER LOT
EAST	Boumba	Yokadouma	3	GS Yokadouma Grp II	1	15
		Ngoko		Gari Gombo	GS Gari Gombo	
	Upper Nyong	Abong Mbang		GS Abong Mbang	1	
		Doumé		GS Doumaitang	1	
		Atok		GS Mbama	1	
		Mindourou		GS Beddoumo	1	
		Ngoyla		GS Nyoyla Ville	1	
	Kadey	Batouri		GS Batouri	1	
		Mbang		GBPS Mbang	1	
		Kété		GS Kété	1	
	Lom and Djerem	Mbotoro		GS Gbwiti	1	
		Belabo		GBPS Belabo	1	
		Bertoua		GS Bertoua	1	
Bétaré Oya		GS Bétaré Grp II	1			
	Garoua Boulai	GS Garoua Boulai	1			
Total East					15	
FAR NORTH	Diamaré	Maroua	4	GS Harde Domavo	1	15
		Ndoukoula		GS Faiki	1	
		Mérid		GS Meri Grp II	1	
	Mayo Kani	Taibong		GS Manebague	1	
		Porhi		GS Dana	1	
	Logone	Kaélé		GS Kaélé Grp I	1	
		Waza		GS Amtalia	1	
	Chari			GS Ndiguina	1	
		Mato sava		GS Akoudro	1	
	Mayo Tsanaga	Mora		GBPS Mora	1	
		T okombéré		GS Tokombere Grp II	1	
Mayo Danay	Bourha	GS Bourha Wango	1			
	Mokolo	GS Mokolo Grp I B	1			
	Kalfou	GS Kalfou	1			
	Vélé	GS Vélé Dobo	1			
Total Far North					15	
PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	No. OF BLOCKS OF 6 LATRINES	TOTAL PER LOT
LITTORAL	Wouri	Douala 1	5	GS Bonamouang	1	15
		Douala 2		GS Bertaut I	1	
		Douala 3		GS Bilongue	1	
		Douala 5		GS Ndo Mbog II	1	
		Yingui		GS Yingui Centre	1	
	Nkam	North Makombé		GS Ndobain (North Makombé)	1	
		Nkonjock		GS Nkonjock Centre	1	
		Massok Sonloulou		GS Massok	1	
	Sanaga maritime	Dizangue		GBPS KM 6 Dizangue	1	
		Mouanko		GS Mouanko	1	
		Nyanon		GS Nyanon Grpe I	1	
	Moungo	Loum		GS Loum Chantier KM 99	1	
		Melong		GS Melong Grpe II b	1	
		Mombo		GS Mombo-Gare	1	
Nlonako		GS Ebone	1			
Total Littoral					15	
PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	No. OF BLOCKS OF 6 LATRINES	TOTAL PER LOT
NORD	Benoue	Graoua	6	GS Plauteau	1	15
		Mayo Louti		GS Mal Hamadou	1	
	Mandingring	Tcheboa		GS Benoué	1	
		Guider		GS Ngong Grpe II	1	
		Mayo Oulo		GBPS Guider	1	
	Faro			GS Ouro Grpe II	1	
				GS Gueleng	1	
				GS Dazal	1	
				GSA Tchollire	1	
				GS Tatou	1	
				GS Ngoumi	1	
				GS Touboro G I	1	
		Poli		GS Bouba	1	
		Beka		GS Voko	1	
		GS Beka	1			
Total Nord					15	

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PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	No. OF BLOCKS OF LATRINES	TOTAL PER LOT
North West	Mezam	Bamenda	7	GBPS Bamenda GP II	1	12
	Bui	Mbven		GS Mboshong	1	
	Menchum	Wum		GS Ketcha	1	
		Furu Awa		GS Furu Awa	1	
	Donga and Mantung	Nkambe		GS Chup	1	
		Nwa		GS Jato	1	
	Momo	Njikwa		GS Oshie-Njikwa	1	
		Batibo		GPS Batibo	1	
	Ngoketunja	Babessi		GS Babessi	1	
		Ndop		GS Ngala	1	
	Boyo	Belo		GS Belo	1	
		Bum		GS Bum	1	
Total North West					12	
PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	No. OF BLOCKS OF LATRINES	TOTAL PER LOT
WEST	Mifi	Baleng	8	GS BLafi-Baleng	1	15
		Bafoussam		GS Eveché	1	
	Menoua	Dschang		GPS III Tamja	1	
		Fokoue		GS Fongo Tongo Centre	1	
	bamboutos	Nkong-ni		GS Bangouet	1	
				GS Baléveng Centre	1	
	Noun	Babajou		GS Bbajou	1	
		Galim		GS Galim Ville	1	
	Nde	Massagam		GS Mandare	1	
		Bangourain		GS Bangourain I	1	
	Upper Nkam	Bangante		GS Bamena Centre	1	
	High Plateaux	Bana		9	GS Bandoumkassa	
Banja		GS Banja Grpe III	1			
Bangou		GBPS Bangou town	1			
Batié		GS Batié Crrefour	1			
Total West					15	
PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	No. OF BLOCKS OF LATRINES	TOTAL PER LOT
SOUTH	Dja and lobo	Sangmelima	9	GS Akak -Esse	1	15
		oveng		GS Andoung	1	
		Zoétélé		GS Zoétélé	1	
		Djuom		GBPS Djuom	1	
	Mvila	Ebolowa		GS Mvoundisi	1	
		Mengong		GS Moanbang	1	
		Nkolemekong		GS Kouma	1	
	Ocean	Kribi		GS Babambwe	1	
		Akom II		GS Nyambitande	1	
		Nyete		GS Adzap Yessok	1	
		Lolodorf		GS Bigbally	1	
		Bipindi		GS Nougue	1	
	Ntem Valley	Ambam		GBPS Ambam	1	
		Ma'an		GS Mekok	1	
		Olamze		GS Meyo-Biboulou	1	
Total Sud					15	
PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	No. OF BLOCKS OF LATRINES	TOTAL PER LOT
SOUTH WEST		Buéa	10	GS Molyka Grp I	1	15
		Muyuka		GS Muyuka I	1	
		Tiko		GNPS Mungo	1	
		Bangem		GS Bangem	1	
				GS Manenguba	1	
		Tombel		GBPS Tombel	1	
		Alou		GS Lewoh-Fotabong	1	
				GS Njenafeh	1	
				GS Mamfé II	1	
				GS Mamfé Town	1	
				GS Boa Bakundu	1	
				GPS Kumba Town	1	
				GS Mbongc Maromba	1	
				GS Isangele II	1	
	Gs Betenje Balue	1				
Total South West					15	
Grand Total					150	150

770- Table B below shows invitations to tender by the Ministry of Basic Education for the construction of 50 water points in schools.

PROVINCE	DIVISION	SUBDIVISION	LOT	SCHOOL	No. OF BLOCKS OF 6 LATRINES	TOTAL PER LOT
ADAMAWA	Djerem	Tibati	11	GBPS Tibati	1	5
	Faro and deo	Galim Tignère		GS Galim Tignère Grp II	1	
	Bere	Djohong		GS Djohong	1	
	Manyo Banyo	Mayo Darle		GBPS Mayo Darle	1	
	Vina	Ngaoundéré		GBPS Ngaoundéré	1	
Total Adamawa					5	
CENTRE	Likie	Okola	12	GS Nkolzibi	1	5
	Me Fou and akono	Akono		GS Akono Group II	1	
	Mbam and inoubou	Ndikimineki		GS Ndikimineki	1	
	Nyong and mfoumou	Ayos		GS Ekok	1	
	Nyong et so	Ngomedzap		GBPS Ngomedzap	1	
Total Centre					5	
EAST	Boumba and Ngoko	Yokadouma	13	GS Yokadouma Group II	1	5
	Haut Nyong	Abong Mbang		GS Abong Mbang	1	
	Kadey	Mbang		GBPS Mbang	1	
	Lom et Djerme	Bertoua		GS Bertoua	1	
		Garoua Boulai		GS Garoua Boulai	1	
Total East					5	
FAR NORTH		Maroua	14	GS Birio	1	6
		Kélé		GS Kaélé Group I	1	
		Waza		GS Ndigina	1	
		Mora		GBPS Mora	1	
		Kalfou		GS Kalfou	1	
	Bourrha	GS Bourrha Wango	1			
Total Far North					6	
LITTORAL	Nkam	North Makombé	15	GS DNdobain (North Makombe)	1	5
		Yingui		GS Yingui	1	
	Sana g a Maritime	Dizangue		GBPS KM 6 Dizangue	1	
		Mounako		GS Mounako	1	
	Moungo	Nlonako		GS Ebone	1	
Total Littoral					5	
NORTH	Benoue	Garoua	16	GS Plateau	1	5
		Techeboa		GS Ngong Grpe II	1	
	Mayo Louti	Mayo Oulo		GS Dazal	1	
	Mayo Rev	Tchollire		GSA Tcholliré	1	
Faro	Beka	GS Beka	1			
Total North					5	
	Bui	Mbven		GS Mbashong	1	4
NORTH WEST		Oku	17	GS Jaffor	1	
	Ngokejunjia	Babessi		GS Babessi	1	
	Bovo	Bum		GS Bum	1	
Total North West					4	
WEST	Menoue	Fokoue	18	GS Fokoué	1	5
	Bamboutos	Galim		Galim-ville	1	
	Noun	Malantouen		GS Mapou Njipoute	1	
	Kong-khi	Poumougne		GS Yom III	1	
	Hauts Plateaux	Batié		GS Batié Carrefour	1	
Total West					5	
SOUTH	Dja and Lobo	Djoum	19	GBPS Djoum	1	5
	Ocean	Mvengue		GS Akom	1	
				GS Abavaga	1	
	Ntem Valley	Ambam		GBPS Ambam	1	
	Mvila	Ngoulemakong		GS Kouma	1	
Total South					5	
SOUTH WEST	Kupe	Bangem	20	GS Bangem	1	5
	Manenguba					
	Lebialem	Alou		GS Njenafeh	1	
	Manyu	Mamfe		GS Mamfe Town	1	
	Meme	Bakundu		GS Boa Bakundu	1	
Ndian	Dikomé-Balué	GS Betenje Balue	1			
Total South West					5	
Grand Total					50	50

Source: MINEDUB

771- Local communities have also been involved in forest resource management. Government signed a partnership agreement with the Mefou and Afamba community in the Centre Province in a ceremony where diplomas were awarded inhabitants of the said community. In fact, it has been observed that where such communities are involved in forest management and sensitised on their right to forest exploitation and its resources, they tend to protect the forest as their private property.

772- Within the framework of the fight against pollution and floods in Yaounde, the Yaounde City Council has set up a hygiene and sanitation project for the period 2007-2010. The project worth CFA 21 billion²⁵⁴ and co-financed by the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Cameroon consists in cleaning up the river Mfoundi bed, and installing dust bins along the river to ensure that the neighbouring population no longer throws refuse in it.

773- Furthermore, on 20 September 2007, authorities of the Yaounde City Council met with other participants from partner ministries, representatives from the six (6) Councils in Yaounde, the ADB, ILO, and NGOs in charge of environmental protection to adopt the new clean-up calendar for the period 2007-2010. The meeting was presided over by the Government Delegate to the Yaounde City Council.

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774- From the foregoing, it is obvious that Government has made giant strides towards ensuring the right to a healthy environment by taking appropriate measures to protect forests, soils, water and the atmosphere. However, stricter measures should be taken in 2008 by causing the population and businessmen to be much more involved in the conservation of a healthy environment, a true contemporary challenge.

CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

775- Cameroon's attainment of the completion point of the HIPC Initiative in 2006 raised high hopes of a better achievement of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR). However, it is too early to ascertain whether the hopes have been transformed into reality. Nevertheless, Government and development partners are making every effort to meet such hopes. The fight against price hikes of basic products, improvement in health services and within the framework of life by increasing energy supply, as well as serious education reforms are some of the strides made in optimising the spinoffs from resources generated from such attainment. Such resources are increasingly protected by rigorous governance. However, it is hoped that a more rational, global and especially humane policy be conceived and implemented as concerns eviction of people from some neighbourhoods in our big towns.

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
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**PART
THREE**

**CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES ON
HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION**

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INTRODUCTION

776-A major innovation of the structure of this report is the presentation of the activities of human rights defenders in the part treating cross-cutting issues. This approach seeks to render account of the involvement of stakeholders of the civil society not only in the promotion and defence of civil and political rights but also in the realisation of Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR).

777-These activities and Government effort to improve on both detention conditions and the working conditions of penitentiary administration staff are stated in this part. It also deals with the protection of some specific categories such as women the girl child and the family as well as very categories of the population especially children, the handicapped, the old, and the marginalised.

778-All these aspects are examined in the following chapters:

Chapter 1: Activities of Human Rights Defenders in 2007

Chapter 2: Enhancement of Detention Conditions and the Working Conditions of Penitentiary Administration Staff

Chapter 3: Protection of Some Vulnerable Categories

Chapter 4: Protection of Women, the Girl Child and the Family.

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CHAPTER

1

HUMANS RIGHTS
DEFENDERS

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779- *«Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels»²⁵⁵.*

780- Taking note of this provision, Government defined a framework for the promotion and protection of human rights defenders. In fact, the Preamble of the Constitution proclaims freedom of association, and Law No. 90/53 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of association organises and lays down conditions for the exercise of this freedom.

781- These instruments provide a legal basis for the action of human rights defenders and are backed by the provisions relating to freedom of expression²⁵⁶ and the law on mass communication²⁵⁷.

782- Thus, the State guarantees the protection of the rights of each citizen as well as those of individuals and groups that promote and protect human rights.

783- With a view to realising a "Capable State"²⁵⁸, that requires the emergence of a civil society that ensures all aspects of development, Government facilitates the setting up and intervention of NGOs and national associations in some domains hitherto considered regal.

784- In fact, the necessity to complement approaches by Government and various components of the civil society led Government to associate a certain number of bodies and organisations in the formulation of government policies and programmes be it the effective protection of civil and political rights or the gradual realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.

785- However, it is necessary to remember that Cameroon, like any other democratic society, provides limits for the exercise of certain rights. Where restriction is necessary, Government strives to take proportional and necessary measures for the existence of a Constitutional State²⁵⁹.

²⁵⁵ Article 1 of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by Resolution 53/144 of 19 December 1998 by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

²⁵⁶ The Preamble of the Constitution declares that: « no person shall be harassed on grounds of his origin, religious, philosophical or political opinions or beliefs, subject to respect for public policy». Similarly, «... freedom of assembly, of association, and of trade-unionism as well as the right to strike shall be guaranteed under the conditions fixed by law».

²⁵⁷ Law No. 90/52 of 19 December 1990 as amended.

²⁵⁸ See definition and characteristics of a Capable State in Part Two on the chapter on Governance.

²⁵⁹ See Part One Chapter 5, § 324 et seq, pp.108 and 109 of Report by MINJUSTICE on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2005.

786- The year 2007 was marked by the awareness of the necessity to strengthen the civil society, and by the increasing dynamism of associations and NGOs that sometimes led to the setting up of credible networks.

Section 1: Reinforcement of the Civil Society

787- The participatory approach was used in drawing up the PRSD in 2003. In fact, different organisations and communities were actively associated in the drawing up of this framework document on which all sector strategies are based.

788- But in 2007, it was observed²⁶⁰ that in spite of its numbers and diversity, the civil society is still being structured.

789- Conscious of this situation, Government took measures to encourage and train civil society organisations.

§1: Need for a Reinforced Civil Society

790- Cameroon's civil society comprises more than 55,000²⁶¹ organisations which work in the area of civil and political rights, fight against poverty and social exclusion, health, education, environment etc.

791- It is obvious that the poor participation of private actors in the management of public affairs accounts for the lack of respect of some fundamental rights of individuals and specific groups. This weakness is characterised especially by poor representation in the decision process on issues relating to the life of individuals and groups. It is compounded by the lack of individual and collective ability of private actors.

A- Causes of the Shortcomings of the Civil Society

792- Apart from the recurrent lack of resources, these causes arise from a number of factors especially the:

- inflexibility of the legal and financial framework governing associations²⁶²;

²⁶⁰ See Country Analysis of Development Challenges in Cameroon, Joint Finding of the United Nations System Based on SDPR, United Nations, Yaounde, Cameroon, December 2006 .

²⁶¹ Source MINATD.

²⁶² Although Law No. 90/53 of 19 December 1990 institutes a simplified regime for the setting up of associations, it restricts financial ability by prohibiting gifts, devises etc. Most organisations whose activities are funded infringe the law which they are obliged to circumvent.

- absence of adequate national and regional coordination structures that can ensure better coordination, information exchange, determination of objectives, management of aid provided by donors and other development partners;
- politisation or instrumentalisation of some associations by political parties as well as frequent management and democratic lapses in the management of their structures;
- organisations inability to acquire autonomous finance thereby depending excessively on foreign sponsors. Such dependence does not guarantee the perennial existence of the association upon expiry of the project; and
- lack of awareness and participation of citizens in civic organisations.

793- Based on analyses by organs of the United Nations System²⁶³, the remote causes of these recurrent problems lie in poor organisation as well as individual and collective inability.

B- Individual and Collective Inability of Civil Society Organisations

794- Although some associations, NGOs and networks participate increasingly and efficiently in the life of the Nation, almost all of Cameroon's civil society is still characterised by its inability to regroup, defend its interests, interact with the State in the implementation of public policies, sensitise the masses on their rights and duties, and promote the culture of dialogue and democracy.

795- Government envisaged some solutions to these shortcomings in 2007.

§2: Government Response to Civil Society Problems in 2007

796- The NCHRF carried out interesting training actions. It was equally noted that civil society organisations stepped up their participation in the implementation of the National Governance Programme. Finally, Government facilitated the activities of some organisations.

A- Training by NCHRF

797- The NCHRF is a public institution charged with the promotion and protection of human rights. It plays a fundamental role in the public infor-

²⁶³ See country analysis of development challenges in Cameroon, common outcome of the United Nations System based on **DSRP** mentioned above, pp 47 and 48.

mation publication strategy²⁶⁴. It coordinates and develops human rights protection with the help of several provincial branches through local, national and international networks.

798- To this end, it should be recalled that human rights defenders are in NGOs, associations as well as the public sector²⁶⁵.

799- In 2007, the NCHRF reinforced its collaboration with the civil society. This new orientation will certainly allow for a better separation of its activities. It will equally ensure the effective implementation of the Declaration through a concrete plan of action²⁶⁶.

800- The partnership between the NCHRF and human rights defenders was illustrated at the national and international level.

1- National Level

801- The NCHRF made use of its collaboration with NGOs and associations. More so it received more than 67 applications for affiliation in 2007.

802- The Commission granted technical assistance to several organisations. In the North West Province, it enabled experts to participate in seminars and workshops involving many other actors especially:

- the workshop on the capacity building of women on the human rights based approach in the fight against violence on women organised by CHRAPA in partnership with UNIFEM;
- workshops on the awareness and capacity building of journalists, judicial police officers, traditional authorities and human rights defenders on the necessity of a human rights based approach in the fight against violence on women; and
- the training workshop for women, who are leaders of villages prone to inter-tribal conflicts, on the transformation of conflicts to encourage the culture of peace.

²⁶⁴ Report by MINJUSTICE on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2006, p 29.

²⁶⁵ In accordance with Article 14 (3) of the Declaration, «The State shall ensure and support, where appropriate, the creation and development of further independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all territory under its jurisdiction, whether they be ombudsmen, human rights commissions or any other form of national institution ».

²⁶⁶ Section 2 of the Law to set up the NCHRF provides that its duties amongst others include proposing to Government measures to be taken in the area of human rights and freedoms..

803- In the South West branch, the NCHFR put in place a permanent communication system with NGOs and associations in Kumba and Mamfe with the view to facilitate collaboration with them. It participated in the following activities:

- the conference on the theme «*Promoting the Participation of Youths and Women in the Democratic Process of the South West*», organised by the Association of Human Rights and Torture Defenders;
- the seminar on the theme «*Human Rights and Prisons*», organised by the Association of Human Rights and Torture Defenders;
- the workshop on «*The Criminal Procedure Code and Human Rights NGOs and Associations*», organised in Limbe by the Youth Animation Center to Promote Development.

804- Some of these NGOs and associations equally participated in diverse activities organised by the NCHRF in collaboration with the Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations Development Programme. This was the case as well with the adoption of the pedagogic manual and many capacity building seminars.

2- International Level

805- The NCHRF works in constant partnership with the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. It participated in October and November in Yaounde within this framework, and along side both Government and civil society experts, in two workshops for the training of trainers in the submission of reports by States and civil society actors to international mechanisms for the supervision of the implementation of treaties.

806- The NCHRF equally participated in the following international programmes in 2007:

- sixth Conference on National Human Rights Institutions. This conference on the protection of refugees, displaced and persons without a nationality, was organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees held in Kigali, Rwanda, 8 to 10 October 2007;
- workshop on Human Rights and Conflict Management at the Center for Conflicts Resolution, Accra, Ghana from 15 to 18 October 2007;
- forum on national human rights institutions of Commonwealth Member countries, held in Kampala, Uganda, 19 to 20 November 2007; and

- international conference on Democracy and Human Rights in Africa : Role of National Human Rights Institutions, Cairo, Egypt, 3 to 4 December 2007.

807- In building its own capacity in discussion fora with similar institutions, the NCHRF rendered effective the training and organisation of a civil society that has to be increasingly collaborative.

808- It is however wished that campaigns should be intensified to increase the number of registered civil society organisations which will ensure the construction of a dense and structured network by 2007.

809- However, it is necessary to enhance its financial ability for a more efficient supervision of organisations as well as for the taking of measures to facilitate access to available funds²⁶⁷.

B- Civil Society and the Implementation of the National Governance Programme

810- Part of the civil society was involved in Cameroon's preparation and participation, from 26 to 28 October 2007, in 7th African Forum on Governance in Africa.

C- Facilitating and Subsidising the Activities of Civil Society Actors by the State

811- The exercise and efficiency of the activities of some components of the civil society depends on access to real time quality information. In 2007, Government facilitated surveys carried out by INGOs²⁶⁸ and NGOs, and established permanent contact with them for example by providing them necessary working documents and by granting them access to prisons.

812- At the international level, constructive dialogue was commenced with some INGOs. This is especially the case with *Freedom House*, *Amnesty International*²⁶⁹ and *Transparency International*.

²⁶⁷ Cameroon's country Report to 7th African Forum on Governance in Africa from 26 to 28 October 2007 at Ouagadougou. P.38

²⁶⁸ Such as *Amnesty International*, *Transparency International*.

²⁶⁹ Cameroon is regularly questioned by *Freedom House* and other INGOs members of the Board of Directors with regards to its application for eligibility to MCA, and by AI on the violation of some rights.

813- It is equally worth noting that the State encourages partnership with the civil society, by letting experts from ministries to make presentations during seminars and workshops organised by non-governmental organisations. This was the case with the participation of the State in the workshop organised by *Transparency International*, on 22 February 2007, in Yaounde on the theme: «*The Role of the Judiciary in the Fight against Corruption in Cameroon*»²⁷⁰.

814- In 2007²⁷¹, the State granted subventions to civil society organisations in the domains of audiovisual communication, the written press and education.

815- Based on the presentation above, it could be concluded that the dynamics of the State-human rights defenders partnership is effective in Cameroon in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration and many recommendations of treaty organs. This dynamics allowed for, notwithstanding the weaknesses identified in 2007, the significant activity and involvement of some private actors.

Section 2: Private Organisations and the Emergence of Human Rights Defence Networks

816- Apart from the activities of some powerful organisations which contribute efficiently in reducing State responsibilities, especially by putting in place development projects for the marginalised and most impoverished communities, some associations and NGOs distinguished themselves by carrying out many activities in diverse domains in 2007. In so doing, they laid down favourable conditions for the emergence of networks for the protection of specific rights.

§1: NGOs and Human Rights Defence Associations²⁷²

817- Many associations and NGOs such as ALTERNA, Humanus International, African Action on Aids, Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme-Cameroun (New Human Rights-Cameroon), APDHAC, Afrique Future (Future Africa)

²⁷⁰ Equally see chapter on this Report on the Promotion of Governance.

²⁷¹ On this issue, see chapters on mass communication and education.

²⁷² Restricted to some organisations for purposes of illustration.

ACAFEJ, IFCD, LEFE, etc were concerned with the specific rights of women and children, right to human rights education, information, health and the right to a sufficient standard of living. Some examples may be given.

A- Protection of the Rights of Women and Children by ACAFEJ

818- ACAFEJ²⁷³, in continuation of the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children, trained, educated and informed women in 2007 on fundamental rights through several means especially the:

- publication of an issue of its journal «*Justice and Solidarity*», and its distribution to other women associations and partners; and
- organisation of «*mobile clinics*» and debates.

819- About one thousand three hundred and thirty five (1,355) persons participated in fourteen (14) debates and mobile clinics on topics relating to marriage (its formation, cessation, postnuptial settlement, the specific rights of women in marriage...) and violence to women. Besides, a day of support for the Code of the Person and the Family was organised in Douala in accordance with the demands of CEDEF.

• Listening to, Counselling and Orientation of Persons in Distress

820- Aid, Assistance and legal consultation centres known as «legal clinics», were opened to the public twice a week. They were carried out by members of the Association. The different ACAFEJ centres handled 586 consultations. Statistics were prepared that allowed for the various problems facing the masses and the impact of the action of the association to be analysed. Statistics for 2007 are as follows²⁷⁴:

Gender-based Distribution

	Centre and South	East	West	Littoral
Feminine	274	60	10	97
Masculine	17	13	93	22
Total	291	73	103	119
General Total	586			

²⁷³ This association was mentioned in previous reports by MINJUSTICE.

²⁷⁴ ACAFEJ set up four (4) centres in Yaounde, Douala, Bertoua and Bafoussam.

Distribution Based on Age

	Centre and South	East	West	Littoral
15-25 years	28	20	10	22
25-35 years	101	32	45	55
35-50 years	98	15	40	35
50 and above	64	6	8	5
Total	291	73	103	119

Marital Status²⁷⁵

	Centre and South	East	West	Littoral
Single	74	30	15	20
Common Law Partner	21	25	15	50
Monogamy	114	8	13	22
Polygamy	56	7	40	12
Widow/widower	37	3	20	5

Professional Status

	Centre and South	East	West	Littoral
Paid Worker	41	2	20	12
Unemployed	129	60	25	70
Civil Servant	60	2	13	5
Informal Sector	31	9	45	22

Types of Problems

	Centre and South	East	West	Littoral
Right of the Family (marriage, successions, filiation,...)	184	60	30	70
Economic Right (Commerce, Work,...)	27	5	50	12
Land Law	15	5	13	10
Criminal Law	28	3	0	10

²⁷⁵ It is worth noting that this Table equally refers to the antenuptial settlement of beneficiaries.

Person Who Directed Beneficiary to Centres

	Centre and South	East	West	Littoral
Media	64	45	30	20
Relation/former beneficiary	125	10	40	62
Causerie éducative	44	5	13	20
Others (ministries, social service, police units ...)	25	8	10	RAS

A- Training and Cooperation Institute for Development (IFCD)

821- IFCD²⁷⁶ is an association for the training and the legal, economic and social capacity building as well as the enhancement of women's leadership in Cameroon.

822- Its missions are contained in the NGP strategy especially the phase relating to the «*reinforcement of the human rights sector, publication and popularisation of law, gender equity and equality*».

823- For the implementation of its 2005-2007 strategic plan, IFCD received financial assistance from the Gender and Development Fund of the Canadian Cooperation in Cameroon and from the institutional partnership established with the Ministries of Justice and Women Empowerment and the Family. It carried out several activities for the execution of the project «*Support for the Social Appropriation and Implementation of CEDEF in Cameroon*».

824- These activities involved leaders of associations, judicial and extra-judicial actors, women in political parties and members of the scientific community.

825- Their objective was support by the civil society of Government action in the promotion of women's right and the consolidation of a Constitutional State.

826- Thus, the following activities could be mentioned in 2007:

- drawing up and publication of a comparative study of texts, laws and judicial practices contrary to CEDEF as project support and working document in workshops;

²⁷⁶ - www.ifcdev.org : *Women's Right*

- translating CEDEF into four (4) local languages (Bulu, Ffuldé, Pidjin, Ghom'ala) ;
- putting into place of the CEDEF-Proactive network for the popularisation of legal instruments relating to the rights of women and the girl child;
- training judicial and extra-judicial actors in the preparation of court judgments with legal instruments ratified by Cameroon;
- putting into place by trained judicial and extra-judicial actors of a Follow-up and Evaluation Technical Committee for the implementation of CEDEF;
- setting up of a studies and documentation centre for women's leadership (CEDOLF);
- organising in partnership with IRIC of an international colloquium on «The Stakes of the Participation of Women in Politics in Cameroon», with the financial support of UNIFEM; and
- active involvement in the call for the inclusion of gender issues in the constitutional reforms in Cameroon²⁷⁷.

827- Apart from these organisations that work specifically for women's civil and political rights, the most remarkable actions are taken in the social domains.

B- African Action on Aids (AAA)²⁷⁸

828- AAA is a non-profit-making international organisation with headquarters in the United States of America. It was authorised in Cameroon by Order No. 174/A/MINATD/DAP/SDLP/SAC of 30 May 2002 of MINATD.

829- The goal of this organisation, that has an advisory role at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, is to fight against AIDS by ensuring the right to education, information and to a sufficient standard of living.

830- In 2007, AAA was involved in the realisation of some social rights by the adoption of an integrated approach to fight against HIV/AIDS. This approach involved the following domains:

1) Promotion of Right to Health

831- «*Health before Wealth*»²⁷⁹ instituted by AAA is based on a simple approach: fighting against poverty-related illnesses. Thus, after the construction

²⁷⁷ See supra, part one, chapter 4.

²⁷⁸ www.africanactiononaids.org

²⁷⁹ Concept: Health Before Wealth.

of latrines in many villages and schools, AAA, in 2007, introduced a series of innovations: providing access to potable water, distribution of insecticide mosquito nets and soap.

a- Drinking Water

832- To ease access to drinking water, AAA set up mobile stations out of plastic galons supplemented with «Sure Water», a product that makes water potable. Through this process AAA distributed between September and December 2007, about 1,000 bottles of «Sure Water», to five (5) villages (Bogso, Nkol-Ebassimbi, Womkoa Obala, Leka) and 100 AIDS orphans. Each bottle of this product treats "1,000 litres of water.

b- Insecticide Treated Nets

833- Given that persons living with HIV aids have weak immune systems, malaria prevalence is very high among them and they suffer from very severe attacks that frequently lead to death. For this reason, AAA as concerns mother and child protection, ensures prevention through the distribution of insecticide treated nets. Thus, in 2007, 500 mosquito nets were distributed between September and December.

c- Disease Prevention

834- This approach consists in preventing diarrhoea and other opportunistic diseases that are recurrent causes of the death of persons living with HIV by educating people to wash their hands whenever necessary with soap. The evaluation of these methods revealed a decline in treatment in health centres of localities where they were experimented.

2) Curbing AIDS by Promoting the Right to Education

835- Based on the fact that the uneducated girl child is particularly vulnerable because she is prone to sexual violence and prostitution, AAA focused its activities on the education of this category. Hence, several girls in secondary school were fully sponsored in partnership with the Batonga Foundation.

836- In 2007, twenty five (25) girls in secondary schools were fully sponsored for a period of two (2) to seven (7) years in collaboration with the Batonga Foundation.

C- Afrique future

837- Founded in 1988 by Fr Emmanuel-Marie Mbock Mbock²⁸⁰, the Association Afrique Future, which equally acts through its foundation bearing the same name, became an INGO whose activities are backed by partners from Germany, Canada, France and Switzerland. Afrique Future has secondary branches in all these countries.

838- This INGO has distinguished itself for several years and especially in 2007 in the domain of education and health with the objective to: *«rekindle confidence in villagers, acknowledge their ability to meet their goals and to situate themselves in a better world»*²⁸¹.

839- On the strength of this communal dynamics, Afrique Future focused on:

- education and vocational training by setting up colleges and primary schools (Collège Ngodi-Si, Carpentry and Cabinetmaking Training Centre, etc.);
- the construction of communication means : construction of many bridges including those christened «Afrique Future Bridge, Friendship Bridge, Endurance Bridge, Patience Bridge, Courage Bridge...»;
- the construction of hospitals and dispensaries such as the Catholic Hospital Deo Gratias with extensions in Yaounde (Emana) and Douala;
- encouraging the masses to take up agriculture and breeding by constructing a technical centre; and
- enhancing housing by providing water supply and rural electrification.

840- These few examples illustrate the dynamism of Cameroon's civil society. But the concerted approach for the building up of defence networks for some specific rights is more interesting.

§2: Defence of Some Rights by the Building of Networks

841- Networks enable human rights defenders to organise their activities. They are built through the interconnection of their spheres of competence, their means and their scope.

²⁸⁰ Fr Emmanuel-Marie is a Cameroonian priest.

²⁸¹ This civil society body envisages to, during 2008-2009, to extend hospitals, schools and colleges already constructed, construct spiritual resource centres in Yaounde and Kribi as well as chapels, presbyteries and dispensaries.. It also intends to ameliorate its assistance to other associations with similar objectives and to establish active partnership with Government.

842- It is through these networks that the diversity of human rights protected the efficiency of such protection and the importance of some issues can be assessed²⁸².

A- Networks of Defenders of Women's Rights

843- Women used an innovative approach for the defence of their rights in 2007. They especially networked their actions in the political participation of women, fight against discrimination, protection of physical integrity through the fight against violence on women, right to education of the girl child and the training of women in ICT²⁸³.

844- ACAFEJ particularly distinguished itself by its determination to build networks for women's rights by organising a training workshop from 9 to 12 October 2007, with the support of Gender and Development Fund of the Canadian Cooperation Support Bureau.

855- This workshop which was meant for officials of some feminine professional organisations comprised the following modules: fundamental rights of the woman, technics of the follow-up evaluation and popularisation of international legal instruments on fundamental women's.

846- Ten (10) organisations were represented, namely:

- Cameroon Association of Female Jurists (ACAFEJ);
- Cameroon Association of Female Doctors (ACAFEM);
- Cameroon Association of Female Agriculture Engineers (ACAFIA);
- Cameroon Association for the Wellbeing of the Family (CAMNAFAW);
- Association of African Communication Professionals (APAC);
- Cameroon Women Managers Network (CWMNET);
- Association of Female Bailiffs (FHUJUC);
- S.O.S Women;
- Trauma Center; and
- Training and Development Cooperation Institute (IFCD).

847- At the end of the workshop, these organisations formed a network whose objective is to better protect women whose rights are violated, ensure the effective follow-up of the implementation of international legal ins-

²⁸² Infra, women's and social rights for example.

²⁸³ See Part Three, Chapter Four of this Report on The Protection of the Woman and the Girl Child.

truments relating to fundamental rights and the building of the collective and individual capacity of women.

848- The wish to improve on the participation of women in politics equally favoured the building up of the *Network for More Women in Politics (NMWP)*. This network tends to better illustrate the coordinated initiatives of feminine associations for the defence of their political rights. In fact, members of this network under the coordination of Dr Justine Diffo Tchunkam²⁸⁴, and as contribution to the constitutional reform debate and within the framework of the improvement of women's representation in politics in Cameroon, organised a debate in 2007 leading to the organisation of the Strategic Action Day (SAD) on the theme «*The Woman's Place in Cameroon's Constitution: Stakes and Perspectives*»²⁸⁵. The network's main claim was the institutionalisation of parity as guarantee of gender equality.

B- Networks for the Protection of Social Rights

849- As concerns protected categories, workers rights equally enjoyed a collective approach in 2007. Union leaders protested together to request for better working conditions and the salaries of workers of the public sector especially primary and secondary school teachers.

850- Networks were formed by defenders of consumers' rights. These include the «*Association citoyenne de défense des droits collectifs*» (*Association for the Defence of the Collective Rights of Citizens*) (ACDIC) and the League of Cameroon Consumers (LCC) that organised the signing of petitions with the view to reducing the costs of basic products in 2007. At the wake of their activities, about 200,000 petitions were submitted to the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

851- Associations were also involved in the organisation of protests against economic partnership agreements (APE- ACP/EU) to defend Cameroon against their possible bad effects²⁸⁶. Thus, on 4 and 5 July 2007, private actors from Central Africa organised an information seminar for their grea-

²⁸⁴ Dr Justine Diffo Tchunkam is Chair of the IFCD and lecturer of Law at the University of Yaounde II.

²⁸⁵ About 600 women from various public and private services, political parties and the civil society participated during this Day.: www.ifcdev.org : Women's Rights.

²⁸⁶For further details consult this site: www.acdic.net/campagne/index.php?page=article.php&m=92.

ter participation in the official APE negotiation process.

852- In fact, it was observed that civil society actors that relay information and sensitize the public are surprisingly excluded from negotiations on APE. This absence is a factor that restricts the possibility of the people of countries concerned by APE issues to understand the stakes and consequences of such agreements.

853- The seminar of 5 and 6 July 2007 comprised seven (7) panels charged with handling the following themes:

- consistency of APEs (From the Yaounde I Convention to the Cotonou Agreement);
- major APE negotiation issues;
- involvement of APEs in the economy of CEMAC; and
- involvement of the civil society in APE negotiations.

854- In the same vein, ACDIC organised a protest on 16 July 2007 in Yaounde, after obtaining an official authorisation granted by declaration receipt for a public protest No. 127/RDMP/JO6-1/SP of 7 July 2007.

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855- To conclude, it is hoped that the participatory dynamics of civil society organisations and the efficient partnership wanted by the State for all components of the Nation that is considered as a condition for sustainable economic and social development is maintained and reinforced for a better promotion and protection of human rights.

CHAPTER 2

IMPROVEMENT OF DETENTION CONDITIONS AND THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION STAFF

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

856- The endeavour at modernising Penitentiary Administration expressed by the dynamics of humanising prison conditions and improving on those of Penitentiary Administration staff was marked by a major event in 2007: the first ever meeting by Penitentiary Administration officials since Penitentiary Administration was attached to the Ministry of Justice. This event is in line with Cameroon's new penitentiary policy.

Section 1: Dynamics of the Improvement of Detention and Working Conditions

857- The positive results of PACDET I allow for the envisaging of the extension of the project to the ten (10) central prisons by the signing, on 19 December of 2006, between the Government of Cameroon and the European Union, of a second agreement dubbed PACDET II, worth 8 million Euros. The PACDET II Project and *'the project for the modernisation of prisons and the preparation for the social rehabilitation of detainees'* provide as from this year the launching of agro-pastoral activities in all the prisons with the view to increasing the food of detainees.

858- The latter is financed by funds from the Multilateral Debt Reduction Initiative (MLDRI). This project worth CFA 3,931,780,000²⁸⁷ whose activities will begin this year will allow for the:

- construction of six (6) new prisons with a capacity of 300 places each;
- rehabilitation of twenty four (24) existing prisons;
- construction of twelve (12) equipped water wells;
- acquisition of eight (8) prison vans; and
- setting up of production and training activities in sixty (60) main and secondary prisons.

859- The rehabilitation of the following prisons was continued in 2007;

- Main Prison, Sangmelima: CFA 25,000,000²⁸⁸;
- Main Prison, Edea: CFA 15,000,000²⁸⁹
- Secondary Prison, Moulvoudaye: CFA 25,000,000²⁹⁰
- Main Prison, Mora: CFA 8,500,000²⁹¹; and
- Central Prison, Yaounde: CFA 51,000,000²⁹².

²⁸⁷ About 6,048,892 Euros.

²⁸⁸ About 38,461.53 Euros.

²⁸⁹ About 23,077 Euros.

²⁹⁰ About 28,461 Euros.

²⁹¹ About 13.077 Euros.

²⁹² About 7,846,153 Euros.

860- For a better rationalisation of Government efforts and for increased involvement of Penitentiary Administration staff, the latter were convened to a meeting in 2007.

Section 2: First Annual Meeting of Provincial Delegates of Penitentiary Administration

861- The first meeting of Penitentiary Administration officials was held in Yaounde on the 12 and 13 November 2007. This initial meeting focused on the state of Cameroon's prisons, solutions to problems relating to the management as well as the working conditions of penitentiary staff. The stakes of this meeting and the results will be presented.

§1. Justification

862- The state of Penitentiary Administration which was raised in the previous Report²⁹³ was on the agenda of this meeting. It was stated that the National School of Penitentiary Administration and the ten (10) central prisons faced many functional problems.

A- Functional Difficulties Encountered by the National School of Penitentiary Administration

863- It was stated that National School of Penitentiary Administration (ENAP) faced the following functional difficulties:

- poor pedagogy;
- lack of computer equipment;
- insufficient qualitative and quantitative teaching staff;
- obsolete and insufficient infrastructure;
- lack of a surrounding wall to reinforce discipline among students and probationers;
- lack of means of logistics;
- huge liabilities; and
- insufficient and precarious working conditions of support staff.

B- Functional Difficulties of 10 Central Prisons

864- Just as ENAP, the central prisons are faced with many functional difficulties especially the:

²⁹³ 2006 Report p.202, No. 710 et seq.

- suppression of impress funds;
- obsolete, small, and dilapidated infrastructure;
- non registration of penitentiary land;
- overcrowded prison;
- breakdown of electrical and sanitary installations;
- insufficient and poor distribution of budgetary allocations which are incommensurate with prison population;
- lack of socio-educative structures and equipment;
- lack of supervisory staff;
- lack of and obsolete security equipment; and
- insufficient medical equipment and drugs.

865- This disturbing state of affairs provoked questions to which answers were provided.

§2- Results of Meeting by Provincial Delegate

866- The results stem from the solutions found for different concerns addressed by participants. The distribution of credits for the maintenance of detainees, state of detainees, protection of penitentiary land, follow-up of meeting of Penitentiary Administration officials, functioning of provincial delegations, staff discipline, impact of the CPC on detainee management and health in prison are some of the concerns resulting in fruitful discussions and recommendations.

A- Distribution of Maintenance Credits and Management of Aid and Gifts

867- The number of prisoners is not static because it increases monthly and even weekly in most prisons. One year after the attachment of the Ministry of Penitentiary Administration to the Ministry of Justice in 2005, recurrent credits were increased considerably in 2006 when they were doubled in each prison.

868- Thus, with regard to the management of allocations for detainees feeding, the Vice-Prime Minister instructed that they be henceforth calculated based on the number of detainees in each prison in order to rectify discrepancies on the global allocation for this expenditure. Moreso, he requested that gifts and aid received by prisons should be better managed and the Ministry informed in order that official acknowledgments should be sent to donors.

B- Protection of Landed Property

869-The Vice-Prime Minister reiterated his instructions to the Department of General Affairs for the protection of all land belonging to the Ministry of Justice within three (3) years.

C- Control of Prison Conditions of Detainees

870- As regards the prison conditions of detainees, the Vice-Prime Minister requested the Inspectorate General, the Department of Penitentiary Administration and the Department of Criminal Matters and Pardons to carry out a control mission of prisons, starting with those in Yaounde and Douala, with the view to verifying the situation of detainees, in order to immediately release those who are irregularly detained.

D- Functioning of Provincial Delegations of Penitentiary Administration

871- Provincial Delegations of Penitentiary Administration carry out the functions of representation, organisation, coordination, control and training. These different missions are not accomplished for several reasons.

872- The participants underscored the importance of improving the working environment of Provincial Delegates by making the following recommendations:

- reinforcing collaboration between judicial and administrative authorities;
- reinforcing the powers of Provincial Delegates with regard to the management of staff and detainees; and
- reinforcing the efficiency of Provincial Delegates by increasing the human, financial, material and logistics means at their disposal.

873- On this last point, the Director of General Affairs announced that Pick Ups, 4x4, shall be provided to Provincial Delegates of Penitentiary Administration in the 2008 financial year.

E- Discipline of Penitentiary Administration Staff

874- On this issue, it was agreed that measures should be taken to:

- reassure staff on the progress of the study of the draft Rules and Regulations that will very soon be forwarded to hierarchy;
- accept the corps and its peculiarities;

- increase the disciplinary power of officials of decentralised services by reviewing the instruments laying down the discipline regime of penitentiary staff;
- ensure the effective implementation of a second medical check up at ENAP Buea;
- institute a Penitentiary Administration Day;
- ensure the continuing education of staff and provide sufficient budgetary allocation;
- appoint staff with established long term of service to positions of responsibility;
- match sanctions with offences;
- activate the punishment fund by assessing its functioning in similar administrations; and
- take initiatives likely to ensure the smooth functioning of the decentralised structure.

F- Assessment of the Application of the CPC in Prison

875- On this score it was suggested that:

- new prisons be constructed and equipped in keeping with modern standards;
- regular consultation be held with the Ministry and Legal Departments;
- statistical returns on detainees be transmitted on time; and
- officials of external services of the Penitentiary Administration be integrated in consultation functional units of Judicial and Legal Officers instituted at Courts of Appeal and Tribunals.

G- Prison Health

876- Participants requested the continuation of actions stated in the previous report. They proposed the:

- recruitment and/or further training of health staff;
- construction of appropriate structures for the health of detainees;
- reinforcement of medical equipment and drug supply;
- institution of reliable data banks in each penitentiary health unit; and
- encouragement and reinforcement of a partnership with the Ministry of Health for the management of some illnesses.

877- These resolutions and suggestions are in line with the new penitentiary policy whose main thrusts have already been identified.

Section 3: New Penitentiary Policy

878- For some years now, Cameroon has undertaken the reform of its penitentiary system based on the implementation of a new penitentiary policy. The main objectives of this policy is first to identify prison related issues, develop knowledge based on international agreements and instruments, and finally to define principles on which the various stakeholders of the prison system may resort to in case of imprisonment.

879- Through this new penitentiary system, a framework for the management of a just, decent, humanitarian, useful and economical penitentiary system shall be set up. Thus, the conditions for this new penitentiary policy must be analysed, its planification realised for the institution of its reform.

§1-Conditions for a New Penitentiary Policy

880- Pursuant to Article 10 of the ICCPR *“Any one who is deprived of his liberty shall be treated humanely and with the respect inherent in the human person.”* It follows therefore that the human person, compounded by prison condition, is the primary condition that guides any penitentiary policy.

A- Human Condition: Respect of Human Dignity

881- In the document, *Penitentiary Policy and Prison System Reform Strategy* drawn up in December 2006 by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Drawing Up of a New Penitentiary Policy and Prison Reform System, the human condition was taken into account through the ethics of human dignity and the study of the law on human dignity.

1- Ethics of Human Dignity

882- To indicate its conversion towards proactive ethics, Cameroon must place its new penitentiary policy on human dignity, an essential value of democratic societies. There exists however, beyond human complexity, a generic human identity that neither differences in human material conditions nor talents can conceal.

883- Human dignity is the sacred quality that permits the equality of all humans to be affirmed. Given that it is inalienable and unavoidable, it confers a right that the new penitentiary policy should enshrine. Punishment as a social sanction must at last become meaningful within the framework of human dignity.

2- Right to Human Dignity

884- The new penitentiary policy identifies the beneficiaries and is more respectful of the rights of the victim and the future by affirming three main principles:

- the protection of the human dignity of the detainee is essential because the values of a democratic society do not end at the threshold of prison. Detention in principle must not aggravate exclusion and inequalities. The detainee must conserve his right as a citizen because penitence must not result in social death;
- the protection of the human dignity of penitentiary staff is equally essential because the latter must be granted their due acknowledgment. The new penitentiary policy intends to reverse the degrading image of penitentiary administration by reaffirming its importance; and
- finally, the protection of the human rights of victims is primordial. It must guarantee their rights to compensation and reinforce their right to protection against deviant behaviour of some members of the society.

B- Prison Condition: Making Punishment Meaningful

885- Restructuring punishment based on democratic ideas does not legitimise prison. Prison reaffirms its essential functions of reparation and protection. It merges punishment conceptions namely:

- retributive conception whose objective is intimidation and punishment; and
- educative or pedagogic conception that seeks to redress the offender.

886- However, the new penitentiary policy is optimistic about human nature. It intends to capitalise on the social importance of punishment. In this regard, detention does not exclude extensive confidence. Hence, prevention and cure are not incompatible.

887- To meet this goal, prison mediation practice should be adapted and encouraged. It provides the offender the possibility to reconcile with the victim or the family. It enables the victim to forgive and forget. Repentance and forgiveness are consensual aspects for an acceptable and organised return of the offender to society.

888- An efficient penitentiary policy is equally evaluated on the basis of a successful reinsertion policy. It meets its ultimate and indispensable objec-

tive, if it finally safeguards human dignity to which all human beings, free or "in chains" aspire.

§2- Plannification of New Penitentiary Policy

889- Within the framework of this new policy, the strategic thrusts should be transformed into SMART objectives namely: specific, measurable, adjustable or acceptable, realistic or achievable objectives, within a fixed period of five (5) years comprising the first cycle of the project. Mobilisation of resources implies the definition of priority programmes of action.

A- Mobilisation of Resources

890- Resources have to be mobilised to ensure the effective realisation of the multiannual reform programme envisaged in the Strategic Plan.

891- First of all, these are budgetary resources. In this light, the Minister of Finance should specify each year, in addition to the current allocation to the Penitentiary Administration, supplementary budgetary resources to be allocated for the funding of penitentiary reform during the five (5) years of the initial reform cycle. This approach allows for a better understanding of the multiannual project programming.

892- The HIPC funds are another source for the mobilisation of financial resources. To this end, feasibility studies should be carried out and relevant projects prepared which meet the required conditions for this type of funding.

893- Funding by development partners, within the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation will ensure the realisation of projects. However, it will be important to present projects prepared in accordance with the technical requirements of each sponsor appealed to whom an appeal was made.

894- It will therefore be necessary for the Administration in charge of the implementation of penitentiary reform to be assisted by quality experts for the efficient management of this process.

B-Definition of the Indicative Priority Actions Programme

895- Based on the results of the penitentiary system audit and the urgent situation, the priority reform programme could be developed according to the following thrusts:

1- Infrastructure Development

896- This includes the drawing up of a multiannual programme over five (5) years including the construction of new prisons and the rehabilitation of existing ones.

897- This method which should be integrated in a holistic approach presupposes that an initial assessment of the architectural and infrastructural situation of prisons short listed has been initially carried out, that construction norms are defined and adopted, and that they serve as references for works to be carried out.

898- The infrastructural programme to be developed must integrate the construction of a new modern school in Buea with adequate training and accommodation facilities.

2- Restructuring of Human Resources

899- The restructuring of human resources is based on resocialising the development of Cameroon's Penitentiary Administration which is changing from an essentially security to a correctional approach. This indispensable restructuring should be achieved by reviewing the following three components of the corps of civil servants of the Penitentiary Administration: management, security and control as well as insertion and probation staff.

900- The new Rules and Regulations governing Penitentiary Administration staff to be drawn up should consequently include this requirement. It must equally take into account the necessity of offering to staff an equitable and motivating career profile. After this review, vacancies should be properly identified and human resources needs properly defined. Thereafter, it will be necessary, during the next five (5) years of the first cycle of the implementation of reform, to define the multiannual recruitment programme, to implement a forecast system for human resources management, and to provide the latter with appropriate working conditions.

901- Furthermore, the cycles, syllabus and course content of ENAP should be reviewed, to meet the requirements of the new profile and competence of penitentiary staff.

902- This new deal requirement should equally be applied to the teaching staff of ENAP, their selection system and remuneration conditions which should be motivating.

3-Development of Resocialisation Programmes

903- Programmes for the resocialisation of detainees must enable them to be gainfully occupied, restrict the desocialisation effects of prison, and prepare them to return to society as law-abiding citizens. To prevent recidivism, these measures must be accompanied by post-prison assistance measures. These programmes should be designed based on the needs analysis of prisoners. It must favour social reintegration, protect social security, and contribute in curbing prison overcrowding.

904- These measures must be enshrined in the law to lay down conditions for the management of punishments in Cameroon which will henceforth be the penitentiary system.

4- Institutional Restructuring of Penitentiary Administration

905- The institutional restructuring must lay down the organs required for the follow-up and management of punishment (National Commission for Release on Licence or Judge In charge of the Enforcement of Punishments, depending on the political policy adopted). It will also be necessary to reorganise the central and external services of Penitentiary Administration as well as prisons for a better redeployment and optimal functioning, with the view to taking up the challenges of the new missions and to offer a stimulating framework for human resources management.

C- Empowerment of Prisoners through Income Generating Activities

906- Given that income generating work and activities are the bedrock on which the preparation of detainees for social reinsertion generally lies, it would be necessary to envisage the institution or a body in charge of setting up, developing and managing workshops and all other activities of prison production. These activities may be coined after the French Penitentiary Administration Industrial Section, Canadian CORCAN, Kenyan or Malawian penitentiary farms approaches respectively.

907- However, a mastery of the process adopted in the draft reform requires that technical teams to manage the specific projects draw full experience from countries with significant progress in the areas under consideration.

908- The Law laying down conditions for the management of punishments shall specify conditions under which detainees shall be integrated in the various programmes offered by the penitentiary establishment and placed at work. It shall lay down the conditions for using prison labour and the remuneration of profit-making activities detainees they carry out.

§3- Implementation of Penitentiary Reform

909- The implementation of penitentiary reform presupposes the setting up of an institutional system and the development of managerial skills.

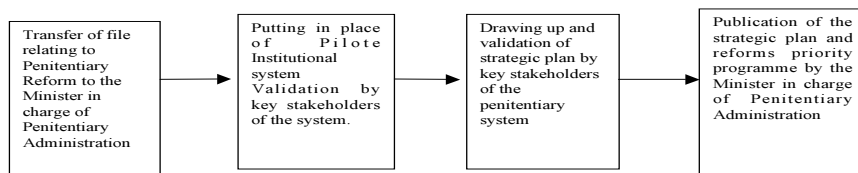
A- Organisation and Management of Institutional System

910- After the adoption of the strategic document for the modernisation and development of Cameroon penitentiary system and the transfer of the file to the Ministry of Justice, a reliable institutional system must be put in place to ensure the implementation, under the best conditions, of the new penitentiary policy. The validation procedure shall be described and three main points presented: the appropriation process of the strategy by stakeholders, the main implementation institutional system and the institutional device in key ministries collaborating with the Penitentiary Administration.

1- Validation Procedure of the Modernisation Strategy and Development of Cameroon Penitentiary Administration.

911- The validation procedure of the modernisation strategy and the development of a prison system must ensure the participation of key stakeholders. This procedure is split into phases after the adoption of the draft by the Sub-Committee in charge of the Synthesis by the Ad Hoc Committee in charge of Reforming the Prison System and its approval by the President of the Republic. It includes:

- a) transfer of the file to the Ministry of Justice by the Minister of State, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic;
- b) putting in place of the steering and validation institutional system by key stakeholders of the penitentiary system; and
- c) drawing up of a strategic and operational implementation plan;



a- Transfer of Reform File to the Minister in charge of Penitentiary Administration

912- Transfer of the file is carried out after validation, by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Draft Strategy as formulated by the Sub-Committee for Strategic Synthesis, after all analyses, studies and indispensable missions in accordance with the relevant and quality technical requirements. This validation is made taking into account all the parameters likely to be a major concern for stakeholders of the public and civil society including foreign partners.

b- Putting in Place of the Steering and Validation Reform Institutional System by the Key Stakeholders of the Penitentiary System

913- The putting in place of the Steering Committee must constitute the first phase of the process. Members of the Committee which should comprise officials from the Presidency, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Economy, Planning, Development Programming and Regional Development, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Justice shall institute the reform after an initial refresher course.

914- The strategy validation by key stakeholders would be done through a training and appropriation seminar. It will enable different officials of the modernisation strategy project train stakeholders of the system (stakeholders of the public and civil society including foreign partners) in order to get their views on the envisaged reform. This is a major phase necessitating the ultimate participation of stakeholders at the implementation phase of the strategy.

c- Drawing Up of the Strategic Plan

915- The strategic plan shall be the result of splitting up the strategic thrusts proposed in the reform document into objectives and activities. It should lead to the reform framework document comprising all the programmes and projects identified for the implementation of the new penitentiary policy.

2- Appropriation of Strategy by Stakeholders of the Penitentiary System

916- Effective implementation should be preceded by an initial appropriation phase of the strategy by the competent operational stakeholders.

917- The main appropriation action at the central services should take the form of a seminar for the appropriation of the modernisation and development strategy of the penitentiary system. This seminar will be organised for all essential stakeholders or representatives of the system.

918- Other complementary actions shall be carried out at the provincial level for a better publication of the main aspects of the reform and especially its practical implications in penitentiaries and judicial institutions.

3- Central Institutional System for Reform Implementation

919- The implementation of the modernisation strategy of the penitentiary system of Cameroon requires an adequate institutional system for the management of the different execution operations of the plan of action including the mobilisation of resources, adoption of programmes, and the review of the entire process. The institutional system must provide for its integration and gradual internalisation into the Ministry in charge of Penitentiary Administration. Two organs are indispensable for the implementation of the reform in the ministry: the Steering Committee and the Strategy Secretariat.

a- Steering Committee

920- The Steering Committee is the organ in charge of initiating and facilitating, controlling and reviewing the modernisation and development strategy of the penitentiary system. It is presided over by the Minister in charge of Penitentiary Administration. Its membership shall be interministerial including key partners of the prison system (especially the civil society and competent international bodies). The Presidency of the Republic shall be represented as well as security officials. The Committee shall be based in the Ministry in charge of Penitentiary Administration. It shall be supported by a Technical Operational Committee integrated in the central services of the Ministry in charge of Penitentiary Administration.

b- Strategy Secretariat

921- The Strategy Secretariat studies the practical aspect of the strategy. It serves as an interface between all the components of the prison system and the Steering Committee. It should be highly placed at the institutional level to initiate files and guarantee organisational integration in the central services of the Ministry in charge of Penitentiary Administration. The Secretariat shall follow up the implementation of the strategy by all the essential stakeholders (Penitentiary Administration, judicial services, security forces, social services and health services).

922- The Strategy Secretariat must put in place follow-up and evaluation instruments of the strategy based on an information system in which essential stakeholders must participate. It must conduct analysis and strategy review operations based on a clearly established cycle and calendar known by stakeholders of the prison system. The Secretariat must have the necessary technical competences for the implementation of the strategy and ensure the integration of the strategic management to be able to initiate and direct the implementation of the new formulation cycles.

5- Implementation of Institutional Device

923- The Strategy Secretariat must ensure implementation of the reform in other ministries and competent services. The key ministries (Finance, Social Affairs, Health, Defence etc.) must put in place referrals which support the implementation of the penitentiary reform strategy. These referrals should be highly placed to guarantee their operational influence in the competent central and external services.

B- Development of Managerial Skills

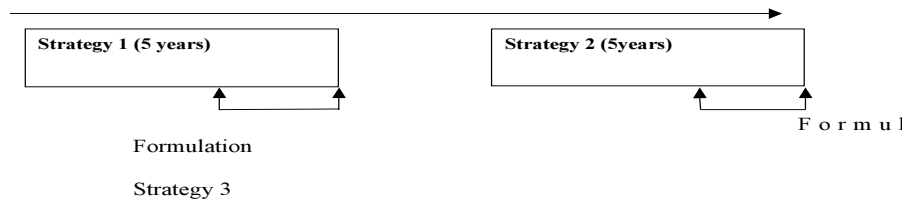
924- The implementation of the strategy, mastery of the management process (actions, follow-up, assessment, review) and especially the ability to renew one or several strategic cycles requires experts in the key ministries. It is indispensable to provide properly targeted actions for managerial capacity building in strategic processes and procedures. The objective is to appropriate these tools with the view to increasingly reduce resorting to external experts. Three factors should be considered: needs arising from strategic cycle techniques, planning of capacity building actions, and technical and financial resources.

1- Strategic Cycle, Capacity Building and Strategies Implementation Needs

925- The current strategic cycle has duration of five (5) years (implementation period). But this period is extended by the formulation phase which precedes implementation: formulation has a variable duration based on the quality of stakeholders involved. The new process for the initial formulation of the strategy is generally more complex and heavy for stakeholders. The implementation phase contains annual revision operations of the strategy.

926- Given that strategic cycles last for five (5) years, each implementation phase ends (during the last two years) with the formulation of the following strategy. Thus between two strategies, technical works are more intensive during the end of the cycle (see diagram below).

Tasks by Secretariat



927- The mastery of this continuous cycle of formulation and implementation of the strategic management process requires technical expertise. Considering that such expertise is unavailable at the introductory phase especially of the Penitentiary Administration Strategic Management, the Secretariat should identify specific training needs with the support of external experts in order to plan adequate development actions.

2- Plannification of Capacity Building Actions

928- During the validation and strategy appropriation process, an initial plan for the capacity building of strategic management must be realised by targeting priority stakeholders likely to be directly involved in the management process. The identification of potential stakeholders of the Strategy Secretariat and corresponding officials in the ministries should be carried out. For the strategy to be rapidly implemented, a special training action should be taken before the adoption of the strategy by the President of the Republic.

3- Technical and Financial Resources

929- To successfully implement a management strategy capacity building plan, it will be necessary to equally have both the technical resources (formulation and strategy implementation trainers) and sufficient financial resources.

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930- To conclude, modernisation of the Penitentiary Administration is an endeavour that requires the involvement of all partners because it requires considerable financial and sufficient resources. If policy definition is the duty of the State, its implementation must be appropriated by all stakeholders. High level consultation by senior officials of the Penitentiary Administration must henceforth become a tradition that renders different initiatives in this domain clearer and coherent. It is hoped that the different projects could be realised and the reforms announced effectively implemented.

CHAPTER

3

RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE
PERSONS

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2007

931- The Government of Cameroon has always attached a lot of importance to the protection of vulnerable persons who include children, the elderly, the disabled, and the underprivileged. These persons have the right to protection against discrimination as well as the right to the full enjoyment of their human rights as provided for by the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983, and the Convention No. 159 of the International Labour Organisation.

932- Government has made some progress by providing favourable conditions for the survival and development of vulnerable persons. To better understand such efforts, each of these groups of persons will be examined separately.

Section 1: Rights of the Child

933- The State has taken measures to finance, legislate and supervise the social security system of children (§ 1). Besides, legal sanctions have been taken against members of staff who violated the rights of the child (§2). The civil society and the private sector have either unilaterally or in partnership with Government, equally contributed to promoting the rights of the child (§3).

§ 1: Government Measures

934- The Department of Social Protection of the Child set up pursuant to Article 41 of Decree No. 2005/160 of 25 May 2005 to organize the Ministry of Social Affairs, is in charge of supervising the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. As such, it is in charge of the following:

- preparation, implementation, and follow-up of promotion and special protection policies and programmes of the child;
- national solidarity education aimed at the social protection of the child;
- preparation, implementation, and follow-up of catering policies and programmes of the infant;
- technical relations with national and international organisations operating in child-related social actions; and
- collection of statistical data on the target population.

935- Government has, in accordance with its duties, undertaken a number of activities in different domains aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the child.

A- Legal Measures

936- The following legal measures were taken in 2007:

- appointment on 30 November 2007 by joint order MINAS/MIN- JUSTICE of assessors and probation wardens at courts in matters that concern minors having problems with the law;
- signature on 5 March 2007 of Circular No. 2007/AS10/LC/ MINAS/SG/CJ on reception, security, placement in host institution or family of abandoned children, treatment, security, and integration of children abandoned in institutions as well as their reinsertion in their respective families; and
- participation of MINAS in workshops to draft the Child Protection Code (CPC).

B- Institutional Measures

937- The following institutional measures were taken by MINAS:

- 1 national census of Private Child Catering Structures (PCCS) with a view to drawing an intervention map for vulnerable children;
- organisation from 12 to 13 December 2007 of a workshop on the implementation of a sponsorship system of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC);
- participation in staff training workshops (magistrates, social workers, Penitentiary Administration staff, legal practitioners, police officers and members of the civil society) in matters of juvenile justice;
- convening of the 3rd Technical Steering Committee of Programmes and Projects on the management of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children;
- celebration of the 17th edition of the Day of the African Child, and organisation of the 19th Session of the Children's Parliament;
- attendance in Sao Tome and Principe of the Subregional Meeting on Childhood Protection in Central Africa;
- attendance in Cairo, Egypt of the 2nd Panafrican Forum on the Future of the Child;
- attendance in N'Djamena, Chad of a subregional meeting on the fight against child trafficking; and

- attendance in Libreville, Gabon of a meeting of experts, and in Abuja, Nigeria of a meeting of Ministers both, on the fight against child trafficking.

C- Political Measures and Programmes

938- The following activities were undertaken:

- continued execution of the National Support Programme for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) throughout the national territory through school, health, nutritional, legal, and psychological management of 40,000 OVCs;
- completion in December 2007 of the first phase of the Cameroon – UNICEF Cooperation Programme and the putting in place of the 2008 – 2012 phase with five programmes among which the “Child Protection” programme.
- protection of vulnerable persons placed under the Circle of Friends of Cameroon (CERAC), in partnership with UNICEF, and for the period 2003 - 2007; and
- preparation of the Millennium Action Plan Document of Cameroon for 2008-2012.²⁹⁴

939- The Minister of Social Affairs visited institutions involved in the promotion of the well-being of children to assess their activities and protect the vulnerable Cameroonian child from the inconveniences of life in less serious institutions. The visits further enabled the Minister to draw up a viable database of these social institutions and centres, classify them according to their activities, and explained Government policy to them as concerns the protection of vulnerable children. She further praised those who did a good job and reprimanded those with shortcomings.

940- The different institutions and NGOs were required to submit their programmes of action, budgets, and sources of funding. They were further required to regularly submit their activities to Government in accordance with the law.

941- 180 motorcycles were bought with HIPC funds and distributed to the ten Provinces to facilitate the intervention of operational units such as social centres.

²⁹⁴ MINAS' contribution to this report.

942- Government equally conducted a census of street children in Yaounde with a view to reintegrating at least 150 of them into their respective families. The same operation is expected to be carried out in Douala, Bafoussam and Maroua.²⁹⁵

943- On 1 March 2007, MINAS and MINSANTE jointly organised a workshop to assess the management of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the country. The workshop that was organised at the Conference Centre, Yaounde brought together 42 associations and NGOs specialised in the promotion and protection of orphans and vulnerable children. The workshop further aimed at strengthening tripartite relations between MINAS, MINSANTE, and the civil society in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

944- At the workshop, MINAS informed participants of Government's Plan in partnership with the World Bank to provide food, education, and other facilities to more than 184.000²⁹⁶ OVCs by 2010.

§2: Court Measures

945- As concerns prosecution and trial of minors, courts throughout the national territory scrupulously applied the provisions of the Penal Code²⁹⁷ and the CPC²⁹⁸ on the protection of the rights of children having problems with the law. Besides, the following judgments delivered by some courts in the Littoral Province are an illustration of court protection granted minors who are victims of offences.

CFI, Douala, Ndokoti:

- On 8 January 2007, in Juienkou Thomas Vs Nyanith Amos Hervé, the CFI, Douala, Ndokoti convicted and sentenced Nyanith Amos Hervé to one year imprisonment suspended for three (3) years for kidnaping and unlawful detention;
- On 21 March 2007, in Gnezako Fabien Vs Oloumo Beleme, the accused was sentenced to one year imprisonment and a fine of CFA 50,000;
- On 27 March 2007, in Bell Nonock Moïse Vs Fokam Waffo Thomas, the accused was convicted and sentenced to three (3) years imprisonment with a fine of CFA 100,000 for indecency to child under sixteen;

²⁹⁵ CT No. 0218,8847/5046 of 11 May 2007.

²⁹⁶ This figure represents 75 per cent of vulnerable children in Cameroon.

²⁹⁷ See Section 80 of CP

²⁹⁸ See Sections 700 to 743 of CPC.

- On 14 June 2007, in Yonga Tchuileu Catherine Vs Konga Isaac Aubin, the accused was found guilty of corruption of youth, convicted and sentenced to two (2) months imprisonment with a fine of CFA 25,000;
- On 15 June 2007, in Tchinda Florence Vs Fosso Ervé Merlin and Fokoua Guy Blaise, the accused were found guilty of corruption of youth, convicted and sentenced each to eight (8) months imprisonment with a fine of CFA 100,000;
- On 27 June 2007, in Zambou Yolande Vs Kenfack Awoukeng Jacques, the accused was found guilty of corruption of youth, convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with a fine of CFA 50,000;
- On 27 July 2007, in Tchamen Ketu Marie Blaise Vs Fadge Tchouafa Alain Bertrand, the accused was found guilty of corruption of youth, convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment suspended for three (3) years with a fine of CFA 100,000;
- On 10 August 2007, in Katto Paul Vs Mekuiko Alois, the accused, Mekuiko Alois was found guilty of indecency to child of thirteen, convicted and sentenced to imprisonment of one year suspended for three (3) years;
- On 6 September 2007, in Loum Norbert and others Vs Loe Dikarue Jacques, the accused was found guilty of corruption of youth, convicted and sentenced to nine (9) months imprisonment;
- On 19 September 2007, in Manga Luc François Vs Banini Florent, the accused was found guilty of corruption of youth, convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 50,000;
- On 3 October 2007, in Mballa Ntsama Rose Vs Fouda Effouba Loius, the accused was convicted and ordered to pay a fine of CFA 5000;
- On 27 December 2007, in Songan Kendjoun Noëlle Vs Nguifack Alain Serges, the accused was found guilty of kidnapping and corruption of youth. He was convicted and sentenced to six (6) months imprisonment with a fine of CFA 10,000.

HC, Moungo

The High Court, Nkongsamba equally delivered the following judgments in favour of child protection:

- On 10 October 2007, Doumtsop was tried and found guilty of indecency to child. He was convicted and sentenced to two (2) years imprisonment suspended for three (3) years with a fine of CFA 1000;
- On 25 July 2007, the accused Takou Christopher was convicted and sentenced to ten (10) years imprisonment with a fine of CFA 111,654;
- On 11 July 2007, the accused Koumetio Gilardi was convicted and sentenced to ten (10) years imprisonment with a fine of CFA 85,339.

§3: Actions by State Partner Organisations

946- The Chantal Biya Foundation and Plan Cameroon are the main partner organisations that have supported Government action in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child in 2007.

A- Activities of the Chantal Biya Foundation

947- The Foundation carried out a number of activities to improve on the education and health of vulnerable children.

1- Educative activities

948- In a bid to improve on the education of orphans and vulnerable children, the Chantal Biya Foundation signed a partnership agreement with the following education institutions:

- IAI- Cameroun;
- Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences;
- University Institute of Technology of Ngaoundere;
- l'Institut Siantou;
- Specialised Centre of Technical Education and Medical Analysis of Mfou (CES-TAM) that trains laboratory technicians; and
- National Social Affairs Institute (NSAI).

949- A good number of students from these institutions have benefited from internal internships organised by their respective establishments in collaboration with the Chantal Biya Foundation.

950- The Foundation also received funds from some sponsors. The Egyptian Ambassador to Cameroon, for example, donated computers and wheelchairs. In the same vein, the General Manager of the Egyptian Co-operation Fund visited the Foundation on 30 October 2007 and offered them some gifts.

951- Besides, exchange programmes were initiated between the Foundation and foreign institutions. Some European Institutions from France and Belgium sent their students to the Mother and Child Centre, CRACERH, and the Health Centre, Meyomessala.

952- On 14 April 2007, the First Lady, Mrs Chantal Biya inaugurated two primary schools built by the Foundation in Yabassi and Limbe. On 29 November 2007, other schools were inaugurated in Dimako, Nanaga-Eboko, Bangante, Maroua, and Garoua. These schools were built in collaboration with the "*Groupe Hachette-Livre International*."

953- The Foundation further signed a partnership agreement with CISCO on the teaching of technology to children.

954- Twenty five orphans from rural areas were taken care of throughout the 2006-2007 academic year. They also received material gifts.

2- Health Activities

955- In the health sector, the Foundation carried out the following activities:

- voluntary HIV/AIDS test on pregnant women at the Mother and Child Centre, Yaounde. During this exercise, 156 women tested positive and have since been receiving treatment;
- provision of medical assistance to 310 babies born by HIV positive mothers, and provided treatment to 336 HIV positive children;
- education of the population on HIV prevention methods, and how to live a healthy life even when one is an HIV carrier;
- organisation of 175 sensitisation workshops at the Mother and Child Centre, Yaounde;
- organisation of sensitisation campaigns to promote social acceptance of persons living with HIV;
- participation at celebrations to mark the World AIDS Day in 2007 by sponsoring a beauty contest to elect a youth ambassador in the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- gift of 400 wheelchairs and prostheses: 200 to some disabled persons in the South West Province and the other 200 to disabled persons in the Centre and South Provinces;
- training, in partnership with the "*Commission scolaire Grandes Seigneuries*" of staff of the first Children's Centre, and the Mother and Child Centre;

- cooperation with the Circle of Friends of Cameroon (CERAC), Plan Cameroon, and other multinational partner NGOs to raise funds for the education and health of needy and underprivileged children.

956- Within the framework of malaria and tuberculosis control among children, the Foundation signed a partnership agreement with the World Bank and attended international colloquiums on mother and child healthcare.

957- The Foundation signed another partnership agreement with CIMEN-CAM with a view to building of a ward for children suffering from sickle-cell anaemia.

B- Activities of Plan Cameroon

958- The NGO Plan Cameroon carried out the following activities to promote and protect the rights of the child in Cameroon:

- 600 children in 5 of the 10 Provinces of the country received medical care, food, and education through the 2nd phase of the "Global Fund" project;
- about 7000 supplementary judgments of birth certificates were delivered for Baka, and Mbororo children in the East and North West Provinces respectively. Most of these documents were issued to facilitate the registration of children in schools and official examinations;
- 200 scholarships were granted some Mbororo young girls in the North West Province and about the same number to some Baka young girls in the East Province;
- every year, Plan Cameroon finances the Children's Parliament. In 2007, it sponsored 4 of the 120 young Parliamentarians. Besides, it gives elementary lectures to the 120 young Parliamentarians on the rights of the child every year;
- a study was conducted in the 3 Northern Provinces on child survival and development. Through the study, three domains were identified where needs were extremely urgent;
- the NGO carried out initial work with a view to signing a MINAS/Plan Cameroon memorandum on child protection²⁹⁹;
- it equally organised a sensitisation campaign on child defence in Cameroon and the West African region in 2007 under the theme "Vio-

²⁹⁹ The said memorandum will be signed on 7 October 2008.

lence against Children in School: learning without fear." The campaign was conducted through research carried out through radio programmes, samplings, questionnaires, and consultation of children. The research revealed that the school environment was the best place for child violence. Such violence includes scolding, sexual violence, corporal punishment, and the pressure of children's gangs. The findings of the research will be the subject of a seminar that will be organized by Plan Cameroon in partnership with the Government of Cameroon in October 2008 in Yaounde bringing together participants from the entire West African region.; and

- Plan Cameroon further helped a 13-year old young Parliamentarian to resist and denounce an early marriage to a 35-year old man arranged by her parents. Since the decision to give the girl out for early marriage was caused by poverty, the NGO decided to sponsor her education.

C- Activities of African Synergy

959- African Synergy is a structure set up through the initiative of the First Lady of Cameroon, and which carries out a number of activities to protect vulnerable persons.

Section 2: Rights of Vulnerable Persons

960- Government policy in this sector consists in ensuring that disabled and elderly persons enjoy equal rights with the other citizens. As such, it carried out a number of activities to promote and protect their rights. Some of these activities as well as those carried out by other partner organizations will be examined below.

§ 1: Rights of Disabled Persons

961- The Department of Social Protection of Disabled and Elderly Persons set up by Article 33 of Decree No. 2005/160 of 25 May 2005 to organise MINAS is in charge among other duties, of ensuring the promotion and protection of the rights of disabled persons. Pursuant to this provision, the said department carries out the following duties:

- preparation, implementation and follow-up of policies on the socio-economic reinsertion of disabled persons, and protection of the elderly;

- preparation, implementation, and follow-up of Government policy on special education, functional re-education, medical assistance, fittings and vocational training of disabled persons;
- grants to private institutions involved in social works;
- national solidarity education aimed at the social protection of disabled and elderly persons;
- conception of assistance measures;
- promotion of development and capacity building programmes to mobilise and manage resources of the target population;
- organisation of supervision of institutions involved in the protection of disabled or elderly persons;
- build technical relations with national and international organisations involved in the promotion of disabled or elderly persons; and
- collection of statistical data on target population, in collaboration with the technical structures concerned.

962- To meet these terms of references, Government took the following measures:

A- Legal Measures

963- The following legal measures were taken:

- designing a national policy on promotion and protection of disabled persons;
- draft law to amend Law No. 83/13 of 21 July 1983 to protect disabled persons in Cameroon. The draft law that was forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office was largely debated upon in an intersectoral meeting in September 2007;
- designing a law report on the promotion of jobs for disabled persons within the context of the legal framework reinforcement Commission of the International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP);
- drafting and forwarding to the Prime Minister's Office of the draft law to authorise the President of the Republic to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons adopted on 12 December 2006; and
- drafting and forwarding to the Prime Minister's Office of draft decree to transform CNRH into a public health establishment.

B- Policies and Programmes

964- They include the following:

- signing of joint Circular No. 283/7/LC/MINESEC/MINAS of 4 August 2007 to identify disabled pupils/students and those born of disabled parents to enable them to be registered in public schools (primary and secondary schools), and sit for official examinations;
- designing of a job monograph accessible to disabled persons in relation to their different disabilities within the framework of the Monograph Commission set up during the 2007 IDDP;
- designing of a model disability project within the framework of a Health Commission set up during the 2007 IDDP;
- follow-up of the implementation of the Agreement between MINAS/AIAS-AFRAGOLA on the building of a Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons in Maroua. The foundation stone was laid in September 2006 and construction work of the Centre is near completion;
- negotiations are under for the signing of a Partnership Memorandum between MINSANTE/MINAS/PROMHANDICAM;
- follow-up of the implementation of the Agreement between MINAS, ANAC, and the Association française Valentin HAÛY within the framework of the Subregional Training Centre in visual deficiency-adapted computer science;
- negotiations are underway for the signing of a draft Partnership Agreement between MINAS and the Association Aides aux Lépreux EM-MAÛS Suisse with a view to the socioeconomic rehabilitation of persons disabled by leprosy and buruli ulcer in particular, as well as other groups of vulnerable persons managed by MINAS;
- follow-up of files of disabled persons benefiting from socioeconomic rehabilitation offered by credit support programmes with a view to socio-professional integration and rehabilitation of vulnerable persons (PAIR PPEV);
- signing of letters of recommendation for applicants for paid jobs;
- approval of some applications for financial support of disabled persons who have applied for the financing of their socioeconomic rehabilitation projects;
- continuation of the recruitment pilot project of disabled persons to serve in MINAS and other public and semi-public offices;

- vocational training of fifteen (15) disabled students at the Vocational Training Centre for Disabled Women "Winds of Gold," Yaounde;
- meeting between MINAS and MINSEP on the redynamisation of the Cameroon Sports Federation for Disabled Persons (FECASH);
- partnership between MINAS and WHO on HIV/AIDS control among disabled persons that enabled about 400 disabled persons to benefit from free test at the Centre for Disabled Persons, Etoug-ebe, Yaounde at the end of 2006. The initiative also included information and sensitisation of the target group through communication techniques to ensure a change of behaviour in health, nutrition, hygiene and other HIV/AIDS prevention measures;
- partnership to raise funds projects, institutions and the target population was approved by MTN that facilitated the individual installation of ten (10) young disabled female graduands from the Vocational Training Centre, Ekounou in 2007; and
- partnership with a view to CRDP capacity building, improving the quality of service provided Disabled Persons and victims of industrial injuries, strengthening social reinsertion possibilities of disabled persons. At the end of the first phase of the project, NSIF equipped and rehabilitated the Centre for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (CRDP) to the tune of CFA 100 million.³⁰⁰

C- Other Activities to Promote and Protect the Rights of Disabled Persons

965- The following equipment was allocated to disabled persons:

- 118 tricycles;
- 57 wheelchairs;
- 117 white sticks;
- 42 hearing aid;
- 56 English canes;
- 10 umbrella strollers;
- 11 pairs of crutches;
- 10 sewing machines; and
- 3 splints.

³⁰⁰ MINAS Annual Report, 2007.

966- On 29 November 2007, the Chantal Biya Foundation donated wheelchairs and money to disabled persons and the needy in Limbe. Orange Cameroon, an innovating company, in collaboration with Government, organized from 9 to 18 April 2007, a 10-day training of trainers seminar on capacity building of the blind and low-sighted persons. The facilitators of the seminar were two low-sighted persons from the *Institut national des Jeunes Aveugles de Paris*, France. Participants were drilled on the new techniques on the use of brail and local materials in the manufacture of brail. Participants came from the Bafoussam, Bafut, Buea, Dschang, Garoua, Kumbo, Maroua and Yaounde schools for the blind.³⁰¹

967- At a conference organised by FENAHCAM-UNA PHAC with a view to validating the Declaration on the rights of disabled persons in Cameroon (period: December 2006-2007), disabled persons declared that Sections 11 and 12 of Law No. 2006/11 of 29 December 2006, to set up ELECAM and prohibiting disabled persons from declaring their candidature for an elective post are discriminatory and constitute a violation of their fundamental rights. They called on Government to envisage amendment of the said Sections of the law. The issue is under study in the competent offices.

§2: National Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons (NRCDP)

968- The NRCDP carried out activities to help disabled persons recover their health and improve on the capacities to participate in social life.

969- The institution made a lot of effort to mobilise social sectors to improve on the healthcare of disabled persons. The activities of the Centre were carried out with funds from Government grants, income from services rendered (such as consultation, admission, sale of drugs, and re-education) as well as donations from funding bodies, NGOs, Christian associations and individuals. Government grants for 2007 stood at CFA 520, 229,435.³⁰² Funds from its own revenue stood at CFA 21.185.340³⁰³ while donations in cash and in kind stood at CFA 28,599,605.³⁰⁴

³⁰¹ CT No. 8826/5026 of 10 April 2007.

³⁰² About 800,353 Euros.

³⁰³ About 32,593 Euros.

³⁰⁴ About 43,999.39 Euros.

970- The Table below shows the donations received by NRCDP IN

No.	Donator	Donation	Estimated value in CFA	Expenses
1	High Commissioner of Canada	Drugs and pharmaceutical products	2 141 541 ³⁰⁵	2 141 541
2	High Commissioner of Canada	School manuals and didactic materials	1 456 415 ³⁰⁶	1 456 415
3	CNPS	fittings material for functional re-education	16 996 350 ³⁰⁷	6 996 350
4	CARITA TIERS-MOND	education games for the nursery	44 200 ³⁰⁸	44 200
5	Students from ENAM (Batch requested anonymity)	Bedsheets, towels, English canes	362 000 ³⁰⁹	362 000
6	Association SKY of CAMAIR	Food products	179 400 ³¹⁰	179 400
7	Mrs Micheline SEME (NGO club des gourmettes)	3 wheelchairs	1 500 000 ³¹¹	500 000
8	CAMEROON YOUTHS FOR JESUS	Crutches, metallic dust bins, wheel walkers, disinfection kits	2 896 000 ³¹²	1 896 000
9	RAINBOW CHILDREN'S FUND	15 cartons of clothes	1 000 000 ³¹³	1 000 000
10	Chorals UNICHO	Foodstuffs, clothes, household products, exercise books and drugs	400 000 ³¹⁴	400 000
11	Madam Marlene	Rice, salt, soap	35 000 ³¹⁵	35 000
12	Father Hebga + students from ENAM	Foodstuffs and household products	50 000 ³¹⁶	50 000
13	M. Edoa J Paul	Clothes, shoes, pineapples	40 000 ³¹⁷	40 000
14	Association jeunes BASSA, paroisse ANNUARITE	Clothes and household products	30 000 ³¹⁸	30 000
15	Nko Biolo Christophe (A DUBAI)	Rice, sardine, soap, exercise books	45 000 ³¹⁹	45 000
16	Group cadets of Mary Immaculate (SIMBOCK)	Rice and soap	30 000 ³²⁰	30 000
17	Mrs. Etoa Corine	A sheep, diamaor oil, tomato, bucket, green condiments	50 700 ³²¹	50 700
18	Association JAPE of EPC, Oyom -Abang	Clothes and soap	12 500 ³²²	12 500
19	CAMLAIT company	Fruit yoghurt	28 000 ³²³	28 000
20	Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on training at NGOYA, Yaoundé	2 bags of rice	26 000 ³²⁴	26 000
21	Mrs. Christine Nnomo A S A D E Africa (Espagne)	A pair of English cane, 2 cartons of sunflower oil, 4 cartons of garments and	320 000 ³²⁵	320 000

2007

³⁰⁵ About 3,295 Euros.

³⁰⁶ About 2,241 Euros.

³⁰⁷ About 26,148.23 Euros.

³⁰⁸ About 68 Euros.

³⁰⁹ About 557 Euros.

³¹⁰ About 276 Euros.

³¹¹ About 2,307.69 Euros.

³¹² 4,455.38 Euros.

³¹³ About 1,538.46 Euros.

³¹⁴ About 615.38 Euros.

³¹⁵ About 54 Euros.

³¹⁶ About 77 Euros.

³¹⁷ About 61.53 Euros.

³¹⁸ About 46.15 Euros.

³¹⁹ About 69.23 Euros.

³²⁰ About 46.15 Euros.

³²¹ About 78 Euros.

³²² About 19.23 Euros.

³²³ About 43 Euros.

³²⁴ About 40 Euros.

³²⁵ About 492 Euros.

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		second-hand clothes, 1 wheelchair		
22	CEPY (Cercle des Eglises Protestantes de Yaoundé) (Circle of Presbyterian churches, Yaounde)	CFA 20,000 , 4 bags of rice (50kg), 2 cartons of soap (400g), 3 bales of sanitary tissue, 1 carton of sugar, 13 packets of sugar, 1 carton of oil, a bundle of second hand clothes	174 500 ³²⁶	174 500
23	Colonne de feu	52 sachets of 1 soap and 1 sanitary tissue each, children's toys	78 000 ³²⁷	78 000
24	Ngana Edwige	1 bag of 50kg of rice, 1 carton of 200g of soap	25 000 ³²⁸	25 000
25	Borean Baptist Women Akok-Ndoé	1 carton of 200g of soap	12 500 ³²⁹	12 500
26	Association of women of Hilton represented by Mrs. Mbarga Christine	2 bags of 50kg of rice, 2 cartons of 400g of soap, 1 bale of sanitary tissue, 12kg of sugar, 1 tin of butter, 50 sandwiched bread, 50 sugar-coated cakes	125 000 ³³⁰	125 000
27	APEBAC (23 rd batch of ENAM) represented by Paul Raymond Mikil Manga	6 bags of 50kg of rice, 3 cartons of 400g of soap, 5 packets of sugar	105 000 ³³¹	105 000
28	Essama Family	2 bags of 50kg of rice, 1 tin of oil (20L), 1 carton of tomato, 1 carton of 400g of soap, 1 bag of salt	81 500 ³³²	81 500
29	Bon Secours Caravan	1 carton of 400g of soap, 1 pallet of 12 toothpastes	18 000 ³³³	18 000
30	CARITAS (St Achille Parish, Mendong) represented by Mrs. Nonga Fidoline	50 packets containing: - 2 bags of rice - 2 400g of soap - 1 liter of oil -3 smoked fish -banana -2 baskets of mango	120 000 ³³⁴	120 000
31	Mass servants of the liturgical commission of the St François Xavier University Parish	1 bag of second hand clothes, 1 sachet of 5kg of rice, 7 cubes of 400g of soap, 1 sachet of 2kg of spaghetti	10 000 ³³⁵	10 000
32	Mme Ndjock	4 cartons of fish, 2 cartons of chicken, 6 bunches of plantain, 1 goat, children's clothes	160 000 ³³⁶	160 000
33	Yogeh Thadanni Supermarket SKT	2 bags of 50kg of rice, 1 carton of oil, 1 carton of powder juice, 1 carton of sugar	65 000 ³³⁷	65 000
		Total	28 599 606³³⁸	16 417 606³³⁹
		Solde		12 182 000³⁴⁰

Source : National Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons

³²⁶ About 268.46 Euros.

³²⁷ About 120 Euros.

³²⁸ About 38.46 Euros.

³²⁹ About 19.23 Euros.

³³⁰ About 192.30 Euros.

³³¹ About 161.53 Euros.

³³² About 125.38 Euros.

³³³ About 27.69 Euros.

³³⁴ About 184.61Euros.

³³⁵ About 15.38 Euros.

³³⁶ About 246.15 Euros.

³³⁷ About 100 Euros.

³³⁸ About 44,000 Euros.

³³⁹ About 25,257. 85 Euros

³⁴⁰ About 18,741.53 Euros

971- The activities of the Centre consisted mainly in functional re-education (physiotherapy, ergo therapy, fittings) as described below:

- i) Physiotherapy: 808 patients re-educated;
- ii) Ergo therapy: 694 patients received IMC among which:
 - 35 spathic cases;
 - 23 cases of hypotonic;
 - 12 cases of athetosis;
 - 3 cases of hydrocephalic;
 - 4 cases of myasthenia; and
 - 20 cases of infantile hemiplegia;
- iii) Fittings: the following free end walking frame accessories were manufactured:
 - 266 pairs of aluminium splints;
 - 15 thermo-adjustable splints;
 - 2 corsets ;
 - 64 pairs of moulded soles;
 - 3 prostheses ;
 - 12 pairs of Ankle boots; and
 - 186 «*genu valgum varum*» adjusted.

972- The Table below shows the number of patients admitted in hospital in 2006 and 2007:

		YEAR		DIFFERENCE
		2006	2007	
	Number of patients received	2861	2792	-69
	New patients	2019	2387	368
	Old cases	674	405	-269
	Cases of general medicine	168	179	11

Source: National Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons

973- As concerns preventive medicine, out of 3000 doses of vaccines expected, 3037 were administered, that is, a rate of 101.23 per cent, distributed as follows:

VACCINE	YEAR		DIFFERENCE
	2006	2007	
BCG	255	245	-10
DTcoq	715	697	-18
Polio	980	925	-55
Measles	237	224	-43
Yellow Fever	237	224	-43
VAT	100	64	-36
Vit A	604	658	54
Total	3200	3037	-163

Source: National Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons

974- 118 persons were given free HIV test; 13 of them tested positive.

975- 1920 women (including children) were received at the Centre for educative counselling and vaccination of their children. The following cases were also registered:

- Prenatal consultation: 22 in 2006 and 66 in 2007, About an increase of 30 per cent;
- Family planning: 7 women received;
- psychosocial counselling: 4 women;
- early testing of disability: 53 cases of disability tested among which:
 - 6 cases of lingual fraenum;
 - 8 cases strangulated hernia;
 - 4 cases of malformation;
 - 3 cases of obstetrical brachial plexus palsy;
 - 6 cases of deformation of lower members;
 - 13 cases of infant obesity;
 - 1 case of trisomy 21;
 - 7 cases of psychomotor retardation; and
 - 1 case of neonatal jaundice.

976- The difference between the Centre and many hospitals in Cameroon is that in the Centre, patients are allowed to begin treatment without prior payment of pre-admission deposit. That is why a lot of patients end up with unpaid arrears. Although it can be understood, this situation simply calls on Government and development partners to provide the Centre with adequate means to enable it to effectively carry on with its social duty.

977- Admission in hospital as at 31 December 2007

No.	Name	Number of months	Unit cost of room	Total in CFA	Remarks
1	Nsomndje Lazare	102	45 000 ³⁴¹	4 590 000 ³⁴²	NRCDP temporary worker
2	Sidieudoe Gérard	72	15 000 ³⁴³	1 080 000 ³⁴⁴	
3	Penkatou Ibrahim	48	15 000	720 000 ³⁴⁵	
4	Pitgue Charlotte	34	15 000	510 000 ³⁴⁶	
5	Momo Tsafack Momo	33	15 000	495 000 ³⁴⁷	
6	Njila Elise	58	15 000	870 000 ³⁴⁸	
7	Belombo Sariette	69	15 000	1 035 000 ³⁴⁹	
8	Djuini Marie	38	15 000	570 000 ³⁵⁰	
9	Ngo Nem Grâce	12	15 000	180 000 ³⁵¹	
10	Obai Philomène	2	15 000	30 000 ³⁵²	
11	Menanga Etienne	39	15 000	585 000 ³⁵³	
12	Monkam Patrice	14	15 000	210 000 ³⁵⁴	
13	Edima Ndjaromo	2	15 000	30 000	
14	Asse M	24	15 000	360 000 ³⁵⁵	
15	Saliou Sale	29	15 000	435 000 ³⁵⁶	
Total				11 700 000³⁵⁷	

Source: National Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Persons

Section 3: Protection of Underprivileged People

978- The Department of National Solidarity set up pursuant to Article 24 of Decree No. 2005/160 of 20 May 2005 to organise the Ministry of Social Affairs is in charge of the following:

- national solidarity education, in collaboration with authorities concerned;
- designing of policies, implementation and follow-up of programmes to fight against social exclusion and integration of underprivileged and injured persons, in collaboration with the authorities concerned;
- designing, implementation and follow-up of national solidarity policies and programmes for underprivileged persons;
- designing of norms relating to the setting up and functioning of solidarity organisations and initiatives for underprivileged and injured persons, in collaboration with the authorities concerned;
- prevention and social management of disasters in collaboration with the authorities concerned;
- fight against social scourges in collaboration with the authorities concerned; and

³⁴¹ About 65.23 Euros

³⁴² About 7,061.53 Euros

³⁴³ About 23.07 Euros

³⁴⁴ About 1,661.53 Euros

³⁴⁵ About 1,107.69 Euros

³⁴⁶ About 784.61 Euros

³⁴⁷ About 761.53 Euros

³⁴⁸ About 1,338.46 Euros

³⁴⁹ About 1,592.3 Euros

³⁵⁰ About 876.92 Euros

³⁵¹ About 276.92 Euros

³⁵² About 46.15 Euros

³⁵³ About 900 Euros

³⁵⁴ About 323.07 Euros

³⁵⁵ About 553.84 Euros

³⁵⁶ About 669.23 Euros

³⁵⁷ About 18,000 Euros.

- collection of statistical data on the target population in collaboration with the technical structures concerned.

979- Activities to protect underprivileged people like the Baka, pygmies, and Mbororo were intensified. Some UN Special Rapporteurs expressed concern about succession at the head of the Sagba Mbororo lamidat.

§ 1- Protection Activities

980- Government, through MINAS, launched a campaign to establish and issue birth certificates to children of school age and computerised identity cards to adults at reduced costs. Many pygmies seized this opportunity to obtain these official documents that they had needed for long. Thus, special civil status registration centres in charge of issuing national identity cards were set up at Lolodorf, Lomié and Djoum.³⁵⁸

981- As a result of the free and fair dual elections of 2007, a Baka pygmy was elected mayor of Mindourou in the East Province. Besides, a Mbororo was elected mayor of Ngaoui in the Mbere Division, Adamawa Province. Furthermore, three deputy mayors and some Municipal Councillors among whom the first female Municipal Councillor of the Baka in Djoum, were elected.

982- On 13 September 2007, Cameroon adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People that defines the general recognition framework of the rights of indigenous people in the world.

983- In addition to the daily catering activities of specialised services of the Ministry of Social Affairs such as social action services for underprivileged people, grants and other forms of support were allocated to underprivileged groups during the first two editions (2006, 2007) of the Social Action Day. The aim of such targeted assistance with psychosocial attendance is to provide them with effective self-empowerment.

984- Besides, some programmes target their socioeconomic integration. This is the case of the National Participative Development Programme (NPDP) or the Mandara Mountains Development Authority (MMDA), an integrated project that aims to improve the standard of living of the inhabitants of the area.

³⁵⁸ Source : MINATD.

985- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation further support other programmes that integrate the needs and expectations of these people.

986- The different national solidarity actions for underprivileged people, in collaboration with development partners to eliminate all forms of discrimination against their social exclusion fall in line with the integration policies in their favour in both the development process and the capitalisation of their substantial and necessary support to collective development.

987- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation provide support to other programmes that integrate the needs and expectations of these people such as the following projects within the framework of partnership between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the World Bank:

- Project on Capacity Building in Environmental and Social Management for huge investments in the energy sector with an impact on the underprivileged people; and
- Development plan of pygmies under the Forest and Environment sectoral programme.

988- Civic education campaigns are carried out by decentralised services of MINAS with the support of development partners (UNICEF, *Plan Cameroon...*) to develop their feeling of belonging to the national community through the establishment and acquisition of civil status documents (birth, marriage and death certificates); other official documents (national identity card, driving licence,...); voter's card (with effective voting and submission of candidature); and through payment of their taxes.

989- Within the framework of the construction of 1000 health centres, integrated health centres (IHC), Subdivisional medical centres (SMC), and health establishments were built and equipped at pygmy settlements in Lolodorf and Djoum in 2007.³⁵⁹ The aim of the project was to bring health infrastructure closer to the said communities.

990- The building of Women's Centres in some geographical areas where these communities are found further facilitated women's access to education and training in different domains, and initiation into small income-generating activities.

³⁵⁹ Information obtained from MINSANTE.

991- Within the framework of the programme to initiate women into computer literacy entitled «*Operation 1 2000 Women*» initiated by the *Institut Africain d'Informatique (AIA)* (African Institute of Computer Science) in partnership with Government, one pygmy woman from the East Province was trained in computer literacy in December 2006 and was immediately recruited as a copy-typist in the Rural Council of Yokadouma.³⁶⁰

992- Even before 2007, the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MINJEUN), within the framework of the National Illiteracy Eradication Programme, had undertaken a special project to fight against women's illiteracy especially women from underprivileged groups. The aim of the programme is to support and build capacities of leaders of women's associations in the fields of writing, arithmetic, reading, speech, and management of funds obtained from income-generating activities. The initiative was intensified in 2007.

993- Government set up gendarmerie posts and police stations in Kenzou, Moloundou, and Ngoïla in the East Province, and posted staff there to ensure the security of pygmies.

994- It further financed the digging of wells and rehabilitation of existing water points for pygmies in Djoum, Mintom, and Oyeng.

995- In a bid to promote the culture, music and art of the pygmies, Government facilitated their participation in activities to mark the 2007 National Arts and Culture Week in Yaounde.

996- The Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP) prescribed in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank, the following measures to protect the customs and property of underprivileged people:

- non destruction of trees with cultural significance;
- non destruction of graves and sacred places;
- prohibition from taking measures with negative effects that may cause the displacement of a people;
- protection of the settlements of underprivileged people; and
- prohibition from destruction of ecological mediums of underprivileged people.

³⁶⁰ Information obtained from MINPROFF.

997- MINEP experts made a field trip in 2007 to ensure the respect of the Minister's prescriptions mentioned above.

998- The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife has integrated the worries of underprivileged people in his major projects. As such, Government set up forestry communities and community hunting zones to enable the communities to hunt and collect fruits from neighbouring forests and bushes.

§2- Succession at the Head of the Sagba Mbororo Lamidat in the North West Province

999- In 2007, three UN holders of thematic mandates contacted Government on the alleged acts of violence on the Sabga Mbororo population in the North West Province by one El Hadj Ahmadou Danpoulo. The urgent appeal of the Special Report on the independence of judges and lawyers by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of Human Rights Activists holds, *"the situation described clearly shows the alleged interference of Mr. Baba Danpoulo in the traditional authority system of the Mbororo community resulting to persecutions and arrests of traditional rulers and other members of the said community."*

1000- In addition to the Special Rapporteurs, other sources such as the report of the mission carried out by the association known as *"Fonds Africain d'Aide Judiciaire et de Promotion des Droits de l'Homme"* (African Fund for Legal Aid and Human Rights Promotion), and many other petitions addressed to Government by some personalities confirm the worries of the Special Rapporteurs.

1001- While waiting for the outcome of the investigations and legal procedure of this matter that holds Government's attention, the facts of the matter will be briefly examined without orientating its final outcome.

1002- Following the death of Lamido Ahmadou Sagba on 13 June 2007, one Adamou Kawuyel Buba alias Yerima was enthroned on 15 June 2007 as the new Lamido without the approval of administrative authorities who, in such circumstances, not only enthrone the new leader but also organise and supervise his election.

1003- In a press release of 18 June 2007, the Senior Divisional Officer of Mezam Division called on potential candidates to submit their candidature

within 14 days. The only candidature received was that of El Hadj Mallam Mamoudou Sagba Abdoulaye, the only surviving brother of the late Lamido.

1004- On 20 August 2007, the Senior Divisional Officer went to Sagba to designate the new leader. The only candidate El Hadj Mallam was therefore designated and enthroned in the afternoon of the same day by the Lamido of Banyo who was, for the circumstance accompanied by El Hadj Ahmadou Danpoulo. Even the sons of the deceased leader did not contest the designation of the new leader. The fierce opposition recorded is that of Adamou Kawuyel which is not against the person of the new leader who is his uncle but rather, against his acquaintances with the businessman Ahmadou Danpoulo whom he does not have in high esteem.

1005- At the time of the hasty designation, Adamu Kawuyel was sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment for theft of cattle by the High Court, Mezam. He was further prosecuted following a complaint by the Senior Divisional Officer and three (3) others filed against him for usurpation of qualification, resistance, obstruction of use of public highway, offences punishable under Sections 219, 230(1), 231, and 157(1) of the Penal Code.

1006- Investigations are underway as concerns the acts of violence allegedly committed by El Hadj Ahmadou Danpoulo.

Section 4: Protection of the Elderly

1007- Government action in this domain focused on the protection of the elderly to avoid their social exclusion and spare them unacceptable standard of living incompatible with the fundamental principles governing the treatment of such class of people.

1008- Government does not consider old age as an illness but rather, as a complex progression process that requires a new approach of social policy. Consequently, in 2007, it focused especially on capacity building through an active participation in international forums.

1009- In this respect, Cameroon attended in February 2007, the Forty-fifth Session of the UN General Assembly on Social Insurance and Ageing. At the session, MINAS presented Cameroon's report on the execution of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

1010- Cameroon was chosen as one of the six (6) pilot countries of the world to benefit from the UN Support Programme for the implementation of a national policy on ageing. Thus, a UN mission was in Cameroon from 15 to 24 October 2007 to assess the level of protection and the needs of the elderly.

1011- On 1 October 2007, Cameroon joined the international community to celebrate the 17th International Day of the Elderly under the theme "Challenges and Opportunities for the Elderly: how to valorise ageing." It was an ideal occasion to intensify sensitization of the public on the problems and concerns of the elderly.

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1012- It is worthy of note that the future of vulnerable children, the sufferings of disabled persons and the elderly as well as the marginalisation of minorities remain topics of concern in Cameroon. There is therefore an urgent need to take concerted initiatives to honour national obligations in these domains as provided for by national and international instruments.

CHAPTER 4

PROTECTION OF WOMEN, THE GIRL CHILD AND THE FAMILY

MINJUSTICE

Report by the Ministry of Justice on
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1013- Protection of women, the girl child and the family in democratic States is an issue of political will and a legal aspect: ratification of international instruments in the sector, their incorporation in national laws, and enshrining some fundamental principles of human rights in the Constitution such as the principle of equality. After having made some progress in the proclamation of the rights women,³⁶¹ Cameroon decided about a decade ago, to move from legal efficacy to social reality. Since a woman has rights as a member of a democratic society, she is seen today as an actress and unavoidable vector of political, social, and economic development.

1014- The Copenhagen Workshop³⁶² led to the adoption of the National Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development (NPAIWD), inserted in the twelve priority focuses designed at the Beijing Summit. Government continued its efforts in 2007 to meet the basic conditions for the full involvement of women in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

1015- That is why MINPROFF took major actions for greater social integration of women. These actions include, among others, supporting official and collective celebrations of several marriages in the name of *“family security, civic responsibility, and especially respect of the rights of the woman and the family”*, the will to institutionalize gender approach and development of an intervention approach through listening, counselling, orientation and psychosocial management.

Section 1: Supporting Official and Collective Celebrations of Marriages by MINPROFF and Protection of the Rights of the Women and Family

1016- An observation of the Cameroon society in recent years shows the existence and even the persistence of factors likely to hamper the development of women’s rights. In fact, there have been a lot of changes in marriage procedures due to modernity.

1017- Traditional stages are no longer respected. Any chance meeting between a man and a woman may result to a union or co-habitation.

³⁶¹ See 2005, pp. 204-206.

³⁶² World Summit on Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

1018- Co-habitation to many people is a period of observation that inevitably results to effects of marriage: children are born, property acquired, and joint projects carried out.

1019- In these circumstances, statistics in the central and external services of MINPROFF show that more than 80 per cent of family conflicts involve children, women and even the men. These conflicts are sources of legal security especially in case of separation or death, and even as concerns tradition.

1020- Generalisation of cohabitation,³⁶³ a situation unprotected by the law, is obviously prejudicial to the rights of the family in general, and those of the woman in particular.

1021- These difficulties led MINPROFF to approve the social demand by celebrating collective marriages of couples who so desired. The aim was to bring them out of the precarious situation of cohabitation. Thus, below are the statistical data of collective marriages celebrated throughout the national territory in 2007, and their impact on the protection of the rights of women and the girl child.

§1: Statistical Data of Collective Marriages Celebrated in 2007

1022- The Table below shows the statistics:

Regions		Number of couples
Provinces	Locality	
Centre	Yaounde	52 (1 st phase)
	Yaounde	235 (2 nd phase)
	Mbalmayo	60
	Ntui	11 (1 st phase)
	Ntui	35 (2 nd phase)
	Mbangasina	57
East	Bafia	110
	Okola	54
	Abong-Mbang	15
	Mindourou	100
	Bertoua	26
Littoral	Doume	22
	Douala	150
	Edea	176
	Dizangue	83
North West	Mouanko	54
	Bamenda	70
	Bui	67
West	Bafang	17
	Bafoussam	31
	Foumban	40
South	Bipindi	107
	Ambam	117
	Meyomessala	50

Source : MINPROFF.

³⁶³ Cohabitation commonly described in Cameroon as « let's live together » dehumanises women and the girl child (kind of reification of the woman or girl child). Cohabitation is not legally recognised in Cameroon as in other democratic societies.

1023- In addition to this vocation that further mobilises public opinion for the legalisation of cohabitation or customary marriages throughout the national territory, more than 1000 couples have been involved as at now. The MINPROFF initiative that will continue in other parts of the country obviously has an impact on women's rights.

§2: The Impact of Collective Celebration of Marriages on the Rights of Women and the Family

1024- MINPROFF's action in favour of women has contributed to consolidating their matrimonial status. It has further substantially improved on their rights and equally guaranteed some level of family stability.

1- Substantial Improvement on Property Rights of Women

1025- Such improvement stems from the changeover from the status of «*concubine*,» an unprotected situation to that of married woman, a legally protected status. Thus, the problem of property rights of women has been resolved at least at the legal level.

1026- In fact, as concerns property rights, the woman's situation still largely depends on customs. Property rights means the bulk of financial prerogatives which a married woman may exercise and by which she may derived some benefit.

1027- As a result of marriage and without being exhaustive, a woman may be governed by the laws applicable to married women involved in business, property rights in the event of a breakdown of the marriage and the rights to compensation for the various torts suffered indirectly.

1- Determination of the Married Woman's Quality as Businesswoman

1028- The quality of businesswoman acquired by a married woman as a result of her activities is not clearly provided for in the laws and codes. The entry into force of the OHADA Uniform Act on business law in general, and the progress in women's condition in Cameroon has contributed to improving the legal treatment of women. In fact, Article 7 of the said Uniform Act provides that a married woman shall only be known as a trader if she exercises a business individually and on a regular basis that is different from that of her husband. Besides, according to Article 6 of the Uniform

Act, she may not acquire such quality where she exercises a joint business with her husband.³⁶⁴

1029- Henceforth, a married woman can choose between the qualities of « spouse of the trader » or trader in full. The latter quality is more beneficial for vocational and economic development than the former.

2- Rights of a Married Woman in the Event of a Breakdown of the Marriage, and Succession

1030- The instruments in force on ownership and acquisition of property are not discriminatory against women.³⁶⁵ However, in most Cameroon customs, the woman has for a long time and is still considered in some parts of the country, as an “object” or “property” of her partner (concubine or spouse). Consequently, in the event of a breakdown of the union, the woman is very often despoiled of her partner’s property. Since she does not have the status of spouse, she cannot take any court action, whereas she has contributed to the acquisition of property to be liquidated or inherited.

1031- With the status of married woman, a woman may take court action against any act intended to trample on her rights. Therefore, MINPROFF is striving to guarantee women a legal security system.

B- Family Stability

1032- The Preamble of the Constitution proclaims, «*the Nation shall protect and promote the family...*» It is to attain this objective that MINPROFF has undertaken to support couples in collective celebration of marriages. In fact, Government focuses on the importance of the family, a fundamental unit of society. It further underscores the social importance of the role of parents in the family and education of children.

1033- Marriage is a family stabilisation factor insofar as the legal relationship between the spouses may only be dissolved according to a legal procedure that guarantees respect of the fundamental rights of each of the

³⁶⁴ See Article 6 in « OHADA, Traités des Actes Uniformes commentés et annotés », JURISCOPE, 2002, p.195

³⁶⁵ Sections 711 and 712 of the Civil Code provide that property is acquired intestate or by succession bestowed by will.

spouses.³⁶⁶ This makes it possible to fight against mere repudiation and forced expulsions, acts that completely ignore the rights of the woman and deprive the children of good education and balanced development.

Section 2: Institutionalisation of the Gender Approach

1034- Gender means a social build-up comprising cultural elements in a triple perspective of time, space, and transaction to give the different sexes social significance and involvement of a highly symbolical and functional importance.

1035- The gender approach consists in taking into account the opportunities and possibilities of men and women with a view to building a just, stable, and balanced society. It further makes it possible to understand the inequalities in the different communities, and figure out the different aspects of discrimination against women. It is therefore different from the arithmetical equality and presupposes a combination of the positive aspects of men and women to meet the requirements of modern governance. The institutionalisation of gender is clearly seen in the setting up of gender focal points in ministries and semi-public establishments, women's participation in politics and enshrinement of the gender approach in different documents produced by Government such as PRSP that underlies all the sectoral strategies for sustainable development.

§1: Gender Focal Points in Public and Semi-public Establishments

1036- This section will present the role of focal points and analyse some of their reports of activities.

A- Gender Focal Points

1037- A focal point may be defined as a centre, a contact point designated by Government or a given authority to establish dialogue with other authorities so as to ensure the effective attainment of objectives set by Government in the domain of women's concerns. A focal point is therefore an information relay, but more of a sensitization and mobilization actor within the authority he represents.

³⁶⁶ This is a divorce procedure which in Cameroon law, may only be determined by a Judge, in application of the law.

1038- Gender focal points in public and semi-public establishments ensure that the specific concerns of men and women are properly taken into consideration in accordance with a harmonised approach in all phases that Ministries and organisations in which they are found intervene.

1039- As such, they carry out among others, the following duties:

- sensitisation of the different actors on the importance of the gender approach and its inclusion in cross-cutting issues as well as measures to be taken into account with a view to promoting gender approach in all decisions and other intervention focuses;
- collection of information, dispatch of reports to senior officials on the achievement of gender approach and possible difficulties encountered;
- make proposals to Government officials on measures to be taken to guarantee gender approach; and
- act as contact of the designated establishment before another supervisory establishment.

B- Activities of Focal Points

1040- Focal points designated by public establishments and the respective State corporations performed, on the initiative of MINPROFF, the following activities:

- understanding the duties assigned to them;
- reading and adaptation of the said duties to those of the establishments to which the focal points belong; and
- organisation of specific activities on the basis of activities organised by MINPROFF and which take gender concerns into account.

1041- Focal points further took part in activities to commemorate the following days:

- 23rd edition of the International Women's Day (8 March) under the theme "*Violence against women and girls : breaking the silence, act now;*"
- 14th edition of the International Day of the Family (15 May) under the theme "*The Family and Disabled Persons;*"
- 45th edition of the African Women's Day (31 July) under the theme "*The Role of the African Woman in the Promotion of Family Values;*" and
- 12th edition of the International Rural Women's Day (15 October) under the theme "*Right to Food: rural women act and produce.*"

1042- Focal points equally took part in ceremonies to mark the collective celebration of marriages throughout the national territory as well as in educative discussions on topics that concern women and the family such as violence against women and girls, female genital mutilation, and early marriage.

§2: Women in Decision-making

1043- The requirement that women take part in decision-making may be deduced from analysis of Article 7 of CEDAW which provides:

«States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;*
- b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;*
- c) To participate in non-governmental organisations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country».*

1044- To better assess Cameroon's implementation of this conventional provision, it would be better to take a look at the number of women elected and those appointed to high positions of responsibility in Government.

A- Women Elected in 2007

1- Legislatives Elections

1045- At the last legislative elections, 25 women were elected Substantive Members of Parliament (MP), representing 13.89 per cent of MPs as shown in the table below:

Province	Men	Women	Total
ADAMAWA	9	1	10
CENTRE	24	4	28
EAST	8	2	10
FAR NORTH	28	1	29
LITTORAL	17	3	20
NORTH	11	1	12
NORTH WEST	19	1	20
WEST	20	5	25
SOUTH	8	3	11
SOUTH WEST	11	4	15
TOTAL	155	25	180

Source: MINTAD

1046- An analysis of the table above shows the following:

- A clear political will to promote women;
- Each Province has at least one woman; and
- Women represent 13.33 per cent of the total number of Parliamentarians.

1047- About the same number of women were elected alternate MPs as seen in the table below.

Province	Men	Women	Total
ADAMAWA	9	1	10
CENTRE	14	14	28
EAST	10	1	11
FAR NORTH	27	2	29
LITTORAL	13	6	19
NORTH	11	1	12
NORTH WEST	16	4	20
WEST	19	6	25
SOUTH	8	3	11
SOUTH WEST	15	0	15

Source: MINTAD

2- Municipal Elections

1048- Like at the National Assembly, women are effectively taking part in the management of Councils although their number is relatively small.

1049- Out of 10,632 municipal councillors, 1,651 are women as illustrated in the table below.

Repatriation of elected candidates per sex and per Province:

Province	Men	Women	% Women
ADAMAWA	543	54	9.05%
CENTRE	1 571	375	19.27%
EAST	741	116	13.54%
FAR NORTH	1 425	112	7.29%
LITTORAL	826	200	19.49%
NORTH	627	72	10.30%
NORTH WEST	895	193	17.74%
WEST	1 034	182	14.97%
SOUTH	614	155	20.16%
SOUTH WEST	705	192	21.40%
TOTAL	8 981	1 651	15.53%

Source: MINTAD

1050- The following analysis can be made:

- 15.53 per cent of women were elected municipal councillors;
- the percentage of women has increased in comparison to former polls; and
- more effort needs to be made in this domain as well as in that of

women at the head of councils where out of 360 Councils, only 24 are headed by women, representing 6.67 per cent (as shown in the table below).

Province	Number of Councils	Number of Councils per Sex	
		Women	Percentage
ADAMAWA	21	0	0%
CENTRE	70	05	7.14%
EAST	33	04	12.12%
FAR NORTH	47	0	0%
LITTORAL	34	04	11.76%
NORTH	21	01	4.76%
NORTH WEST	34	01	2.94%
WEST	40	02	5%
SOUTH	29	03	10.34%
SOUTH WEST	31	04	12.09%
TOTAL	360	24	6.67%

B- Women Appointed

1051- In the Cabinet reshuffle of 7 September 2007, five (5) women were appointed Government Ministers as follows:

- Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family.
- Minister of Basic Education;
- Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation;
- Minister of Culture; and
- Minister of Social Affairs.

1052- A woman was further appointed Secretary of State at the Ministry of Secondary Education.

1053- Women are equally appointed to posts of responsibility in the State corps (Ambassador, Secretaries General, General Managers of State corporations, Inspectors General, Directors, Sub-Directors, Subdivisional Officers, Assistant Divisional Officers, MPs, Mayors, Colonels, Police Commissioners, Magistrates, etc.

1054- However, some analysts do not see such increase in the number of female appointments as revolutionary. It is hoped that with the systematic application of the gender approach, giant progress will be made in the years to come.

§3: Gender Approach in PRSP

1055- A sensitisation workshop was organised in Yaounde on 29 March 2007 for officials involved in the PRSP follow-up under the theme «*Why integrate gender in poverty reduction programmes?*» The forum that was presided over by the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family targets mainly the integration of the gender approach in the revision of the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP) so that the actions to be carried out do not further widen the already existing gap between men and women in both rural and urban areas.

1056- Thus, the Implementation Follow-up and Assessment Committee strongly recommended both the reinforcement of the gender approach in PRSP and the need to charge gender on development programmes and projects budgets.

Section 3: Development of Intervention Approach: Listening, Counsel, Orientation, and Psychosocial Care and Attention

1057- Listening is an intervention method that consists in establishing a relationship with someone, and encouraging them where they find themselves in a difficult situation. It is fundamental in the intervention process and made it possible in 2007 to revive hope and console a number of individuals and families in difficulties (free girls, widows, widowers, young girls, men and women caught between family and matrimonial disputes). Actions carried out by NGOs, associations and networks of associations, as well as MINPROFF's partners are equally geared towards thorough listening of persons in difficulties.

1058- Psychosocial care and attention by MINPROFF are clearly seen by its support in the follow-up of files of widows at various levels: in families (family meeting report), court (obtaining judgment of succession), Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms (obtaining orders of survivors' benefit pension, and death benefits), Ministry of Finance (order and payment of pension), to the satisfaction of targets in distress.

1059- Furthermore, the girl child and «*women inclined to social waywardness*» (prostitutes) were identified as targets. MINPROFF undertook to pro-

vide them with psychosocial care and attention by setting up legal associations, and capacity building in income-generating projects (such as training in the drying of vegetables, manufacture of fruit juice, poultry farming). These activities are carried out in different women's centres.

1060- MINPROFF equally carried out the following activities: educative discussions and marriage preparatory meetings on topics such as women's rights, rights and duties of spouses, prevention of STDs-HIV/AIDS, sexual life in the couple, responsible parenthood, promotion of couple development values, importance and need for pre-marital tests. This was another form of action to promote women's rights and family stability.

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1061- In conclusion, although the promotion and protection of women's rights and the family have been intensified, more effort is still to be made relating to the concerns of the UN Committee on Women's Advancement such as the real application of CEDAW, effective field and daily protection of women's rights, and not solely on well-intentioned declarations.³⁶⁷ Besides, more specific categories of vulnerable women such as old women, disabled women, pregnant women, widows, and rural women³⁶⁸ should be figured out and given thorough consideration.

³⁶⁷ See country Committee final comments in its Annual Reports, UN doc. A No. 38 GA session:

³⁶⁸ Quillère-Majzoub (F) Protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights relating to the Women's rights in Africa: a very ambitious project, RTDH, No.73, 2007, p. 45

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CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

1062- The quest for a better development of man in general and persons particularly exposed to all forms of discrimination or physical or social very vulnerable has been the concern of both Government and the civil society in 2007. Through human rights activists, the civil society contributed its own quota in raising this common edifice: human rights promotion and protection. Thus, the one sector that registered very strong and massive action was the improvement of detention conditions in Cameroon. Without minimising efforts made by Government and development partners especially the EU through PACDET, it is worthy of note that the Cameroon prison world is a serious patient who no longer needs piecemeal treatment or dressings but intensive cure that consists among others in the building of prisons that meet modern UN recommended detention standards. It goes without saying that State resources alone cannot achieve this giant ambition, and therefore, international cooperation is of vital importance.

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GENERAL CONCLUSION

1063- This report shows that giant strides were made in human rights promotion and protection in 2007. However, questions are still raised on sensitive issues like the right to housing as regards mass evictions in some neighbourhoods of our cities, and the real impact of the attainment of the completion point of the HIPC Initiative on the expected improvement on the standard of living of Cameroonians. In the first case, there is no feeling that a systematic quest for reconciliation between the need to modernise our cities and the respect in all circumstances of inherent human dignity is underway. In the second case, the feeling was that of a wait-and-see policy in the implementation of measures to improve on the standard of living of Cameroonians. Besides being the sole cause, this feeling may be one of the causes of the social uprising the country witnessed in February 2008, and the loss in human life³⁶⁹ and property of which made belief in a drop in human rights protection.³⁷⁰ The 2008 report will take a look at this unfortunate incident and analyse its causes and consequences.

³⁶⁹ The official death toll stands at 40.

³⁷⁰ See *Freedom House* press release of 5 March 2008.

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ANNEX

This report was validated during a workshop organized on 27 and 28 August 2008 by the Ministry of Justice with the participation of the following representatives from ministries, the court and civil society organizations:

Administrative Structures and the Courts
Ministry of Justice
Supreme Court
Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries, and Animal Husbandry
Ministry of Economy, Planning, Programming, and Regional Development
Ministry of External Relations
Ministry of Basic Education
Ministry of Secondary Education
Ministry of Higher Education
Ministry of Public Health
Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
Ministry of Labour and Social Security
Ministry of Commerce
Ministry of Communication
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of Social Affairs
Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
Ministry of Water Resources and Energy
Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
Ministry of Transport
Secretary of State for Defence in charge of the National Gendarmerie
National Delegation of National Security
General Directorate of External Research
National Commission Against Corruption
National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms
National Social Insurance Fund
City Council, Yaounde
City Council, Douala
National Employment Fund
Civil Society
Cameroon Bar Association
National Financial Investigation Agency
National Governance Programme (NGP)
Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture(ACAT-Littoral)
African Action on AIDS (AAA)
Afrique Future
Cameroon Association of Female Jurist (CAFEJ)
Islamic Cultural Association of Cameroon(ACIC)
Cameroon Media Board (CMB)
Council of Protestant Churches in Cameroon(CEPCA)
National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon(CENC)
Confederation of Trade Unions in Cameroon (CSTC)
Institute for Training and Cooperation for Development (IFDC)
League for the Promotion of the Child and the Woman(LEFE)
New Human Rights-Cameroon(NDH-Cameroon)
Plan Cameroon

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