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PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND



**REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN CAMEROON IN 2017**

Yaoundé, october 2018





# MINJUSTICE

Report of the Ministry of Justice on  
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017

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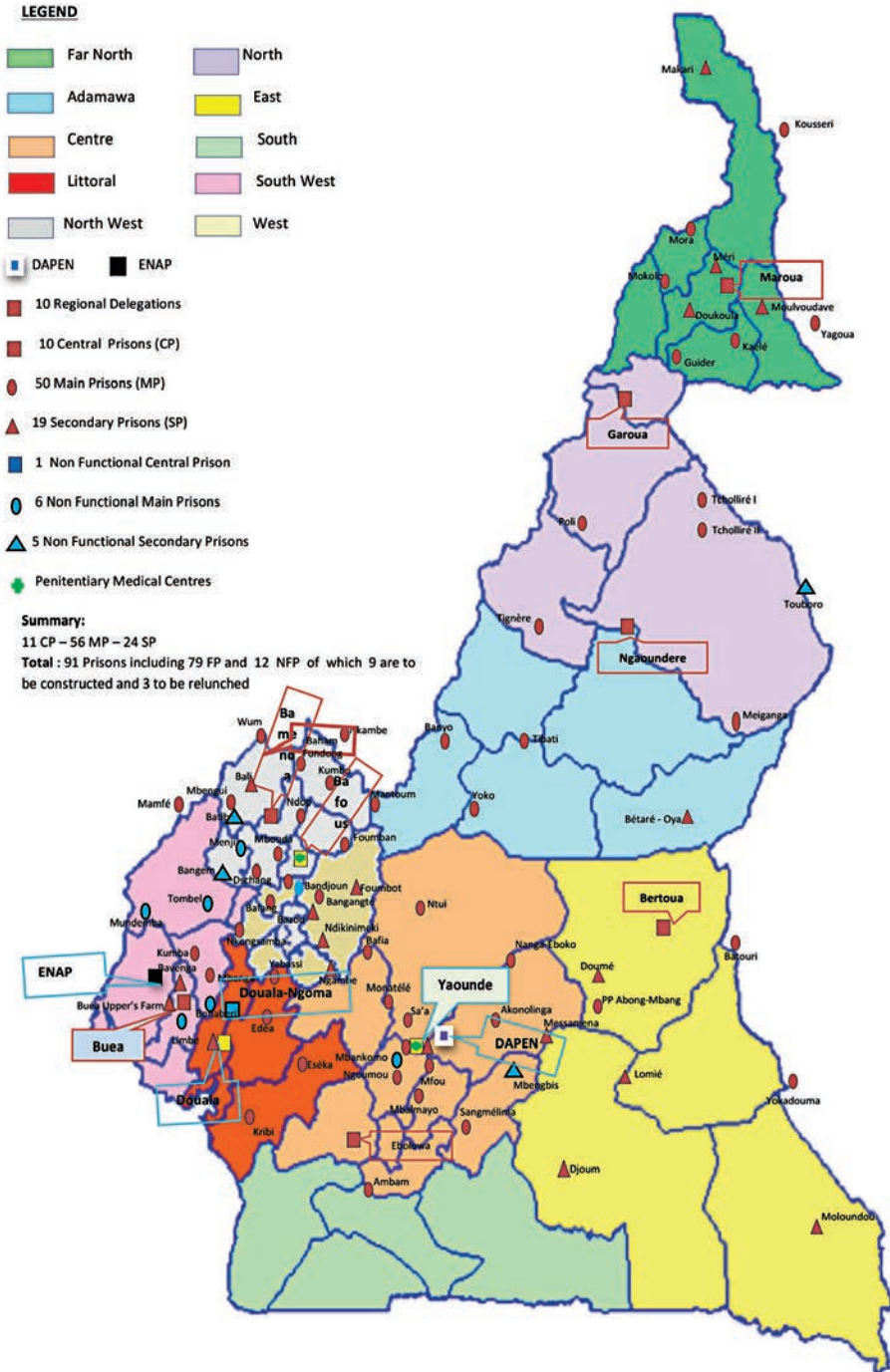




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## PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION MAP OF CAMEROON





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## FOREWORD

*" Peace is our most precious asset. Without peace, we cannot take any sustainable and effective initiative in the interest of our youth and our peoples ".*

**Extract from the Speech delivered  
by the President of the Republic,  
Paul BIYA, during the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of  
the United Nations General Assembly,  
New York, 22 September 2017.**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AAA:</b>	<i>African Action on Aids</i>
<b>ACEFA:</b>	Programme for the Improvement of the Competitiveness of Agro-pastoral Small Holdings
<b>AFCON:</b>	Africa Cup of Nations
<b>ANIF:</b>	National Agency for Financial Investigation
<b>ANOR:</b>	Standards and Quality Agency
<b>ANTILOPE:</b>	<i>Application Nationale pour le Traitement Informatique et Logistique du Personnel de l'Etat</i>
<b>APPPHAK:</b>	<i>Association pour la Promotion et la Protection des Personnes Handicapées, Agées et Orphelins de Kouoptamo</i>
<b>ARSEL:</b>	Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency
<b>ART:</b>	Telecommunications Regulatory Board
<b>ARV:</b>	Antiretroviral
<b>ASTI:</b>	Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters
<b>AVC-DP:</b>	Agricultural Value Chain Development Project
<b>BC-SME:</b>	Bank of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Cameroon
<b>BUNEC:</b>	National Civil Status Registration Office
<b>C3T:</b>	Cameroon Coalition Against Tobacco
<b>CAMAIR:</b>	Cameroon Airlines
<b>CAMWATER:</b>	Cameroon Water Utilities
<b>CAT:</b>	Committee against Torture
<b>CBCF:</b>	Centres for Business Creation Formality
<b>CBF:</b>	Cameroon Business Forum
<b>CDTI:</b>	Community-Directed Treatment Campaign
<b>CEDAW COMMITTEE:</b>	Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CEDAW:</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CEMAC:</b>	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
<b>CFC:</b>	Housing Loan Fund
<b>CHSW:</b>	Committees on Hygiene and Safety at Work
<b>CLTS:</b>	Community-Led Total Sanitation

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<b>CNC:</b>	Community Nursery Centres
<b>CNTD:</b>	Chronic Non Transmissible Diseases
<b>COMIFAC:</b>	Commission of Central African Forests
<b>CPC:</b>	Criminal Procedure Code
<b>CPDM:</b>	Cameroon People's Democratic Movement
<b>CRC:</b>	Committee on the Rights of the Child
<b>CREPECC:</b>	Community Resilience Enhancement Programme to the Effects of Climate Change
<b>CRTV:</b>	Cameroon Radio and Television
<b>CSO:</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DAFI:</b>	Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative
<b>DAPEN:</b>	Department of Penitentiary Administration
<b>DDHCI:</b>	Department of Human Rights and International Cooper- ation
<b>DO:</b>	Divisional Officer
<b>DP:</b>	Dialogue Platforms
<b>DTT:</b>	Digital Terrestrial Television
<b>DWCP:</b>	Decent Work Country Programme
<b>ELECAM:</b>	Elections Cameroon
<b>ENAM:</b>	National School of Administration and Magistracy
<b>ENEO:</b>	Energy of Cameroon
<b>FASA:</b>	Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences
<b>FEICOM:</b>	Special Council Support Fund
<b>FENASSCO:</b>	Federation of National School Games
<b>FGM:</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>FIP:</b>	Forest Investment Programme
<b>GAVI:</b>	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
<b>GBV:</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GCE Board:</b>	General Certificate of Education Board
<b>GCTF:</b>	Global Counterterrorism Forum
<b>GESP:</b>	Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
<b>GFDLP:</b>	Global Forum for the Defence of the Less Privileged
<b>GICAM:</b>	Interprofessional Group of Cameroon
<b>GPS:</b>	Government Primary School
<b>GTC:</b>	Government Technical Colleges
<b>GTHS:</b>	Government Technical High Schools
<b>UNHCR:</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>HEPI:</b>	Higher Education Private Institutes

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<b>HSC:</b>	Health and Safety Committees
<b>ICAO:</b>	International Civil Aviation Organization
<b>ICCPR:</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICPO- INTERPOL:</b>	International Criminal Police Organization
<b>ICRC:</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>ICT:</b>	Information and Communication Technologies
<b>IDEA:</b>	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
<b>IDP:</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IFAD:</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IGJS:</b>	Inspectorate General for Judicial Services
<b>IPB:</b>	Investment Promotion Agency
<b>IUT:</b>	<i>Institut Universitaire de Technology Fotso Victor</i>
<b>LANAVET:</b>	National Veterinary Laboratory
<b>LTD:</b>	Limited Companies
<b>MAETUR:</b>	Mission for the Development and Equipment of Urban and Rural Land
<b>MBOSCUA:</b>	<i>Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association</i>
<b>MICS:</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>MINAC:</b>	Ministry of Arts and Culture
<b>MINADER:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MINAS:</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs
<b>MINCOMMERCE:</b>	Ministry of Trade
<b>MINDCAF:</b>	Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure
<b>MINEDUB:</b>	Ministry of Basic Education
<b>MINEPAT:</b>	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
<b>MINEPDED:</b>	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
<b>MINEPIA:</b>	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
<b>MINESEC:</b>	Ministry of Secondary Education
<b>MINESUP:</b>	Ministry of Higher Education
<b>MINHDU:</b>	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
<b>MINJEC:</b>	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education
<b>MINMAP:</b>	Ministry of Public Contracts
<b>MINMIDT:</b>	Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development

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<b>MINPMEESA:</b>	Ministry of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
<b>MINPROFF:</b>	Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family
<b>MINRESI:</b>	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
<b>MINREX:</b>	Ministry of External Relations
<b>MINSANTE:</b>	Ministry of Public Health
<b>MINTOUL:</b>	Ministry of Tourism and Leisure
<b>MIRAP:</b>	Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority
<b>NACC:</b>	National Anti-Corruption Commission
<b>NCDDP:</b>	National Community Driven Development Program
<b>NCHRF:</b>	National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms
<b>NCPBM:</b>	National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism
<b>NEF:</b>	National Employment Fund
<b>NGP:</b>	National Gender Policy
<b>NSIF:</b>	National Social Insurance Fund
<b>NTD:</b>	Neglected Tropical Diseases
<b>NUDP:</b>	National Union for Democracy and Progress
<b>NYO:</b>	National Youth Observatory
<b>OBC:</b>	<i>Office du Baccalauréat du Cameroun</i>
<b>OHADA:</b>	Uniform Acts of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa
<b>OHCHR:</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>PAEPA-MRU:</b>	Drinking Water Supply and Hygiene in Rural Areas Project
<b>PAEPA-MSU:</b>	Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Semi-urban Areas
<b>PAID-WA:</b>	Pan African Institute for Development West - Africa
<b>PANETEC:</b>	National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cameroon
<b>PBF:</b>	Performance Based Financing
<b>PC:</b>	Penal Code
<b>PDPP:</b>	<i>Plan de Développement des Peuples Pygmées</i>
<b>PECAE:</b>	Evaluation Programme of Compliance Before Boarding of Products
<b>PIDMA:</b>	Public Contracts Investment and Development Project



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<b>PLANUT:</b>	Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth
<b>PLWHA:</b>	People Living with HIV
<b>PMTCT:</b>	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
<b>PNDP:</b>	National Community-driven Programme
<b>PROCIVIS:</b>	<i>Programme d'appui à la citoyenneté active</i>
<b>PRODEL:</b>	Livestock Development Project
<b>PTA:</b>	Parents/Teachers Association
<b>REDD+:</b>	Deforestation and forest Degradation
<b>REMCESS:</b>	Network of Mayors of Cameroon for Social and Solidarity-based Economy
<b>REPCAM:</b>	<i>Relais Enfants-Parents du Cameroun</i>
<b>SAM:</b>	Severe Acute Malnutrition
<b>SASNIM:</b>	Action Week for Infant and Maternal Health and Nutrition
<b>SCC:</b>	Special Criminal Court
<b>SCDV:</b>	<i>Société civile des Droits Voisins</i>
<b>SDF:</b>	Social Democratic Front
<b>SDG:</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SDO:</b>	Senior Divisional Officer
<b>SIC:</b>	Cameroon Housing Corporation
<b>SIGIPES:</b>	<i>Système Informatique de Gestion Intégrée des Personnels de l'Etat et de la Solde</i>
<b>SME:</b>	Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises
<b>SOCHIMIO:</b>	<i>Association Solidarité Chimiothérapie</i>
<b>SONACAM :</b>	<i>Société Nationale Camerounaise de l'Art Musical</i>
<b>SONATREL:</b>	National Electricity Distribution Company
<b>SSE:</b>	Social and Solidarity-based Economy
<b>UCTC:</b>	United Councils and Towns of Cameroon
<b>UDHR:</b>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<b>UHC:</b>	Universal Healthcare Coverage
<b>UNCTAD:</b>	United Nations Conference for Trade and Development
<b>UNESCO:</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UPC:</b>	<i>Union des Populations du Cameroun</i>
<b>WFP:</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WGAD:</b>	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

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**WHO:** World Health Organization  
**WIPO:** World Intellectual Property Organization  
**YSCP:** Yaounde School of Citizenship and Politics

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## PREFACE

Giving an account of Human Rights which are both rich and complex, in constant progress and in a special context that puts at stake not only individual issues but also those that affect the very essence of the Nation was the main thread of the Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017.

Indeed, political, economic and social events of vital importance characterised the life of the Nation. They included combating the terrorist group *Boko Haram*, developments in the crisis in North West and South West Regions, actions to enhance the economic environment in spite of the recession, mobilising efforts to rekindle national solidarity in view of an inclusive evolution taking into account the most underprivileged class, the legendary hospitality granted refugees and internally displaced persons, and Cameroonians experiencing challenges abroad.

In addition to such dynamic reality, the State continued to take action regarding compliance with the obligation to guarantee persons living within the national territory, enjoyment of their rights by developing a convenient environment. This Report contains such vision which of course, was designed and achieved not as an isolated activity but also as an action the content of which is sustained by praiseworthy contributions from a number of stakeholders, grassroots communities, civil society organisations and other partners. As in previous years, the Report was prepared by a number of stakeholders to reflect the common and pluralistic drive.

Today, more than ever before, the results of such participatory self-evaluation that shows both progress made and challenges to be addressed, is a clarion call for action of course, with varied resources, but more especially action that resolutely falls in line with the development of the advantages of diversity and consolidation of the common values of peace, unity, good governance, shared progress and inclusive solidarity.

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On the whole, it is an individual and collective action, the positive developments of which the Ministry of Justice will be honoured to compile in future Reports.

On this note of hope, I invite you to read through the *Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017* and discover the different challenges you are required to address. For its part, the State will continue to promote and protect the rights of all persons living in Cameroon.

**Laurent ESSO**  
**Minister of State, Minister of Justice,**  
**Keeper of the Seals**

**GENERAL**

# INTRODUCTION



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**1-**The determination to permanently guarantee Human Rights in a context of enormous challenges was the key drive of the State in promoting and protecting Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017.

**2-** Indeed, in addition to the security crisis in the northern regions orchestrated by *Boko Haram* and in East Region by armed groups in neighbouring countries making incursions into the country, there was also the crisis in North West and South West Regions that sparked off by the end of 2016 and continued to reveal its multiple phases throughout 2017. The difference between the two crisis is that in the latter case, its specificity regarding its potential impact on the consolidation of national unity and preserving the integrity of the national territory rendered guaranteeing the right to peace and security an immediate necessity, and thereby making the people and the State become more than ever before "*mendicants of peace*".

**3-** Besides, 2017 started in a difficult economic context which justified the holding of an Extraordinary Summit of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (CEMAC) in Yaounde in December 2016. Since then, the major Human Rights concern has been to take appropriate steps to guarantee especially economic and social rights without compromising economic activities and growth, and without worsening the situation of underprivileged persons.

**4-** Such dual security and economic challenge charted the course of measures taken at the normative, institutional, strategic and operational levels.

**5-** In this connection, Decree No. 2017/13 of 23 January 2017 to set up and lay down the organization and functioning of the National Commission on Bilingualism and Multiculturalism was the expression of the fundamental choice of maintaining the specific identity of Cameroon, the constant need to streamline same into public policy and the consideration of individual reactions.

**6-** Other legislative and regulatory instruments were adopted to enshrine different solutions in the management of the crisis in North West and South West Regions. Thus, in addition to instruments on the right to education, guaranteeing the right to an effective remedy under Common

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Law to litigants in the English-speaking Regions was reflected in the opening of a Common Law Division in the Judicial Bench of the Supreme Court with the adoption of Law No. 2017/14 of 12 July 2017 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2006/16 of 29 December 2006 on the organization and functioning of the Supreme Court.

**7-** In addition to the crisis in the Regions mentioned above, access to justice was further consolidated with the adoption of Law No. 2017/12 of 12 July 2017 on the Code of Military Justice. Generally, the Code is an alignment of military justice on the functioning of civil justice.

**8-** Preserving the right to security and peace was further consolidated under the normative framework. That is why Law No. 2017/13 of 12 July 2017 to punish offences against civil aviation safety was adopted. The *National Plan of Action on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325<sup>1</sup> and related commitments* was adopted to reflect the determination of involving women in consolidating peace.

**9-** Developments to step up enjoyment of economic rights were geared towards enhancing governance and supporting businessmen. At the normative level, the following instruments were adopted:

- Law No. 2017/9 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the powers, organization and functioning of the Economic and Social Council of Cameroon;
- Law No. 2017/10 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the general rules and regulations governing Public Establishments;
- Law No. 2017/11 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the general rules and regulations governing Public Corporations;
- Law No. 2017/15 of 12 July 2017 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2013/4 of 18 April 2013 to lay down private investment incentives in the Republic of Cameroon;
- Decree No. 2017/877/PM of 28 February 2017 to lay down

<sup>1</sup>Resolution 1325 was adopted on 31 October 2000 by the UN Security Council on "Women, Peace and Security".



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the terms and conditions of authentication of the status of Limited Company drawn up under private agreement in Centres for Business start-up Procedures in Cameroon.

**10-** Strategically, rational actions taken in the sector of agriculture resulted in an update of the Rural Sector Development Strategy in April 2017. This was followed by an operational reform in the agricultural and rural sector resulting in the restructuring of operational programmes and projects for the enhancement of agricultural competitiveness. In addition, in a bid to address the challenge of eradicating hunger, the Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Cameroon was adopted in March 2017.

**11-** Accompanying measures were taken to support businessmen especially in the payment of part of the internal debt targeting Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises.

**12-** In a bid to build an inclusive and egalitarian society, Circular No. 1/CAB/PRC of 20 June 2017 to lay down the general guidelines of the State Budget Policy for 2018 financial year is one of the most significant expressions of the institutionalisation of Gender with focus on consolidating Gender-related progress made.

**13-** More attention was given to underprivileged persons through a reorganization of the Ministry in charge of social welfare following Decree No. 2017/383 of 18 July 2017 to lay down the organization of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

**14-** A Multisector Platform of Stakeholders for the Elimination of Violence, Exploitation, Abuse and Discrimination, Harmful Cultural Practices and Child Marriage was set up. Support to underprivileged households continued. Due to some constraints, the refugee management strategy was reoriented from emergency humanitarian management towards promotion of sustainable development and empowerment solutions for target persons and host population. Cooperation with partners was one of the strategies not only in refugee management but also in designing sustainable solutions such as repatriation. In this connection, a Tripartite Agreement on the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon was signed on 2 March 2017 between

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Cameroon and Nigeria, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**15-** Since streamlining the Human Rights culture in the action of all social stakeholders is a guarantee of the effectiveness of rights, capacity development activities were organised for persons in charge of law enforcement. The following themes were examined during such activities: Human Rights system<sup>2</sup>, right to life, right to physical and moral integrity of the person<sup>3</sup>, protection of the rights of women, children, refugees and internally displaced persons during armed conflicts<sup>4</sup>, alternatives to detention of children associated with armed forces and groups<sup>5</sup>, and International Humanitarian Law<sup>6</sup>.

**16-** This Report contains the different actions carried out by the State and other stakeholders in 2017 to promote and protect Human Rights. In a bid to carry out a self-evaluation, the Report further highlights both progress made and challenges to be addressed. In this process, many standpoints were examined both during collection of data and during the validation workshop that brought together representatives from Public Administrations, Independent Administrative Authorities and Civil Society Organizations (CSO), the list of which is contained in the Appendix.

**17-** This Report contains 18 chapters divided into 3 parts and preceded by a preliminary chapter.

**18-** As in previous Reports, the preliminary chapter dwells on cooperation of the State with international and regional Human Rights mechanisms. Such cooperation was characterised by an evaluation of the level of implementation of the commitments taken by the State.

**19-** Part I focuses on civil and political rights and is divided into the following chapters:

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<sup>2</sup>See infra, §115

<sup>3</sup>See infra, § 115

<sup>4</sup>See infra, §1042

<sup>5</sup>See infra, § 952

<sup>6</sup>See infra, §115

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- Chapter 1: Right to life, right not to be subjected to torture, right to freedom and security;
- Chapter 2: Right to fair trial;
- Chapter 3: Right to freedom of expression and communication; and
- Chapter 4: Right to take part in the management of public affairs.

**20-** Part II deals with developments in economic, social and cultural rights and the right to a healthy environment. It comprises the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Right to education;
- Chapter 2: Right to health;
- Chapter 3: Right to adequate standard of living;
- Chapter 4: Right to work and social security;
- Chapter 5: Right to culture and leisure; and
- Chapter 6: Right to a healthy environment.

**21-** Part III focuses on cross-cutting issues and rights of specific groups. It contains the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Crisis in North West and South West Regions;
- Chapter 2: Human Rights and combating the terrorist Group Boko Haram;
- Chapter 3: Good governance and anti-corruption;
- Chapter 4: Detention conditions;
- Chapter 5: Rights of socially vulnerable persons;
- Chapter 6: Women's rights; and
- Chapter 7: Rights of persons in situations of involuntary displacement.



**PRELIMINARY**  
**Chapter**

**COOPERATION BETWEEN  
CAMEROON AND INTERNATIONAL  
AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION  
MECHANISMS**



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**22-** In 2017, Human Rights assessment was one of the topical issues in the interaction between the State of Cameroon and international and regional Human Rights mechanisms. Such assessment was made both under periodic reports and litigation.

## SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT UNDER PERIODIC REPORTS

**23-** In 2017, Cameroon defended 3 periodic reports before the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 30 May 2017<sup>7</sup>, the Human Rights Committee (HRC) on 24 and 25 October 2017<sup>8</sup>, and the Committee against Torture (CAT) on 8 and 9 November 2017<sup>9</sup> respectively. In addition, following the submission of the Progress Report in December 2016, the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) made its general recommendations on 26 April 2017. These treaty organs appreciated progress made in the promotion and protection of Human Rights in Cameroon. Nevertheless, they highlighted major concerns and made recommendations thereto.

### §1: Positive Developments

**24-** Positive developments were observed under the strategic, normative and institutional framework, as well as in the enjoyment of some rights.

#### A: Strategic, Normative and Institutional Framework

**25-** At the strategic level, both the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Cameroon (2015-2019) and different sector strategies were quite appreciated. The sector strategies include the National Strategy against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)<sup>10</sup>, the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

<sup>7</sup> This is a single document containing the third, fourth and fifth periodic reports (CRC/C/CMR/3-5). The general recommendations were adopted on 7 June 2017.

<sup>8</sup> This is the fifth periodic report (CCPR/C/CMR/5). The general recommendations were adopted on 6 November 2017.

<sup>9</sup> This is the fifth periodic report (CAT/C/CMR/5). The general recommendations were adopted on 29 November 2017.

<sup>10</sup> The CEDAW Committee considered that the recommendations on prevention of gender-based violence were fully implemented, but that those on protection were partially implemented regarding the small number of convictions for offences relating to gender-based violence.

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(FGM), the National Gender Policy and its Multisector implementation Plan of Action, and the National Penitentiary Health Plan adopted in 2017.

**26-** At the normative level, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts ratified in 2013 and legislative reforms undertaken at the national level were highlighted. Some of the reforms include the Penal Code (PC) adopted on 12 July 2016 which contains new provisions on alternative measures to detention, stepping up the fight against torture, and enhancing protection of the rights of women<sup>11</sup> and children<sup>12</sup>.

**27-** In addition to the PC, Law No. 2011/24 of 14 December 2011 relating to the fight against trafficking in persons and slavery, and the Electoral Code that contains the gender approach in drawing up electoral lists were quite appreciated.

**28-** At the institutional level, Cameroon was congratulated for withdrawing the right to vote from members who represent Public Administrations in the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF), aligning penitentiary health on the national public health system, setting up structures such as refugee status management organs, the Commission for compensation for illegal detention, and the Inter-ministerial Committee for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations and/or decisions of international and regional mechanisms tasked with promoting and protecting Human Rights.

**29-** At the level of cooperation, progress made included a standing invitation to mandate-holders of Human Rights Councils.

## **B: Effective Enjoyment of Rights**

**30-** An increase in the schooling rate in primary school and especially the integration of child refugees, child asylum seekers, and displaced children into local schools were considered positive aspects. Concerning women's rights, CEDAW Committee was satisfied with the training

<sup>11</sup> The CEDAW Committee considered that the recommendations on the criminalization of some practices peculiar to violence against women were partially implemented.

<sup>12</sup> Progress made concerned offences relating to forced marriage, FGM, prevention of growth of organ, sexual harassment, and failure to punish the perpetrator of rape in the event of marriage to the victim.



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of law enforcement officials and health staff on the provisions of the Penal Code on violence against women. The same obtained for Centres for women in distress although Cameroon has a small number of such Centres.

## §2: Concerns and Recommendations

**31-** Concerns were identified and recommendations made thereto either as part of the evaluation of rights in general or as part of the Human Rights analysis in special circumstances or for special groups.

### A: Concerns and General Recommendations

**32-** The cross-cutting principle of equality and non-discrimination, guaranteeing the rights to life, physical and moral integrity of the person or the rights relating to preservation of the social interaction capacities of an individual were assessed. The assessment resulted in advocacy for a more egalitarian society, a more effective guaranteeing of the integrity of persons, more protection of privacy, more freedom of expression and more participation of individuals in building democracy. In addition, the normative and institutional framework was closely examined.

#### 1) Advocacy for a stronger Institutional Framework

**33-** A stronger institutional system for Human Rights protection seemed to be the common concern of the different mechanisms. In this regard, CAT, the HRC, and the CRC advocated the allocation of more human, technical and financial resources to the NCHRF for the effective discharge of its duties including monitoring the rights of the child. They further recommended that the law to organise the institution be amended to provide for more transparency in the selection of its members and the effective access of the members to all places of detention.

**34-** The mechanisms also strongly recommended that the process to set up the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture in Places of Detention<sup>13</sup> be completed.

<sup>13</sup> This is a mechanism provided for by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment for which the State was requested to speed up the process of depositing the ratification instrument.

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**35-** Furthermore, the said mechanisms scrutinised the organization and functioning of the administration of justice. They were concerned about the interference of the Executive Power in the management of the Judicial Power through the appointment of Judges, disciplinary procedures and the possibility of the Executive Power to stop proceedings pending before the courts. They recommended that the composition and functioning of the Higher Judicial Council be amended and ensure that the Executive Power does not in any way interfere in the activities of the Judicial Power. The mechanisms were also concerned about the jurisdiction of Military Tribunals to hear and determine matters that concern civilians. Of course, they advocated the suppression of such jurisdiction.

**36-** The mechanisms further examined the financial barriers to access to justice. In this regard, they observed the persistence in corruption allegations and noted the near-ineffectiveness of the legal aid mechanism since very few litigants had access to it. They recommended sanctions for judicial staff involved in acts of corruption, expansion of the legal aid scope so that many litigants benefit from it, and allocation of adequate financing to the legal aid mechanism.

**37-** The quality of judicial response to the different Human Rights violation was a common concern given the recurrent allegations of impunity of perpetrators. The different Committees recommended that effective sanctions be imposed on the perpetrators of such violation, especially on law enforcement officials. This requires rapid, impartial and effective investigation immediately the authorities, acting on their own initiative in some cases concerning persons in very vulnerable situations, become aware of the facts. It also requires effective prosecution and adequate punishment, the enforcement of which should be closely monitored by the State.

**38-** In addition to the common concerns, the CRC focused on juvenile justice and recommended the establishment of juvenile courts, increase of the age of criminal responsibility, guaranteeing effective legal assistance to minors in conflict with the law, protection of children in judicial proceedings and supporting child victims and witnesses through psychosocial re-adaptation measures enforced by a duly trained and qualified staff including training at the National Institute of Labour and Social

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Welfare, the opening of which is strongly recommended. The CRC further recommended the implementation of alternative measures to detention and where possible, the implementation of alternative judicial methods such as dejudicialization, probation, mediation, psychological support or community service.

## 2) Advocacy for a more Egalitarian Society

**39-** Gender equality was one of the prime concerns of the Committees. They observed the persistence of situations of inequality relating to discriminatory legislative provisions, poor participation of women in the management of public affairs, and more women in situations of abject poverty. They recommended an increase in the number of women in the management of public affairs<sup>14</sup>.

**40-** The Committees further considered the organisation of a more inclusive society for persons with disability. They recommended accessibility to screening programmes and early intervention, community care to be privileged over care in institutions, and that raising the awareness of families, the education community and the society as a whole against stigmatisation of children with disability should be an additional concern to the development of inclusive education.

**41-** In practice, the difficulties persons with disability face in getting employment and accessing most infrastructure and public buildings was equally highlighted. According to the Committees, corrective measures depend on the adoption of a legal framework with clear and binding objectives concerning employment, access to public buildings, roads and means of transport. They advocated the immediate signing of an enabling instrument to Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 on protection and promotion of persons with disabilities that should contain an obligation to carry out reasonable developments. In their opinion, the State should consider ratifying the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

<sup>14</sup> The desired special measures concern the effective implementation of the Electoral Code, increase in the number of women in decision-making positions, reduction and protection of women working in the informal sector, finalisation of the Family Code, and the elimination of discriminatory provisions against women in the legislation.

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### 3) Appeal to effectively guarantee the Right to Freedom and the Right to the Integrity of Persons

**42-** The Committees were also concerned about the effectiveness of the safety of individuals and their physical or moral integrity.

**43-** Concerning liberty and security of persons, the HRC and CAT recommended the effective respect of fundamental legal guarantees to combat illegal detention especially the right to be informed of the charges against oneself, the right of access to Counsel, respect of detention periods, the possibility of challenging the legality of the detention and effective compensation in the event of illegal detention, the keeping of detention registers and checking of same.

**44-** Regarding the reduction of the excessive resorting to measures of loss of liberty, the HRC, CAT and the CRC highlighted the exceptional nature of detention and recommended alternative measures thereto and more frequent judicial control of registers of places of detention, effective sanctions for perpetrators of illegal detention and trading release from detention.

**45-** Freedom of movement of persons and the different forms of exploitation of the human being interested the HRC and the CRC. They raised concerns on the persistence of the phenomenon of slavery of women and children for sexual exploitation for the former, and forced labour in the mining and agricultural sectors and in households for the latter. In addition to overseeing that the national law complies with international standards, the Committees recommended that more human and financial resources be allocated to the different institutional mechanisms set up, enhancement of identification and medical, psychological, and legal procedures for victims as well as effective sanctions for perpetrators.

**46-** The HRC, CAT and the CRC also examined the effective guarantee of the right to life and the physical integrity of persons. They exhorted the State to envision abolition of the death penalty<sup>15</sup>, ensure strict respect for

<sup>15</sup> In this light, the bodies expect ratification of the 2nd Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of the death penalty.

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procedures in trials that could result in the death penalty, and examine the possibility of commuting the death penalty to imprisonment term.

**47-** Furthermore, while CAT was satisfied with the adoption of the criminalization of torture provided for in Article 1 of the Convention against Torture, it however, highlighted the flexibility of sanctions provided for by the PC and the leniency of sanctions imposed by the courts. It recommended that very dissuasive penalties be applied, that prosecution for torture should not be time-barred and that mitigating circumstances be excluded in cases of torture. CAT and the HRC recommended that independent investigation mechanisms be set up to investigate allegations of torture involving staff in charge of law enforcement, the systematic opening of investigations on allegations of torture, and the systematic suspension of alleged perpetrators from office.

**48-** The Committees further recommended that the law be strictly applied concerning confessions obtained by duress<sup>16</sup>. They requested the State to pay special attention to the concerns of victims by immediately designing and implementing a programme to protect witnesses and victims of torture, guaranteeing the right to effective remedy and the right to compensation even where the perpetrator is not identified, and direct provision of re-adaptation services and/or financing services offered by CSO.

**49-** Although the HRC and CRC both examined the issue of abortion, they have divergent opinions. While the CRC opts for the decriminalization of the practice in all circumstances, the HRC advocates the elimination of all legal constraints in cases where the life and health of the pregnant woman or girl are in danger and where keeping the pregnancy until birth of the child would cause the pregnant woman or girl serious pain or suffering, especially where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest or where the foetus may not live. However, both Committees are agreed on the need to guarantee women and girls effective access to sexual and reproductive health services as well as quality, emergency and unconditional antenatal and post-abortion healthcare.

<sup>16</sup> Enforcement of the desired law concerns rapid and effective investigations of allegations and training of Judicial and Legal Officers on how to check admissibility of confessions.

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**50-** The HRC, CAT and CEDAW Committee further examined the physical integrity of women especially issues relating to violence and discrimination against women. They recommended consolidation of the new provisions contained in the PC of 12 July 2016 with the criminalization of other acts such as marital rape. The CRC even recommended the express criminalization of breast ironing. They further recommended more action on awareness-raising and care of victims of GBV and other harmful practices. The CRC stressed on awareness-raising of families and communities in remote areas and especially on the situation of girls, child albinos and twins. Government was specifically requested to oversee the effectiveness of repressive action in cases of GBV including sexual violence and other physical violence especially domestic violence. The Committees were also concerned about child marriage which they consider a harmful practice. They observed that the practice is current in many communities nationwide<sup>17</sup>. They recommended that the provisions of the civil law on the age of marriage (15 years for girls and 18 years for boys) be aligned on the egalitarian spirit of the 2016 PC. In addition to legal developments, they also recommended that measures be taken to raise the awareness of and support girls and communities.

**51-** In addition to torture-related concerns agreed on by the other Committees, the CRC examined child violence. It focused on the fight against child abuse and negligence of children recommending concerted action in the implementation of the national policy on child protection, consolidating mechanisms for early detection, prevention of child abuse, and re-adaptation of child victims with qualified social workers and accessible victim support services. It further recommended awareness-raising of communities, encouragement of child victims to report their cases especially through a toll-free telephone number that should be installed, and monitoring/evaluation of measures to combat child abuse and negligence.

**52-** Sexual exploitation and sexual violence against children were also examined. Although the CRC was satisfied with progress made by the PC thereon, it was, however, concerned about the said issues<sup>18</sup> and rec-

<sup>17</sup> The practice obtains especially in North, Far North, Adamawa and East Regions.

<sup>18</sup> The issues concern persistent violence against children, including much more younger children, high HIV prevalence in youths between 15 and 19 years old stemming from exposure to violence, short-

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commended the adoption of a special law on sexual and sexist violence against children, ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on child trade, child prostitution and child pornography, institution of the obligation to report violence and implementation thereof, combating impunity by perpetrators and the effective prosecution and punishment of such perpetrators.

**53-** The CRC further recommended the adoption of a law prohibiting corporal punishment, awareness-raising of families and communities on abandoning such practice.

**54-** The HRC and CAT examined allegations of violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity of persons. They recommended that the physical integrity of all persons be preserved. Although the Committees recommended the decriminalisation of homosexuality, the CRC clearly noted the outright rejection of the recommendation by the State.

## **4) Protection of Private Life**

**55-** The HRC recommended an amendment of the law<sup>19</sup> to contain only what is strictly necessary and alignment on the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on the duration of data conservation and access to such data.

## **5) Advocacy for more Freedom of Expression and Participation of the Individual in building Democracy**

**56-** The preservation of the social interaction capacities of the individual was the rationale behind the call for more freedom of expression and the participation of the individual in building democracy. Recommendations included guaranteeing the right to participate in the political affairs of the State, and the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association.

**57-** Regarding participation in the political affairs of the State, the HRC recommended guaranteeing free and fair elections through the full independence of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) as provided for by law.

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comings of the normative mechanisms on protection of victims of violence, and guarantee the right to compensation and re-adaptation.

<sup>19</sup> It concerns the amendment of section 25 of Law No. 2010/12 of 21 December 2010 relating to cybersecurity and cybercriminality in Cameroon which imposes on network operators and service providers of electronic communication, a 10-year legal time limit to preserve data.

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It requested the State to take steps towards organising free and fair elections in 2018 and future elections.

**58-** Since participation in the political affairs of the State requires sharing ideas, the HRC was concerned about allegations of torture and poor treatment of journalists, proceedings against journalists that could be deemed intentional, suspension of the Internet for very long periods, prohibition of press conferences, meetings and demonstrations sometimes dispersed by the excessive use of force. On the whole, in addition to sanctions against officials for such violation, the HRC recommended restraint in the interference of the State in the enjoyment of rights. The HRC further recommended that the State complies with the requirements of legality, legitimacy, proportionality and necessity when interfering with the freedom of expression of the media, Human Rights defenders or the English-speaking minority.

## **B: Guaranteeing Human Rights in special Situations or for special Groups**

### **1) Human Rights Protection in special Situations**

#### **a) Combating Terrorism**

**59-** The HRC, CAT and the CRC expressed concern about attacks by *Boko Haram*, extrajudicial executions and forced disappearance under counter-insurgency operations, generalised torture in detention centres and treatment of children associated with terrorists groups. The Committees further examined trials of persons alleged to be associated with terrorist groups and raised concerns about the extended definition of the crime of terrorism, provision of the death penalty, and the jurisdiction of Military Tribunals to hear and determine matters involving civilians.

**60-** The HRC and CAT requested the State to take steps towards preventing the acts referred to above, punish the perpetrators and compensate victims for same, and amend Law No. 2014/28 of 14 December 2014 on suppression of acts of terrorism. They also requested the State to collect data on victims of *Boko Haram* attacks, provide central registers of all persons arrested and detained, to be consulted by the families of the said arrested persons, guarantee the right to systematic visits of family members of the persons arrested and



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authorise free access by Human Rights observers to all places of detention be they official or non-official, especially the NCHRF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Non-Governmental Human Rights Organizations.

**61-** The Committees further requested the State to search for persons alleged to have disappeared, open investigations on such disappearance and effectively punish the persons convicted of forced disappearance and extrajudicial executions. The State was called upon to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Forced Disappearance.

**62-** For its part, the CRC was concerned about children associated with terrorist groups and recommended the designing of a national strategy to coordinate the rapid release of children alleged to be associated with terrorist groups and detained with no evidence, amendment of Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on suppression of terrorism such that military tribunals do not entertain and determine matters involving children, and the setting up of properly financed community structures to help reintegrate children associated with armed groups.

## **b) Social Crisis in North West and South West Regions**

**63-** The HRC and CAT were concerned about the crisis in North West and South West Regions and the violent demonstrations thereof. Besides, they noted the position of the State on the need to restore public order. The 2 Committees recommended the proportionate use of force during the demonstrations and the systematic training of forces of law and order on the issue. The HRC further recommended egalitarian treatment of the minority English-speaking Cameroonians and guaranteeing their rights of expression and assembly. Regarding prevention, the Committees requested the State to oversee that bodies in charge of public security are civilian bodies.

**64-** Concerning protection, the Committees recommended compulsory prosecution, sanctions on perpetrators and compensation of victims. The State was requested to ensure that detainees are given a fair trial before a civilian court and not before a Military Tribunal regarding the law on suppression of acts of terrorism.

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## Protection of the Rights of special Groups

**65-** Concerning refugees, although the HRC and CAT noted the humanitarian policy of the State on refugees and asylum seekers, and co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), they were, however, concerned about the situation of some Nigerian refugees and asylum seekers in Far North Region who, on the suspicion of being in association with *Boko Haram*, were reportedly subjected to illegal detention, poor treatment, acts of violence, sexual exploitation, extortion and forced repatriation by military staff. Besides, they also noted the lack of uniformity in the procedures to determine the status of refugees and the precarious living conditions in Minawao Camp. The State was requested to enhance the living conditions of refugees in Minawao Camp and neighbouring communities.

**66-** They further recommended that concerning the status of refugees, the State should lay down procedures for registration and identification of asylum seekers, including mobile registration teams in border areas so as to guarantee access to asylum procedures. In addition, they recommended the effective functioning of Commissions on Refugee Status<sup>20</sup>. The CRC recommended allocation of sufficient resources to such bodies to enable them implement child-friendly evaluation and registration procedures.

**67-** Concerning the *non-refoulement* of refugees, the Committees recommended the strict respect of the principle of *non-refoulement* and the voluntary desire of refugees to return to their country of origin. They further recommended prosecution and sanction of perpetrators of forced return, and training of staff on the rights of refugees as a preventive measure. The CRC stressed the need to consider the interest of the child as primordial in all agreements and decisions on the transfer of refugee children and child asylum seekers. It further advocated the drawing up of guiding and management frameworks for the processing of files of refugee children and child asylum seekers<sup>21</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> The Commissions shall be operational in 2018. In this regard, a Training Workshop for members was organised in Yaounde from 10 to 13 April 2018.

<sup>21</sup> The areas of mental and physical health, education, police and justice were highlighted.

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**68-** At the legal level, they recommended accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

**69-** The Committees focused on the quality of detention conditions. They recommended a reduction of the prison population, construction of more infrastructure, increase in resources to enhance detention conditions and access to professional healthcare in all prisons and police stations nationwide. Such healthcare could help reduce the number of deaths in prisons for which CAT and the HRC recommended a budget increase as a preventive measure, and immediate and impartial investigation by an independent body as a repressive measure. During such investigation, a forensic expert and post-mortem report shall be required where and whenever necessary.

**70-** Concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, the HRC was concerned about information on discrimination against such peoples, violence, harassment, threats and confiscation of their traditional lands. The CRC recommended that discrimination against indigenous peoples and minorities be effectively wiped out and their right to natural resources and ancestral lands be legally protected.

**71-** The CRC further stressed that the National Plan of Action for Indigenous Peoples (2014) be implemented, incentives to education taking into account their cultural specificities be granted, and their access to service delivery and social services by facilitating registration of births and issuance of National Identity Cards be guaranteed. The CRC was particularly concerned about the registration of the births of all children.

**72-** The CRC was also concerned about the comprehensive application framework of the rights of the child and their effective enjoyment of same.

**73-** Concerning the comprehensive framework, the CRC recommended the adoption of a child-friendly national strategy covering all the areas referred to in the Convention, to which adequate human, technical and financial resources are allocated. It advocated the setting up of an interministerial body to coordinate the implementation of the Convention at the intersector, national, regional and local levels. It further recom-

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mended that a sufficient budget be allocated to child protection through specific budget heads in the budgets of ministries and council services in charge of child protection and welfare. It also recommended that there be a progressive increase of the national resources allocated to the said budget heads and more anti-corruption measures be taken to ensure appropriate and efficient use of such resources.

**74-** Collaboration with the civil society was equally deemed a leap forward. That is why the CRC recommended that access to the status of NGO and the involvement of partner NGOs in all phases of action, planning, implementation, monitoring/evaluation of policies, plans and programmes on the rights of the child be facilitated.

**75-** While highlighting the importance of statistical data in the coordination of actions, and in order to obtain refined data collection, disaggregated presentation and dissemination methods, the CRC recommended capacity development of statisticians on the entire national administration by taking into account the Guide published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

**76-** Concerning this general environment, the CRC<sup>22</sup> examined the impact of the action of enterprises especially transnational corporations in the sectors of mining and agribusiness on the rights of the child. It requested the State to establish a regulatory framework to reduce the impact of activities of the enterprises on the rights of the child, ensure that the enterprises fully respect national and international environmental and health standards, oversee the effective monitoring of the application of the said standards and impose appropriate sanctions and/or compensation in the event of violation of same, oblige the enterprises to assess the environmental, health and Human Rights impacts of their activities, organise discussions of such issues and disseminate information relating thereto and measures they intend to take to reduce such impact.

<sup>22</sup> Fears include the risk of forced displacement and resettlement of indigenous communities and other minority groups, contamination of water resources and food, and environmental degradation to the detriment of children.

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**77-** Regarding specific aspects of child welfare, the CRC, in addition to the issues already discussed<sup>23</sup>, considered the rights relating to birth registration and nationality as priority areas. In this regard, it reiterated its previous recommendations on the suppression of fees on birth registration and issuance of certificates, increasing the financial, technical and human resources of the National Civil Status Office to help it access the entire State Party and organise more awareness-raising campaigns. It further requested the State to amend the Nationality Code and discard discriminatory provisions on the acquisition of nationality by children born out of wedlock, and naturalization by children with disability.

**78-** Education including training and vocational orientation was another priority. Recommendations made include allocation of adequate resources to the education sector, improvement of the quality of education offered focusing on the human dimension with proper training of teachers, contents, construction of more infrastructure in an environment with facilities such as drinking water, health installations and transport services.

**79-** The recommendations further included security of both students and staff in areas exposed to insecurity, and provision of incentives<sup>24</sup>.

**80-** The CRC was concerned about the large proportion of families living in poverty, most of who are in rural areas, and the large number of persons working in the informal sector with regard to the standard of living of children. That is why it recommended the setting up of social protection systems and measures for all, tailored to the national context, including a universal family allowance or material and financial assistance necessary for the development of a convenient family environment. Maintenance obligations for children are expected to be guaranteed including International Recovery of Child Support<sup>25</sup>.

<sup>23</sup> The issues include non-discrimination, violence, and administration of juvenile justice, see §38, 51 and 52 *supra*.

<sup>24</sup> Such incentives include suppression of undue fees indirectly imposed in primary school, suppression of the obligation to produce a birth certificate to sit for entrance examinations into secondary school, combating early marriages and stigmatisation of girl mothers in reintegration into school, encouraging confidentiality in reporting sexual violence against children by teachers, drawing up of school and vocational training syllabuses for school dropouts especially children from vulnerable groups.

<sup>25</sup> The CRC recommended that the State ratify the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance and the Protocol

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**81-** In a bid to protect children deprived of a family environment and provide them with alternative care, the CRC recommended that the State adopts a preferential option to maintain them in family including alternative care rather than institutional care<sup>26</sup>.

**82-** The CRC recommended that clear standards and procedures with the completion of the revised Civil Code, and rules on international adoption<sup>27</sup> be laid down, and the public be properly informed on adoption. It further recommended that national adoption be privileged to intercountry adoption.

**83-** One of the CRC concerns on child health was the high rate of neonatal and maternal mortality. In this regard, it recommended that adequate resources be allocated to the health system to guarantee access to primary healthcare, malaria prevention, effective financing of immunization after the withdrawal in 2018 of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), infant malnutrition control through the allocation of a special budget head for nutrition, organisation of more awareness-raising campaigns, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, checking the quality of substitutes to breast milk, and the opening of "baby-friendly" hospitals. The CRC further considered water management as a necessity.

**84-** Adolescent health was also a concern of the CRC. The concern focused on controlling reproductive health and drug consumption especially Tramadol. In this connection, the CRC recommended that sexual education contains prevention of early pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, promotion especially concerning responsible behaviour of boys and men in parenthood and sexuality, and more access of adolescents to reproductive healthcare and related services. Concern-

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of 23 November 2007 on the law applicable to maintenance obligations.

<sup>26</sup>This option may be reflected in the drawing up of clear standards based on the best interests of the child for care and protection of children without parental protection and for the selection of foster families, the strict respect of regulatory conditions for the establishment and the effective and periodic control in the management of alternative care, capacity development for alternative care centres and allocation of adequate human, technical and financial resources to competent child protection services, installation of accessible mechanisms for reporting, monitoring and compensation for poor treatment of children.

<sup>27</sup> The State is requested to ratify the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

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ing HIV/AIDS which constitutes another health concern, the CRC recommended the elimination of mother-to-child transmission, care and treatment of HIV in children and adolescents.

**85-** Concerning street children, the CRC stressed on its previous recommendations<sup>28</sup>. However, it made other recommendations such as conducting surveys and data collection for a better understanding of the phenomenon, involvement of street children in actions taken on their behalf, and planning, implementation and evaluation of the said measures. Understanding the phenomenon from the standpoint of surveys, data collection and involvement of street children in planning, implementation and evaluation of measures taken on their behalf are some of the action levers recommended by the CRC in combating the phenomenon.

## SECTION 2: EVALUATION UNDER DISPUTE MECHANISMS

**86-** In 2017, the State was notified with new communications, including 1 from the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) and 2 from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). At the end of the year, the communication filed with the WGAD was still pending while 10 communications were pending before the ACHPR, and 7 by the HRC. However, the WGAD and the HRC had each examined 1 communication.

### §1: Opinion of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

**87-** During its 78<sup>th</sup> Session held from 19 to 28 April 2017, the WGAD delivered Opinion No. 40/2017 concerning **Fotso Yves Michel**. The matter concerning him was on allegations of arbitrary detention in relation to prosecution before Cameroon courts on the acquisition of a BBJ2 Aeroplane in which he was involved in his capacity as manager of Cameroon Airlines (CAMAIR), and in connection with the management of CAMAIR.

<sup>28</sup>The recommendations include enhancement of programmes to assist poor and vulnerable families and programmes aimed at preventing separation of children from their parents, overseeing a return of street children to their families and communities where and whenever necessary, the effective respect of the rights of street children by State agents especially the army and police forces through sanctioning any acts of violence by same, guaranteeing victims protection and adequate assistance with food, housing, access to education and healthcare.

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**88-** Concerning the first charge, the WGAD held that on the instructions of Government, CAMAIR contacted GIA Bank domiciled at Medford, Oregon, USA. The said bank had given its consent to act as an intermediary between Government and Boeing. It indicated that following Boeing's offer forwarded to Government by GIA, the Minister of the Economy and Finance applied for a loan of USD2, 000,000 before the Commercial Bank of Cameroon transferred to the account of GIA that further transferred same to Boeing as a required deposit before the start of manufacturing the aeroplane.

**89-** According to GIA, the remaining USD29,000,000 were transferred directly to the National Hydrocarbons Corporation into GIA account. It held that Boeing did not deliver the aeroplane because it had not received full payment. GIA further held that since the State had not recovered payment of the USD31,000,000 disbursed for reasons of bankruptcy of GIA, signed a transaction agreement with the American liquidator of the said company prohibiting prosecution between the parties including CAMAIR and its managers.

**90-** In addition to violation of the prohibition of prosecution provided for in the agreement referred to above, the applicant raised irregularities in the proceedings against him before the courts and lack of territorial jurisdiction of the courts that examined the matter concerning him, detention for 2 years without being interrogated, want of material evidence against him, disproportion of quantum of the penalty, suppression of the possibility of a second hearing, failure to enlist his matter 36 months after filing his appeal, this, in violation of the legal time limit of 6 months, and violation of the principle of equality before the law between the Legal Department and the other parties in examining appeals.

**91-** Besides, he held that the liquidator of CAMAIR had initiated other proceedings thereby severing the matter and as such exposing him to a number of convictions for indivisible facts. He deplored continuation of the proceedings and freezing of his bank accounts although he had offered to reconstitute the proceeds of the embezzlement. He further deployed lack of a clearly defined period of custody in the detention warrants and the expiry of the legal time limits.



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**92-** While recalling that the facts of the first part of the matter were similar to those already examined in the matter concerning Mr. **Marafa Hamidou Yaya**, WGAD indicated that the conclusions can, however, not be the same. It noted that Mr. **Fotso Yves Michel** did not establish his capacity as party to the transaction referred to above, and further noted that Government held that such an agreement cannot put an end to prosecution.

**93-** WGAD recalled the position of the HRC on the principle of a second hearing by highlighting that suppression of the appeal was not sufficient to ascertain violation of the said principle since the appeal before the Supreme Court could offer Appellant the possibility of a second hearing of his matter. WGAD further held that he could not establish violation from an abstract standpoint. Rather, he could do so from a case-by-case analysis and on the grounds raised as of right by the Supreme Court itself.

**94-** Although WGAD noted lateness in enlisting the appeal before the Supreme Court which Government justified by the late payment of court charges by the parties, it however, held that since Appellant had already been convicted and sentenced by the trial court, his detention is legal.

**95-** Concerning the fact that the other proceedings were time-barred, WGAD held that it was irrelevant to raise violation of the said principle since Appellant was detained for another matter. It further held that allegations relating to the hearing of prosecution witnesses in the absence of the accused, disproportion of the penalty, and dismissal of the different claims filed before the courts were not sufficiently justified. On the whole, WGAD concluded that his detention was not illegal.

## §2: Findings of the Human Rights Committee

**96-** The facts of the Communication were related to the prosecution of Mr. **Zogo Andela Achille Benoît** for embezzlement of public property in the context of a Retrocession Agreement of 20 fishing boats signed on 30 October 1996 between the State and *Société Camerounaise de Leasing Maritime* of which he was manager and which operated on leasing. Since the manufacture of the said boats was financed by a loan of 40,000,000 Euros from the Kingdom of Spain payable within a pe-

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riod of 15 years in 30 semester instalments, the proceeds from exploitation of the boats were to be allocated to servicing the debt. Unfortunately, in spite of such exploitation, the State serviced the debt from other resources.

**97-** In arguing the civil nature of the matter, Mr. **Zogo Andela Achille Benoît** held that the prosecution violated the principle of prohibition of imprisonment for debt. He further raised other irregularities relating to lack of territorial jurisdiction by the High Court Mfoundi, absence of a preliminary inquiry since his remand in custody in 2011, and expiry of the detention period.

**98-** The Committee declared most of his claims inadmissible either for want of a link with the other provisions of the ICCPR on the rights to effective remedy or for failure to exhaust domestic remedies regarding absence of medical care. Concerning prohibition of imprisonment for debt, the Committee held that Mr. **Zogo Andela Achille Benoît** was effectively prosecuted for embezzlement of public property and the charges against him did not concern failure to pay a contractual debt. The Committee recalled that the prohibition is not applicable to criminal offences relating to civil debts.

**99-** While establishing that most of the claims raised in reference to Article 14 (1) of the ICCPR on the right to fair trial were related to the application of the national law by the courts of the State Party, in particular the legality of continuing a preliminary inquiry after the objections raised by a party, the Committee held that generally, it is incumbent on the courts of the State Party to appreciate the facts and evidence or application of the national law in such case, except where it can be established that the process was illegal, irregular or constituted a denial of justice.

**100-** The challenge on the jurisdiction of the Special Criminal Court (SCC) as a special court and on violation of the principle of a hearing by a higher court was dismissed as inadmissible on the ground that the right is guaranteed persons already found guilty, whereas Mr. **Zogo Andela Achille Benoît** was not yet found guilty.

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**101-** Concerning the claim of violation of Article 15 of the ICCPR relating to the legality of the offences and penalties in that Applicant was alleged to have been detained before the establishment of the SCC, the Committee held that the establishment of a new court does not change the qualification of offences committed before such establishment.

**102-** Regarding the grievance of violation of Article 16 of the ICCPR on acknowledgement of the legal personality in that it was the SCLM, a corporate body, that would have been held responsible, the Committee highlighted that Mr. **Zogo Andela Achille Benoît** was prosecuted for felonies he is alleged to have committed personally when he was manager of the said company and for which he should be held responsible.

**103-** Concerning discrimination in reference to Article 26 of the ICCPR, the Committee noted that in addition to failure to exhaust domestic remedies, Applicant does not clearly show the unwarranted differential treatment he was given in relation to persons detained under identical conditions.

**104-** However, the Committee noted that the lawfulness of detention of Applicant was never examined in substance, as all the courts before which the matter was brought focused purely on procedural aspects after the matter was brought before the SCC. It concluded that the continued detention of Mr. **Zogo Andela Achille Benoît** while waiting for his trial was no longer reasoned.

**105-** Besides, the Committee considered that the State did not sufficiently justify the length of time limits in many respects: the time limit between the closure of preliminary inquiries on 30 September 2012 and the first hearing before the SCC on 12 October 2016. The Committee recommended that since the State was not sufficiently certain on when to conduct a fair trial of Mr. **Zogo Andela Achille Benoît**, it should release him while waiting for his trial, try him promptly, compensate him adequately for violation suffered and ensure that such violation does not occur in the future.

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**106-** On the whole, most of the recommendations were taken into account in the different legislative and institutional reforms or in the designing of policies and programmes.

# PART ONE:

# CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART ONE

**107-** In 2017, the obligation of the State to guarantee civil and political rights was characterised by actions to prevent violation of the right to life, liberty and security. In addition, the fair distribution of justice continued to be guaranteed and participation in the management of public affairs was upheld through transfer of resources to Councils as part of decentralization. Besides, the regulation of dissemination of information was stepped up and the institutional and operational capacity development of election stakeholders consolidated. Furthermore, the State continued to investigate, prosecute and sanction perpetrators of Human Rights violation through disciplinary and judicial actions.

**108-** In this regard, content shall be developed under the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Right to life, physical and moral integrity, liberty and security, and the right not to be subjected to torture;
- Chapter 2: Right to fair trial;
- Chapter 3: Right to freedom of expression and communication; and
- Chapter 4: Right to participate in the management of public affairs.





**Chapter**

**1**

**RIGHT TO LIFE, PHYSICAL AND  
MORAL INTEGRITY, LIBERTY AND  
SECURITY, AND THE RIGHT NOT  
TO BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE**



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**109-** In a context of security crisis in some Regions of the country<sup>29</sup>, the State increased the number of measures to guarantee the right to life, physical and moral integrity, security and the right not to be subjected to torture. In addition to preventive measures, the Police and Gendarmerie made giant strides in combating violent crime. Besides, perpetrators who specifically violated the right to freedom were punished.

## **SECTION 1: PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE, SECURITY, AND PHYSICAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY**

**110-** In 2017, the State took preventive measures with continued normative activity on arms, capacity development of stakeholders involved in protection activities, and intensive actions at the Ministry of Transport to control road accidents.

### **§1: Continued Normative Activities on Arms**

**111-** Unchecked circulation and use of arms nationwide are at the origin of some violation of the right to life. In a bid to better regulate and properly check the phenomenon, the State continued the process started in 2016 with the adoption of Law No. 2016/15 of 14 December 2016 on the general regime of arms and ammunitions in Cameroon. Actions to enable the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty were carried out with the organisation of a seminar on 23 November 2017 in Yaounde.

**112-** Indeed, after Cameroon signed the said Treaty on 3 December 2014, Government tabled a proposal before the Trust Fund entitled "*Rapid monitoring of the globalisation and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in Cameroon*" with a view to seeking assistance in the implementation of its conventional obligations especially in legal aid, institutional capacity development, and technical, material and financial assistance.

**113-** Similarly, the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunitions and all Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly,

<sup>29</sup> The crisis in North West and South West Regions (**see infra ...**), incursions by Boko Haram (**see infra 727 to 731**) and the resurgence of the phenomenon of hostage taking in Adamawa and East Regions.

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adopted in Kinshasa on 30 April 2010 entered into force on 8 March 2017. The regional instrument that falls in line with the determination of Member States to check and control the manufacture, marketing and circulation of small arms, light weapons and their ammunitions was signed by Cameroon on 22 September 2011 and ratified on 9 September 2013.

**114** Besides, field checks resulted in the seizure of a consignment of war arms in Mbengwi community, North West Region on 2 and 3 August 2017<sup>30</sup>.

## **§2: Capacity Development of Stakeholders in the Human Rights Protection Chain**

**115**- In 2017, the following seminars were organised to develop the capacities of Judicial and Legal Officers, Police and Gendarmerie Officers and staff of Penitentiary Administration for better Human Rights protection and to beef up the syllabuses in training schools:

- a seminar on the notion of Human Rights, standards, institutions, the protection system and a better understanding of the techniques of approval of the said standards in the administration of justice. The seminar was organised from 20 to 23 February 2017 and brought together 35 Judicial and Legal Officers;
- a seminar on training of trainers in Human Rights was organised from 5 to 7 June 2017 for 20 Judicial and Legal Officers and 4 pupil Judicial and Legal Officers;
- a seminar organised in Douala from 28 to 30 August 2017 on capacity development of stakeholders involved in the protection from violations of the right to life, and moral and physical integrity of persons<sup>31</sup>; and
- a seminar organised in Maroua from 22 to 24 August 2017 for civilian and military Judicial and Legal Officers on international humanitarian law.

<sup>30</sup> Press conference of the Minister of Communication on 22 September 2017

<sup>31</sup> The activity brought together 35 Officials: Judicial and Legal Officers, Police and Gendarmerie Officers, and Penitentiary Administration staff.

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## §3: Controlling Road Accidents

**116-** In order to check the rising number of road accidents and victims<sup>32</sup> thereof, Government took the following measures to guarantee the right to life, and moral and physical integrity:

- at the level of prevention, 5 approved road worthiness control centres were opened (2 in Yaounde, 1 in Douala, 1 in Garoua, and 1 in Guider) bringing the number to 32 centres, homologation of 78 prototype vehicles, permit to open 154 driving schools, issuance of 168,000 driver's licences, awareness-raising campaigns for road users through distribution of 700,000 flyers, dissemination of 1,500 banners, sending 7,000,000 SMS, provision of road safety material (motorcycles, fixed and mobile speed cameras, road signs and 500,000 breathalysers), and removal of 371 obstacles on roads; and
- at the level of punishment, withdrawal of 9 driver's licences for excess speed, and wrong overtaking, and 2 permits to exploit road worthiness centres for issuance of road worthiness certificates for undeserved vehicles.

## SECTION 2: OUTCOME OF STATE ACTION ON PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE, SECURITY, AND MORAL AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

**117-** Statistics on violent crime helped not only assess the level of violation of some Human Rights but also appreciate efforts made by stakeholders involved in the protection chain in order to reduce its propensity in relation to the obligation to investigate, prosecute and punish incumbent on them. In this regard, it is worthy to examine statistics from the Police, Gendarmerie, and judicial services, and the special action taken against hostage-taking.

<sup>32</sup> "From January to August 2017, 4,190 accidents were registered, of which 179 fatal accidents, 784 injury accidents and 3,227 accidents resulting in material damage." Declaration of the Minister of Communication at the Press conference of 7 September 2017.

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## §1: Police Statistics

118- The table below contains statistics on criminal activities registered by the Police:

**Table 1: Police Crime Data**

Offences	Reports of Police investigation	Capacity of Suspects				Outcome of Proceedings
		Men	Women	Minors	Foreigners	
Capital murder	341	245	36	18	27	Submission of reports and referral of suspects to the Legal Department
Murder	206	75	89	20	22	
Assault and Battery	1,396	760	153	312	165	
Force or interference	816	672	49	57	36	
Unintentional killing and harm	122	93	7	8	12	
Trafficking and slavery of persons	106	87	8	0	15	
Indecency	98	75	9	3	11	

Source: DGSN

## §2: Gendarmerie Statistics

119- The table below shows criminal activities registered by the National Gendarmerie:

**Table 2: Gendarmerie crime data**

Offence	Reports of Preliminary Inquiries	Outcome of Proceedings
Capital murder	87	Submission of reports and referral of suspects to the Legal Department
Murder	31	
Assault occasioning death	6	
Assault occasioning grievous harm	55	
Simple harm	90	
Slight harm	139	
Unintentional killing	437	
Torture	11	
Kidnapping of child	98	
Kidnapping by force or fraud	88	
Indecency to child under 16	23	
Indecency to minor between 16 and 21	3	
False arrest	136	
Terrorism	36	

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Source: MINDEF

## §3: Judicial statistics on crime

120- Statistics on judicial activity shows that the courts helped in protecting the right to life. The table below shows the statistics for 2017:

Table 3: Judicial statistics on crime in 2017

Offence	Investigation reports received	Number of matters registered		Persons convicted	Number of persons discharged and acquitted	Number of victims				Number of victims compensated	Perpetrators of the offence	
		At the level of judicial investigation	Before trial courts			Men	women	Children			Law enforcement officials	Persons with authority over the victims
								Boys	Girls			
Capital murder	373	301	225	113	39	343	70	15	7	19	5	16
Murder	344	311	209	132	39	280	60	10	3	36	2	17
Unintentional killing	1,019	71	1,016	535	41	702	242	90	53	362	3	1
Assault occasioning death	179	153	144	96	7	144	52	10	10	44	0	11
Assault occasioning grievous harm	137	126	112	51	21	82	32	11	8	28	0	1
Torture	22	6	17	5	3	20	3	1	0	1	3	0
Grievous harm	176	119	202	139	20	211	114	14	15	22	1	0
Simple harm	859	49	997	546	207	680	320	34	32	205	2	13
Slight harm	1,891	129	1,866	1,044	271	1,150	688	53	62	415	1	25
Rape	309	207	238	146	29	50	115	32	108	38	0	4
False arrest	111	37	75	33	15	86	19	5	3	5	3	0

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Forced labour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offence	Investigation reports received	Number of proceedings initiated		Number of persons convicted	Number of persons discharged and acquitted	Number of victims				Number of persons compensated	Perpetrators of offences	
		At the level of judicial investigation	Before trial courts			M	W	Children B	G		Staff in charge of law enforcement	Number of persons with authority over the victim
Slavery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trafficking in persons	29	15	15	7	3	6	1	9	6	0	0	1
Kidnapping of child	161	91	123	63	17	4	22	58	86	20	0	23
Kidnapping by force or fraud	69	35	28	29	9	11	10	8	31	5	0	1
Indecency to child under 16	736	679	442	297	50	8	63	64	554	94	0	39
Indecency to minor between 16 and 21	175	153	114	57	8	22	19	45	110	14	1	7
Forced marriage	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Source: MINJUSTICE

## §4: Judicial Response to Resurgence of Hostage-taking

**121-** In 2017, hostage-taking was a serious violation of the right to life, and moral and physical integrity to which many citizens were exposed. The perpetrators of such offence had their stronghold in Far North, North, Adamawa, and East Regions and later extended their activity to North West and South West Regions. They kidnap persons and later ask for ransom which, if not paid, exposes the victims to death.

**122-** Statistics show that in 2017, some 5,000 persons were taken hostage. Government responded to the insurgence of the phenomenon by taking measures to free the victims, and arrest and bring the perpetrators before the courts. In this regard, 177 persons were prosecuted for illegal arrest, and kidnapping of child by force or fraud resulting in



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hostage-taking. Some 6 persons were convicted for the offences<sup>33</sup> and the highest penalty against them was 3 years imprisonment.

## SECTION 3: DISPUTES ON LIBERTY IN THE CONTEXT OF COMBATING TERRORISM AND SECESSIONIST ATTEMPTS

**123-** Combating terrorism and violation of public order in North West and South West Regions resulted in the arrest of a number of persons. In addition to ordinary judicial activity, such arrest led to many cases on the liberty of persons.

**124-** In addition, in 2017, some 3,864 persons were released after being arrested and 2,181 were either discharged or acquitted by the courts<sup>34</sup>.

**125-** The specific case of *habeas corpus* is quite illustrative as it made it possible for some 182 persons to be released as shown in the table below:

**Table 4: Habeas corpus proceedings in 2017**

Court	Applications	Detention on the basis of ordinary law courts		Administrative custody		custody ordered by military judicial authorities	
		Granted	Rejected	Granted	Rejected	Granted	Rejected
HC	177	49	118	6	12	9	37
CA	5	5	5	0	0	0	1
SC	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>38</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**Key:**

**HC:** High Court

**CA:** Court of Appeal

**SC:** Supreme Court

<sup>33</sup>Bertoua Military Tribunal, Judgments Nos. 31/17, 33/17, 34/17, 63/17 of 3 July 2017.

<sup>34</sup>Source: MINJUSTICE

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## SECTION 4: SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF FOR VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE, SECURITY, AND MORAL AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

**126-** The State continued to combat impunity of law enforcement staff. Perpetrators of such violation were given both disciplinary and judicial sanctions.

### §1: Disciplinary Sanctions

**127-** Some Police Officers and Penitentiary Administration staff were sanctioned for Human Rights violation.

#### A: Sanctions imposed on Police Officers

**128-** Disciplinary sanctions were imposed on 13 Police Officers ranking from Police Constable to Superintendent of Police. Their offences comprised false arrest, force or interference, and illegal retention of property belonging to another person. The sanctions included suspension of 2 Officers, reprimand of 6 Officers, delayed promotion or removal from promotion register of 3 Officers and demotion in rank of 3 Officers, and dismissal of 1 Officer from the Corps. The Officers on who disciplinary sanctions were imposed comprised 1 Superintendent of Police, 7 Assistant Superintendents of Police, 5 Inspectors of Police and 1 Police Constable. Some other 18 Police Officers are still awaiting the outcome of complaints filed against them.

#### B: Disciplinary Sanctions imposed on Penitentiary Administration Staff

**129-** In 2017, some Penitentiary Administration staff were sanctioned for inhuman treatment of detainees, breach of rules, drug trafficking and negligence occasioning escape from prison.

**130-** The sanctions were imposed on 84 staff of which 1 Superintendent of Prisons, and included suspensions and reprimand.

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## §2: Prosecution and Conviction of some Defence and Security Forces

**131-** It is worthy to discuss global judicial trends and some specific cases.

### A: General Trends

**132-** Elements of Defence Forces were prosecuted for Human Rights violation. Some 75 of them were brought before the courts for false arrest, torture, force or interference. Amongst them, 5 were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine as shown in the table below:

**Table 5: Elements of Defence Forces convicted in 2017**

Initials of Names of Persons Convicted	Rank	Offence	Military Tribunal	Judgment
A.A.P	Gendarme	Breach of rule, murder	Bertoua	Judgment No. 62/17 of 30/11/2017 -requalification from murder to unintentional killing -guilty, 3 years imprisonment, fine of CFAF15,000 <sup>35</sup>
Z. E. O. C. T.J	Warrant officer 1 <sup>st</sup> class Private 1 <sup>st</sup> Class Private	Breach of rule, false arrest, torture	Bertoua	Judgment No. 60/17 of 30/11/2017 -not guilty of false arrest, - Zambo Emerand guilty of breach of rule and torture, mitigating circumstances, 7 months imprisonment and fine of CFAF50,000 <sup>36</sup> .
M. N. T	Staff Sergeant	Breach of rule, excess speed, lack of self-control, left-hand traffic, unintentional killing	Bertoua	Judgment No. 26/17 of 29/06/2017 -accused found guilty, fine of CFAF300,000 <sup>37</sup> .
M.J.C.	Captain	Simple harm, assault on subordinate	Bertoua	Judgment No. 16/17 of 29/06/2017 -guilty, fine of CFAF200,000 <sup>38</sup> .

**Source:** MINDEF

<sup>35</sup> About 22.88 Euros

<sup>36</sup> About 76.27 Euros

<sup>37</sup> About 477.63 Euros

<sup>38</sup> About 305.09 Euros

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**133-** Under the crisis in North West and South West Regions, the Minister of Defence warned Defence and Security Forces not to carry out actions that will make them liable for Human Rights violation. In addition, they are exposed to immediate disciplinary sanctions and prosecution in the event of commission of atrocities.

## **B: Specific Cases**

### **1) Ibrahim Bello**

**134-** On 5 February 2017, one **Ibrahim Bello** was arrested by the people of Ombessa for attempted theft in a vehicle. The crowd molested him before taking him to the Police Station, Ombessa. Following his custody in the said Police Station, he was taken to a hospital where serious wounds were found on his limbs occasioning lack of motor skills.

**135-** Investigations opened subsequently, established the following aspects resulting from medical examinations:

- at the professional level, negligence of the Head of the Police Station who ordered the custody of **Ibrahim Bello** in spite of his physical condition that showed traces of violence on his hands and legs;
- at the administrative level, an Assistant Superintendent of Police and an Inspector of Police were suspended from office and subsequent disciplinary procedures initiated against them for tactlessness resulting in discrediting the Police, and use of force on a detainee; and
- at the close of the judicial police investigations, a preliminary inquiry was opened against the Inspector of Police and one of the persons alleged to have assaulted the victim for torture and assault occasioning grievous harm. They were in custody and the matter is pending before the Examining Magistrate of the High Court Mbam and Inoubou, Bafia.

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## 2) Superintendent of Police accused of Murder in Mbouda

**136-** The matter concerning a Superintendent of Police accused of murder<sup>39</sup> is pending before the Examining Magistrate of the High Court, Bamboutos Division.

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\*            \*

**137-** On the whole, one of the major concerns of Government was to guarantee the right to life, security, moral and physical integrity, and the right not to be subjected to torture. Government continued to train staff in the chain of Human Rights protection and repression of violation of same. However, the security situation has exposed the need for Government to make more efforts towards a permanent consideration of Human Rights promotion and protection in all actions geared towards restoring peace and security.

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<sup>39</sup> See 2016 Report, §71



Chapter **2**

RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL





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**138-** In a bid to effectively protect the rights and freedoms of persons, proceedings before the courts are subjected to a number of legal requirements to help litigants have confidence in the Judiciary. Of course, the right to fair trial is an essential element in the Rule of Law enshrined in the provisions of Article 14 of the ICCPR and Article 7 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Implementation of the right to fair trial is examined through guarantees relating to the courts and during trial, and guarantees provided to any person in conflict with the law or any person whose rights have been violated.

## SECTION 1: GUARANTEES RELATING TO THE COURTS

**139-** The security crisis in North West and South West Regions has not hampered the continuous administration of justice in order to guarantee access to the courts. Such guarantee focuses on the right of access to the courts established by law and the independence and impartiality of which must be ensured.

### §1: Administration of Justice during Security Crisis

**140-** The current security crisis in North West and South West Regions has affected the functioning of public services. Concerning the courts in particular, measures were taken to keep them functioning in spite of the burning down of some buildings in which judicial activities were carried out such as the court premises in Batibo, North West Region.

**141-** However, the courts continued to administer justice by holding court sessions and examining matters brought before them although Lawyers were sometimes not present. In North West Region, "... the courts have started receiving a significant number of Lawyers after 9 July 2017 when 7 new Lawyers were sworn-in office. Since then, their attendance of court sessions has progressively increased..."<sup>40</sup> Thus, judicial output in the said Region shows that 38,578 matters were registered and 28,944 judgments delivered<sup>41</sup>.

<sup>40</sup> Paper presented by the President of the Court of Appeal, North West Region at the Annual Meeting of Heads of Court of Appeal from 21 to 22 December 2017.

<sup>41</sup> Paper presented by the President of the Court of Appeal, North West Region at the Annual Meeting of Heads of Court of Appeal from 21 to 22 December 2017.

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## §2: Right of Access to a Court established by Law

**142-** Access of citizens to the courts was evaluated through granting of legal aid and appointment of Interpreters since the judicial map was not changed during the year. In addition, a Common Law Division was opened at the Supreme Court, and military tribunals reorganised.

### A: Granting Legal Aid

**143-** Pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 2009/4 of 14 April 2009, litigants were granted legal aid as shown in the table below:

**Table 1: Legal aid in 2017**

Court	Registered applications for legal aid	Applications rejected	Applications granted		Beneficiaries			Remarks
			Full grant	Partial grant	Men	Women	Other	
CFI	30	6	16	0	4	3	0	
HC	110	15	54	8	40	20	0	
CA	60	5	4	5	8	1	0	
SC	30	6	10	0	17	5	0	

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**144-** In addition to such data, the functioning of Legal Aid Commissions was not hitch-free. Indeed, in some courts, it was observed that members of the said Commissions were either not available or could not be replaced.

### B: Establishing a Common Law Division at the Supreme Court

**145-** In a bid to enhance access of litigants from English-speaking Regions to the courts, a Common Law Division was opened at the Judicial Bench of the Supreme Court under Law No. 2017/14 of 12 July 2017 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2006/16 of 29 December 2006 on the organization and functioning of the Supreme Court. Section 37-1 of the said Law provides, *"The Common Law Division shall have jurisdiction, in matters relating to Common law, to hear appeals against: final decisions of tribunals; judgments of courts of ap-*

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peal". Thus, the Common Law Division becomes one of the 6 Divisions of the Judicial Bench and comprises English-speaking Judicial and Legal Officers for a better administration of justice, as provided for by section 11 of the law referred to above.

## C: Military Justice Reform

**146-** After promulgation of the laws on the PC and the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), the legislator significantly modernised military justice in Cameroon with the adoption of Law No. 2017/12 of 12 July 2017 on the Code of Military Justice. The Code contains the following 5 main innovations:

- an update on offences in section 8;
- amendment of rules on the organization of military justice with the establishment of a Military Tribunal in every Region;
- reduction of the period of remand in police custody to align with that provided for by the CPC; that is, 24 hours renewable twice;
- application of the procedure of an offence committed *flagrante delicto*; and
- conferring on the State Prosecutor the powers to commence prosecution in order to speed up proceedings.

**147-** Such reform consolidates not only the place of military tribunals in the judicial apparatus in Cameroon but also guarantees the rights of litigants who are brought before them.

## §3: Independence and Impartiality of the Courts

**148-** The independence of the Courts presupposes that both the courts and their Judges are free from external interference. Impartiality is appreciated both from the subjective standpoint considering the convictions and conduct of the Judge, and from an objective standpoint regarding the guarantees the Judge may offer the citizen.

**149-** An analysis of court activities in 2017 shows that the impartiality of the Judge was challenged through the procedure of recusal as shown in the table below:

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**Table 2: Statistics of procedures for recusal**

Court	Procedures for recusal			Pending matters	Action against a Judge for denial of Justice		
	Applications registered	Applications granted	Applications rejected		Applications registered	Applications granted	Applications rejected
CA	20	0	1	19	0	0	0
SC	2	0	2	0	0	0	0

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**150-** In addition, the determination to protect the Judge from external influence in his administration of justice was reflected in efforts made to increase the budget of the Ministry of Justice and that of the Supreme Court.

**Table 3: Budget of the Ministry of Justice**

Budget of the Ministry of Justice	Amount in billion CFAF	Amount in billion CFAF	Remarks
Year	2016	2017	
<b>Global amount</b>	44,810 <sup>42</sup>	59,498 <sup>43</sup>	+14,688 <sup>44</sup>
<b>Current budget votes</b>	41,750 <sup>45</sup>	56,298 <sup>46</sup>	+14,548 <sup>47</sup>
<b>Investment budget</b>	3,060 <sup>48</sup>	3,200 <sup>49</sup>	+140 <sup>50</sup>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

<sup>42</sup> About 68,354,816.56 Euros

<sup>43</sup> About 90,760,430.17 Euros

<sup>44</sup> About 22,405,613.61 Euros

<sup>45</sup> About 63,686,980.40 Euros

<sup>46</sup> About 85,879,032.87 Euros

<sup>47</sup> About 22,192,052.47 Euros

<sup>48</sup> About 4,667 836.17 Euros

<sup>49</sup> About 4,881,397.30 Euros

<sup>50</sup> About 213,561.13 Euros

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**151-** The budget of the Supreme Court dropped in 2017 when compared with that of 2016 as shown in the table below:

**Table 4: Budget of the Supreme Court**

Supreme Court	Current budget votes in billion CFAF		Investment budget in billion CFAF		Total	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	3,887 <sup>51</sup>	2,362 <sup>52</sup>	500 <sup>53</sup>	500 <sup>54</sup>	4,387 <sup>55</sup>	2,862 <sup>56</sup>
<b>Variations</b>	-1,525 <sup>57</sup>		0		-1,525 <sup>58</sup>	

**Source:** Supreme Court

**152-** Besides, aspects that hinder the full achievement of such independence were also identified especially through activities carried out by the Inspectorate General for Judicial Services (IGJS) and the Anti-Corruption Unit at the Ministry of Justice (ACU) including inspection missions, evaluation of corruption perception and control in the courts. In this connection, the IGJS conducted an investigation mission on the existence of fake birth declaration judgments at the Court of First Instance, Yaounde-Ekounou. Furthermore, in 2017, the IGJS received 1,952 petitions the examination of which resulted in the issuance of 19 queries, 83 management letters, the opening of 77 investigations and forwarding of 16 files to disciplinary organs. Regarding sanctions, 1 Judicial and Legal Officer was dismissed from office, 4 demoted, 1 downgraded and 1 warned.

**153-** For its part, the ACU conducted missions from 23 to 30 September 2017 to evaluate corruption perception in Centre (Mbalmayo), and South (Sangmelima, Djoum) Regions, and from 30 October to 6 November 2017 in West Region (Bandjoun, Bafang, Dschang and Fom-

<sup>51</sup> About 5,929,372.28 Euros

<sup>52</sup> About 3,603,081.38 Euros

<sup>53</sup> About 762,718.33 Euros

<sup>54</sup> About 762,718.33 Euros

<sup>55</sup> About 6,692,090.61 Euros

<sup>56</sup> About 4,365,799.71 Euros

<sup>57</sup> About 2,326,290.90 Euros

<sup>58</sup> About 2,236,290.90 Euros

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ban). It further held 2 annual sessions, 3 ad hoc meetings, and produced proceedings of the said sessions.

## SECTION 2: GUARANTEES DURING TRIAL

**154-** Public hearing, equality of all before the law and respect of the principle of full hearing of all the parties are the guarantees offered during trial for the achievement of an objective administration of justice.

### §1: Right to Public Trial

**155-** In 2017, court sessions were held in compliance with the principle of hearing in open court. However, hearings in camera were ordered in accordance with the law either on the court's own motion or at the request of the parties as shown in the table below:

**Table 5: Hearings in open court or in camera in 2017**

Court	Matters heard in open court	Matters heard in camera		
		On the court's own motion		At the request of the parties
		Minors		
		Perpetrators	Victims	
CFI	86,790	263	105	155
Customary Court (CC)	40,178	228	1	411
HC	10,506	803	92	10
CA	37,208	3	3	0
SC	1,412	9	0	0

Source: MINJUSTICE

### §2: Equality of Arms and the Principle of Full Hearing of the Parties

**156-** Equality of arms requires that every party to a matter be given a reasonable possibility to present their case under conditions that do not put them in a situation of undue disadvantage against their opponent. The principle of full hearing of the parties presupposes proper knowledge and examination of items of evidence.

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**157-** In 2017, the 2 principles were implemented by the courts in the administration of justice notwithstanding the tense security situation in some Regions. This was upheld by the Procureur General at the Court of Appeal, South West Region during the annual meeting of Heads of Court of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration when he said "Although briefing Counsel is not an obligation, many litigants applied for adjournment of matters to enable them brief Counsel and the courts granted the applications"<sup>59</sup>. This was in order to guarantee equality of arms of all the parties before the courts.

## SECTION 3: GUARANTEES TO LITIGANTS

**158-** In addition to the presumption of innocence and the right to be informed of the charges or *prima facie* evidence against a person, the other guarantees to litigants in particular the right to counsel and to an interpreter, the right to be heard within a reasonable period and the right to appeal shall be examined in the light of their implementation in the administration of justice.

### §1: Right to Counsel and to an Interpreter

**159-** In 2017, the right to Counsel was consolidated with the swearing-in of new lawyers in the different jurisdictions of Courts of Appeal. In this regard, 25 lawyers were called to the Cameroon Bar thereby bringing the number of members of the Cameroon Bar Association to 1,951 as against 1,926 in 2016. Although the increase is laudable, it should be noted that the unequal distribution of lawyers nationwide still hampers access of litigants to Counsel.

**160-** Furthermore, it was difficult to have access to Counsel especially in North West and South West Regions due to the strike by Lawyers that gradually ebbed away. The overall trend on access to Counsel is shown in the table below:

<sup>59</sup> Paper presented by the Procureur General at the Court of Appeal, South West Region during the annual meeting of Heads of Courts of Appeal from 21 to 22 December 2017.

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**Table 6: Assistance to Litigants by Counsel in 2017**

Court	Number of Defendants (DEF)/Accused (AC)/Victims(VICT)/Plaintiff (PL)/Civil Defendant (CD) assisted by Counsel										Number of Counsel appointed automatically	Number of Counsel hired by the parties
	Civil		Labour		Traditional law		Simple offences		Criminal matters			
	PL	CD	PL	CD	PL	CD	VICT	DEF	VICT	AC		
CFI	1,472	12	552	54	3,244	644	6,666	9,025	5,175	328	198	2,055
HC	1,785	989	358	375	2	4	99	67	1538	2,098	590	794
CA	2,632	1,531	1,454	724	371	197	624	1,158	200	308	44	1,010
SC	247	255	219	108	17	79	101	223	0	0	22	0

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**161-** With regard to the guarantee of the right of litigants to free assistance of an interpreter if they do not understand or speak the language used in the hearing, interpreters were appointed without much difficulty during the year under review.

**162-** Thus, in a bid to ease access of litigants to the courts, Interpreters were provided for them as shown in the table below:

**Table 7: Distribution of Interpreters in 2017**

Court	Number of Interpreters posted to the courts	Number of petitions on the quality and qualifications of the Interpreter	
		Petition on the quality	Petitions on the qualifications
CFI	20	0	0
HC	17	0	0
CA	5	0	0
SC	10	0	0

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

## §2: Right to be heard within a Reasonable Period

**163-** A reasonable period of the duration of proceedings is usually appreciated using the following 4 criteria: the complexity of the matter, the conduct of the litigants (parties, counsel, and stakeholders), the conduct of the competent authorities, and the stakes of the dispute for the applicant.



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**164-** One of the consequences that resulted from the strike by Lawyers in North West and South West Regions was the extension of the trial period of some matters in 2017 due to the absence of Lawyers in the courts. In the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal, North West Region, from January to September 2017, for example, out of the 14,054 matters registered, only 9,876 judgments were delivered<sup>60</sup>.

**165-** In the jurisdictions of other Courts of Appeal, efforts made to speed up administration of justice were hampered not only by material challenges, but also by the constant complex management of periods of remand in custody. However, corrective measures were taken in situations where periods of remand in custody were unnecessarily long during trial. This is the case of **Anol Basile Etienne** and **Ekanga I** detained at the Central Prison, Douala following the demonstrations of 31 October 2013 and 22 December 2016 respectively and who were still awaiting trial.

### §3: Right to Appeal

**166-** The right of a litigant to appeal is part of the guarantee of the right to fair trial.

**167-** In fact, in 2017, the right to appeal was guaranteed as shown in the table below:

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<sup>60</sup> Paper presented by the President of the Court of Appeal, North West Region during the Annual Meeting of Heads of Court of Appeal from 21 to 22 December 2017.

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**Table 8: Statistics of Appeals in 2017**

appeals	Number of appeals received						Appellants			Number of appeals not forwarded for lack of payment of reproduction fees						Outcome of appeals								
	CC	CFI	HC	CA	SC	LD	Parties	Perpetrators	CC	CFI	HC	CA	SC	Number of appeals declared inadmissible			Number of decisions quashed or changed							
														CC	CFI	HC	CA	SC	CC	CFI	HC	CA	SC	
Third-party proceedings	176	167	19	18	/	7	151	20	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	/
Objection	79	585	277	166	0	29	460	14	0	4	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	5	0
appeal	452	3,959	1,058	2,774	0	769	4,803	513	26	479	157	7	0	0	0	22	62	0	0	0	51	8	205	0
Appeal before the Supreme Court	1	1	28	1,212	1,043	24	639	03	1	3	1	79	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	245
Review				10	36													1						

Source: MINJUSTICE

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**168-** On the whole, guaranteeing the right to fair trial is a permanent effort to administer justice to the public. It further depends on specific conditions which some Judges fail to meet. Although significant results were obtained in 2017, more efforts need to be made to enable litigants to have equal chances before the courts. Therefore, enhancing working conditions, combating judicial delays and corruption should be deemed priority areas.







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**169-** In a bid to guarantee freedom of expression and communication, Government enhanced access infrastructure to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), ensured media diversity and access to the media, and ordered an audit of the mobile telephone sector to improve the quality of services. In addition, it consolidated the exercise of freedom of expression and communication given that the crisis in North West and South West Regions produced a specific challenge relating to the use of new technologies.

## SECTION 1: ENHANCEMENT OF ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

**170-** Enhancement of access infrastructure to ICTs was implemented through the extension of physical infrastructure and completion of the digital changeover in the Television sector.

### §1: Extension of Physical Infrastructure

**171-** The extension of physical infrastructure concerned both the telecommunications and the postal sectors.

**172-** Regarding the telecommunications sector, focus was on the laying of 1,400km of optic fibre, bringing the length of optic fibre already laid in Cameroon<sup>61</sup> to 16,400km. This enabled the rural population to become familiar with the IT tool, and a reduction of the digital gap, facilitated the exercise by the people, of many activities through digitization especially money transfer and distance payment.

**173-** Furthermore, more efforts were made to implement the *Redcomzoff* (re-dynamisation of communication in border and land areas) project to extend the CRTV radio and TV signals to the said areas. In this connection, 2 broadcasting centres were built in Mundemba and Ekondo Titi in South West Region and are currently functional.

**174-** In the postal sector, extension of the network continued with the construction of post offices in Ebebda, Lom-Pangar, Kon-Yambetta and

<sup>61</sup> About 17% of the population has access to the large band Internet in Cameroon and 2.5% to fixed Internet.

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Ma'an. The Data Centre<sup>62</sup> of CAMPOST helped achieve teleconferences and remote monitoring.

## §2: Completion of the Digital Changeover

**175-** Within the framework of the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), all national public and private TV broadcasting centres switched from the analogous system to the digital system. In a bid to adapt the CRTV to this new reality, an extended rehabilitation project was launched to provide it with proper technical facilities.

## SECTION 2: MEDIA DIVERSITY AND ACCESS TO THE MEDIA

**176-** Media diversity and access to the media was enhanced through increase in the number of media houses and the sustainability of assistance to private audiovisual communication enterprises.

### §1: Increase in the Number of Media Houses

**177-** Such increase was illustrated by the media map, issuance of new press cards, and new advertising licences.

**178-** According to national records of the Ministry of Communication, the number of media houses increased significantly. Statistics show that private newspapers increased from 500 in 2013 to 535 in 2017, 95 private radio broadcasting houses in 2013 to 314 in 2017, and 22 TV broadcasting stations in 2013 to 105 in 2017.

**179-** The Press Card Commission was revived by Order No. 1/MIN-COM of 18 May 2015. In 2016, it issued 863 press cards<sup>63</sup> out of the 957 applications, and in 2017, 100 press cards out of the 125 applications.

<sup>62</sup> Physical site with IT installations (servers, routers, switches, hard disks ...) used by enterprises to keep and process large quantities of data.

<sup>63</sup> The press card holder has access to sources of information and to all areas where he is expected to exercise his duties as long as he respects the rules and regulations in force and the need to maintain order. In performing his duties or when requested, he is entitled to protection and assistance from the forces of law and order. It is a self-regulation tool (Decree No. 2002/2170/PM of 9 December 2002 to lay down the terms and conditions for the issuance of the press card in Cameroon).



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## §2: Sustainability of Public Assistance to Private Audiovisual Communication Enterprises

**180-** Every year, financial assistance is granted to private audiovisual communication enterprises. In this connection, CFAF270,000,000<sup>64</sup> was allocated to media houses in 2013 and 2014. The allocation dropped to CFAF240,000,000<sup>65</sup> in 2016 and further dropped to CFAF216,000,000<sup>66</sup> in 2017.

**181-** The number of privately-owned media houses and communication structures that applied for such assistance stood at 150. On the whole, the following 111 beneficiaries were selected: 53 newspapers, 8 commercial radio stations, 2 audiovisual producers, 3 TV stations, 2 printing press, 1 professional organisation, 41 community radios, and 1 online news media.

### SECTION 3: AUDITING THE QUALITY OF SERVICES DELIVERED BY TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS

**182-** At the request of Government, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications mandated a Swedish firm<sup>67</sup> in March 2017, to conduct an audit of the quality of services delivered by the following telecommunications operators: MTN CAMEROON, ORANGE CAMEROUN, VIETTEL CAMEROUN and CAMTEL. The goal was to "critically examine the recurrent problem of service quality delivered by the operator and received by the user in the telecommunications sector as per specifications binding on the operators, so as to enable effective recommendations for a sustainable solution thereto."

**183-** Concretely, the firm had to collect and analyse network data provided by all the operators, conduct tests-in-car on a distance of 7,800km and on 61 static points representing 30 towns and more than 60 villages in the 10 Regions in order to make recommendations geared towards enhancing the quality of service delivered by the mobile operators.

<sup>64</sup> About 411,867.90 Euros

<sup>65</sup> About 365,104.80 Euros

<sup>66</sup> About 329,494.87 Euros

<sup>67</sup> Cybercom Group.

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**184-** Indeed, the audit confirmed a drop in the quality of service delivered by all the operators. Besides, the Regulatory Board does not have updated technical resources to support the operators in terms of control in real time of the quality of service delivered.

**185-** Specifically, the shortcomings observed included lack of investment to match the increasing number of subscribers at the level of equipment regulation (failure to respect international standards and settings of some network equipment), and non-optimised network design.

**186-** The situation resulted in the following consequences:

- poor network and lack of redundancy in the event of disconnection from external origin;
- inaccurate data (10% of unreliable data);
- early disconnection of calls and degradation of hearing quality, seriously vulnerable to security threats (due to insufficient updates, invalid security certificates, and poor mastery of the techniques used by hackers and malware); and
- low input rate of Internet packets resulting in low speed downloading and sharing of data.

**187-** Government instructed the electronic telecommunications operators to take mandatory corrective measures within a period of 6 months. The objective was to oblige them to respect the specifications binding on them. The measures included a plan to correct the loopholes observed in the activities of each operator, and a definition of an implementation period for 6 months; the technical capacity development of the Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART)<sup>68</sup> in terms of training and equipment; and taking into account the results of the audit in ongoing renegotiation of agreements with the mobile telephone operators.

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<sup>68</sup> The set objective was to give the ART the means to control the market through annual auditing followed by sanctions imposed on operators who do not implement the prescribed corrective measures.

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## SECTION 4: CONSOLIDATION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION

**188-** In 2017, freedom of expression and communication continued to be consolidated. The activities of regulatory bodies were supplemented through court action.

### §1: Regulatory Actions

**189-** The National Communication Council (NCC) carried out awareness-raising activities<sup>69</sup> and imposed sanctions on some stakeholders of the sector.

**190-** Following different sessions held in 2017, the NCC delivered 36 decisions<sup>70</sup> including 30 temporary suspensions, 1 permanent ban<sup>71</sup>, 2 nonsuits, and 3 warnings. The grievance against the media remained the same as that of previous years; that is, violation of professional ethics in mass communication. The concern was to protect the reputation of others given the type of complainants most of who are citizens seeking to preserve their honour and reputation.

**191-** In 2017, 2 petitions for annulment were filed before the Administrative Court, Yaounde. The matters were between **Michel Michaut Moussala**, Publisher of "Aurore plus" and NCC; **Michel Michaut Moussala**, Publisher of "Aurore" and NCC. The matters are pending.

### §2: Court Action

**192-** In 2017, a number of proceedings were initiated before courts against media professionals, while some pending matters were heard and determined.

<sup>69</sup> See the Section on management of the security crisis, *infra*, §196-197

<sup>70</sup> There is a slight drop in this figure compared to that of 2016 during which 45 decisions were delivered.

<sup>71</sup> Decision No. 88/CNC of 19 December 2017 to impose a permanent ban on "La Tribune de l'Est Economie" newspaper and its Publisher for repeatedly publishing unfounded, offensive and insinuating accusations, an act which constitutes violation of professional ethics in mass communication.

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## A: Judgments on pending Matters involving Media Professionals

**193-** Judgments were delivered in the following matters contained in the 2016 Report:

- **The People vs Ahmed Abba:** By Judgment No. 109/CRIM of 24 April 2017 delivered by the Yaounde Military Tribunal, **Ahmed Abba**, a local RFI correspondent in the *Hausa* language was found guilty of failure to report acts of terrorism and laundering of products of terrorism, and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. He appealed against the judgment before the Court of Appeal, Centre Region. By Judgment No. 13/CRIM/MIL of 21 December 2017, the said Court of Appeal found him not guilty of laundering of products of terrorism. However, the Court found him guilty of failure to report acts of terrorism and sentenced him to 24 months imprisonment and ordered him to pay costs assessed at CFAF55,000,000<sup>72</sup>. He was released on 22 December 2017; and
- **The People vs Felix Cyriaque Ebole Bola, Rodrigue Tongue and Baba Wame:** The accused persons who were prosecuted without being remanded, for failure to report acts of terrorism were discharged and acquitted by the Yaounde Military Tribunal by Judgment No. 218/CRIM/2017 of 30 October 2017.

## B: Proceedings before the Courts against Media Professionals

**194-** In 2017, quite a number of media professionals were prosecuted before the court. An analysis of the matters shows that the concern was to preserve public interest and protect private interests. An example is **The People and Stéphane Muller, Soviété Fabrique Camerounaise de Parquet vs "Echos du Cameroun" Newspaper**. By Judgment No. 725/COR of 14 February 2017, CFI, Douala, Ndokoti found the defendant **Nga Etoga Nestor**, Publisher of the Newspaper referred to above, guilty of defamation in the media, publication of false news, co-offender and accessory in acts contrary to and punishable under sections 74, 96, 97, 152, 240, 305 of the PC, and sections 74, 75, 76 and 84 of Law No. 90/52 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of mass communication, and section 78 (1) of Law No. 2010/12 of 21 De-

<sup>72</sup>About 83,899.02 Euros

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ember 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercriminality. He was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment suspended for 3 years and ordered to pay a fine of CFA1,000,000<sup>73</sup>.

## SECTION 5: FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATION DURING THE CRISIS IN NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST REGIONS

**195-** In 2017, in addition to the traditional challenges encountered in guaranteeing freedom of communication, information management in times of crisis was a new challenge. In this connection, freedom of expression was restricted as part of maintaining public order and social cohesion especially with the temporary suspension of the Internet in North West and South West Regions. The measure was taken concomitantly with awareness-raising actions carried by the NCC.

### §1: Awareness-raising Actions

**196-** The Chair of the NCC conducted field trips from January to June 2017. He was in Bamenda from 11 to 18 January 2017 following the closure of "Hot Cocoa" radio station by administrative authorities for repeated broadcast of information that incited resistance. The NCC led another mission to Bamenda from 27 and 28 June 2017 following reports according to which private TV stations broadcasted separatist propaganda.

**197-** Furthermore, on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, discussions were held with media professionals from 3 to 4 May 2017 in Limbe and Kumba, South West Region. During the discussions, it was agreed that in response to the crisis in North West and South West Regions, it was incumbent on the media to promote peace, tolerance, patriotism and the culture of living together.

### §2: Temporary Suspension of the Internet in North West and South West Regions

**198-** Due to the crisis in North West and South West Regions, it was observed that a large number of hate messages and messages that incited violence were communicated through the Internet.

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<sup>73</sup> About 1,525.44 Euros

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**199-** Since the use of such communication tool was widely drifting towards criminal purposes in spite of the warnings of public authorities<sup>74</sup>, Government decided, within the realms of international and regional instruments<sup>75</sup>, and keeping in mind the different resolutions of the UN Human Rights Council on “*promotion, protection and enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet*” to suspend it in the North West and South West Regions on 17 January 2017. However, the measure was uplifted on 20 April 2017 on the instructions of the Head of State following a thaw in the crisis.

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**200-** Enhancement of access infrastructure to ICTs and constant diversity, and access to the media illustrate the drive to consolidate freedom of expression and communication. However, in addition to security constraints, compliance with ethical concerns by media professionals and respect of the rights of consumers through delivery of quality service especially in the area of the mobile telephone remain major challenges.

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<sup>74</sup> Broadcast of awareness-raising messages through the print or audiovisual media and the short messaging system (SMS).

<sup>75</sup> Article 29 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 27 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

Chapter 4

RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE MANAGEMENT  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS





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**201-** In 2017, in a bid to guarantee citizens the right to participate in the management of public affairs, promotion of equality of access to the Public Service was stepped up. In fact, the institutional and political framework of elections was reorganised and the decentralisation process refined.

## SECTION 1: PROMOTION OF EQUALITY OF ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE

**202-** In order to guarantee everyone access to public services, consolidation of the Public Service card index continued and recruitment conducted with the goal of permanent equity in diversity.

### §1: Consolidation of the Public Service Card Index

**203-** Following investigations opened since January 2016 in different Administrations, 14,134 staff were requested to clarify their administrative situation at their respective Departments of Human Resources. As at 31 December 2017<sup>76</sup>, a list of 4,255 State Agents suspended from the pay roll since January 2016 was published<sup>77</sup>, thereby generating a recovery of CFAF9,700,000,000<sup>78</sup>.

**204-** With a view to capitalising the results thus obtained and in line with the consolidation of the card index and streamlining salary expenses<sup>79</sup> of the State of Cameroon, a decision<sup>80</sup> was taken to conduct a census of public servants<sup>81</sup>.

<sup>76</sup> The said deadline was extended to 18 January 2018 for State Agents to report to the Discipline and Disputes Division of MINFOPRA, failing which they shall be dismissed from office.

<sup>77</sup> A large number of the Agents concerned were from the education and health sectors.

<sup>78</sup> About 14,796,735.56 Euros

<sup>79</sup> According to the Report of the International Monetary Fund on Cameroon, the wage bill which was 5.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2013 is projected to be at 7.2% in 2019. This will create budget pressure.

<sup>80</sup> Public Service staff strength increased from 1 63,000 State Agents in 2006 to 322,000 on 31 December 2017, with a wage bill increasing from CFAF393,000,000,000 (About 599, 496, 605. 90 Euros) to CFAF945,000,000,000 (About 1, 441, 537, 640. 14 Euros) respectively.

<sup>81</sup> See Circular of the President of the Republic of 20 June 2017 on preparation of the budget for 2018.

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## §2: Seeking Equity in Recruitment into the Public Service

**205-** In 2017, the different competitive entrance examinations into the Public Service<sup>82</sup> resulted in the recruitment of 1,773 Cameroonians with different profiles out of the 22,140 candidates for 1,906 positions advertised. The recruitment was done in compliance with the criteria of merit and equity, while preserving Regional balance, thus representing a coverage rate of 93%.

**206-** Quite a number of women sat for the competitive entrance examinations in 2017. Some 10,426 female candidates, for example, registered as against 11,714 male candidates, representing a rate of 47% and 53% respectively. The results revealed a low admission rate of women compared to that of men, representing 46% as against 54% (818 women as against 955 men out of the 1,773 candidates admitted).

**207-** Concerning the language of expression, 2,691 English-speaking candidates and 19,449 French-speaking candidates were registered, representing 12% and 88 % of registered candidates respectively. The results stood as follows: 349 English-speaking candidates were admitted as against 1,424 French-speaking candidates, representing 20% and 80% of admitted candidates respectively.

**208-** Candidates data on Regional diversity are shown in the table below:

**Table 1: Candidates admitted into the Public Service per Region in 2017**

Region	Registered Candidates		Candidates passed	
	Number of Candidates	Percentage	Number of Candidates	Percentage
Adamawa	628	3%	80	5%
Centre	4,172	19%	275	16%
Far North	2,348	11%	221	12%
East	1,205	5%	152	9%
Littoral	1,383	6%	143	8%
North	734	3%	90	5%
North West	1,660	7%	223	13%

<sup>82</sup> Some 67 direct competitive examinations, 15 professional competitive examinations, and 3 selection tests.

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Region	Registered Candidates		Candidates passed	
	Number of Candidates	Percentage	Number of Candidates	Percentage
West	7,950	36%	337	19%
South	1,325	6%	137	8%
South West	735	3%	115	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,140</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,773</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** MINFOPRA

**209-** In 2017, the management of public affairs continued, taking into account the political diversity of the country.

## SECTION 2: REORGANISATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK OF ELECTIONS

**210-** The evolution of the institutional framework of elections concerned stepping up the capacity of action of the body in charge of elections and referenda, guaranteeing the exercise of the elective mandate, and maintaining political pluralism.

### §1: Stepping up the Action Capacity of the Body in charge of Elections and Referenda

**211-** On the sidelines of the reorganisation of the governing bodies of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM), operational capacity development activities were carried out and voter registration continued.

#### A: Reorganisation of Governing Bodies

**212-** Following 3 Decrees of the President of the Republic signed on 25 April 2017, appointments were made at the Electoral Board of ELECAM. As per the 1<sup>st</sup> Decree<sup>83</sup>, Mrs. **Amugu Abena Ekobena Appoline Marie**, Mr. **Dieudonné Belle Amougou**, and Mr. **Peter Mbu** were appointed members of the Electoral Board. As per the 2<sup>nd</sup> Decree<sup>84</sup>, Mr. **Enow Abrams Egbe** who was a member of the said Board since 20 April 2016, was appointed President of the Electoral Board in replacement of Mr. **Samuel Fonkam Azu'u** who had held the office

<sup>83</sup> See Decree No. 2017/168 of 25 April 2017 to appoint members of the Electoral Board of Elections Cameroon.

<sup>84</sup> See Decree No. 2017/169 of 25 April 2017 to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Electoral Board of Elections Cameroon.

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since 2008. By the same Decree, Mrs. **Amugu Abena Ekobena Apoline Marie** was appointed Vice-President of the said Board.

**213-** As per the 3<sup>rd</sup> Decree<sup>85</sup>, the mandate of some members of the Electoral Board of ELECAM<sup>86</sup> was renewed.

## **B: Operational Capacity Development**

**214-** Although the budget of ELECAM dropped from CFAF 10,376,000,000<sup>87</sup> in 2016 to CFAF9,276,000,000<sup>88</sup> in 2017, representing a drop of 11.85%, operational capacity development continued through staff redeployment and training.

### **1) Staff Redeployment**

**215-** By virtue of the Electoral Board Resolution No. 3/ELECAM/CE of 2 October 2017 to appoint officials at Regional Delegations of ELECAM, new Regional Delegates were appointed to Adamawa, East, Littoral and South Regions. In fact, the former acting Regional Delegates for Centre, North, North West, West, and South West Regions were appointed full Regional Delegates of same, while a Regional Delegate was appointed to fill the vacant position in Far North Region.

**216-** Furthermore, the Director General of Elections signed 3 Decisions to redeploy staff to support services of the General Directorate<sup>89</sup>, the Offices of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Electoral Board of ELECAM<sup>90</sup> and to appoint officials to Divisional Offices of ELECAM in Nyong and So'o Division (Centre Region), Menoua Division (West Region) and Manyu Division (South West Region<sup>91</sup>).

<sup>85</sup> See Decree No. 2017/167 of 25 April 2017 to renew the term of office of some members of the Electoral Board of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM).

<sup>86</sup> Except that of Barrister **Justin Ebanga Ewodo** who held the office since 2008.

<sup>87</sup> About 15,827,930.74 Euros

<sup>88</sup> About 14,149,950.42 Euros

<sup>89</sup> See Decision No. 1808/ELECAM/DGE of 2 October 2017 to appoint officials of the General Directorate of ELECAM.

<sup>90</sup> See Decision No. 2017/ELECAM/DGE of 2 October 2017

<sup>91</sup> See Decision No. 1809/ELECAM/DGE of 2 October 2017 to appoint officials of ELECAM.

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## 2) Staff Training

**217-** On 30 November and 2 December 2017, ELECAM staff attended a national meeting organised by ELECAM with the support of the UN System. The goal of the meeting was to educate ELECAM staff on how to take proper consideration of women's rights and the rights of vulnerable groups during elections.

**218-** Similarly, members of the Electoral Board and staff of the General Directorate of Elections attended a meeting organised in Yaounde from 6 to 7 December 2017 by the African Centre for International, Diplomatic, Economic and Strategic Studies and the Kofi Annan Foundation to discuss elections.

### C: Guaranteeing the Right to vote

**219-** In 2017, periodic updates of the electoral register and the distribution of voter's cards thereto were some of the actions taken to guarantee the right to vote. In this connection, registration continued from 2 January to 31 August 2017 both in and out of the country. The table below contains registration progress as at 30 December 2017:

**Table 2: Summary of registration per gender as at 30 December 2017**

Region	Women	Men	Total
Adamawa	183,690	226,454	<b>410,144</b>
Centre	465,482	608,252	<b>1,073,734</b>
East	139,830	174,204	<b>314,034</b>
Far North	549,885	553,740	<b>1,103,625</b>
Littoral	368,019	502,967	<b>870,986</b>
North	313,535	343,694	<b>657,229</b>
North West	309,654	269,181	<b>578,835</b>
West	372,037	328,030	<b>700,067</b>
South	112,479	136,822	<b>249,301</b>
South West	169,834	198,907	<b>368,741</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,984,445</b>	<b>3,342,251</b>	<b>6,326,696</b>

Source: ELECAM

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**Table 3: Registration per disability approach as at 30 December 2017**

Region	Women	Men	Total
Adamawa	508	1,417	<b>1,925</b>
Centre	1,636	3,763	<b>5,399</b>
East	414	943	<b>1,357</b>
Far North	2,598	4,437	<b>7,035</b>
Littoral	1,080	2,595	<b>3,675</b>
North	1,843	2,930	<b>4,773</b>
North West	813	1,510	<b>2,323</b>
West	354	579	<b>933</b>
South	435	844	<b>1,279</b>
South West	377	874	<b>1,251</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,058</b>	<b>19,892</b>	<b>29,950</b>

Source: ELECAM

**220-** Cameroonians based and resident abroad continued to register in diplomatic missions. In this regard, 12,585 voters resident abroad were registered, including 4,492 women and 8,092 men as at 30 December 2017. The deployment of ELECAM Focal Points to some diplomatic missions could step up the number of registered Cameroonian voters living in the Diaspora.

## §2: Exercice of Electoral Mandate

**221-** The terms of office of some representatives of the people were interrupted in 2017 either by incompatibility<sup>92</sup> or death<sup>93</sup>. In this regard,

<sup>92</sup> As a follow up to his appointment as Chair of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism by Decree No. 2017/95 of 15 March 2017, Mr. **Peter Mafany Musonge** resigned from the Senate and as the Chief Whip of the Parliamentary Group of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM): He resigned in compliance with section 22 of the Law of 10 June 2013 on the Standing Orders of the Senate which provides, "The position of Senator shall be incompatible with the duties of member of Government and similar positions. member of the Constitutional Council. member of the Economic and Social Council. Mayor, Government Delegate to a City Council, Chairperson of the Regional Council, any non-elective public function, as well as President of the Consular Chamber".

<sup>93</sup> Out of the 180 Parliamentarians elected on 30 September 2013, 3 of them, all CPDM Parliamentarians, passed on in the following order: Honourable **Joseph Mboui**, Parliamentarian from Sanaga-Maritime constituency, Littoral Region died on 27 February 2017, Honourable **Madjele** from North Mayo-Kani constituency, Far North Region died on 14 May 2017, and Honourable **Arthur Lisinge Ekeke** from the Buea Urban Centre constituency, South West Region died on 10 October 2017.

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substantive members of councils were replaced while in Parliament<sup>94</sup>, new members were not called up to continue interrupted terms of office.

**222-** Concerning the 4 Mayors whose term of office was interrupted in 2017 as a result of death<sup>95</sup>, their replacement was organised by Councillors and homologated by administrative authorities.

**223-** The process of replacing deceased Mayors was sometimes hindered by the late declaration of the vacancy by Municipal Councillors<sup>96</sup> through a Resolution notified on the administrative authority.

### §3: Sustainability of Political Pluralism

**224-** Political dynamism was characterised by the formation of new political parties, public financing of political parties represented in Parliament and Councils, capacity development of media actions, and expression of political parties during coverage of future elections.

#### A: Legalisation of new Political Parties

**225-** The number of political parties increased from 303 in 2016 to 309 in 2017. The 6 new political parties formed are contained in the table below:

<sup>94</sup> Section 155 (1) of Law No. 2012/1 of 19 April 2012 relating to the Electoral Code provides, "Where one or more seats become vacant in a constituency either because of the death, resignation of the substantive or alternate member, or for any other reason, by-elections shall be held within a period of 12 (twelve) months following the occurrence of the vacancy."

<sup>95</sup> Thus, Mr. **Koulagna Nana**, Mayor of the National Union for Democracy and Progress (NUDP) for Touboro Council, Mayo-Rey Division, died on 22 July 2017. While waiting for the Order to appoint a new Mayor, Mrs **Rose Yongba**, the then 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Mayor was acting Mayor. Similarly, Mr. **Khan Payne Elroy Moses**, Mayor of Santa Council died on 15 September 2017. On 31 January 2018, he was officially replaced by Mr. **Samkie Elvis Gahnyam II**, who was then 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Mayor. In addition, Mr. **Paul Martin Lolo**, Mayor of the CPDM for Yaounde VI Council, Mfoundi Division, died on 10 January 2017. He was replaced by Mr. **Jacques Yoki Onana** on 10 August 2017, then 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor. Besides, Mr. **Daniel Fidel Betambo**, Mayor of the CPDM for Ndobian Council, Nkam Division, died on 4 December 2017. While waiting for the Order to appoint a new Mayor, Mrs. **Fandja Odette Tondji**, then 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Mayor was acting Mayor.

<sup>96</sup> Section 70 (1) of Law No. 2004/18 of 22 July 2004 to lay down rules applicable to Councils provides,

*"In the event of death, resignation or dismissal of a mayor or deputy mayor, the council shall be convened to elect a new mayor or deputy mayor within (60) sixty days following such death, resignation or dismissal)"*

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**Table 4: Political parties legalised in 2017**

Denomination	Abbreviation	Date of legalisation	Headquarters
<i>Parti National des Patriotes Camerounais</i>	PNPC	31 July	Yaounde
Party for Cameroon Democratic Change	PCDC	12 August	Nkambe
<i>Solidarité pour la Libération des Barrières du Cameroun</i>	SLBC	25 September	Songmbengue
National Program for Peace in Cameroon	NPPC	28 September	Douala
<i>Debout Le Cameroun</i>	DLC	14 November	Yaounde
<i>Parti Républicain du Peuple</i>	PRC	28 December	Yaounde

**Source:** MINATD

**226-** Besides, political parties were financed by the State.

## **B: Public Financing of Political Parties**

**227-** In 2017, a subvention of CFAF1,500,000,000<sup>97</sup> equivalent to that of 2016, was granted by the State for the financing of 31 political parties<sup>98</sup>. The same terms and conditions were laid down since the beginning of the 2013-2018 legislative period.

## **C: Technical Capacity Development of other Stakeholders of the Electoral Process**

**228-** Since the media professional is a key stakeholder especially regarding the transparency of elections, a seminar was organised from 17 to 18 May 2017 in Ebolowa by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa in partnership with ELECAM, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the United Nations Information Centre. The seminar that was on the Electoral Code brought together more than 60 media professionals from Centre, South, East, Littoral and West Regions.

## **D: Exercising Freedom of Assembly and Public Demonstrations by Political Parties: striking a balance between freedom and security**

**229-** Finding a balance between freedom and security was characterised by the expression of freedom of assembly and demonstrations by

<sup>97</sup> About 2,288,154.98 Euros

<sup>98</sup> See 2014 Report §182-187 and 2016 Report, §188.



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political parties. In 2017, some demonstrations<sup>99</sup> were authorised while others were prohibited.

**230-** As regards public meetings, the Declaration of public assembly of 21 June 2017 by the *Union des Populations du Cameroun*<sup>100</sup> (UPC) in Yaounde II Subdivision that was authorised by the Administrative Authority can be cited.

**231-** In 2017, administrative authorities<sup>101</sup> rejected many applications for demonstration by the Social Democratic Front (SDF). On 6 October 2017, for example, the regional Chair of SDF for Littoral Region applied for authorisation of assembly before the Subdivisional Officer for Douala I Subdivision to enable the SDF to express their solidarity with the people of North West and South West Regions. On 12 October 2017, an acknowledgment of receipt of Declaration of assembly with the temporary occupation of the public highway was issued. The planned demonstration was to be held on 21 October 2017 at 1:00pm in the form of a meeting followed by a procession along a defined itinerary by the organisers and duly approved. By press release No. 74/CP/C19/01/SP of 19 October 2017, the said Authority prohibited the holding of the demonstration<sup>102</sup> on the ground that *"it would disturb public order and seriously threatened the security of persons and property"*.

**232-** Following the prohibition of the said meeting, an appeal by the SDF Littoral Office was filed before the Administrative Court Douala to uplift same. The matter was pending before the said court as at 31 December 2017.

<sup>99</sup> It is difficult for Central Services to provide statistics due to the fact that declarations of public meetings and demonstrations are deposited and processed by decentralised services of the State and the forwarding of information is still not systematic.

<sup>100</sup> The promoter was Mr. **Victor Onana**, Chair of UPC Steering Committee.

<sup>101</sup> In February 2017, the SDF undertook to organise a meeting to raise awareness on federalism followed by a peaceful procession in the streets in Douala. The same Subdivisional Officer for Douala V Subdivision prohibited the said demonstration on security grounds.

<sup>102</sup> It should be noted that dissemination of biased messages especially in social networks, and rebellious tracks stating that the organisers intended to deviate from the subject matter and turn it into a framework for untimely claims and inciting the population to revolt and insurrection under the pretext that they are denouncing alleged *"large-scale massacres"* carried out in North West and South West Regions, a reportedly militarization of the said Regions and so-called *"massive deportation"* of the population.

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## SECTION 3: CONTINUED DECENTRALIZATION

**233-** In addition to the transfer of resources from the State to Councils, progress in decentralization was characterised by valuing social and solidarity-based economy, and promotion of local development.

### §1: Resources legally transferred to Councils

**234-** The State transferred resources to Councils through the Global Decentralization Budget<sup>103</sup> and tax shift (transfer of taxes).

#### A: Provision of Assessments of the Global Decentralization Budget

**235-** The distribution of the Global Decentralization Budget for the 2017 financial year is presented in the table below:

**Table 5: Distribution of the global current budget votes for the 2017 financial year**

Description	Amount in CFAF
Remuneration of Councillors	3,000,000,000 <sup>104</sup>
Running of the National Decentralization Council	190,000,000 <sup>105</sup>
Running of the Interministerial Committee on Local Services	210,000,000 <sup>106</sup>
Running of the National Local Finance Committee	40,000,000 <sup>107</sup>
Running of the Interministerial Commission on Decentralised Cooperation	30,000,000 <sup>108</sup>
Financing Regional Training Workshops of council officials on the budget programme	80,000,000 <sup>109</sup>
Support to the National Training Programme on city trades	40,000,000
Support to the running of existing Council Trade Unions	30,000,000
Running of decentralised services of the State that support Councils	180,000,000 <sup>110</sup>
Special running or emergency expenditure of some Councils	1,200,000,000 <sup>111</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000,000,000<sup>112</sup></b>

**Source:** Prime Minister's Office

<sup>103</sup> As per Decree No. 2017/670/PM of 22 February 2017 to lay down the distribution of the General Decentralization Budget for 2017 financial year, the amount of the Global Decentralization Budget for the 2017 financial year was the same as that of the 2016 financial year worth CFAF10,000,000,000 (About 15,254,366.56 Euros), representing 0.28% of the State budget.

<sup>104</sup> About 4,576,309.97 Euros

<sup>105</sup> About 289,832.96 Euros

<sup>106</sup> About 320,341.70 Euros

<sup>107</sup> About 61,017.47 Euros

<sup>108</sup> About 45,763.10 Euros

<sup>109</sup> About 122,034.93 Euros

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**236-** As regards operating budget<sup>113</sup>, and with an allocation of CFAF3,000,000,000, payment of benefits and allowances provided for by Decree No. 2015/405 of 16 September 2015 to lay down the terms and conditions of remuneration of Government Delegates, Mayors and their Deputies was started<sup>114</sup>.

**237-** In this connection, salaries of the first 3 months were paid to 900 Government Delegates, Mayors and their Deputies out of the 1,305 files expected by the Committee in charge of monitoring procedures on payment of salaries of Councillors. At the end of 2017, some 1,105 files relating thereto were processed and 200 are pending.

**238-** The Global Investment Budget is for the financing of the following Projects selected in Councils deemed to be priority Councils for the 2017 financial year:

**Table 6: Distribution of the investment budget for the 2017 financial year**

Project	Amount in CFAF
Construction, rehabilitation, equipment of classrooms, latrines, and houses for teaching staff on standby duty	1,000,000,000 <sup>115</sup>
Construction, rehabilitation, and equipment of Health Centres, latrines, and houses for medical staff on standby duty	1,000,000,000
Drilling of boreholes, and water supply	1,000,000,000
Electrification	1,000,000,000
Road maintenance and construction of utility crossings	500,000,000 <sup>116</sup>
Construction of trader equipment	500,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000,000,000<sup>117</sup></b>

**Source:** Prime Minister's Office

<sup>110</sup> About 274,578.60 Euros

<sup>111</sup> About 1,830,523.99 Euros

<sup>112</sup> About 7,627,183.28 Euros

<sup>113</sup> As part of the Global Current Budget Votes for the 2016 and 2017 financial years, some CFAF2,300,000 were also distributed to low income Councils or Councils exposed to specific constraints.

<sup>114</sup> Since the first quarter of 2017, Mayors and their Deputies receive a monthly salary.

<sup>115</sup> About 1,525,436.66 Euros

<sup>116</sup> About 762,718.33 Euros

<sup>117</sup> About 7,627,183.28 Euros

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**239-** In order to support investment in Councils that are most exposed to cross-border conflicts and social crisis, the Rapid Impact Project was drawn up by MINATD. The initiative worth CFAF4,700,000,000<sup>118</sup> and financed by the Embassy of France to Cameroon, was implemented in 2017 in 48 Councils in Far North Region through 107 Projects.

## **B: Tax shift to finance Local Development**

**240-** Local tax revenue collected during the first 3 quarters of 2017 stood at CFAF153,245,000,000<sup>119</sup> and CFAF95,365,000,000<sup>120</sup> was effectively paid.

**241-** Thus, the State transferred the windscreen tax, the Local Development Tax, a quota of the Council Tax, and a quota of the Annual Timber Royalty<sup>121</sup>. The amount for the taxes collected by the Public Treasury and the Special Council Fund (FEICOM) stood at CFAF 337,000,000,000<sup>122</sup> and was paid to Councils. In 5 years, the State paid CFAF600,000,000,000<sup>123</sup> to Councils under transfer of financial resources. As at 15 December 2017, FEICOM<sup>124</sup> collected CFAF108,800,000,000<sup>125</sup> out of the estimated CFAF107,300,000,000<sup>126</sup>.

**242-** Resources from equalization<sup>127</sup> financed development operations in devastated border Councils in Far North Region.

<sup>118</sup> About 7, 169, 552. 28 Euros

<sup>119</sup> About 233,765,540.38 Euros

<sup>120</sup> About 145,473,266.72 Euros

<sup>121</sup> By so doing, instead of distributing the 10% quota to Councils, the 2017 finance Law rather allocated one quarter of the Council quota to development projects conceived by the local population, representing 6.75%. Such upturn did not in any way, meet the requirements of the people who still request payment of their 10%.

<sup>122</sup> About 514, 072, 153. 15 Euros

<sup>123</sup> About 915, 261, 993. 74 Euros

<sup>124</sup> A comparative analysis shows that resource mobilisation in 2017 dropped compared to 2016. Indeed, in 2016, FEICOM mobilised CFAF110,745,000,000 (About 168,934,482.49 Euros) out of an annual estimate of CFAF105,211,000,000 (About 160,492,716.04 Euros) , representing a mobilisation rate of 105.25%.

<sup>125</sup> About 165,967,508.20 Euros

<sup>126</sup> About 163,679,353.21 Euros

<sup>127</sup> Council taxes governed by the equalization system are collected by FEICOM and distributed according to Council status, especially depending on the population.

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## §2: Valuing Social and Solidarity-based Economy

**243-** Councils grouped themselves into a network as part of the social and solidarity-based economy. Thus, as at 31 December 2017, the Network of Mayors of Cameroon for Social and Solidarity-based Economy<sup>128</sup> (REMCESS) had 68 member Councils out of the 360 Councils nationwide.

**244-** The said Network organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Councils for Social and Solidarity-based Economy from 25 to 26 January 2017 in Yaounde as part of the *Social Innovation and Decentralization: consolidation and valuing synergies between social and solidarity-based economy and decentralised authorities in Cameroon Programme*<sup>129</sup>.

**245-** Some 280 persons including members of the *Réseau des Territoires français de l'Économie Sociale*<sup>130</sup>, the NGO, *Partenariat France-Afrique pour le Co-développement (PFAC)*<sup>131</sup>, the International Association of French-speaking Mayors, and its local partners attended the meeting.

**246-** In a bid to step up discussions<sup>132</sup> on the development of Social and Solidarity-based Economy of Councils, Mayors adopted the 2017 strategic road map<sup>133</sup> and the 2017 REMCESS activities Strategy Paper<sup>134</sup>.

<sup>128</sup> REMCESS that was legalised on 23 September 2016 is an Association of Mayors that aims at developing social and solidarity-based economy in the 10 Regions of the country.

<sup>129</sup> The Programme that kicked off in 2016 and financed by the France and Africa for Co-development Partnership to the tune of 221,615 Euros (About CFAF145,157,825), aims at promoting Social and Solidarity-based Economy in Cameroon. Operational Partners of the Programme include the National Community-driven Programme, the United Councils and Cities of Cameroon, MINPMEESA and the SOS Group.

<sup>130</sup> It initiated and led 2 Decentralised Cooperation Projects in Guinea Conakry and Senegal.

<sup>131</sup> The NGO governed by French Law was authorised to operate in Cameroon in 2000. The Cameroon Office of the NGO organised the 1<sup>st</sup> International Colloquium on social Economy in Cameroon in June 2006.

<sup>132</sup> Mayors discussed best practices on SSE in the territories such as France and Morocco, and in towns such as Dschang and Ngomedzap.

<sup>133</sup> The 2017 roadmap focuses on the following 4 main thrusts: political commitment of Councillors of REMCESS; Council staff training to support the Social and Solidarity-based Economy (SSE) in Cameroon; designing Projects geared towards local development; and a National Advocacy on community-driven construction of the SSE and adoption of a framework law on SSE in Cameroon

<sup>134</sup> The 4 specific goals of the Network defined by the 2017 REMCESS Strategy Paper include draw-

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**247-** The 2<sup>nd</sup> REMCESS General Assembly was organised on 26 September 2017. In this regard, members of the Executive Bureau increased from 9 to 12<sup>135</sup>. At the end of deliberations, the General Assembly authorised the Executive Bureau to finalise draft Agreements with PFAC<sup>136</sup> and the Network of Social and Solidarity-based Economy of Morocco (REMESS).

### §3: Organisation of the Council Forum

**248-** The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Vitrine du Cameroun-Salon de l'Action Gouvernementale (SAGO)* held from 25 to 30 July 2017 in Yaounde under the theme: *National Unity, management of outreach and balanced inter-regional development of Cameroon*. The main innovation was the holding of the 1<sup>st</sup> Local Councils Forum under the theme: *"Councils and development of Cameroon"*, organised by the United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (UCCC).

**249-** The goal of the Forum was to share experiences in the management of towns between local and foreign councils. The conferences held focused on decentralisation and local development with the UCCC vision on decentralisation; financing local development<sup>137</sup> and localisation of Sustainable Development Goals in Cameroon.

**250-** Exchange and contact points for exhibitors and stands were made available to Councils per Region to enable them exhibit their know-how.

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ing up a Council Support Strategy for the SSE; Advocating the designing of SSE public policies in Councils; involving members of the Network in the partnership drive in the international SSE ecosystem; and developing a dynamic Network that enables the sustainability of actions taken for the SSE in Councils.

<sup>135</sup> The Bamenda I, Ngaoundere II, and Yagoua Councils were voted into the Executive Bureau.

<sup>136</sup> The major thrusts of the draft Agreement focused on the support role to consolidate SSE structures in a partnership drive by the 2 stakeholders.

<sup>137</sup> According to MINATD, the funds allocated to Councils by Government since 2010 as part of decentralization stand at CFAF400,000,000,000 (About 610,174,068.50 Euros), representing 10% of the State budget in 7 years.

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**251-** On the whole, access to the Public Service in 2017 was characterised by the continuous consideration of equity, in spite of the fact that 133 vacant positions were not filled, representing a non-achievement rate of 7%. However, the inclusion drive may be enhanced with the formal integration of the disability and vulnerable indigenous peoples approach.

**252-** While waiting for the next elections, the electoral system was consolidated by the continuous mobilisation of the people in spite of the challenges in registering Cameroonians of the Diaspora on the electoral register.

**253-** Regarding decentralisation, the people's representatives continued to work in compliance with the political framework of the Nation with a view to providing efficient and effective local public service in spite of the financial challenges relating especially to the transfer of resources by the State to Councils.

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## CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

**254-** On the whole, 2017 was characterised by the continued implementation of measures to prevent violation of Human Rights, enhancement of the participation of the people in the management of public affairs, and regulation of activities of press organs. The sanctions and sentences delivered against some law enforcement officials further guaranteed protection of the said rights.

**255-** Although such efforts may be appreciated, serious challenges are still to be addressed such as the operational consolidation of the electoral process given the stakes of future elections, stepping up the management of taxes transferred to Councils, and enhancement of the allocation of public assistance to private communication. In the same line, more efforts need to be made in the repression of acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment or treatment, as well as combating judicial delays.

**256-** The indivisibility of Human Rights requires streamlining the different components in their implementation. In this regard, issues relating to civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights need to be addressed.



**PART TWO**

**ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND  
CULTURAL RIGHTS AND  
RIGHT TO A HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT**



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART TWO

**257-** Economic, social and cultural rights were implemented through general and specific measures taken to guarantee rights including the right to education nationwide. Efforts were also made to promote the right to health through consolidation of international cooperation. Besides, in a bid to provide the basic needs of the people, steps were taken towards providing sufficient food, water, energy and decent housing.

**258-** Government further focused on decent work and strengthening social security, and ensuring that the people live in a healthy environment and have access to leisure.

**259-** All these aspects are developed in the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Right to education;
- Chapter 2: Right to health;
- Chapter 3: Right to an adequate standard of living;
- Chapter 4: Right to work and social security;
- Chapter 5: Right to culture and leisure; and
- Chapter 6: Right to a healthy environment.



Chapter

1

RIGHT TO EDUCATION



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**260-** In 2017, the right to education was guaranteed in a context of security concerns in some Regions of the country. The weakening of *Boko Haram* resulted in a progressive return to normalcy in the education sector in Far North Region. However, repeated attempts by some activists in the crisis in North West and South West Regions to hamper the normal conduct of education activities through threats to members of the education community and destruction of some infrastructure obliged the State to take readjustment measures in order to continue to guarantee education at all levels.

## SECTION 1: BASIC EDUCATION

**261-** In 2017, the budget of the Ministry of Basic Education<sup>138</sup> stood at CFAF222,122,500,000<sup>139</sup> as against CFAF206,160,000,000<sup>140</sup> in 2016, representing an increase of CFAF15,962,500,000<sup>141</sup> in real terms and 0.78% in relative terms. The budget was used to consolidate nursery education, guarantee the effectiveness of primary education in the English-speaking and French-speaking subsystems, and promote literacy and informal basic education.

### §1: Right to Education at Nursery Level

**262-** The Nursery Education Support Programme implemented since 2015 continued. In this connection, more support was given to community-based nurseries<sup>142</sup>, and nursery education supply was enhanced although nursery education indicators varied.

<sup>138</sup>As part of the decentralization process, CFAF9,618,000,000 (About 14,671,649.76 Euros) was transferred to Councils for the construction, rehabilitation and equipment of classrooms in 2017 as against CFAF9,300,000,000 (About 14,186,560.90 Euros) in 2016, representing an increase of CFAF318,000,000 (About 485,088.86 Euros) in absolute terms and 0.3% in relative terms. Besides, the amount allocated for the acquisition of the minimum package was the same as that of 2016; that is, CFAF2,085,553,000 (About 3,181,378.99 Euros). It should be noted that the delivery of the minimum package to all Councils registered a drop that was prejudicial to the proper functioning of schools in spite of the instructions of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Basic Education.

<sup>139</sup> About 338,833,803.68 Euros.

<sup>140</sup> About 314,484,021.05 Euros

<sup>141</sup> About 24,349,782.62 Euros

<sup>142</sup> Community-based nurseries refer to nurseries found in communities or villages, and very often in Priority Education Areas. Generally, they recruit local education staff and are peculiar in that there is a high level of parent participation as an integral part of its functioning.

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## A: Support to Community-based Nurseries

**263-** In a bid to extend nursery education coverage through development of community experience for people living in rural areas, 10 Community Nursery Centres (CNC) were built and equipped. Besides, 2,000 copies of the Nursery Education Support Programme Policy Paper were produced and distributed<sup>143</sup>.

## B: Varied Evolution of Nursery Education Supply

**264-** In a bid to enhance public nursery education supply, 50 new nurseries and 10 latrines were built, 25 nursery classroom blocks were built and equipped as well as 55 nursery classrooms.

**265-** In 2016/2017 academic year, there were 8,914 new nurseries nationwide broken down as follows: 3,957 public nurseries, 4,727 private nurseries, and 230 CNCs as against 9,660 nurseries in 2015/2016 academic year including 4,029 public nurseries and 5,631 private nurseries.

**266-** According to Subsystem, in 2016/2017 academic year, there were 5,701 French-speaking nurseries and 3,213 English-speaking nurseries. In addition, 4,667 nurseries were in urban areas while 4,247 nurseries were in rural areas.

**267-** The number of classrooms, seats and teachers per Subsystem for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years is shown in the table below:

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<sup>143</sup>The copies were distributed solely to the following stakeholders of the supervision chain concerned: Regional and Divisional Delegates, Subdivisional Inspectorates, and Community Nursery Education Centres. It should be noted that the Nursery Education Support Programme focuses on the following 3 points: support to community-based nursery education, enhancement of public nursery education supply, and improvement of nursery education indicators.



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**Table 1: Number of classrooms per Subsystem in nursery education in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years**

No.	Subsystem		Number of classrooms
1	English-speaking	2015/2016	7,325
		2016/2017	6,355
2	French-speaking	2015/2016	10,164
		2016/2017	9,763
TOTAL		2015/2016	17,489
		2016/2017	16,118

Source: MINEDUB

**268-** According to type of education, in 2016/2017 academic year, there were 5,005 classrooms for public nurseries and 11,113 for private nurseries, meanwhile, in 2015/2016 academic year, there were 5,027 classrooms for public nurseries and 12,282 for private nurseries.

**Table 2: Number of classrooms per location of nurseries in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years**

No.	Area of existence of nurseries		Number of classrooms
1	Rural	2015/2016	6,045
		2016/2017	5,474
2	Urban	2015/2016	11,444
		2016/2017	10,644
TOTAL		2015/2016	17,489
		2016/2017	16,118

Source: MINEDUB

**269-** Concerning equipment of classrooms per Subsystem, the number of chairs and tables in nurseries stood at 393,382 in the French-speaking Subsystem and 181,278 in the English-speaking Subsystem in 2016/2017 academic year as against 393,688 in the French-speaking Subsystem and 196,933 in the English-speaking Subsystem in 2015/2016 academic year.

**270-** Concerning type of education, in 2016/2017 academic year, there were 205,598 tables and chairs for public nurseries, 366,925 for private nurseries and 2,054 for CNCs. In addition, 402,220 tables

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and chairs were available in urban areas as against 173,533 in rural areas.

**271-** The number of seats per subsystem and per area of existence is shown in the tables below:

**Table 3: Seats in nurseries per Subsystem in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years**

No.	Subsystem		Number of seats
1	English-speaking	2015/2016	196,933
		2016/2017	182,371
2	French-speaking	2015/2016	394,688
		2016/2017	393,382
<b>Total</b>		2015/2016	591,621
		2016/2017	572,733

**Source:** MINEDUB

**272-** According to type of education, in 2016/2017 academic year, there were 205,598 seats in public nurseries and 366,924 in private nurseries as against 202,762 seats in public nurseries and 386,849 seats in private nurseries in 2015/2016 academic year.

**Table 4: Number of seats in nurseries per location in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years**

No.	Area of existence		Number of seats
1	Rural	2015/2016	180,597
		2016/2017	173,533
2	Urban	2015/2016	411,024
		2016/2017	402,220
<b>Total</b>		2015/2016	591,621
		2016/2017	575,753

**Source:** MINEDUB

**273-** The distribution of teachers per subsystem and per area of existence is shown in the table below:

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**Table 5: Distribution of teachers of public nurseries per Subsystem in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years**

No.	Subsystem		Teaching staff
1	English-speaking	2015/2016	2,906
		2016/2017	2,792
2	French-speaking	2015/2016	7,780
		2016/2017	7,468
Total		2015/2016	10,686
		2016/2017	10,260

Source: MINEDUB

**274-** According to type of education, in 2016/2017 academic year, there were 10,260 teachers in public nurseries<sup>144</sup> (145 men and 10,115 women), 15,042 teachers in private nurseries (574 men and 14,741 women) and 246 in CNCs (21 men and 225 women) as against 27,011 teachers in 2015/2016 academic year.

**Table 6: Distribution of nursery teachers per location in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years**

No.	Area of existence		Teaching staff
1	Rural	2015/2016	5,365
		2016/2017	5,077
2	urban	2015/2016	5,321
		2016/2017	5,183
TOTAL		2015/2016	10,686
		2016/2017	10,260

Source: MINEDUB

**275-** Although indicators show a drop in nursery education supply, demand was high. Indeed, the number of nursery kids increased from 526,947 in 2015/2016 academic year to 555,810 kids<sup>145</sup> in 2016/2017 academic year, representing an increase of 28,863 kids in real terms and 5.19% in relative terms.

<sup>144</sup> That is, 7,468 teachers for the French-speaking public nurseries and 2,792 teachers for the English-speaking public nurseries. In addition, out of the 10,260 teachers registered in public nurseries, 5,183 were distributed in urban areas and 5,077 in rural areas in 2016/2017 academic year.

<sup>145</sup> That is, 207,053 for public nurseries (representing 103,468 girls and 103,583 boys) and 348,757 for private nurseries (representing 174,401 girls and 174,356 boys).

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**276-** In addition, access to nursery education was high as school manuals were distributed to teachers and kids including 250,995 Drawing Workbooks, 252,207 Mathematics Workbooks and 250,818 Colouring Workbooks.

## §2: Right to Primary Education

**277-** Implementation of the strategy of universalisation of primary education<sup>146</sup> as defined in the Education and Training Sector Strategy Paper (2013-2020) faced challenges regarding enhancement of public supply, improvement of the quality, and the efficiency of primary education.

### A: Enhancement of Public Education Supply

**278-** In a bid to enhance education supply, more infrastructure was built and equipment provided. In spite of the strides made, the indicators of both public and private supply were unsteady.

#### 1) Public Primary Education Supply

**279-** The constitutive elements of public primary education supply fluctuated both in terms of infrastructure and staff strength.

#### a) Infrastructure and Equipment in Public Primary Schools

**280-** In 2016/2017 academic year, 100 new schools were opened, 18 had their status changed<sup>147</sup>, 164 split<sup>148</sup>, 25 school walls, 114 latrines, 969 classrooms built and equipped, and 36 public primary schools rehabilitated.

<sup>146</sup> The strategic guidelines of the education policy in Cameroon focus on 3 main thrusts: access to equity, quality and relevance, and governance and management of the education system. The implementation of the guidelines requires enhancing education offer in public primary schools, improving quality and efficiency and support to the schooling of young girls.

<sup>147</sup> The status of a school may be changed by order of the Minister of Basic Education in one of the following circumstances:

- the status of a public primary school is changed into that of a practising primary school. In such case, student teachers from Government Teacher Training Colleges are admitted there for teaching practice;
- the status of a public primary school is changed into that of an inclusive public primary school. In such case, it admits pupils with minor disabilities.

<sup>148</sup> Split means the establishment of new school groups in one school with a large number of teachers for better supervision of pupils.

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**281-** Facilities were also provided in many primary schools under the 2 subsystems as shown in the table below:

**Table 7: Number of schools with facilities in the English-speaking and French-speaking Subsystems in 2016/2017 academic year**

No.	Subsystem	Facility	Number of schools
1	<b>English-speaking</b>	Electricity	1,724
		Drinking water	2,482
		Toilet	3,601
2	<b>French-speaking</b>	Electricity	3,017
		Drinking water	4,961
		Toilet	7,366

**Source:** MINEDUB

**282-** In addition to such achievements, the development of constitutive elements of education supply in 2016/2017 academic year as compared to that of 2015/2016 academic year stood as follows:

**283-** Concerning infrastructure in the 2 subsystems, the number of schools stood at 12,603 in 2015/2016 academic year as compared to 12,631 in 2016/2017 academic year. Some 53,199 classrooms were built in 2015/2016 academic year as compared to 52,584 in 2016/2017 academic year.

**284-** Provision of equipment in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years is shown in the table below:

**Table 8: Provision of equipment in the English-speaking and French-speaking Subsystems in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years**

No.	Subsystem	Academic year	Equipment	Total
1	<b>English-speaking</b>	2015/2016	Tables + chairs for pupils	976,382
			Blackboards	33,902
			Tables + chairs for teachers	32,321
		2016/2017	Tables + chairs for pupils	887,490
			Blackboards	29,281
			Lockers	7,609
		Tables + chairs for teachers	28,241	
		2015/2016	Tables + chairs for pupils	2,625,669
			Blackboards	71,362
			Tables + chairs for teachers	43,459

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2	French-speaking	2016/2017	Tables + chairs for pupils	2,555,928
			Blackboards	67,261
			Lockers	13,569
			Tables + chairs for teachers	41,614

**Source:** MINEDUB

**285-** Besides, there were 2,246,169 seats in 2015/2016 academic year as against 2,213,809 seats in 2016/2017 academic year.

## b) Teaching Staff

**286-** The number of teachers increased from 60,357 in 2013/2014 academic year to 66,264 in 2015/2016 academic year and later dropped to 61,192 in 2016/2017 academic year. The drop was due to failure to numerically replace teachers who had left, in spite of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of recruitment of 2,970 new teachers near completion, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> contract employment programme of 9,000 teachers into the Public Service with the support of the World Bank.

## 2) Education Supply in Private Primary School

**287-** In spite of increased subvention to private primary schools from CFAF1,816,000,000<sup>149</sup> in 2015/2016 academic year to CFAF1,852,990,000<sup>150</sup> in 2016/2017 academic year, many schooling indicators dropped. The number of schools registered in 2015/2016 academic year dropped from 7,108 in 2015/2016 academic year to 6,127 in 2016/2017 academic year, while the number of classrooms dropped from 34,395 to 30,977 respectively. In the same line, the number of seats dropped from 1,355,882 in 2015/2016 academic year to 1,229,609 in 2016/2017 academic year, and the number of teachers dropped from 39,444 in 2015/2016<sup>151</sup> academic year to 36,792 in 2016/2017 academic year.

<sup>149</sup>About 2,770,192.97 Euros

<sup>150</sup>About 2,826,618.87 Euros

<sup>151</sup>The drop in infrastructure and attendance indicators in the 2016/2017 academic year resulted from the crisis in North West and South West Regions.

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## **B: Increase in Demand**

**288-** The number of pupils increased from 4,371,381 in 2015/2016 academic year to 4,481,235 in 2016/2017 academic year.

**289-** In addition, to meet the demand, 650,000 essential reading (English and French) and Mathematics manuals were distributed free of charge to all Class 3/CE1 pupils in public primary schools with the support of the World Bank through the Equity and Quality Education Enhancement Programme.

## **C: Quality and Effectiveness of Primary Education**

**290-** In 2017, measures were taken to enhance the quality of education. Results obtained in examinations and award of certificates made it possible to appreciate the effectiveness of primary education.

### **1) Measures to Enhance the Quality of Education**

**291-** In a bid to enhance the quality of primary education, authorities of the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB) focused on consolidating the school map, combating corruption, improving the working conditions of teachers, teaching of national languages, drawing up new syllabuses and capacity development, supporting the education of the girl child and extra-curricular activities.

#### **a) Consolidation of the School Map**

**292-** A total of 305 clandestine private schools were closed down for lack of authorisation in 3 Regions. In Centre Region, 128 schools were closed down, in Littoral Region, 152 and in West Region 19.

#### **b) Combating Corruption**

**293-** Measures to combat corruption centred on the following 2 thrusts: awareness-raising of officials of central and external services of MINE-DUB, and repression. Officials of central services and 11,292 public primary school headmasters representing 87.1% of teachers nationwide were further trained in Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) approach after training in same approach in 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, and 2017/2018 academic years.

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**294-** Besides, in 2017, National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) drew up a Regional Anti-Corruption Plan that involved decentralised services of MINEDUB followed by an evaluation.

**295-** Concerning repression, the RRI made it possible to establish that the perception rate of illegal fees in 2016/2017 academic year stood at 0.02%. Indeed, out of 11,260 Headteachers of public primary schools, 2 were found inefficient and were dismissed from office.

## c) Enhancement of Working Conditions of Teachers

**296-** In a bid to maintain Teachers in their duty stations, 42 houses for teachers and 20 for Head teachers<sup>152</sup> were built in rural areas with the support of the Schooling Support Project in Priority Education Areas<sup>153</sup>. In addition, many Regional and Divisional Delegations and Subdivisional Inspectorates were built and rehabilitated. Besides, in order to facilitate staff movement, 6 four-wheel drive vehicles and 4 motorcycles were purchased for decentralised services. Furthermore, central and external services were equipped with office supplies and computer hardware.

## d) Teaching of National Languages

**297-** Concerning the teaching of national languages, focus was on defining the national languages skills platform and capacity development of the links of the pedagogic supervision chain. The 1<sup>st</sup> experimental phase<sup>154</sup> of the ongoing teaching of national languages in 4 Regions of the country concerns 4 languages, 28 schools and 36 teachers as shown in the table below:

<sup>152</sup> The teacher's quarters were constructed in public schools in the following towns: Babongo, Hore Taram Torbi, Mekomba, Ekol, Sombo, Nnemeyong, Goumbergeron, Gounte Village, Doumrou, Bourha 1, Tonde Village, Massombo, Mbilga, Touroua 2, Doumo, Kinsenjam, Babessi, Mfouladja, Ndonkol, Boanda, Mbu Bakumdu.

<sup>153</sup> The activities were carried out in the following areas: Adamawa, Centre, East, Far North, Littoral, North, North West, South, and South West Regions.

<sup>154</sup>Phase II that is expected to start in 2018 will be slightly extended with a total of 41 schools and a 5<sup>th</sup> national language, *Duala*.



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**Table 9: Teaching of national languages in 2016/2017 academic year**

No.	National language	Region	Number of schools	Number of teachers
1	<i>Bassa</i>	Littoral	6	8
2	<i>Ewondo</i>	Centre	10	12
3	<i>Ffulde</i>	North	6	8
4	<i>Ghomala</i>	West	6	8
<b>Total</b>			28	36

**Source:** MINEDUB

## e) Drawing up of New Syllabuses and Capacity Development of Teachers

**298-** New syllabuses were drawn up to consolidate education. Besides, the capacities of teachers were developed in the mastery of teaching methods and ICTs.

## f) Support to the Education of the Girl Child

**299-** In 2017, support to the education of the girl child was highlighted by the distribution of 3,000 learning kits to girls in *CMI and CMII* in target schools in Education Priority Areas.

**300-** Besides, 26 Gender meeting huts in charge of monitoring the schooling of girls were constructed<sup>155</sup>.

**Table 10: Location of Gender meeting huts in charge of monitoring the schooling of the girl child**

No.	Region	Community	Number of huts
1	Adamawa	Meiganga	8
2	East	Dimako	3
		Mandjou	3
3	Far North	Bogo	1
		Gazawa	1
5	North	Figuil	1
		Pitoa	1
4	North West	Bafut	2
6	West	Koutaba	3
		Foumban	3
<b>Total</b>			26

**Source:** MINEDUB

<sup>155</sup>The construction of Gender meeting huts is an action carried out by the State to optimise awareness-raising of the girl child on schooling. The action carried out in areas where many aspects still hamper the schooling of the girl child, includes discussions bringing together parents, education officials and young girls, on specific issues relating to the education of the girl child so as to find solutions.

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## 2) Effectiveness of Primary Education

**301-** The crisis in North West and South West Regions forced Government to take special adjustment measures to guarantee the effectiveness of the right to education in the said Regions. The measures made it possible to achieve positive results although they are below those of previous years and the national average.

### a) Special Measures to guarantee the Effectiveness of Primary Education in North West and South West Regions

**302-** In a bid to address the effects of the crisis, the following actions were carried out for a better coverage of the school syllabuses in North West and South West Regions:

- extra classes were organised from 4 September to 11 November 2017 to make up for lost time; and
- 15 weeks lessons lost were compressed and covered in 10 weeks with emphasis on key subjects such as Mathematics, English Language, French Language and Sciences; and extension of closing time from 3.30pm to 5.30pm from Monday to Friday, and extra classes organised on Saturdays from 8am to 12 noon.

### b) Results obtained in Examinations and Award of Certificates

**303-** The statistics of results obtained in examinations are shown in the table below:

**Table 11: Examination statistics in 2016 and 2017 sessions**

No.	Examination	2016 Session	2017 Session
1	<i>Certificat d'Etude Primaire (CEP)</i>	Registered	294,123
		Sat	288,921
		Passed	212,508
		% Pass	<b>73.55</b>
2	<b>First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC)</b>	Registered	103,577
		Sat	102,737
		Passed	93,385
		% Pass	<b>90.89</b>
3	<b>Common Entrance (CE)</b>	Registered	92,511
		Sat	91,717
		Passed	80,838
		% Pass	<b>88.13</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

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**304-** In 2016/2017 academic year, 327,000 certificates were awarded.

**305-** On the whole, schooling indicators show that in 2017, admission rate<sup>156</sup> stood at 133%, gross schooling rate<sup>157</sup> stood at 123%, and school completion rate<sup>158</sup> at 76.7%.

## §3: Promotion of Literacy and Informal Basic Education

**306-** In order to make Functional Literacy Centres, and Informal Basic Education Centres more dynamic, infrastructure, strategic, and pedagogic actions were taken.

**307-** Strategically, procedure manuals of the literacy Programme were drawn up. Furthermore, 24,000 persons were taught to read and write in all the Regions of the country in 2017, thereby bringing the total number of persons trained through the programme that started in 2013 to 90,260<sup>159</sup>.

**308-** Pedagogically, seeking tailored actions in literacy programmes, pedagogic supervision of schools, Functional Literacy Centres and Informal Basic Education Centres, training of supervisors of such Centres in the teaching of national languages continued. In addition, Functional Literacy teaching Programmes were drawn up and produced.

**309-** At the level of infrastructure, 30 Functional Literacy Centres were constructed in Adamawa, North and Far North Regions worth CFAF430,000,000<sup>160</sup>.

<sup>156</sup>The admission rate represents the relationship between the number of pupils newly admitted in the 1<sup>st</sup> year in primary school and the number of children of legal school age. In other words, it is the percentage of children admitted in schools in relation to all children of school age.

<sup>157</sup>The gross schooling rate is the relationship between children actually going to school and the population of children of school age.

<sup>158</sup>The school completion rate is the total number of pupils who successfully complete the final year in primary school and the total number of children with the officially prescribed age of completion of primary school.

<sup>159</sup>In 2013, the number stood at 12,000. In 2014, it increased to 14,445, in 2015 to 18,815, and in 2016 to 21,000.

<sup>160</sup>About 655,937.76 Euros

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## SECTION 2: PROMOTION OF THE RIGHT TO SECONDARY EDUCATION

**310-** In a bid to promote the right to education, actions taken by the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC) included consolidation of access to education, and the quality of education offered to make it more efficient.

### §1: Consolidation of Access to Education

**311-** Consolidation of access to education focused on enhancing education supply to adequately meet the increasing demand in spite of the impact of the crisis in North West and South West Regions.

#### A: Enhancing Education Supply

**312-** In 2017, both public and private education supply was consolidated.

#### 1) Enhancement of Public Education Supply

**313-** Enhancement of public education supply included a fair distribution of the school map, construction of infrastructure and purchase of equipment. In addition, teachers from Government Teacher Training Colleges and those specially recruited<sup>161</sup> swelled the staff strength.

#### a) School Distribution Map

**314-** One of the measures taken by MINESEC in the school distribution map consisted in suspending the opening of new public schools while waiting for an updated and reliable school map.

#### b) Construction of Infrastructure and Purchase of Equipment

**315-** Concerning infrastructure development, MINESEC first secured its landed property. In this regard, 541 registration files were submitted to competent services on behalf of schools under the Regional Delegation for Adamawa, East, and South Regions. Besides, 89 buildings of 2 classrooms with ordinary offices, 1 building of 2 classrooms were constructed with local materials in 4 schools in Centre Region, and 15 workshops

<sup>161</sup>Recruitment launched in 2017, but effective in 2018.

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built in Government Technical Colleges (GTC) and Government Technical High Schools (GTHS).

**316-** As regards equipment, 69 schools were equipped with kits of light teaching aids, 92 schools with 184 computers, 84 schools with 5,040 benches and 30 workshops with teaching aids.

## c) Teaching Staff Strength

**317-** The teaching staff strength increased from 67,826 (representing 41,308 men and 26,518 women) in 2014/2015 academic year to 73,144 (representing 44,335 men and 28,809 women) in 2015/2016 academic year, and to 81,825 in 2016/2017 academic year.

## 2) Private Education Supply

**318-** In 2017, the number of private schools stood at 1,637, representing 1,136 general education schools, 377 technical education schools, and 124 teacher training colleges.

**319-** Private secondary education received subventions worth CFAF1,500,000,000<sup>162</sup> which was a special allocation of the Head of State. It was distributed as follows:

- CFAF1,479,487,439<sup>163</sup> to 680 secondary schools;
- CFAF4,204,292<sup>164</sup> to 4 National Offices of Education Secretaries; and
- CFAF16,308,269<sup>165</sup> to all Offices of Education Secretaries.

## B: Increasing Demand

**320-** Available figures showed an enrolment of 2,018,380 students, representing 95%<sup>166</sup> of both public and private secondary schools. With

<sup>162</sup>About 2,288,154.98 Euros

<sup>163</sup>About 2,256,864.37 Euros

<sup>164</sup>About 6,413.38 Euros

<sup>165</sup>About 24,877.23 Euros

<sup>166</sup> Statistics from the North West and South West Regions were still being analysed.

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a steady increase of between 4.5 and 5%, the overall enrolment in 2017 was estimated at slightly more than 2,300,000 students.

## **C: Consequences of the Crisis in North West and South West Regions**

**321-** The crisis in North West and South West Regions had an impact on education supply with attacks on property and violation of the physical integrity of members of the education community.

**322-** In South West Region, in addition to the 38 schools vandalised, 72 public and 12 private schools were not open, 1 boarding school was ransacked and 8 teachers molested, 3 of who were admitted in hospital.

**323-** In North West Region, in addition to the 38 schools vandalised, 86 schools did not register any student while 52 schools registered less than 10 students, 2 principals were molested of which 1 was seriously wounded and admitted in hospital, and 2 service vehicles of principals damaged. Many teachers were molested at Government Bilingual High School, Santa, Government Technical High School, Pinyin, Government Technical College, Mbockevu, and in some schools in Momo Division.

**324-** The situation resulted in massive exodus of students from the Regions concerned to Centre, Littoral and West Regions.

## **§2: Quality of Secondary Education**

**325-** The quality of education service was enhanced with relevant actions geared towards consolidation of pedagogic action, decent work, human resource management, adaptation of training to socio-economic environment, stepping up school orientation and Governance, support to education of the girl child and school health.

## **A: Consolidation of Pedagogic Action**

**326-** In order to consolidate pedagogic action, the revision of syllabuses and pedagogic guides continued. Besides, study programmes of trades in the vehicle assembly chain and cinematography were drawn up, and

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a number of outreach pedagogic supervision of Teachers and refresher courses for Pedagogic Inspectors were organised.

## **B: Enhancement of Working Conditions and Human Resource Management**

**327-** Enhancement of working conditions was characterised by the formation and launch of activities of the Association of Secondary Education Staff, and distribution of Academic Awards to 884 seasoned teachers.

**328-** Concerning human resource management, many actions were taken including consolidation of the payroll and staff strength with 16,530 acts signed and punched into *Application Nationale pour le Traitement Informatique et Logistique du Personnel de l'Etat* (ANTILOPE) system. In addition, career management was also enhanced with 11,000 promotion decisions and 12,153 integration decisions processed automatically. In order to develop the capacities of MI-NESEC staff in software management, 60 staff were trained in the use of *Système Informatique de Gestion Intégrée des Personnels de l'Etat et de la Solde* (SIGIPES) and ANTILOPE.

**329-** Besides, 5,620 graduates from the Higher Teacher Training Colleges and Higher Technical Teacher Training Colleges were posted immediately they completed school. In a bid to improve processing of staff mail, documentation and archives, computerised management software was installed to file 10,000 career decisions.

**330-** With the expression of dissatisfaction observed at the beginning of the year, an *ad hoc* Interministerial Committee was set up to examine the challenges young graduate teachers face concerning processing of their career files and financial payment. Deliberations of the Committee enabled the immediate payment of 10,179 new teachers, and full payment of 13,920 staff, and payment of arrears of 7,302 teachers. The global amount stood at CFAF29,668,663,419<sup>167</sup> between March and December 2017.

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<sup>167</sup>About 45,257,666.72 Euros

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## C: Adapting Training to Socio-economic Environment

**331-** In order to adapt training to the socio-economic environment, efforts made focused on diversification of vocational training and development of entrepreneurship in schools.

### 1) Diversification of Vocational Training

**332-** Diversification of vocational training was characterised by the start of classes in January 2017 at *Lycée Technique et Professionnel Agricole*, Yabassi with 134 students, the drawing up and validation of training requirements in Maintenance of Heavy-duty Vehicles and Assembly that will be implemented along the Douala-Bangui corridor and Douala-Ndjamena corridor, more provision of state-of-the-art workshop equipment in promising sectors such as Motor Mechanics, Sheet Metal, Jewellery at GTHS Bertoua, Surveys at GTHS Bafia, GTHS Bangante, and GTHS Nkambe, Chemical Engineering, Hairdressing-Aesthetics at GTHS Douala-Akwa, Maintenance and Installation of Electronic Systems at GTHS Bertoua, GTHS Garoua, GTHS Nkolbisson, and Sanitary Installation at GTHS Mbalmayo, and GTHS Molyko.

**333-** Furthermore, a Partnership Agreement was signed on 22 June 2017 with Nachtigal Hydro Power Company to enhance training in Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering through consolidation of infrastructure, equipment and material in technical secondary schools in Nachtigal Hydroelectric Project area including GTC Batchenga, GTHS Mbandjock, GTHS Ntui, and GTHS Obala.

### 2) Development of Entrepreneurship in School

**334-** In a bid to entrench schools in the corporate world, information days on the theme "Youth and Enterprises" were organised nationwide. In addition, 410 Teachers completed a traineeship in enterprises for better professionalism, and 1,025 students from promising disciplines were trained both in school and in enterprises.

**335-** Another Agreement was signed on 6 December 2016 with the Inter-professional Group of Cameroon to lay down the conditions of Tech-



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nical and Vocational Education adapted to labour market needs: paid jobs and self-employment. It was published in February 2017.

## D: Enhancement of School Orientation

**336-** In order to enhance school orientation, a psychological support guide for students was drawn up. Similarly, 503 orientation sessions and 33,595 psychological tests were organised for students.

## E: Supporting Education of the Girl Child

**337-** In a bid to promote the fight against gender-based discrimination, a feedback workshop of the Dakar workshop on combating gender-based violence in school was organised in September 2017 with the support of UNESCO and UN-Women. It brought together Principals of schools in Mfoundi Division.

**338-** Concerning the award of excellence, 1,080 scholarships were awarded to female students in science and technology subjects. Besides, there were 93 girls out of the 293 laureates who ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in national or regional official examinations and awarded prizes during the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Award of Excellence organised in October 2017 by MI-NESEC.

**339-** Gender was integrated in the promotion of sports excellence both at the level of selected disciplines for the national finals of Federation of National School Games (FENASSCO) League "A" Games and at the level of the number of athletes taking into account full gender equality. Thus, in the 2017 edition held in Buea, 10 sports disciplines were selected both for boys and girls while 940 girls were selected out of the 1,880 athletes, representing 50%.

## F: School Health

**340-** Many health actions were carried out for students in secondary schools. In this connection, vaccination campaigns against cancer of the cervix in girls between 9 and 13 years old were organised in schools in the health districts of Edea, Foumban, and Yaounde for 26,606 students. Furthermore, on the sidelines of the 2017 FENASSCO Games in Buea, an awareness-raising and HIV screening campaign was organ-

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ised for some 5,000 persons, of which 2,015 persons counselled and screened, and 1 person tested HIV-positive.

**341-** Besides, the following activities were organised in schools in 9 communities (Garoua I, Guider and Pitoa in North Region, Garoua Boulai and Batouri in East Region, Mokolo in Far North Region, Edea in Littoral Region, Bafoussam and Foumban in West Region) :

- training of 660 education peers and 20 supervisors per community in Reproductive health of Adolescents, representing 5,940 and 180 respectively;
- an HIV mobilisation, awareness-raising and voluntary screening free of charge for 47,296 students helped screen 10,236 students and 16 of them tested HIV-positive referred to care units; and
- drawing and handing over of 86 HIV risk and vulnerability maps.

## G: Enhancing Governance

**342-** Enhancing governance in public secondary schools consisted in combating corruption. In this regard, administrative and financial control was effective in 89 public schools. At the end of the control, the results showed a clear picture of improper management observed in administrative management<sup>168</sup>, financial management<sup>169</sup>, and the functioning of Parents/Teachers Association (PTA)<sup>170</sup>.

**343-** In addition, the Rapid Result Initiative (RRI) organised by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) continued in 25 technical secondary schools in Adamawa, Littoral, North, North West and South Regions. When compared to 2014/2015 academic year when RRIs were implemented, there was a net improvement (78.83% increase) in practical works in technical secondary schools in 2016/2017 academic year.

<sup>168</sup> The following aspects can be mentioned concerning poor administrative management: poor management of staff punctuality and assiduity, staff planning, irregular functioning of school board, failure to comply with laws and regulations, failure to comply with standards and procedures for the award of contracts, failure to comply with standards and procedures for the drawing up of governing documents and poor handling of documents.

<sup>169</sup> Poor financial management included collection of illegal fees, non-compliance with the procedures for collection and security of public property, and many irregularities in spending.

<sup>170</sup> Poor management of PTAs included non-legalisation of associations, illegal and illegitimate executive bureaux, lack of funds, poor collaboration between members of the executive bureau, and members of same and officials of school administration, and execution of PTA-ordered works on credit.

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**344-** Control missions were conducted in private schools at the end of which, 81 were closed down while 15 were suspended for lack of proof of use of State subvention.

## **§3: Effectiveness of Secondary Education**

**345-** Before delving into results, it should be noted that MINESEC authorities focused on organising examinations.

### **A: Organisation of Examinations**

**346-** Innovations were introduced such as permitting some certificate holders to sit for the same examination anew after having submitted a file at the *Office du Baccalauréat du Cameroun (OBC)*, a Call Centre to consider the problems candidates and officials face, digitization of reports and the systematic use of laptops by Chairs of Jury, online registration, installation of surveillance cameras at the Head Office of the General Certificate of Education Board (GCE Board), establishment of harmonised marking schemes in examinations at the Department of Examinations and Certification.

**347-** Furthermore, following the strike action initiated by teachers trade unions in North West and South West Regions, special measures were taken such as the organisation of extra classes in the 2 Regions to cover school syllabuses, extension of the closing date of official examinations for 2017 session, grouping examination centres for security reasons, permitting students of the English-speaking subsystem to sit for official examinations without the school uniform, and further permitting students from the said Regions to sit for the examination in the centre of their choice nationwide.

**348-** Besides, students were availed of the annals of the 2017 *BEPC*, *CAP*, *CAPIEMP*, and *CAPIET*.

### **B: Results of Examinations**

**349-** In all, 24 examinations were organised in 2017 for which 1,083,652 candidates registered, representing 621,763 candidates for the Department of Examinations and Certification, 359,345 candidates for OBC, and 129,251 candidates for the GCE Board. The national percentage pass stood at 48.76% as against 49.92% in 2016, representing a drop of 1.16%. However, at the end of the examinations,

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108 deserving Teachers and 293 students ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in official national and regional examinations were awarded prizes following the institution of the Award of Excellence in MINESEC.

## **SECTION 3: PROMOTION OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AT THE LEVEL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**350-** Actions taken at the level of higher education focused on the following 3 thrusts: consolidation of access to higher education, enhancement of the quality of teaching and pedagogic tools to guarantee its effectiveness.

### **§1: Access to Higher Education**

**351-** In a bid to facilitate access to higher education, actions were taken to extend the university map, and oversee fair distribution of demand.

#### **A: Extension of the University Map**

**352-** Extension of the university map consisted in opening new universities, building infrastructure, rehabilitating and equipping already functional universities and professional schools, and assigning lecturers thereto to discharge their duties of education and training.

##### **1) Opening of New Universities**

**353-** In 2017, 3 higher education institutions were opened: the Higher Technical Teacher Training College, Ebolowa, the Higher Teacher Training College, Bertoua, and the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Garoua.

**354-** Besides, following the crisis in North West and South West Regions, new Departments of Political Sciences were opened in State Universities<sup>171</sup>, and the National Higher Polytechnic Institute, University of Bamenda.

##### **2) Construction, Rehabilitation and Equipment of Universities and Professional Schools**

**355-** At University of Bamenda, 2 Halls of Residence were built. External works and support facilities were developed and laboratories equipped. Besides, schools attached to University of Bamenda such as

<sup>171</sup> See Chapter on the crisis in North West and South West Regions, §701

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the Higher Technical Teacher Training College, Bambili benefited from such development including the equipment of laboratories and workshops. At the Faculty of Health Sciences, a teaching block was built at the Regional Hospital, Bamenda.

**356-** At University of Buea, 2 teaching blocks were built respectively at the Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters (ASTI) and at the College of Technology.

**357-** At University of Douala, 2 annexe blocks were constructed at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences. At the Faculty of Industrial Engineering, an administrative block and library were constructed, laboratories and workshops equipped, and external works and support facilities developed. At the *Institut Universitaire de Technologie Fotso Victor* (IUT), laboratories and workshops were equipped, and at the Institute of Fisheries Science, Yabassi, a teaching block of 1,200 seats was built.

**358-** At the IUT Fotso Victor, University of Dschang, laboratories and workshops were rehabilitated and equipped. At the Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences (FASA) (*Filière des Métiers du Bois, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement*), annexe of University of Dschang at Ebolowa, external works and support facilities were completed. At the Institute of Fine Arts, Foumban, another annexe of University of Dschang, a teaching block of 800 seats was built. At FASA, laboratories were equipped and 2 big warehouses built at the main campus to park farming vehicles and the campus was equipped with an autonomous solar energy system.

**359-** At the Higher Teacher Training College, University of Maroua, construction and equipment works were completed.

**360-** At the Faculty of Mines and Petroleum Industries, University of Maroua, teaching buildings and laboratories were equipped. An administrative block was constructed at the College of Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, and another teaching block built at the Advanced School of Geology and Mining.

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**361-** Concerning private higher education in 2017, some 19 Higher Education Private Institutes (HEPI) were opened and 10 others established, thereby bringing the number of HEPIs to 234 nationwide.

### 3) Teaching Staff

**362-** The staff strength increased from 4,027 in 2014/2015 academic year to 4,450 in 2015/2016 academic year, and further to 4,562 in 2016/2017 academic year, representing a lecturer/student ratio of 1:109.

### B: Fair Distribution of Demand

**363-** The student population increased from 375,504 in 2014/2015 academic year to 450,000 in 2015/2016 academic year and further to 500,000 in 2016/2017 academic year. In a bid to ease access to higher education, scholarships and assistance were granted to students as follows:

- cooperation scholarships from 7 countries were granted to 143 students;
- 26 financial assistance were granted to students both in Cameroon and abroad, representing 23 in Cameroon, 1 in South Africa, 1 in Guinea Conakry, and 1 in Russia;
- 572 students were recruited for holiday job in universities, professional schools and even at the Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP);
- 490 students benefitted from the Work Study Programme<sup>172</sup> for a duration of 3 months; and
- 43 others benefitted from mobility assistance both in Cameroon and abroad.

**364-** In order to promote academic excellence, the Award of Excellence prizes were given to best-performing students. In this connection, 100,000 students in State Universities and HEPIs were given such awards in 2017.

**365-** In addition, the free distribution of 500,000 computers (laptops), a gift from the Head of State, to students continued.

<sup>172</sup> The Work Study Programme is a financial assistance programme to students to alternate with studies.

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## §2: Quality of Teaching and Teaching Aids

**366-** A number of measures were taken to enhance the quality of the university system including improvement of working conditions of teachers, provision of teaching aids, and promotion of ethics.

### A: Enhancing the Working Conditions of Teachers

**367-** Payment of academic research allowance to 5,000 teacher-researchers under the special allocation account for the modernisation of research worth CFAF9,600,000,000<sup>173</sup> and allocation of the mobility or research grant abroad to 24 teacher-researchers helped improve the working conditions of teachers.

### B: Improvement of Teaching Aids

**368-** As part of improvement of teaching aids, focus was on the professionalization of teachers. In this regard, instruments governing Agreements between IPES and State Universities and preparatory classes were signed. In addition, classical faculties were professionalised (electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and geomatics engineering) and an academic and professional orientation fair was organised.

**369-** Furthermore, in order to foster the entrepreneurial spirit in youths, Ministry of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) set up a national incubation programme with the goal of organising and providing technical and financial support to incubation centres in public and private universities. In 2017, the incubator financing mechanism resulted in the allocation of CFAF750,000,000<sup>174</sup> to 5 incubation centres, representing CFAF150,000,000<sup>175</sup> for each university<sup>176</sup>. The financing increased in 2017 when compared to 2016 where it stood at CFAF300,000,000<sup>177</sup>

<sup>173</sup>About 14,644,191.90 Euros

<sup>174</sup>About 1,144,077.49 Euros

<sup>175</sup>About 228,815.50 Euros

<sup>176</sup>They include Faculty of Industrial Engineering, University of Douala, Advanced School of Post and Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies, Yaounde, Advanced School of Agro-industrial Sciences, Ngaoundere, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Buea, and the Agricultural School, Binguela.

<sup>177</sup>About 457,630.99 Euros

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for 2 incubation centres<sup>178</sup>. The expected impact is that the number of enterprises established by former students be 4 enterprises per year per incubation centre.

## C: Promotion of Ethics

**370-** In 2017, in a bid to promote ethics in higher education, 368 students were punished for examination fraud and for indiscipline as against 366 in 2015/2016 academic year.

### §3: Effectiveness of Higher Education

**371-** Concerning national examinations, the table below shows results registered in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years:

**Table 12: Results of national examinations in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years**

Examination	Year	Number of candidates registered	Number passed	Percentage
DSEP	2015/2016	1,929	1,551	80.4%
	2016/2017	2,361	1,652	66.97%
BTS	2015/2016	13,798	9,184	66.55%
	2016/2017	14,691	10,552	71.83%
HND	2015/2016	7,503	6,074	80.95%
	2016/2017	2,081	1,665	80.01%
HPD	2015/2016	513	504	98.24%
	2016/2017	101	98	97.03%

**Source:** MINESUP

**372-** Besides, 1,225 equivalents of certificates were granted in 2017, and 76 administrative competitive examinations organised although all of them did not result in absorption into the public service.

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<sup>178</sup>Incubator of *Institut du Sahel*, Maroua, and Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Dschang.



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**373-** In the 2016/2017 academic year, the right to education was effectively guaranteed through the building of infrastructure, adoption of special measures for students in North West and South West Regions, recruitment of Teachers, professionalization of education, and extension of the university map. However, a number of challenges such as security concerns in some Regions, difficulties in payment of graduates from Government Higher Teacher Training Colleges hampered the smooth running of the academic year.







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**374-** In 2017, the State continued to take measures to improve on the health of persons. In an effort to improve on healthcare, the Health Sector Strategy (2016-2027) was validated on 27 June 2017. It has a twofold perspective: to contribute on the one hand, in accelerating the development of human capital for growth and sustainable development in line with the guidelines and recommendations of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (2010-2020) and on the other hand, align with the Sustainable Development Goals by accelerating the setting up of universal health coverage.

**375-** To guarantee the right to health, resources were allocated to the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE) from the state budget amounting to CFAF208,195,000,000<sup>179</sup> (consisting of CFAF135,109,000,000<sup>180</sup> for investment (65%) and CFAF73,086,000,000<sup>181</sup> as operating budget (35%). This budget was down by CFAF27,200,000,00<sup>182</sup> (11.84%) compared to CFAF236,000,000,000<sup>183</sup> in 2016. Apart from the location of resources, Government's strategy consisted in health district servicing maternal, adolescent and child health, disease control, health promotion as well as Governance

## SECTION 1: HEALTH DISTRICT SERVICING

**376-** Health District servicing focused on strengthening health supply and accessibility to healthcare

### §1: Strengthening Health Supply

**377-** New health facilities were opened, some existing ones rehabilitated, incentives given to staff and their capacity developed.

#### A: Availability of Care Facilities

**378-** On 9 November 2017, the Quality Assurance Centre of the National Public Health Laboratory, financed by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention was officially opened.

<sup>179</sup>About 317,588,284.65Euros

<sup>180</sup>About 206,100,221.19 Euros

<sup>181</sup>About 111,488,063.46Euros

<sup>182</sup> About 360,003,050.87 Euros

<sup>183</sup>About 41,491,877.05 Euros.

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**379-** Furthermore, on 29 March 2017, the Reference Hospital Magrabi-ICO Cameroon Eye Institute at Oback in the Lekie Division was inaugurated. It is equipped with state-of-the-art ophthalmology equipment such as digital retinal cameras, lasers for refractive surgeries and versatile multi-colour lasers, among others.

**380-** Health facilities were rehabilitated including the Yaounde Reference Hospital, the Douala Reference Hospital and the University Teaching Hospital Yaounde.

## **B: Human Resources**

**381-** With respect to human resources, 269 staff working in remote and enclaved areas received incentives as part of the Project to retain staff in the most staff-deficient health facilities and 111 scholarships were awarded to staff.

**382-** The quality of midwifery training was enhanced by the provision of 200 tablets for e.learning. The Mercy Ships mission trained 290 staff with various profiles while the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital strengthened the capacity of 144 eye care professionals<sup>184</sup>.

**383-** Furthermore, on 27 September 2017, the Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis and the Ministry of Public Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement Novartis Access in Cameroon. It provides for activities to strengthen healthcare systems including training healthcare professionals on non transmissible diseases screening, diagnosis and treatment, quality assurance and community education and awareness.

**384-** These positive actions notwithstanding, persistent threats of strike by medical staff brought to light some malaise in the health system. In response to some of the grievances, measures were taken to improve on the working conditions of the staff including *Decree No. 2017/80 of 6 March 2017 to grant allowances to State medical and paramedical staff governed by the Labour Code and Order No. 561/MIN-SANTE/CAB of 16 February 2017 to lay down the terms and condi-*

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<sup>184</sup> See infra, § 389

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*tions of management of care and hospital bills on diseases not charged on the services of the corps of public health staff.*

**385-** Those covered under this Order include civil servants, State agents governed by the Labour Code, retirees of the public health sector without any paid job, their spouses, legitimate children, recognized children, adopted minors or indigent adults with disabilities. Treatment shall be borne 100% by the State.

## **§2: Accessibility to Healthcare**

**386-** Accessibility to healthcare was enhanced through measures including low cost medicines. Other measures were taken to improve on accessibility of services and progress was further made in the putting in place of the Universal healthcare system.

### **A: Affordability of Medicines**

**387-** As regards medicines, nearly 1,000 marketing authorisations were granted or renewed and the list of essential medicines in Cameroon was revised. The list containing 474 medicines is aimed at providing efficient and low cost medicines for the treatment of diseases.

**388-** Some medicines were subsidised and some others were distributed free. In this connection, anti retrovirals for HIV/AIDs and tuberculosis medicines continued to be distributed free of charge in tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment centres. In addition, the Novartis Access programme provides affordable high-quality medicines for four key non transmissible diseases (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, respiratory illnesses, and breast cancer) at the cost of USD 1<sup>185</sup> per treatment, per month. The number of stock-out days for tracer medicines was 10 days compared to 13.69 days in 2015.

### **B: Other measures that Improved on Accessibility to Healthcare Services**

**389-** The cost of accessing other services was reduced in certain instances. State of the art healthcare was brought closer to the people at

<sup>185</sup>About CFAF 558.66 (0.85 Euros) (This cost does not include costs for freight, insurance and potential taxes)

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little or no cost as Cameroon authorised two important humanitarian missions to sojourn in the country, namely the hospital ship of the Mercy Ships and the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital which works to decrease worldwide visual impairment. The aim of these missions was to strengthen the capacity of local medical staff and providing healthcare services including surgery for complex pathologies.

**390-** As part of the Orbis mission, 124 patients were treated. The Mercy Ships mission which continues until June 2018, performed 546 surgeries and placed 3,729 dental prostheses by the end of 2017.

**391-** Also, from 27 November 2017 and running for one week, an Egyptian medical team consulted 203 patients with eye diseases free of charge in Mbalmayo and carried out 50 surgeries.

**392-** Additionally, an Agreement was signed between the Governments of Japan and Cameroon on 17 March 2017 for a donation by the former of CFAF 56,000,000<sup>186</sup> to the *Centre Pasteur du Cameroun*. The objective of this donation is to provide an efficient multiplex immunology analysis system and enable the population get access to modern and reliable medical analysis on the spot in Yaounde at low cost.

**393-** To improve on healthcare services, the Performance Based Financing (PBF) approach was being implemented in 78 Health Districts in 7 Regions for a 47% coverage rate population. In line with this, the PBF Procedures Manual for the Health Sector in Cameroon was validated on 9 August in Yaounde.

## **C: Laying the Groundwork for the Universal Healthcare Coverage**

**394-** The UHC is in line with the objective of the National Health Development Plan 2016-2020 as regards strengthening of the health system which targets a reduction by at least 10% of direct payments by households through an equitable and sustainable financing policy among others. The National Technical Group for the Universal Health Coverage defined the basic elements to enable political decision-making as to its implementation in 2017. Thus the validation of the benefit package for the UHC was disclosed on 12 December 2017 by the Minister of Public Health. Some 185 diseases and public health inter-

<sup>186</sup> About 85,424.45 Euros



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ventions including 101 sub-interventions have been selected for the basic health package for the inception phase.

## SECTION 2: MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT AND CHILD HEALTH

**395-** Government took a number of actions to cater for the health of mothers, adolescents and children, including the management of diseases such as HIV and malaria in pregnant women and children, providing information on childbirth to pregnant women and fighting against HIV and cancer in adolescents as well as drug abuse among them.

### §1: Maternal Health

**396-** In the context of HIV prevention, pregnant women were screened for HIV at antenatal consultation centres free of charge. A total of 678 646 of them were screened representing 99.7% of the 680 202 expected. Out of the 26,847 diagnosed with HIV, 85.8% were put on ARV treatment. The number tested is far above the 90% target while those put on treatment is still below the 90% target in the National Multisector Programme for Combating Maternal and Child Mortality (2014-2020) (National Multisector Programme).

**397-** With regard to the management of malaria in pregnant women, more than one-third (38%) of them who went for prenatal consultations received 3 doses of intermittent preventive treatment and two-thirds (68%) received a Long Lasting Insecticidal Net which is not too far from the 80% targeted in the National Multisector Programme.

**398-** The Delivery Plan which was published by the National Multisector Programme for Combating Maternal and Child Mortality in January 2017 was given to every pregnant woman during her first Prenatal Consultation. The goal of the Plan is to help future mothers prepare for childbirth including identifying warning signs.

**399-** Some 4,000 medical devices worth CFAF370,000,000<sup>187</sup> were donated to the maternity and pediatric sections of 451 health facilities of the Adamawa, East, Far North, North, West and South regions by

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<sup>187</sup> About 564,411.56 Euros

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the USA Government within the framework of *President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief/Department of Family Health of MINSANTE*.

**400-** In 2017, the capacity of 3165 health facilities out of 4285 was strengthened in family planning, giving a coverage rate of 73.09% compare to 73.89% in 2016.

## §2: Adolescent Health

**401-** As for the prevention of Chronic Non transmissible Diseases, 17,162 girls aged 9 to 13 benefited from the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine in 2017 in the context of the prevention of cervical cancer.

**402-** As concerns the fight against illicit drugs, on 17 January 2017, *Synergies Africaines* in partnership with *Les Entreprises du Medicament* launched the digital version of the education programme for the correct use of medicines (BUM) for secondary schools in Yaounde. Some 299 public and private secondary schools and 46,000 students from Yaounde and Douala were targeted for the pilot phase.

**403-** Students were edified on the digital version of teaching tools for BUM. The tools include the trainer's manual, and *children's book*, «*My Passport to Health*» which contains game scenes for better understanding and the comic strip: «*Remi is sick*». All the 3 books are contained in a USB key and are complemented by tests on good practices, including the official channels for medicines. This programme should help keep youths away from illicit drugs.

**404-** With respect to the fight against HIV/AIDS among adolescents, the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the AIDS-Free-Holidays campaign, an initiative that aims at sensitising young people during holidays on HIV/AIDS was launched on 4 August 2017. During the 21 days that it lasted, 7,628 educational talks, 13,251 individual interviews were conducted and 4,170 persons volunteered to be screened for HIV.

**405-** Starting on 30 January 2017 and for 3 days, open door days were organised at the adolescent health clinic at the *Yaounde Gynecology, Obstetrics and Pediatrics Hospital* during which students from several high schools and colleges as well as pupils discussed on the manifestations of puberty, the consequences of abortions and the use of contraceptives among others.

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## §3: Child Health

**406-** Concerning the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT), 85.8% of HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral as against 64.8% in 2016, representing an increase of 21% while the percentage of health facilities offering the B+ Option increased from 79 in 2016 to 84 in 2017.

**407-** As regards the management of malaria in children, 41% and 35% of them under 5 years of age with simple and severe malaria respectively, received free treatment.

**408-** Immunization coverage in penta 3 was 85%. The implementation of the Action Week for Infant and Maternal Health and Nutrition (SAS-NIM) in April 2017 covered 95.6% of children for the oral polio vaccine. Cameroon remained a polio non exporting country in 2017. There was a stock out of the BCG vaccine towards the end of the year. However, the situation was quickly brought under control.

**409-** With the support of the NGO *Children Action*, children with urogenital malformation were operated upon at the *Yaounde Gynaecology-Obstetrics and Pediatrics Hospital*, between November and December 2017.

## SECTION 3: DISEASE CONTROL AND HEALTH PROMOTION

**410-** Government took action to prevent and treat diseases as well as to promote health.

### §1: Disease Control

**411-** Measures were taken to tackle transmissible diseases, neglected tropical diseases as well as chronic non transmissible diseases.

#### A: Transmissible Diseases

**412-** Some of the diseases concerned were HIV/AIDS, Malaria and tuberculosis.

##### 1) HIV/AIDS

**413-** Prevention activities were carried out and the number of persons receiving treatment improved.

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## a) Prevention

**414-** The National AIDS Control Committee, in collaboration with its partners took advantage of some feast days to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS. Thus, about 3,000,000 people were reached through educational talks, social media and roundtable discussions.

**415-** In order to make HIV screening more accessible, 10 new mobile vehicles dedicated to voluntary testing were acquired with the support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, bringing to 22 the number of mobile screening units. The number of HIV screening tests carried out stood at 3,690,832, an improvement from 2,418,986 in 2016.

**416-** The percentage of People Living with HIV(PLWHA) who knew their HIV status stood at 93.4% which is above the 90% target set for infected persons to know their status under the «90 90 90» initiative of UNAIDS that the country adopted in 2016.

**417-** The number of condoms distributed was 37,506,509 consisting of 2,091,488 female and 35,415,021 male compared to a total of 32,623,453 in 2016.

## b) Treatment

**418-** Some 253,715 PLWHA were receiving antiretrovirals in 2017 including 174,284 women, 70 704 men and 8,727 children compared to 205,382 in 2016. HIV treatment centres which had stock outs of one or more antiretroviral drugs over a given period stood at 19%.

**419-** The implementation of the 2014-2017 National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan which came to an end was evaluated. The assessment identified, among other things, a need to strengthen HIV prevention for key populations, youth and adolescents and to increase the availability of ARVs and other medical inputs.

## 2) Malaria

**420-** A total of 4,892 trained community health workers provided first aid for malaria in 96 Health Districts.

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**421-** The coverage rate for the seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaign organised in the Far North and North Regions was 100%.

### 3) Tuberculosis

**422-** The number of diagnosis and treatment centres stood at 253 compared to 238 in 2015 and some 24, 899 cases of tuberculosis were treated free of charge. The cure rate for new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis with positive microscopy (positive for microscopy examination of pulmonary tuberculosis) was 85%.

### B: Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

**423-** Prevention interventions for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) led to 9,167,804 children being given anti-parasitic medicines against intestinal helminthiasis and nearly 3,000,000 children received treatment for schistosomiasis. Some 113 Health Districts where Onchocerciasis was endemic carried out community-directed treatment campaign (CDTI) with Ivermectin- Albendazole and reached a therapeutic coverage of 80.80% and 100% geographic coverage<sup>188</sup>. As for 12 Health Districts where Lymphatic filariasis was endemic, the therapeutic coverage was 81.37% while the geographic coverage was 99.54%<sup>189</sup>.

**424-** About 50 cases of Buruli ulcer were diagnosed and treated in endemic areas, an outbreak of yaws was brought under control in the East Region with over 1,000 cases screened and successfully treated while 507 cases of leprosy of which 126 new ones were under treatment.

### C: Chronic Non Transmissible Diseases (CNTD)

**425-** Measures were taken to control CNTDs including cancer and chronic renal diseases.

#### 1) Cancer

**426-** In the context of the celebration of the 2017 International Women's day, women were screened free of charge for cancer of the cervix and of the uterus at the *Yaounde Gynaecology Obstetrics and Pediatrics Hospital*.

<sup>188</sup> WHO in Cameroon - Annual Report 2017, p17

<sup>189</sup> WHO in Cameroon - Annual Report 2017, p17

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**427-** There was also a free screening campaign for breast and cervical cancers at the Yaounde Gynaecological Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproductive Teaching Hospital in May 2017.

**428-** *Association Solidarité Chimiothérapie (SOCHIMIO)*, an NGO for action and solidarity for the care of cancer patients in Cameroon provided Glivec, an expensive anti-cancer medication to 150 patients in 2017 free of charge thanks to a donation from the Max Foundation. As part of activities to mark the Acute Myeloid Leukemia World Awareness Day, SOCHIMIO organised a special information and education session on cancer on 22 September 2017 in Yaounde. Some 60 members of the *Association des malades du cancer du sang* (Association of blood cancer patients) participated at this event during which the nutrition of cancer patients was discussed. Furthermore, on 11 and 18 October 2017 in Yaounde, SOCHIMIO organised information and education sessions on breast cancer which were attended by 100 persons.

## 2) Chronic Renal Disease

**429-** Patients with chronic renal disease faced difficulties in their treatment due to shortcomings in the supply chain of dialysis kits and this had an impact on the provision of care at hemodialysis centres in the country. From time to time, patients had to move from one centre to the other in search of centres which still had kits.

## 3) Mental Health Problems

**430-** As part of activities to mark World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2017 celebrated under the theme "*Depression: Let's Talk*", the State in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) organised an event which State Officials, diplomats, health professionals and media practitioners attended. The goal was to educate the public about depression including its prevention, causes, possible consequences, and the availability of treatment. For one week, there were radio talks on the theme of the celebration and a poster campaign.

**431-** Other activities were carried out in the month of October including a training seminar in neurology held from 26 to 29 October 2017,

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organised at the *Centre de Santé Mentale Benoît Menni de Yaoundé*. Participants came from 17 health facilities.

## §2: Health Promotion

**432-** As part of the improvement of living conditions, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) was launched in 270 villages in the East and Far-North Regions.

**433-** The WHO supported the revision of the national training modules on Infant and Young Child Feeding and the National Protocol for the Management of severe acute Malnutrition including its complications. These Documents are useful in strengthening the detection and management of malnourished children.

**434-** Some 68,536 children suffering from acute malnutrition were cared for in the 61 In-hospital Therapeutic Nutrition Centres and the 733 Ambulatory Nutrition Centres of the Northern Regions and the East, with a cure rate of 75%. In addition, 3,448,436 children aged 0 to 59 months were given vitamin A supplements during the (SASNIM).

**435-** Regarding the fight against illicit drugs, within the framework of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2017, activities were organised nationwide including a march in Yaounde on 1 July 2017 by MINSANTE in collaboration with the National Drugs Control Committee with the aim of raising public awareness on the dangers of drugs. Moreover, on 27 September, the Cameroon Coalition Against Tobacco (C3T) started the pilot phase of the campaign to affix no smoking boards in primary and secondary schools in Yaounde to ensure they are non smoking areas. By the end of the year fake medicines worth CFAF44,860,000<sup>190</sup> had been seized and destroyed.

**436-** With respect to epidemiology, Cameroon was recognised for its efforts. A certificate of accreditation was handed to it by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the 1<sup>st</sup> country in Africa and 5<sup>th</sup> in the world. Since 2010, 52 Senior Officials (doctors, veterinarians, biologists) have been trained, making Cameroon a centre of excellence

<sup>190</sup>About 68,431.09 Euro

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in the investigation, surveillance, management and response of epidemiology.

**437-** The State was supported in the promotion of health by civil society organisations. Thus, in February 2017 (during the Youth Week), African Action on Aids (AAA) launched an awareness raising, training and poster campaign for the prevention of transmissible diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria, waterborne diseases and those caused by lack of basic hygiene and sanitation). The goal was the development of an attitude of taking personal responsibility and a lifetime commitment that leads to healthy habits from a young age. A total of 9,000 students in 10 primary and secondary schools were involved in urban and rural areas of the Centre Region. A daily hygiene and sanitation schedule in school under the direct supervision of students was established and 500 copies of which were distributed. Each of these schools also received 5 trash cans and 10 brooms.

## SECTION 4: GOOD GOVERNANCE

**438-** To improve on governance in the health system, unannounced visits were conducted in 350 health facilities to check the effective presence of staff. Following controls and internal audits of structures, some 199 out of 226 denunciations were investigated and negative sanctions were imposed on 209 staff.

**439-** Furthermore, in the context of the development of the health information system and health research, the cleaning up of the health map led to the identification of 3,058 irregular Health Facilities, some of which initiated regularisation procedures.

**440-** Progress was also made in the process of harmonising health data collection and reporting tools through the monthly activity register and the DHIS2 software including the training of 788 staff in the said software in 189 health districts of the 10 regions in November 2017.

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**441**- Although progress was made in the health sector including making some treatments more affordable, the enhancement of the capacity of medical staff and advancements in epidemiology, challenges remained. Threats of strike by medical staff were an indication of some malaise in the health system. There was also the need to improve on the availability of ARVs and access to care by patients with chronic renal diseases.







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**442-** In compliance with the provisions of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to achieve the right to adequate standard of living, new strategic and operational guidelines were implemented to guarantee the right to sufficient food, water and energy, and decent housing.

## **SECTION 1: RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD**

**443-** In order to guarantee the people adequate food, measures were taken in the agricultural sector to ensure food supply, access to food-stuffs and the quality of same.

### **§1: Changes in the Agricultural Sector to enhance Foodstuffs Supply**

**444-** In a bid to check food security challenges, the strategic and operational framework was reformed, and readjustment of factors of production undertaken. These actions had a significant impact on the results of agricultural production.

#### **A: New strategic and operational Guidelines**

**445-** The guidelines which fell under the rural sector, centred on a readjustment of the strategic framework and refocusing of activities of operational projects.

#### **1) Readjustment of the strategic Framework**

**446-** The Rural Sector Development Strategy was updated<sup>191</sup> in April 2017 to fall in line with the new guidelines of the national economic policy such as the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP). The update further aimed at addressing the challenges of insufficiency and improper adaptation of factors of production and marketing, poor mastery of hazards relating to climate change, management and non-sustainable use of forest, wildlife resources, and non-timber forest products. The strategy organises the rural sector around animal, plant, water,

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<sup>191</sup> The last update was in 2005.

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wildlife and forest fields and focuses on 4 major thrusts<sup>192</sup> to optimise the agricultural potential in Cameroon.

**447-** In addition, the Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Cameroon was launched in March 2017 with a view to identifying challenges so as to achieve the “Zero Hunger by 2030” Goal. Although some 15.4% of the people suffer from hunger, the prevalence of food insecurity varies per Region, sometimes rising to 35.5% in Far North Region. Some of the challenges to be addressed in order to achieve the Goal include adoption of a framework law on agriculture, regular production of agricultural statistics, development of production basins, and enhancement of the processing of agricultural products.

## 2) Refocusing Agricultural Development Projects

**448-** The operational reform of the agricultural and rural sector resulted in the following 3 main thrusts: the Quality Plant Stock Production Support Project dedicated exclusively to plant stock production; restructuring operational programmes and projects to enhance competitiveness of agricultural fields<sup>193</sup>; re-implementation of 4 programmes through refocusing their goals and adjusting some denominations, and maintaining 6 other programmes with same specific goals.

**449-** Furthermore, the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVC-DP) worth CFAF75,000,000,000<sup>194</sup> set up under the National Agricultural Investment Plan<sup>195</sup> was launched to give a new impetus to mechanised agriculture in Cameroon<sup>196</sup>, and refocus factors of production.

<sup>192</sup> The vision of the Strategy is as follows: The rural sector which is a driving force of the national economy that creates decent jobs, wealth for domestic demand and for export, ensures food and nutrition security in a development context. The document may be consulted on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development: [www.minader.gov.cm](http://www.minader.gov.cm)

<sup>193</sup> The programmes and projects were restructured following an audit that brought out the shortcomings hindering efficiency such as their large number. That is why 15 of the 28 operational projects were dissolved and 11 new ones set up.

<sup>194</sup> About 114,407,749.22 Euros

<sup>195</sup> See 2016 Report, §433

<sup>196</sup> The Project that has to run for 5 years will help build 1,000km of rural roads, 30 warehouses, 15 rural markets and 1 quality control laboratory.

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## B: Refocusing Factors of Production

**450-** In addition to financing, agricultural inputs were the main levers of such refocusing.

### 1) Financing Agricultural Activities

**451-** It was observed that public financing increased and more funds were mobilised from partners.

**452-** The budget of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) increased from CFAF110,162,000,000<sup>197</sup> in 2016 to CFAF111,374,000,000<sup>198</sup> in 2017, representing an increase of CFAF1,212,000,000<sup>199</sup> in absolute terms and 1.08% in relative terms.

**453-** Meanwhile, the budget of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) rose from CFAF31,085,828,000<sup>200</sup> in 2016 to CFAF39,552,554,000<sup>201</sup> in 2017, representing an increase of CFAF8,466,726,000<sup>202</sup> in absolute terms and 21.8% in relative terms.

**454-** State partners also provided support to complement public financing. In this regard, CFAF1,930,744,123<sup>203</sup> mobilised within C2D framework for the Programme for the Improvement of the Competitiveness of Agro-pastoral Small Holdings (ACEFA) was used to finance 562 agricultural projects and 263 livestock projects. An Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Promotion Project worth CFAF2,000,000,000<sup>204</sup> was set up with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Livestock Development Project (PRODEL) worth

<sup>197</sup> About 168,045,152.92 Euros

<sup>198</sup> About 169,893,982.15 Euros

<sup>199</sup> About 1,848,829.23 Euros

<sup>200</sup> About 60,334,915.72 Euros

<sup>201</sup> About 47,419,461.52 Euros

<sup>202</sup> About 12,915,454.20 Euros

<sup>203</sup> About 2,945,227.86 Euros

<sup>204</sup> About 3,050,873.31 Euros

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CFAF60,000,000,000<sup>205</sup>, initiated with the support of the World Bank was set up.

**455-** Nevertheless, financing challenges hampering the implementation of the Public Contracts Investment and Development Project (PIDMA) launched in 2015 and relating especially to the low capacity of cooperatives to mobilise counterpart funds and the withdrawal of some partner banks were examined at a meeting held in Yaounde in September 2017. One of the recommendations therefrom was to increase State facilities.

## 2) Provision of Agricultural, Animal and Aquaculture Inputs

**456-** The implementation of a Quality Plant Stock Production Project<sup>206</sup> was one of the solutions provided to reduce the gap between demand and supply of seeds. In addition, more research was conducted on innovation and increase in plant, animal, fish and agro-industrial production<sup>207</sup>. As part of outreach on rainfed rice cultivation (NERICA 3 variety) in Centre Region, for example, IRAD organised a training seminar on rainfed rice cultivation for some 30 selected farmers.

**457-** In the agricultural sector, the policy to supply farmers with improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides continued to be implemented especially during the launch of the 2017 agricultural season. The policy included distribution of 3,100,000 plantain suckers, 210 tonnes of potato seeds, 6,000,000 cocoa plants, 1,250,000 Arabica coffee plants and 650,000 Robusta coffee plants, 70,000 palm plants, 8,500,000 cassava cuttings, 90 tonnes of rice seeds, 291 tonnes of maize certified seeds, 10,000 tonnes of fertilizers, 1,510,000 dosage bags of fungicides, and 2,700 processing equipment to farmers.

**458-** In the livestock sector, the National Animal Breeding Strategy for the beef, pork, lamb, and dairy industries served as the development base of the animal breeding policy. Furthermore, full equipment was provided the Artificial Insemination Centre of Lougguere Station for the production and distribution of quality animal insemination. In addition,

<sup>205</sup> About 91,526,199.37 Euros

<sup>206</sup> See supra, §448

<sup>207</sup> Training of 415 farmers in seed production in the sector of cereals by the Institute for Research and Agricultural Development is an example.



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there was an increase in local livestock with the insemination of 537 cows and training of 20 insemination agents.

**459-** In addition, 75 stakeholders were trained in artificial insemination of cattle in Far North, North and Adamawa Regions, and 658 improved breeding stock distributed to pork producer organisations.

## **C: Sector Development and Results of Agricultural, Livestock, Fish and Honey Production**

**460-** Measures were taken to increase growth in both the plant and animal sectors.

### **1) Plant Sectors**

**461-** Concerning the different sectors, production of tubers such as potato and cassava increased more than expectations, whereas production of cereals like maize, beans, sorghum and millet fell short of the target. Such was due to insecurity, weather vagaries and the harmful effects of granivorous birds in big production areas especially in Far North Region. The table below contains the production balance sheet.

**Table 1: Agricultural Production in 2017**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Production targets in 2017 (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Production estimates in 2017 (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>Cocoa</b>	300,000	331,149	+31,149
<b>Arabica Coffee</b>	6,000	7,106	+1,106
<b>Robusta Coffee</b>	60,000	27,188	-32,818
<b>Cotton</b>	275,000	248 150	-26,850
<b>Millet/Sorghum</b>	1,560,000	1,138,243	-421,757
<b>Paddy Rice</b>	225,000	339,076	+114,076
<b>Maize</b>	2,300,000	2,144,083	-155,917
<b>Cassava</b>	4,600,000	5,492,522	+892 522
<b>Palm oil</b>	290,000	386,997	+96,997
<b>Plantain</b>	3,800,000	4,378,915	+578,915

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<b>Potato</b>	240,000	395,961	+155,961
<b>Beans/groundnuts / voandzou</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,084 656</b>	<b>-315,344</b>

**Source:** MINADER

## 2) Animal, Honey, Dairy and Fish Sectors

**462-** Government focused its actions on developing the production potential in the beef, pork, honey and poultry sectors, especially through the development of good quality animal and fish breeds, issuance of cattle rearing or dairy farms establishment permits, and building infrastructure.

**463-** Concerning the poultry sector in particular, modern poultry units were opened and poultry farms affected by bird flu were restocked. In this regard, 121 permits to establish poultry farms were issued, 31 technical opinions on the importation of 122,000 broiler breeders, 45,000 layers, 23,500 breeders, 6,230,000 broiler hatching eggs, 1,725,000 layer hatching eggs, 1,896,380 broiler day-old chicks, and 3,873,500 layer day-old chicks were delivered. Similarly, the Livestock Development Fund for North West Region received 28,329 day-old chicks for producers in North West Region and helped distribute 10,000 chicks of 21 days old to poultry farmers through the Livestock Station, Bali.

**464-** All the efforts made helped increase production as shown in the table below:

**Table 2: Animal, honey and dairy production balance sheet in 2015, 2016, and 2017**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Production in 2015 (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Production in 2016 (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Production in 2017 (in tonnes)</b>
<b>Beef (beef production)</b>	107,006	116,101	132,551
<b>Pork (pork production)</b>	13,323	13,814	60,026
<b>Honey (honey production)</b>	2,255	2,300	5,040
<b>Poultry (chicken production)</b>	134,773	137,334	140,218
<b>Dairy (milk production)</b>	151,464	172,211	239,174

**Source:** MINEPIA

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**465-** Checking access to fishery resources focused on issuance of industrial, small-scale, and recreational fishing permits. Thus, 40, 3,000 and 15 permits were issued respectively. Another aspect was controlling illegal, undeclared and unregulated fishing. In this regard, 6 field trips were conducted with 2 on national waters and 4 in the sea during which 10 industrial fishing boats were inspected and fines and penalties worth CFAF21,892,192<sup>208</sup> collected.

## §2: Reducing Barriers to Access to Foodstuffs

**466-** Actions carried out in this sector helped encourage physical and economic access through construction of infrastructure, controlling the high cost of living, and direct distribution of foodstuffs to all the people without exclusion.

### A: Infrastructure Construction in Rural Areas

**467-** In 2017, more infrastructure was built for the rural areas as part of transfer of resources and skills to Councils. In this connection, 16 warehouses<sup>209</sup>, 320 water points, 51 art works<sup>210</sup>, 7 community halls, 12 covered markets, and 3 Community Education Centres were constructed. In addition, 384.5km of farm roads, major hydro-agricultural works of the *Société d'Expansion et de Modernisation de la Riziculture*, Yagoua were rehabilitated and 10 Community Education Centres equipped. Some 1,172.18km of rural roads were maintained in order to connect production areas and some communities.

### B: Controlling High Cost of Living

**468-** Actions geared towards controlling inflation and prices of goods focused on permanent discussions with businessmen and civil society stakeholders to ensure the availability of staples in local markets. Besides, partnerships established with enterprises made it possible to organise promotional sales tours or implement new concepts such as "quinzaine de Noël" or "les journées de la consommation". In this re-

<sup>208</sup>About 33,395.15 Euros

<sup>209</sup> The Regions with the warehouses include Adamawa (1), Centre (5), Far North (4), Littoral (1), North (2), West (2), and South (1).

<sup>210</sup> Ponceaux et Dalots

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gard, 8 food products promotion and trade fairs and 12 Consumer Days were organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade (MIN-COMMERCE) with the support of Agropoles. The goal was to supply households with staples such as beef, chicken, fish, potato and fruits. The price of a kilogramme of cow meat with or without bones stood respectively at CFAF1,900<sup>211</sup> and CFAF2,450<sup>212</sup> instead of the standard CFAF2,400<sup>213</sup> and CFAF2,800<sup>214</sup>.

**469-** Furthermore, as part of marketing and supply platforms instituted by the Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (MIRAP), 202 Roving Periodic Markets, 236 Street Markets and 20 Specialised Roving Markets were organised for large volumes of the following products that were disposed: 1,068,566kg of animal species, 13,995,219kg of plant species, and 363,973kg of manufactured products worth CFAF3,936,759,948<sup>215</sup>.

## C: Combating Social Exclusion

**470-** Forced displacement of the people, insecurity, climate change and resulting collapse of existing production systems in Far North Region exposed the people to the risk of food insecurity. In order to address the problem, the special food donation from the Head of State continued.

**471-** In addition, the second phase of the Social Net Project to combat social exclusion through direct money transfer to beneficiaries was launched.

**472-** The 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee of the Social Security Project of Cameroon "Social Nets"<sup>216</sup> held in Yaounde from 19 to 20 December 2017 resulted in the allocation of CFAF30,000,000,000<sup>217</sup>

<sup>211</sup> About 2.90 Euros

<sup>212</sup> About 3.74 Euros

<sup>213</sup> About 3.66 Euros

<sup>214</sup> About 4.27 Euros

<sup>215</sup> About 6,005,273.35 Euros; representing the trade value between businessmen and consumers.

<sup>216</sup> The goal of the Project was to finance the establishment of a basic social security net system, including management of targeted money transfer programmes and public works for indigent and vulnerable people of participating Regions in the territory of the beneficiary.

<sup>217</sup> About 45,763,099.69 Euros

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to Cameroon to continue the Project till 2023. The Project that was launched in November 2013 to reduce poverty and food insecurity in some 2,000 households in Soulede-Roua in Far North Region, presented as the poorest Region, was since then extended to other Regions of the country. Phase II of the Project worth CFAF25,000,000,000<sup>218</sup> was launched with the support of IDA to include 82,000 assisted households<sup>219</sup>. In 2017, CFAF6,703,600,000<sup>220</sup> was transferred to 82,000 beneficiaries through direct money transfer, urgent money transfer and transfer for labour-intensive public works.

**473-** In addition, 2,424 families and indigent persons received relief assistance from public authorities.

### §3: Permanent Quest for Quality Foodstuffs

**474-** Biosecurity and infrastructure development measures were combined to preserve the hygiene of products.

#### A: Controlling the Health of Foodstuffs

**475-** Issues relating to biosecurity were addressed through checking the health of foodstuffs from both animal and plant origin.

##### 1) Checking the Origin of Animal Foodstuffs

**476-** In 2017, focus was on reducing the impact of animal diseases and enhancing the health quality of foodstuffs of animal and fish origin. In this regard, inspection missions of foodstuffs of animal and fish origin and stamping of meat for marketing continued.

**477-** Activities of the National Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonosis Prevention and Control Programme were launched and in this regard, training sessions on animal diseases transmitted to Man were organised to raise the awareness of stakeholders on care management.

<sup>218</sup> About 38,135,916.41 Euros

<sup>219</sup> Phase III that will begin in 2018 will be the biggest and will equally concern people in refugee-reception areas, especially in South West and North West Regions of the country. Some 7 out of the 10 Regions were concerned. As part of the Project, each beneficiary was expected to receive for a period of 24 months, money transfer of CFAF20,000 ( About 30.51 Euros) every 2 months, and CFAF80,000 ( About 122.03 Euros) every 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> month. The allocation stood at CFAF360,000 ( About 549.16 Euros).

<sup>220</sup> About 10,225,917.37 Euros

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**478-** The Tsetse fly Eradication Authority in Adamawa, North and Far North Regions continued supervision of breeders in controlling the tsetse fly and implementing epicutaneous treatment to and from transhumance activities. On the whole, 142,838 cattle were treated.

**479-** Furthermore, the *A H5N8 bird flu virus* surveillance and control measures<sup>221</sup> taken in 2016 were maintained due to the resurgence in March 2017 of pathogenic outbreaks in vast poultry production areas in West<sup>222</sup> and Far North Regions. That is why as part of prevention and response preparedness to possible new outbreaks, a surveillance plan for poultry markets was designed in collaboration with the FAO to guarantee epidemiological control in vast production areas. A communication plan and 11 standard operational procedures on control and surveillance of bird flu were drawn up and operational units were equipped with relief material. Similarly, 7 Regional Delegations received rolling stock and 215 telephone lines installed by the World Bank through the Agricultural Competitiveness Support Programme to continue awareness-raising activities.

**480-** Moreover, in addition to epidemiological surveillance and health monitoring measures, the operation to relaunch the poultry sector was envisioned.

**481-** Concerning the other animal diseases, more than 10,000,000 doses of vaccines against the main animal diseases that affect the country were produced by National Veterinary Laboratory (LANAVET)<sup>223</sup>.

<sup>221</sup> The measures focused on maintaining health restrictions especially systematic killing of all suspected or infected birds, mandatory disinfection of poultry buildings, observance of crawl space, etc.

<sup>222</sup> In Fombot community.

<sup>223</sup> 403,000 doses of anthrax vaccine;

2,897,000 doses of vaccines against haemorrhagic septicaemia;

2,133,800 doses of vaccines against actinomycosis;

1,609,250 doses of vaccines against contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP);

548,050 doses of vaccines against plague virus of small ruminants (PSR)

465,100 doses of vaccines against Newcastle disease, Cholera, and fowl typhoid.

In 2016 and 2017, more than 40,000 samples for diagnosis and research on animal diseases were analysed by LANAVET.

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## 2) Control of Plant Foodstuffs

**482-** The quality of foodstuffs of plant origin was guaranteed through the following 2 major actions: development of standards and labels of agricultural inputs and of main agricultural products.

**483-** Concerning the first component, focus was on seeds through the holding of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the National Seed and Plant Variety Council<sup>224</sup>, preparation of 3 Technical Regulations for seed and plant certification, issuance of 450 licences to import quality plant material, and organisation of 300 seed controls nationwide.

**484-** Under the same action, 646 licences were issued to import inputs, some 100 pesticides and processing apparatus homologated, thereby bringing the phytosanitary index of homologated and certified products to 1,253 in Cameroon. In addition, 80 sales points of phytosanitary products were checked resulting in the seizure of about 1 tonne and half of counterfeit products.

**485-** Regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> component, the capacity of 200 Phytosanitary Inspectors was developed in certification of the influx of agricultural products at the different borders to avoid entry of dangerous products in the country. In order to harmonise procedures in phytosanitary police posts, a phytosanitary inspection manual was drawn up and some 80,000 inspections were conducted in 2017. Similarly, a fertiliser and pesticide laboratory to analyse foodstuffs to check the absence of pesticide residue was constructed in Yaounde and its staff trained at a Workshop organised in November 2017 with the support of the FAO.

## 3) Quality Control and Certification

**486-** The Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR) certified food products manufactured locally or imported through the Evaluation Programme of Compliance Before Boarding of products in the Republic of Cameroon (PECAE). Concerning local products, out of the 43 applications for food products, 26 certifications were issued, 13 corrective measures required and 1 rejected. Regarding drinks, 25 certifications out of 42 applications were issued.

<sup>224</sup> Decree No. 2005/153 of 4 May 2005 to set up and lay down the organization and functioning of the National Seed and Plant Variety Council.

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**487-** Besides, the awareness of consumers was raised on standards during a campaign led by ANOR in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Handicraft of Cameroon in Bafoussam, Douala and Limbe from 13 to 15 November 2017 on the theme “Why are standards and quality so important to consumers?”.

## **B: Food Hygiene Infrastructure**

**488-** In a bid to guarantee proper handling of meat products, the industrial slaughterhouse, Ngaoundere with a slaughter capacity of 250 cows per day, 4 cold stores<sup>225</sup> and 8 refrigerated trucks were received as part of the Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth (PLANUT). Furthermore, 7 modern slaughterhouses<sup>226</sup>, 3 slaughter areas<sup>227</sup> and 1 pig and small ruminants<sup>228</sup> slaughter hall were built. In addition, 64 licences to set up processing, packaging, storage, and supply establishments of products of animal origin were issued, thereby contributing to combat fraud.

## **C: Fraud Control**

**489-** The cleaning up of the consumer sector through the eradication of illicit commercial practices and preservation of the quality of products available on market stalls was guaranteed through the organisation of 293 missions on quality, quantity, and price and weight control of products. At the end of the control, 20,054 sanctions were imposed for many forms of fraud including 2,189 sanctions for metrology-related fraud and 2,063 sanctions for fraud relating to after-sales service. In order to further consolidate equity in commercial transactions, a legal metrology laboratory was built in Cameroon.

**490-** In addition to the right to food, access to water and energy were also guaranteed the people.

<sup>225</sup> With a capacity of 1,400m<sup>3</sup>, 6,000m<sup>3</sup>, 1,400m<sup>3</sup> and 3,000m<sup>3</sup> constructed in Ngaoundere, Yaounde, Ebolowa and Kribi.

<sup>226</sup> These slaughterhouses were built in Ayos, Kaele, Dziguilao, Edea, Bana and Buea.

<sup>227</sup> In Mbangassina, Loum and Guider

<sup>228</sup> In Douala.





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## 2) Suburban Areas

**495-** Water supply projects in suburban areas were executed at different rates. In this regard, the execution rate of Phase C2 (PRRE-C2) of the Rehabilitation, Development, and Extension of Drinking Water Supply Systems (DWS) in 52 centres increased from 23.01% in December 2016 to 32% in December 2017. In addition, the execution rate of components B, C and D (PADEP-YEBN) of the Drinking Water Supply Enhancement in Yaounde and 3 secondary towns (Edea, Bertoua and Ngaoundere) stood at 42%. Besides, Phase I comprising Sangmelima, Kribi, Bafoussam and Bamenda (PAEP-SKBB) of the Drinking Water Supply Project in 9 towns was executed up till 97% by the end of 2017 as against 83% in March 2016. The water supply works in stadia and training fields in Limbe, Buea, Bafoussam and Yaounde (AEP STADES) were fully executed while the drinking water supply works in Meyomessala, Nkongsamba, Melong, Kekem and Bare continued to be executed.

## 3) Rural Areas

**496-** In 2017, some 193 drinking water supply projects and drilling of boreholes with hand-operated pumps were executed with the public investment budget. The following water equipment were received in some Regions:

**Table 3: Water equipment received in some Regions**

Region	Number of drinking water supply	Number of hand-operated pumps
Centre	10	0
East	2	1
Far North	1	1
Littoral	2	0
North West	3	2
West	13	1
South West	5	1

**Source:** MINEE

**497-** The completion of some of the projects referred to above had an impact especially on the water production capacity which increased

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from 380,000m<sup>3</sup>/day in 2016<sup>232</sup> to 545,350m<sup>3</sup>/day in 2017, representing an increase of 165,350m<sup>3</sup>/day.

## B: Sewage

**498-** As part of the hygiene component, the Drinking Water Supply and Hygiene in Rural Areas Project (PAEPA-MRU) enabled the construction of 327 public toilets, 590 private toilets, and 2 gender toilet buildings<sup>233</sup>.

**499-** The Sewage Project financed by the World Bank provided the people with 5,000 improved household latrines and 1,200 institutional latrines in thickly populated areas in East, Far North, and Adamawa Regions. In Douala, 1,400 household latrines and 1,800 latrines were built.

**500-** The continuity and completion of the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Semi-urban Areas in 18 secondary centres: Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3 and Lot 4 (PAEPA-MSU) fully completed<sup>234</sup>, enabled the construction of many sanitation facilities in public areas such as schools, health facilities, bus stations, etc, through latrine blocks, gender rest-rooms, and public toilets. The project further helped in the development of hospital incinerators and dumping grounds<sup>235</sup>.

**501-** The following activities were carried out in the same line:

- construction of improved emergency latrines in refugee camps in Borgop (Adamawa Region), Pouss, Beguepalam, and Minawao (Far North Region), and Gadobadzere (East Region);
- implementation of the sewage project with the construction of improved latrines in flood-prone and poverty-prone quarters in Douala; and
- construction of improved latrines in schools, health centres, markets, bus stations, and in some communities nationwide.

<sup>232</sup> See 2016 Report § 483

<sup>233</sup> The Project concerns 117 Councils in West, North West, South West and South Regions.

<sup>234</sup> It ended in September 2017 and helped implement 11,000 social connections and 125 recon-nections.

<sup>235</sup> The project also provided 19 Councils with 33 tractors, 161 tippable flatbeds and 19 small material collection and security kits used for protection of the environment and preservation of water resources.

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## §2: Right to Energy

**502-** Actions to guarantee the right to energy<sup>236</sup> were geared towards enhancing energy production, stepping up distribution, and protecting the interests of electricity consumers.

### A: Enhancing Energy Production

**503-** In order to enhance energy production, actions comprising promotion of renewable energy sources were carried out at both the strategic and operational levels.

#### 1) Consolidating the Strategic Framework

**504-** On 7 December 2017, a renewable energy development master plan was drawn up in partnership with the South Korean International Cooperation Agency. The plan, of which one of the thrusts was the identification of sites on which mini hydroelectric plants could be constructed, and solar, wind and biomass energy developed, will enable Cameroon to boost the development of renewable energy and diversify her sources of energy especially solar energy<sup>237</sup>.

#### 2) Enhancing Production

**505-** Production was enhanced in urban, suburban and rural areas.

##### a) Urban and Suburban Areas

**506-** Actions in urban and suburban areas focused mainly on the construction of dams and hydroelectric plants.

**507-** Concerning the Lom Pangar hydroelectric power plant, the dam has been fully constructed<sup>238</sup>. It was temporarily received on 30 June 2017 and exploitation services have started<sup>239</sup>. However, the con-

<sup>236</sup> The production capacity of electric energy in Cameroon from all sources (hydroelectric, thermal, solar ...) stands at 1,371 MW. However, the average access rate to electric energy stands at 95% in urban areas and 35.1% in rural areas; that is, a total of 65.05% equivalent to a deficit of 34.95%.

<sup>237</sup> The plan drawn up on the basis of studies conducted on 11 sites situated in Centre, East, North West, South West and South Regions reveals a potential that can enable Cameroon to triple her production capacity by 2030.

<sup>238</sup> 98% in December 2016. (See 2016 Report, §497).

<sup>239</sup> The consequences include proper management during low water periods (December – April) at the level of works downstream comprising Song Loulou and Edea by the guarantee gain of 170

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struction of the foot plant expected to produce 30MW of energy is ongoing.

**508-** Regarding the Memve'ele dam which is expected to produce 211MW of electric energy, the core work is 98%<sup>240</sup> complete. The other works such as installation of transformers and works on the discharge line of the electricity produced are ongoing.

**509-** Works on the transmission line and the quarters of the contracting authority of the Mekin dam expected to produce 15MW of electric energy have been completed. Ongoing works include the access road and the foot plant<sup>241</sup>.

**510-** Construction of hydroelectric plants is also ongoing especially the Bini à Warack hydroelectric plant in Adamawa Region<sup>242</sup> and Nachtigal Amont hydroelectric plant with a capacity of 420MW with a line of 225KV to transmit energy produced in the South Interconnected Network.

## b) Rural Areas

**511-** Rural coverage continued with a number of projects including the Rural Electrification Project of 166 communities by Huawei Company in the 10 Regions through the photovoltaic system that started in 2016.

**512-** The PERERRINS Project financed by the State of Cameroon and the World Bank<sup>243</sup> was for the electrification of 35 communities in the northern Regions, 45 communities in West Region and delivery of electricity meter kits. As at 31 December 2017, some 4,168 connections were made out of the expected 4,444 connections in the northern Regions,

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supplementary MW for the supply of the South Interconnected Network and savings made by the dealer in the purchase of gasoil for emergency thermal plant.

<sup>240</sup>92% in December 2016 (See 2016 Report §497). Besides, only the dam component was received on 8 February 2018.

<sup>241</sup> Work was 99% complete.

<sup>242</sup> At completion, this plant will produce 75MW of electric energy to step up energy supply of the North Interconnected Network.

<sup>243</sup> Financing was withdrawn by the World Bank following failure by the enterprise to execute the contract for the electrification of 42 communities and 10,358 connections in North West Region within the agreed time limit.

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representing a connection rate of 93.78%<sup>244</sup>. In West Region, 6,206 connections were made out of the expected 6,113 connections, representing a connection rate of 101.52%<sup>245</sup>. Meanwhile, 10,378 electricity meter kits were delivered out of the expected 21,400 kits, representing a delivery rate of 48.49%.

**513-** The RUMPI Decentralised Rural Electrification Project worth CFAF89 000,000,000<sup>246</sup> and financed by the State of Cameroon and the European Union helped supply 128 solar kits in 32 communities in South West Region, electrification of 26 communities in the same Region and execution of construction of a micro-hydroelectric plant with a capacity of 2.9MW in Mboa-Bakundu, South West Region with works executed at 90%. The Project helped in the complete construction of average and low tension distribution network and 5,380 connections made in Meme, Fako, and Ndian Divisions.

## B: Consolidating Distribution

**514-** In a bid to consolidate distribution of electricity, the National Electricity Distribution Company (SONATREL) became operational and the construction of electric energy transportation lines from production centres to consumption centres continued.

### 1) Functioning of SONATREL

**515-** In June 2017, Government signed a loan agreement of CFAF262,000,000,000<sup>247</sup> with the World Bank of which CFAF202,300,000,000<sup>248</sup> was allocated to SONATREL.

**516-** In the 2017 financial year, the Board of Directors meeting held on 21 December 2017 voted a budget of CFAF109,000,000,000<sup>249</sup> of which some CFAF60,000,000,000<sup>250</sup> was allocated to investment.

<sup>244</sup> 15 transformers of 50KVA and 33 of 25KVA were equally installed.

<sup>245</sup> 22 transformers of 50KVA and 33 of 25KVA were installed.

<sup>246</sup> About 135,763,862.40 Euros

<sup>247</sup> About 399,664,403.93 Euros

<sup>248</sup> About 308,595,835.56 Euros

<sup>249</sup> About 166,272,595.53 Euros

<sup>250</sup> About 91,526,199.37 Euros

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**517-** In addition, many staff<sup>251</sup> of the Energy of Cameroon (ENEO) Company are to be sent to SONATREL by virtue of a Memorandum of Understanding concluded in November 2017 between the 2 enterprises under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. The Agreement was devoted to the recruitment of ENEO technical staff by SONATREL, specifically staff of the Department of Transport.

**518-** However, SONATREL already took part in integration studies of Independent Power Producers into the transport network to ease connection of new stakeholders.

## **2) Construction of Electric Energy Transportation Lines from Production Centres to Consumption Centres**

**519-** Significant progress was made in the construction of electric energy transportation lines from production centres to consumption centres.

**520-** Works on the electric energy discharge line produced at Memve'ele were 65% executed, representing an increase of 35% compared to 2016.

**521-** Concerning the Mekin dam, connection works to the South Interconnected Network<sup>252</sup> which started on 18 November 2017<sup>253</sup> are ongoing and are carried out by ENEO experts.

### **C: Protection of Consumer Interests**

**522-** Protection of the rights and interests of consumers was guaranteed through 2 activities including management of disputes by the Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL), between ENEO Cameroon and its customers through conciliation and the call and information platform through the call centre.

<sup>251</sup> About 230.

<sup>252</sup> The electric energy transportation and distribution network is distributed between the following 3 autonomous networks: South Interconnected Network comprising Centre, Littoral, North West, West, South and South West Regions with a capacity of 795.48km of lines of 225KV, 1,009.4km of lines of 90KV and 30KV; North Interconnected Network comprising Adamawa, North and Far North Regions with a capacity of 337.63km of lines of 110KV, 201.15km of lines of 90KV and 30KV; East Interconnected Network located in East Region, Upper Sanaga Division (Minta Subdivision) with a current line of 30KV.

<sup>253</sup> Construction of the transportation line was completed since 2016 (See 2016 Report, §507).

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## 1) Management of Disputes between ENEO and customers through a Conciliation Platform

**523-** In 2017, the Conciliation Commission of the ARSEL held 36 conciliation sessions including 22 in Yaounde and 14 in Douala.

**524-** During the said sessions, 356 applications were examined of which 266 were ruled on<sup>254</sup> and 9 *locus in quo* for verification. The dispute resolution rate stood at 80.55%<sup>255</sup>.

**Table 4: Summary of applications for conciliation**

Town	Number of conciliation sessions held in 2017	Number of applications registered	Number of applications enlisted	Number of applications not yet listed	Number of applications examined urgently	Number of applications ruled on	Number of cases processed
Yaounde	22	256	253	3	57	153	43
Douala	14	125	118	7	7	98	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>63</b>

## 2) Call and Information Platform through Call Centre

**525-** The annual report of the Call Centre gives the details of complaints filed by electricity consumers. It highlights incidents identified and the percentage of claims by Region as shown in the table below:

**Table 5: Number of Incidents Registered**

Nature	Number
<b>Disruption of supply</b>	1,800
<b>Sundry</b>	50
<b>Poor quality of service</b>	36
<b>Non-executed connections</b>	4
<b>Total: 2017</b>	1,890

**Source:** ARSEL

**526-** There was a drop in the number of incidents compared to previous years (2,038 in 2015 and 4,009 in 2016).

<sup>254</sup> The other 90 applications are pending before the Commission.

<sup>255</sup> The rate has increased by 9.72% compared to 2016 (See 2016 Report, §518).



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**Table 6: Percentage of Claims per Region**

Region	Disruption of supply	Poor quality of service	Sundry	Non-executed connections	Total	%
Centre	1,278	32	15	4	1,320	70.31
Littoral	207	3	5	0	2,015	11.37
South	21	0	14	0	35	1.85
West	10	1	0	0	11	0.58
East	1	0	0	0	1	0.5
North	17	0	2	0	19	1
West						
South West	16	0	0	0	16	1,85
Adamawa	12	0	0	0	12	0.63
North	238	0	14	0	252	13.33
Far North	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** ARSEL

## SECTION 3: RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

**527-** Increasing supply and the legal security of tenure helped reduce the housing crisis which, due to internal factors, necessitated the development of the capacity of stakeholders of the sector. In addition, access to housing was eased by maintaining housing finance.

### §1: Stepping up Housing Supply

**528-** The action to step up housing focused on the construction of new houses and developing building plots. Besides, the rehabilitation of existing houses and the implementation of the Framework Agreement to redesign and renovate poorly designed quarters of Cameroon also helped in attaining the objective.

#### A: Construction of New Houses

**529-** Concerning Government's Programme to construct 10,000 low cost houses for which the Cameroon Housing Corporation (SIC) plays the role of delegated Contracting Authority, 240 houses were received in Mbanga-Bakoko (Douala) out of the first expected 1,675 houses and the keys of 6 flats were handed to the buyers at Olembe (Yaounde)<sup>256</sup>.

<sup>256</sup> However, these figures need improvement as demand in housing of all standings (low, medium, and high standing) stands at about 1 million units with an annual growth estimated at about 100,000 new houses.

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**530-** With the support of the Chinese Cooperation, 1,520 houses were completed in Yaounde, Douala, Limbe, Sangmelima, Bamenda, and Bafoussam. Similarly, as part of PLANUT<sup>257</sup>, construction of 100 houses in each Regional Headquarters other than Yaounde and Douala continued. Construction of 530 out of 1,050 houses in Douala kicked off while construction of 500 out of 900 houses in Yaounde is ongoing<sup>258</sup>.

## **B: Development of Building Plots and Land Reserves**

**531-** Development of building plots and land reserves continued in Olembe-Yaounde (23ha), Nkondom 1-Mfou (30ha), Oloa-Nsimalen (30ha), Ngoulmekong-Bikok (30ha), and Gbego-Bertoua (67ha).

**532-** Similarly, 846 plots were demarcated out of the 2,000 contained in the annual objectives, representing 42% of annual estimates of the Mission for the Development and Equipment of Urban and Rural Land (MAETUR) in Douala (Logbessou TV and Nylon-Oyack 3). The objectives were not attained due to administrative and land problems.

**533-** Development works were completed on the Ekoko 2 site (16ha) with a view to resettling the people evicted on the ground of construction of the Yaounde-Nsimalen motorway. Resettlement works in Ngol-zock (100ha) were launched.

**534-** In addition, new large construction areas are under negotiation especially Lobo (400ha), Mbankomo (200ha), and Massoumbou (500ha).

**535-** As part of the Land Reserves Project, 739,360ha of land are to be developed in Ndian, Faro and Deo, and Mbere and Djerem Divisions. To date, more than 60% of work is done on each of the sites

## **C: Rehabilitation of existing Houses and Urban environmental Enhancement**

**536-** In 2017, SIC rehabilitated a number of low-cost houses (21 storey buildings and 62 individual houses rehabilitated) worth

<sup>257</sup> Progress rates stand as follows: Ebolowa 80%, Bertoua 25%, Buea 29%, Bafoussam 20%, Ngaoundere 30%, Garoua 27%, Maroua 25%, and Bamenda 6.1%.

<sup>258</sup> This is Phase I of the so-called "Cité des Cinquantenaires"

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CFAF337,248,034<sup>259</sup>. Contracts worth CFAF371,050,778<sup>260</sup> were also signed to renovate Nlongkak (Yaounde) and Bornouan (Garoua) quarters, conduct technical architectural studies, and develop Bornouan quarters, Garoua.

**537-** As part of urban environmental enhancement through the Yaounde Phase II Sanitation Project (PADY 2), 14km of drain was constructed in Yaounde. In the same line, 39km of drain was constructed in Douala while 120 street lighting equipment is under construction in Bafia, Batiouri, Kaelle, Douala and Dschang.

## **D: Implementation of the Framework Agreement to redesign and renovate poorly designed Quarters of Cameroon**

**538-** In 2016, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MIN-HDU) and MAETUR signed a Framework Agreement to redesign and renovate poorly designed quarters of Cameroon. The Agreement was under implementation in 2017 through the redesigning of the following towns:

- Yaounde, around the headquarters of the Special Council Support Fund (FEICOM) (50ha), Mimboman quarters: execution rate: 25%;
- Garoua (150ha): Padama, Haoussare, Souari Manou, Souhari depot, Yela, Toupourire, Bamilekere quarters: execution rate: 20%;
- Bafoussam (150ha): Kouogouo A and Kouogouo B, Djeleng 5 quarters: execution rate: 20%;
- Douala (700 ha): Makepe-Missoke, Bonaloka, Makepe Maturité, Ndogpassi, Sic Cacao, Bobongo, *Cité des Berges*, Grand Hangar Bonaberi quarters: execution rate: 15%.

## **§2: Security of Tenure of Sites with Land Projects**

**539-** The Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MIND-CAF) continued to secure sites with land projects especially the 10,000 low-cost houses Programme.

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<sup>259</sup> About 514,450.51 Euros

<sup>260</sup> About 566,014.46 Euros

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**540-** It is worthy of note that the programme was executed on 2 sites, Olembe (Yaounde) with Land Title No. 1744/MFOUNDI A, and Mbanga-Bakoko (Douala) with Land title No. 5365/WOURI B, Land Title No. 5366/WOURI B, and Land Title No. 5367/WOURI B.

**541-** The other sites planned for low-cost houses in Mfoundi, Mezam, and Benoue Divisions were being secured in 2017.

**542-** In 2017, some 6,412 land titles were issued nationwide: 2,265 were issued by direct registration, representing 768 by traditional communities, while 404 were obtained by full transfer, 3,716 by division, and 27 by transfer of deed.

### **§3: Assistance to Housing Finance**

**543-** In 2017, the Housing Loan Fund (CFC) received 493 loan applications amounting to CFAF22,211,730,901<sup>261</sup>. Some 466 loans were granted worth CFAF19,357,376,309<sup>262</sup>. Some 1,748 houses were financed and 27 applications are pending amounting to CFAF2,854,354,594<sup>263</sup>.

**544-** Concerning the measures taken to ease access to housing, the CFC continued to grant loans at preferential interest rates to buyers of houses under Government's Programme, grant loans to young people struggling to have preferential interest rates for the first time without personal guarantee, subject to their capacity to borrow. This concerned

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<sup>261</sup> About 33,882,588.51 Euros

<sup>262</sup> About 29,528,451.39 Euros

<sup>263</sup> About 4,354,137.13 Euros

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classical land development loan<sup>264</sup>, rental land development loan<sup>265</sup>, and promotional land development loan<sup>266</sup>.

**545-** Similarly, FEICOM helped Councils consume the CFAF10,000,000,000<sup>267</sup> credit line dedicated to financing council quarters.

## §4: Capacity Development of Stakeholders of the Housing Sector

**546-** After having remarked that the shortcomings in the housing sector were caused, first, by stakeholders, MAETUR organised a number of capacity development workshops to enable professionals in the sector to share in the experiences of other countries. Each workshop was attended by some 40 professionals from semi-public enterprises (SIC, CFC, MAETUR) and City Councils (Douala, Yaounde, Kribi), and professional associations (Association of Land Surveyors, Association of Town Planners

<sup>264</sup> It applies to natural persons with a stable and long-term salary in its 5 components: ordinary classical land development loan for a period of 25 to 300 months at an interest rate of 5.032% excluding taxes; conventional classical land development loan for a period of 25 to 300 months at an interest rate of 4.193% excluding taxes; social classical land development loan for a period of 25 to 300 months at an interest rate of 4.193% excluding taxes; the classical buyer loan for a period of 25 to 360 months at an interest rate of 5.032% excluding taxes; the youth classical loan without personal guarantee, for a period of 25 to 300 months at an interest rate varying between 3.145% and 3.355% excluding taxes.

<sup>265</sup> For the execution of real estate project for rental, in its 2 components: ordinary rental real estate loan for a period of 300 to 360 months at an interest rate of 5.871% excluding taxes; social rental real estate loan for a period of 300 to 360 months at an interest rate of 4.193% excluding taxes

<sup>266</sup> For the development of building land for sale or construction of house on sale, in its 3 components: ordinary promotional real estate loan for a period of 48 months at an interest rate of 5.871% excluding taxes; social promotional real estate loan for a period of 48 months at an interest rate of 3.355% excluding taxes; social programmes for a maximum period of 48 months at an interest rate of 1 to 3.355% excluding taxes.

<sup>267</sup> About 15,254,366.56 Euros

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and Civil Engineers)<sup>268</sup>. The seminars helped harmonise actions, avoid social disturbance, and comply with the new urban agenda.

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**547-** In 2017, new strategic orientations driven into the rural sector had an initial impact on agricultural production results. However, the said results hardly overshadowed the risk of food insecurity still recorded in some Regions of the country, especially Far North Region where weather vagaries (climate change) have significantly affected production of cereals. Similarly, the effectiveness of projects geared towards reducing the energy deficit may still be questioned considering the persistent shortage in water and energy supply in spite of efforts made to step up supply of same. Concerning access to decent housing, many bottlenecks remain especially regarding delays in completing the construction project of 10,000 low-cost houses. It is recommended that the national housing policy be finalised.

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<sup>268</sup> This includes a Workshop organised from 13 to 15 April 2017 in Yaounde, in collaboration with *Urbanisme du Monde*, an NGO, on operational urbanisation; the workshop organised from 17 to 20 June 2017 in Yaounde in collaboration with *Urbanisme du Monde*, and NGO, and UN-HABITAT, on varied themes like water in all states, urban security, production of impacts that hamper the execution of projects on infrastructure, welfare, living together, eco-quarters challenges, financing land-based urban programmes; the workshop organised from 3 to 8 December 2017 in Douala on capacity development of the team monitoring redesigning and renovation surveys of precarious quarters of Cameroon.

**Chapter** **4**

**RIGHT TO WORK AND  
SOCIAL SECURITY**





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**548-** In 2017, the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP)<sup>269</sup> continued to be the strategic framework in which actions to guarantee the right to work and social security were contained. An assessment of the implementation progress of the Programme was made. At the same time, action focused on the promotion of employability, decent work and social dialogue, and consolidation of the social security system.

## **SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT OF THE DECENT WORK COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR CAMEROON (2014-2017)**

**549-** Through assessment of implementation of the DWCP<sup>270</sup>, it was possible to measure progress made during the cycle, to identify shortcomings and envision new prospects in the sector of employment, labour and social security.

### **§1: Progress made during the Cycle**

**550-** The assessment shows that the DWCP achievement rate at the end of the cycle stood at 65%. The results obtained during the cycle were outlined according to 3 priority thrusts of the DWCP including increase in decent job opportunities and income-generating activities especially for women, youths and vulnerable groups (Priority No. 1); enhancement of the normative framework and working conditions for all (Priority No. 2); and capacity development of tripartite constituents for social dialogue (Priority No. 3).

### **A: Results obtained within the Framework of Priority No. 1**

**551-** In a bid to increase decent job opportunities, programmes and projects dedicated to the employment of youths and women<sup>271</sup> were developed. Such programmes included the National Plan for Youth Employment (2016-2020) whose funds for implementation are under mobilisation, Council Integration and Reintegration Plans including Local Forward Training Plans designed by 20 Councils; implementation of the

<sup>269</sup> For previous developments on DWCP, see §716 and following of the 2015 Report.

<sup>270</sup> Headed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS) and supported by the International Labour Office (ILO), assessment of the DWCP was conducted by a Consultancy and the results were presented during a capacity development workshop for tripartite constituents organised in Yaounde from 20 to 22 March 2017.

<sup>271</sup> About 35 programmes and projects of which at least 17 were for youths.

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NGP and adoption of the Plan of Action for Female Entrepreneurship (2017-2020). In addition, projects such as Pygmies Development Project/Forest Environment Sector Project were carried out as part of Phase III of the National Community-driven Programme (2016-2019)<sup>272</sup> and the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Programme (2013-2015)<sup>273</sup> for the socio-economic integration of socially vulnerable persons.

**552-** Although it has been highlighted that there is no statistical data to appreciate changes made, the survey revealed that the initiatives encouraged entrepreneurship, employability and vocational integration of women, youths, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples.

## **B: Results obtained within the Framework of Priority No. 2**

**533-** The ratification process of international labour standards started for 5 conventions<sup>274</sup> as against 4 initially scheduled for 2017.

**554-** Concerning State obligations in the implementation of international labour standards, the improvement expected by the end of the cycle was achieved. It included the regular drawing up of progress reports on the implementation of the Principles and the basic labour rights by tripartite constituents, and responses of Government to the General Comments of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations.

<sup>272</sup> Thus, in the High Labour-Intensive Programme of Phase III of the National Community-driven Programme, 1,089 youths were trained and integrated while 1,131 jobs were created.

<sup>273</sup> The Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Project has a framework for actions geared towards vulnerable indigenous peoples designed with a view to developing and diversifying the production capacities of the said peoples in the selected agricultural sectors, and increase their income and through it their contribution in boosting national economic growth. Some CFAF500,000,000 ( About 762,718.33 Euros) was allocated for the implementation of the said Project over the period 2013-2015.

<sup>274</sup> Significant progress has been made in the ratification process of the following conventions:  
- ILO Convention No. 144 on Tripartite Consultation adopted in Geneva, Switzerland on 2 June 1976, ratified following Decree No. 2015/578 of 16 December 2015. The ratification instruments were deposited on 1 June 2018; and ILO Convention No. 155 on occupational safety and health, adopted in Geneva, Switzerland on 22 June 1981, ratified by Decree No. 2015/579 of 16 December 2015.  
- Explanatory statements were drawn up with a view to ratifying the following conventions: ILO Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers; ILO Convention No. 102 on social security; and ILO Convention No. 142 on human resources development.

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**555-** With regard to the enhancement of working conditions for all, progress made included the drawing up of specific policy papers such as the National Social Security at Work Policy, the Framework Document on Guidelines on HIV/AIDS control in the labour world, and the National Plan for the Elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Cameroon. Focus was equally on HIV/AIDS control at work, especially with the following: VCT@WORK<sup>275</sup> initiative, formation of an Internal HIV/AIDS control Committee in collaboration with the Framework Document on Guidelines on HIV/AIDS control in the labour world.

## **C: Results obtained within the Framework of Priority No. 3**

**556-** The results of Priority No. 3 included consolidation of Bodies dedicated to social dialogue<sup>276</sup> and capacity development of tripartite constituents through their attendance of trainings and involvement in the drawing up of Collective Agreements.

## **§2: Shortcomings and Recommendations**

**557-** The shortcomings observed in the effective implementation of the DWCP included the following:

- failure to organise sessions of the Tripartite Steering Committee for the implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the DWCP;
- feeble participation and understanding of stakeholders from Ministries and social partners in the implementation of the DWCP;
- lack of clear implementation and resource mobilisation strategies for the implementation of the DWCP;
- lack of specific coordination of the information system on employment and vocational training;
- lack of reliable and regular statistical data on results generated by activities included in the DWCP;

<sup>275</sup> The VCT@WORK initiative helped organise more than 300 screening campaigns at the workplace (formal and informal) in the 10 Regions nationwide, and conduct HIV screening of more than 70,000 workers (men and women), training workshops on the ILO key principles and tools: 200 Recommendations, Collection of ILO practical directives on HIV/AIDS in the labour world, and ILO Guide on HIV/AIDS control in the sector of building and construction.

<sup>276</sup> The following social dialogue bodies were established: the National Labour Advisory Commission, the National Commission on Health and Safety at Work, the Social Dialogue Consultative and Monitoring Commission, and the Synergy Committee.

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- low level of trade unionisation of employees;
- low social security coverage in spite of the existence of many diseases affecting workers, the frequency of industrial injury and occupational diseases; and
- insufficient social dialogue at the workplace and the low level of compliance with national and international labour standards.

**558-** The following recommendations were made resulting from assessment of the DWCP:

- extension of the DWCP for a period of 2 years;
- dissemination of the DWCP for a better understanding by stakeholders;
- drawing up DWCP communication and resource mobilisation strategies; and
- regular holding of sessions of the DWCP Tripartite Steering Committee.

**559-** Following the said recommendations, DWCP activities were remodelled during a workshop organised from 29 to 31 August 2017 in Douala with a view to achieving a 100% rate in 2019. In this regard, the Memorandum of Understanding on DWCP signed in 2014 between the State and the ILO was effectively extended for a period of 2 years (2018-2019), and a special allocation by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) of CFAF100,000,000<sup>277</sup> was made to MINTSS for the implementation of the remaining activities of the DWCP.

**560-** In addition to DWCP assessment, actions targeting employability continued.

## SECTION 2: EMPLOYABILITY MEASURES

**561-** In a bid to increase employability, measures were taken to guarantee training and vocational orientation, skills deployment and support to employment-friendly initiatives.

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<sup>277</sup> About 152,543.65 Euros

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## §1: Training and Vocational Orientation

**562-** Although the Vocational Training Centres of Excellence, Douala, Sangmelima, and Limbe<sup>278</sup> were established in 2016, they effectively opened their doors to 190 students in 2017 with the development of training syllabuses in different fields. Training course content varied from centre to centre and globally comprised auto mechanics, carpentry, plumbing and pipe-fitting, repairs of agricultural machines, clerical duties, welding and forging works, fashion design and pattern making.

**563-** Concerning development of the vocational orientation system, School, University and Vocational Orientation Centres in Douala and Yaounde organised trade exhibitions to make known agricultural, banking, hotel and catering, and production of materials fields. Besides, MINEFOP granted 78 foreign scholarships and 308 national scholarships to young selected candidates.

**564-** In its mission to promote employment, the National Employment Fund (NEF) held interviews and oriented 51,727 job seekers in 2017 of which 50,547 were integrated.

**565-** In 2017, through the development of virtual intermediation of the website<sup>279</sup>, NEF registered 417,844 visitors as against 394,184 in 2016. Similarly, 506 job vacancies were published for 4,355 positions. At the end of the process, 4,243 job seekers were selected by employers through the website and 424 persons recruited.

## §2: Skills Deployment

**566-** Within the framework of the *National Skills Identification Programme*, 20,327 persons were registered in 2017 as against 51,230 in 2016 due to financial constraints. In addition, 1,023 persons were formally trained as against 429 in 2016 and 2,892 received on-the-job training as against 1,105 in 2016.

**567-** As part of the *Graduate Employment Programme* that targets integration of youths without professional experience, 704 young gradu-

<sup>278</sup> See 2016 Report, §556.

<sup>279</sup> [www.fnecm.org](http://www.fnecm.org).

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ates benefitted from pre-employment practicum for 1 year as against 525 in 2016.

**568-** On the whole, the budget of NEF increased from CFAF8,500,000,000<sup>280</sup> in 2016 to CFAF9,500,000,000<sup>281</sup> in 2017. From the budget, CFAF4,184,059,092<sup>282</sup> allocated to operational activities was distributed as follows: CFAF274,189,099<sup>283</sup> for intermediation, CFAF1,142,773,699<sup>284</sup> for training, and CFAF3,898,978,110<sup>285</sup> for project financing.

### §3: Employment-friendly Initiatives

**569-** As part of promotion of self-employment, 100 micro projects were financed under the *Integrated Support Project to Stakeholders of the Informal Sector*. The beneficiaries who were divided into groups and associations created 400 direct and indirect jobs.

**570-** Besides, actions were carried out especially for youths through the effective functioning of the National Youth Observatory (NYO), the Rural and Urban Youths Support Programme (PAJER-U), and the financing of projects supported by the Technical Operational Units of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC) and partner structures by FONIJ.

**571-** The following actions were carried out regarding the NYO:

- making the NYO digital Platform operational;
- registration at the NYO, of 507,614 youths of which 3,275 from the Diaspora;
- referencing 4,150 youths to different support and financing structures; and
- drawing up a moral and civic toolkit for youths registered at the

<sup>280</sup> About 12,966,211.58 Euros

<sup>281</sup> About 14,491,648.23 Euros

<sup>282</sup> About 6,382,517.11 Euros

<sup>283</sup> About 418,258.10 Euros

<sup>284</sup> About 1,743,228.89 Euros

<sup>285</sup> About 5,947,644.13 Euros

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NYO, and the moral rearmament of 3,500 of them by the National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development and execution of the Civic Education and National Integration Project with the establishment of Mobile Urban and Rural Animation Teams.

**572-** PAJER-U carried out the following activities:

- training of 1,338 youths or groups of youths in entrepreneurship and management of productive projects and support to 1,012 youths of previous batches in management of their projects; and
- selection of 162 youths for training in entrepreneurship and technical training in the areas of renewable energy according to the German model, in partnership with the Institute of Applied Technologies.

**573-** Concerning FONIJ, it financed 201 projects by youths as part of the Administrative Performance Plan and validated 3,835 projects by youths; that is, 2,568 micro-activities (below CFAF1,000,000<sup>286</sup>) and 1,267 junior enterprises (above CFAF1,000,000<sup>287</sup>) as part of the Special 3-year Youth Plan.

**574-** Apart from promotion of actions aimed at increasing job opportunities, focus was also on enhancement of decent working conditions.

## SECTION 3: ENHANCEMENT OF DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS

**575-** The adoption of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the worst forms of child labour was the pillar of the action geared towards decent work, followed by promotion of health and safety at work, and social dialogue. Besides, the Labour Inspectorate was revitalised to comply with Convention No. 81 of the International Labour Organization<sup>288</sup>.

<sup>286</sup> About 1, 525.44 Euros

<sup>287</sup> About 1, 525.44 Euros

<sup>288</sup> The International Labour Organization Convention on the labour inspectorate, 1947, ratified on 3 September 1962.

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## §1: Adoption of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cameroon

**576-** In order to give meaning to Declarations from Global Conferences on the elimination of child labour<sup>289</sup>, Government adopted a National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour<sup>290</sup> in Cameroon (PANETEC) on 18 October 2017 covering the period 2018-2025. PANETEC was drawn up with the participation of representatives from Government Institutions concerned, social partners (employers' and workers' organisations), CSOs and development partners.

**577-** As a multisector operational action tool, the goal of PANETEC is to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2025, while consolidating the institutional framework and mechanisms. To achieve this, 6 strategic thrusts were identified, especially Legislation and law enforcement, Education, Social Protection, Labour Market Policy and Corporate Responsibility of Enterprises, Cross-cutting Policies and Coordination of management and monitoring of PANETEC.

**578-** The implementation of scheduled activities of the Plan will complete the legal strides already made to combat child labour<sup>291</sup>.

<sup>289</sup> The Brasilia Declaration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference on child labour held from 8 to 10 October 2013 in Brazil and the Buenos Aires Declaration on child labour, forced labour and youth employment of the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour organised in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 14 to 16 November 2017.

<sup>290</sup> The worst forms of child labour are defined in Article 3 of the Convention as follows:

- all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children

<sup>291</sup> As party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989, ratified on 11 January 1993) and the 2 ILO Conventions on child labour including Convention No. 138 on minimum age (1973, ratified in 2001) and Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour (1999, ratified in 2002), Cameroon has a legal framework that defines the minimum working age, child protection in a situation of authorised labour and the worst forms of child labour.

Section 86 of Law No. 92/7 of 14 August 1992 on the Labour Code fixes 14 years as the minimum age for employment and provides, in compliance with Convention No. 138, that exceptions may be allowed below 14 years. In application of the Labour Code, Order No. 17/MTLS/DEGRE of 27 May 1969 on child labour regulates the activity. On the whole, children are prohibited from carrying out some forms of work, and where children are employed, they have to work under special



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## §2: Promotion of Health and Safety at Work

**579-** In 2017, some 300 Committees on Hygiene and Safety at Work (CHSW) or known as Health and Safety Committees (HSC) were formed while evaluation of the functioning of the Committees was conducted in 65 enterprises in Centre, Littoral, and South West Regions. Besides, 6 training and capacity development manuals for Labour Inspectors and members of the CHSW<sup>292</sup> were drawn up.

## §3: Promotion of Social Dialogue

**580-** In order to promote social dialogue, 4 sessions of the Social Dialogue Consultative and Monitoring Committee were held. The forums held under a tripartite system, enabled discussions on the socio-economic impact of the tensions in North West and South West Regions, and to monitor negotiations and the signing of 2 Collective Agreements<sup>293</sup> in 2017. In addition, Government helped appease social upheavals following claims by workers in some sectors<sup>294</sup>.

conditions aimed at protecting them.

Where a child is above 14 years old and exercises authorised activities, he enjoys greater protection until he is 18 years old. Such protection includes checking labour compliance, extension of annual leave and adjustment of working hours.

Worst forms of child labour are, under such terminology, not explicitly defined in the Cameroon legislation. The 2008 National Report on Child Labour in Cameroon indicates that the worst forms of child labour are classified in the following 2 groups: hazardous work and the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work.

The qualification of hazardous work cannot be limited to moral considerations, but should take into account legislative and regulatory concerns. In Cameroon, the qualification is determined by Order No. 17/MTLS/DEGRE of 27 May 1969 referred to above which considers the following activities as hazardous work for children: Underground Work, Mines and Quarries, Galleries (Article 10, section 2) and professions that may constitute a danger to the physical, moral or psychological integrity of children.

Government envisions updating the list of hazardous works to align it on the current economic and social context and raise the awareness of children on new forms of danger through new information and communication technologies.

The worst forms of labour other than hazardous work include trafficking of persons and slavery provided for in section 342-1 of Law No. 2016/7 of 12 July 2016 relating to the Penal Code.

<sup>292</sup> With the support of the International Labour Office, Government drafted 3 training manuals for Labour Inspectors in health and security at work and 3 training manuals for trainers at HSC. These documents shall be submitted to the CHSW

<sup>293</sup> The National Collective Agreement of FEICOM Enterprises and the National Collective Convention of the Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV)

<sup>294</sup> The claims were made by workers in the following sectors:

- in the education sector, the claims included the holding of a National Education Forum and the integration of Primary School Teachers of the 2006 Batch, and Contract Secondary School Teachers. A meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government was held on 5 December 2017, at the end of which the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform, the Minister of Secondary Education, the Minister of Basic Education, and the Minister of Higher Education were exhorted

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## §4: Revitalising the Labour Inspectorate

**581-** Following the adoption of some regulatory instruments<sup>295</sup>, the labour inspectorate system for international labour standards was consolidated with increase in staff strength of Labour Inspectors that increased from 50 in 2016 to 130 in 2017. In this regard, the Labour Inspectors conducted 1,771 checks in enterprises in 2017.

## SECTION 4: CONSOLIDATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

**582-** The National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF) registered new insured persons and paid out social benefits. Besides, the Institution faced an increasing number of disputes.

### §1: Registration of Insured Persons and Payment of Social Benefits

**583-** In 2017, NSIF registered 93,694 new insured persons as against 118,481 in 2016, of which 59,104 were under the compulsory scheme as against 74,487 in 2016, and 44,588 under the voluntary scheme as against 43,994 in 2016.

**584-** The sum of CFAF86,000,000,000<sup>296</sup> was paid as social benefits to 321,679 beneficiaries in all categories combined.

**585-** As at 31 December 2017, some 10,480 parents were granted family allowance for 206,658 children worth CFAF10,900,000,000<sup>297</sup>.

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to implement the exclusive directives of the Head of State on the organisation of the said Forum;

- in the transport sector, claims made by workers of the *TIC LE BUS* Company included payment of arrears of salary, non-payment of social security contributions to NSIF, non-payment of family allowances, and clearance of the labour rights of former employees. Tripartite discussions resulted in the disbursement of CFAF835,490,528 for the clearance of the labour rights of *TIC LE BUS* Company workers; and
- in the sector of major construction projects, claims by workers of China First High Way Engineering Corporation and JTEGC Construction Company in charge of the construction of the Yaounde-Douala motorway and maintenance of the Kumba-Mamfe road respectively, included the non-application of the National Collective Agreement for Building and Construction, non-payment of salaries, unlawful dismissals, and non-payment of housing allowance.

<sup>295</sup> Order No. 10/MINTSS of 17 February 2017 to appoint officials in the Regional Delegations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security; and Order No. 11/MINTSS of 17 February 2017 to appoint officials in the Divisional Delegations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

<sup>296</sup> About 131,187,552.44 Euros

<sup>297</sup> About 16,627,259.55 Euros

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**586-** As at 31 December 2017, some 108,489 persons received old age, and disability pension, and death benefits worth CFAF72,748,171,274<sup>298</sup>.

**587-** As at 31 December 2017, some 6,187 beneficiaries received occupational risk benefits worth CFAF3,300,000,000<sup>299</sup>.

## §2: Social Security Disputes

**588-** Social security disputes were related to those under social insurance obligation, pensionable earnings and recovery of social security contributions and settlement of social security benefits by NSIF.

**589-** Concerning the first type of disputes, in 2017, out of 50 applications filed by employees challenging recovery ordered by NSIF, further control was ordered in 6 cases while judgment was implicitly entered in 44 cases for NSIF. Still in 2017, out of the 221 petitions filed by employers before Administrative Courts<sup>300</sup>, 35 judgments were delivered that became final; that is, 34 entered for NSIF and 1 against same. At the end of the year, 151 petitions were pending.

**590-** Regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> type of disputes, out of 243 applications filed in 2017 before the Appeals Committee, 32 were re-examined, 43 called for hearing, 42 decisions delivered for NSIF, and 1 decision entered for a social security beneficiary while 125 were implicitly dismissed. Out of the 50 matters duly enlisted and regularly called for hearing before Regional Commissions on Social Insurance Disputes, 14 decisions were delivered, 10 for NSIF against 4 for social security beneficiaries. At the end of 2017, some 36 petitions were pending.

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\* \*

<sup>298</sup> About 110,972,727.13 Euros

<sup>299</sup> About 5,033,940.96 Euros

<sup>300</sup> See section 116 of Law No. 2006/22 of 29 December 2006 on the organisation and functioning of administrative courts.

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**591-** On the whole, in 2017, there were 3 topical issues regarding labour and social security: assessment of the DWCP (2014-2017) that made it possible to highlight the mitigated implementation level; revitalisation of the labour inspectorate through qualitative and quantitative consolidation of staff; and deployment of special actions for youth employment. It is hoped that the extension of the DWCP period will have a positive impact.





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**592-** As per Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. The right to culture is also contained in Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Article 22 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

**593-** To guarantee the right to culture and leisure in 2017, the State took measures among which the preservation and promotion, enhancement of availability of and access to cultural goods and services as well as the protection of the moral and material interests of Artists. The promotion and development of tourism and leisure was also of interest.

## **SECTION 1: PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL GOODS AND SERVICES**

**594-** The preservation and the promotion of cultural goods and services contributes to enforcing the right to culture.

### **§1: Preservation of Cultural Goods and Services**

**595-** The preservation of cultural goods and services was done through digitilisation of archives, training of archivists on preservation techniques and preservation of cultural infrastructure.

#### **A: Preservation of National Archives**

**596-** Given the importance of archives in the country, the year 2017 was placed under the theme of the effective putting of archives into digitized and sound form. After the official launch of this initiative in 2016 in Yaounde, this operation continued with the creation of the sound archives at the National Archives Annexe in Buea. The action took place in 2 phases, namely the identification of historical recording sources, followed by the collection of audio-visual tapes and live audio recordings of traditional chiefs of the areas concerned. This was to ensure that the national archives are broadcast in a wider geographic area simultaneously for a larger audience.

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**597-** Hence, from 13 February to 9 March 2017, was organised at the National Archives in Yaounde, a training workshop for archivists of this institution on preservation technics of archives put together during the time Cameroon was a German protectorate. The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany donated 600 fireproof archive boxes and 2500 cardboard folders to support the training.

## **B: Preservation of Cultural Infrastructure**

**598-** The sum of CFAF1 10,000,000<sup>301</sup> was included in the budget of Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC) to support 42 localities in the rehabilitation, construction and reconstruction of traditional palaces, public and private museums, cultural centres, sultanates and *lamidats*, acquisition of cultural objects and digitalisation of archives among others. Furthermore, the rehabilitation of the Baka Museum of Mayos in the Dimako sub division was completed.

## **§2: Promotion of Cultural Goods and Services**

**599-** Multiculturalism was promoted as well as Cinema, book publishing and a reading Culture.

### **A: Promotion of Multiculturalism**

**600-** On 23 January 2017, was created the National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM)<sup>302</sup> which is responsible for promoting bilingualism and multiculturalism in Cameroon with a view to maintaining peace, consolidating national unity and strengthening its peoples' willingness and day to day experience of living together.

**601-** As regards multiculturalism, its duties include:

- submitting reports and recommendations on issues relating to the protection and promotion of multiculturalism to the President of the Republic;
- receiving petitions against discrimination arising from non-compli-

<sup>301</sup>About 167,798.03 Euros

<sup>302</sup>Decree No. 2017/013 of 23 January 2017 to lay down the establishment, organization and functioning of the National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism.



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ance with the constitutional provisions on multiculturalism and reporting thereon to the President of the Republic;

- popularization of legal instruments on multiculturalism.

**602-** The NCPBM took action to make the missions of the Commission better known to State institutions and solicit for collaboration from them. It is in line with this that members of the NCPBM from 25 to 27 September 2017 visited the Senate, Prime Minister's Office and the Supreme Court.

**603-** By 31 December 2017, The NCPBM had received 18 proposals from CSOs on the promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism. It further received denunciations relating to matters which could jeopardise living together in the country.

## **B: Promotion of Cinema**

**604-** The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the « *Ecrans noirs* » *Film Festival* was held in Yaounde and Douala from 15 to 23 July 2017.

**605-** Furthermore, Yaounde hosted from 4 to 16 December 2017, the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of *Trophées Francophones du Cinéma*, an annual event of *La Francophonie* to celebrate the richness and diversity of the cinema of its member countries and encourage the film creation.

## **C: Promotion of Book Publishing and a Reading Culture**

**606-** As regards book publishing, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the State jointly organised on 23 and 24 November 2017 in Yaounde, a High Level Regional Conference on the theme: "*The Publishing Industry in Africa and its Role in Education and Economic Growth*". The conference was an opportunity to reflect on issues including the possibility for Africa to set up a common policy on publishing in general and the publishing of textbooks in particular. The conference ended with the adoption of the Yaounde Action Plan, which will be monitored by WIPO.

**607-** The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the National Writing Competition for Budding Writers was organised from 28 February to 30 April 2017 under the theme: *Cultural Heritage and Development of Cameroon*. The competi-

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tion was opened to Cameroonians aged under 35. The first 10 winners were awarded prizes ranging from CFAF300,000<sup>303</sup> to 100,000<sup>304</sup>.

## SECTION 2: AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO CULTURAL GOODS AND SERVICES

**608-** Measures were taken to improve on the availability of and accessibility to cultural goods and services including the opening of cultural infrastructure, making information on cultural events more accessible to the public and organisation of events.

### §1: Availability of Cultural Goods and Services

**609-** Cultural goods and services were enriched through the reopening of the National Gallery of Contemporary Arts of Yaounde, the opening of 2 museums and the commissioning of Divisional Delegations of Arts and Culture.

#### A: Reopening of the National Gallery of Contemporary Arts of Yaounde

**610-** On 30 May 2017, the National Gallery of Contemporary Arts of Yaounde reopened its doors to the general public thanks to France-Cameroon cooperation through the C2D Culture programme.

#### B: Opening of Two Privately Owned Museums

**611-** To encourage initiatives to preserve and disseminate the local cultural heritage of individuals, on 5 January 2017, the Minister of Arts and Culture signed Decisions<sup>305</sup> for the provisional authorisation for the opening in the Mefou and Afamba Division, Centre Region of Ethnographic Museums «*Millenium Ecological Museum*» of Ntouessong V village in the Soa Sub division, and «*Elembe*» at Nkombassi village in Nkoabang, Nkolafamba Sub division.

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<sup>303</sup> About 457.63 Euros

<sup>304</sup> About 152.54 Euros

<sup>305</sup>No. 0002/MINAC/SG/DAJ/CER and 0003/MINAC/SG/DAJ/CER

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## C: The Commissioning of the Divisional Delegations of Arts and Culture

**612-** The year 2017 marked a turning point at MINAC, through the commissioning of the divisional delegations of Arts and Culture with the appointment of the first 58 Divisional Delegates of Arts and Culture over the national territory. The new organisation enabled a better identification of cultural sites and bringing the people closer to the Administration in charge of culture. It further enabled the people to better understand the importance of preserving cultural heritage.

### §2: Access to Cultural Goods and Services

**613-** The Government published a directory of cultural events of Cameroon. Furthermore, the State organised or supported cultural events and books made easily accessible for reading.

#### A: Development of the Directory of Cultural Events of Cameroon

**614-** The year 2017 marked the publication of the first directory of cultural events in Cameroon. It lists 368 cultural events divided between national events and international days celebrated in Cameroon and cultural festivals of Cameroon classified by Region. Details are given including the name of each event, the description, place, time and periodicity of the event, and useful addresses. The objective of the directory is to increase visibility of cultural events in the 58 divisions of the country and thus promote cultural tourism.

#### B: Organisation of Cultural and Artistic Events

**615-** The second edition of the *Rentrée culturelle et artistique* (RECAN) which took place in Ebolowa from 1 to 4 February 2017 under the theme, *Cultural heritage and cultural development of Cameroon* attracted more than 10,000 visitors.

**616-** Furthermore, the Traditional Music and Patrimonial Dance Festival (TRAMUPDAF) was held in Yaounde from 2 to 6 August 2017 under the theme, *Traditional Music and dances: vector of multiculturalism and national integration*. This free entrance event provided an occasion for re-

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flection on the preservation, enhancement and dissemination of traditional music in order to enliven and celebrate the immense cultural richness of the country. Approximately 200 traditional music and dance groups representing 250 ethnic groups made up of 3,000 artists from the 58 divisions of Cameroon gave a glimpse of multiculturalism by displaying to the public the rich heritage of all these divisions.

**617-** The National Museum hosted the first *Heritage Arts and Archaeology Fair* from 20 to 24 December 2017 under the theme, *Roots and Cultural identity for a creative Cameroon*. There were various workshops, exhibitions, conference-debates and live shows. Entrance was free.

**618-** Additionally, on the occasion of the celebration of the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Music Day on 21 June 2017, many shows were organised on the national territory including in Yaounde, Douala, Eséka as well as in Bertoua and Bélabo in which Central African refugees in the East Region participated.

**619-** The National Museum continued to be open to the general public and was visited by 15,000 people in 2017.

## **C: Accessibility of Books for Reading**

**620-** MINAC's mobile library (*Bibliobus*) continued to make trips to remote towns and villages in the Centre and South Regions in order to enhance reading in areas with difficult access to books. Some 50 localities were covered during the year.

## **SECTION 3: THE PROTECTION OF THE MORAL AND MATERIAL INTERESTS OF ARTISTS**

**621-** Progress was made in the collective management of copyright where there had been challenges in the past and the support to cultural and artistic Actors was continued.

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## §1: Establishment of Collective Management Bodies for Copyright and Neighbouring Rights

**622-** Significant progress was made in the operation to improve the collective management of copyright and neighbouring rights in general and in the «B» category concerning musical art in particular embarked upon in 2013. A Support Team responsible for monitoring the updating of the National Registry of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Holders was set up as well as the Cameroon National Musical Art Corporation and the Cameroon Neighbouring Rights Corporation *Société Nationale Camerounaise de l'Art Musical (SONACAM)* and *Société civile des Droits Voisins (SCDV)*.

**623-** SONACAM, the new collective management body of the «B» category of musical art was authorised by Order No. 0012/MINAC of 21 December 2017 of the Minister of Arts and Culture. Specifications of the authorisation are contained in Decision No. 0251/MINAC of 27 December 2017 which defines the methods for the collection and distribution of royalties as well as the provisions relating to the transparency and control of the organisation. It is now the only approved collective management body in this category in Cameroon.

**624-** SCDV was granted authorisation for the collective management of copyright in category E: neighbouring rights to copyrights by Order N ° 0013/MINAC of 21 December 2017. SCDV is the first collective management body in the category of neighbouring rights to copyrights in Cameroon.

## §2: Support to Artistic and Cultural Actors

**625-** Due to budgetary constraints, grants for artistic and cultural events were only available for the first semester, unlike in 2016 when it was available for 2 semesters as shown in the table below. The global amount of aid granted within the framework of the Appropriations Account to Support Cultural Policies was CFAF213 000 000<sup>306</sup>.

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<sup>306</sup> About 324918 Euros

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**Table 1: Subsidies for Cultural and Artistic Work during the First Semester of 2017**

CATEGORY	Number of beneficiaries	Amount in CFAF
Musical arts	151	121,950,000 <sup>307</sup>
Literature and dramatic arts	35	26,150,000 <sup>308</sup>
Cinema and audio-visuel	24	35,000,000 <sup>309</sup>
Festivals and other cultural events	31	30,000,000 <sup>310</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<i>CFAF 213 000 000 FCFA (two hundred and thirteen million francs)</i>

**Source:** MINAC<sup>311</sup>

## SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND LEISURE

**626-** In 2017, the actions of the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL) developed offer in the tourism sector and promoted visibility while cleaning up and strengthening the tourism and leisure Sector.

### §1: Development of Offer in the Tourism Sector

**627-** The concern to make Cameroon a tourist destination led to a considerable increase in the number of tourism and leisure facilities. In total, the number of hotels increased from 678 in 2016 to 785 in 2017. Restaurants went up from 410 in 2016 to 429 in 2017. Tourism agencies that were 241 in 2016 rose to 265 in 2017. The rehabilitation of the *Centre Climatique de Dschang* and the construction of the *Hotel du Comice d’Ebolowa* funded by the State were completed.

**628-** There was a further development of tourist sites, including the Kiiki road in the Mbam-and Inoubou Division in the Centre Region and «German road» in Bimbia the South-West Region and the construction of a three-bedroom bungalow at the site of the Manengouba twin lakes in

<sup>307</sup> About 186,027 Euros.

<sup>308</sup> About 39,890.17 Euros.

<sup>309</sup> About 53,390.28 Euros

<sup>310</sup> About 45,763.09 Euros

<sup>311</sup> Radio-press Communiqué No. 0027/MINAC/CAB/CASSPC/CAL/SAT of 18 July 2017.

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the South West Region, the construction and equipping of a reception structure at Lake Awing and the construction and equipping of a bungalow at the Ekom Nkam Falls.

**629-** The number of leisure facilities grew from 1 467 in 2016 to 1 476 in 2017.

## §2: Strategic Axes for Promoting Tourism Activities

**630-** In order to promote Cameroon as a tourist destination especially with the organisation of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), MINTOUL during international<sup>312</sup> and national<sup>313</sup> events distributed promotional material on Cameroon as a tourist destination « *Destination Cameroun* » including brochures, flyers, leaflets and video documentaries. Capacity development events were also organised for stakeholders, in particular, hoteliers, caterers, tourism guides and travel agencies on safety, hospitality and the quality of services and hygiene.

**631-** It prepared the digital tourist map and the marketing plan of Cameroon as a tourist destination to ensure communication on tourism in Cameroon before, during and after the AFCON. The national ecotourism development strategy was adopted and tourist sites of national interest demarcated and secured. The National Ecotourism Development Strategy in Cameroon that was adopted, intends to boost ecotourism that highlights the wildlife potential of Cameroon through the following:

- amendment and update of regulatory instruments on tourism;
- consolidation of the tourism statistics management system;
- enhancement of the institutional framework on promotion of ecotourism;

<sup>312</sup>For Example, MINTOUL was present at events including ITB Berlin, Germany, March 2017, Tunis International Tourism Fair in Tunis, Tunisia in April 2017, and the International Arts and Crafts Fair of Ouagadougou in November 2017 and *la Foire Internationale de Développement du Tourisme* in Douala in March 2017.

<sup>313</sup>For instance, *Salon de l'Action Gouvernementale "La Vitrine du Cameroun"* in August 2017 ; the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycling tour called « *Vélo Afrique* » in October 2017, in collaboration with the Belgian Embassy, which involved cyclotourists and television, radio and print journalists, and *Forum sur le Tourisme Durable et Solidaire* in Yaounde from 30 November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

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- stepping up supply of ecotourism products and support to prolific and profitable initiatives; and
- building equipment infrastructure and services conducive to private ecotourism projects.

**632-** MINTOUL also in partnership with MINESUP, MINESEC and MINEFOP, initiated a vast programme of academic training reforms in the field of Tourism, Hospitality, Catering and Leisure.

### **§3: Promotion and Development of Leisure Activities**

**633-** In this regard, 2 holiday camps were organised for children including those with hearing and visual impairments in Buea and Bertoua from 16 to 31 August and from 12 to 19 December 2017 respectively. Moreover, healthy and educative leisure activities were promoted in universities and at the work place and MINTOUL in collaboration with the Ngaoundere City Council equipped the Ngaoundere Recreational Park.

### **§4: Cleaning up of the Tourism and Leisure Sectors**

**634-** Measures were taken to clean up the tourism and leisure sector including improving the quality of services, fighting against the sex tourism of minors and monitoring of structures.

#### **A: Improving the Quality of Services**

**635-** To enhance the quality of services, the awareness of promoters and staff was raised on reception, services and hygiene. MINTOUL organised 2 seminars, one in Bamenda from 4 to 6 July 2017 and the other in Bafoussam from 20 to 23 October 2017 on improving the quality of services, reception and hygiene.

#### **B: Fighting against the Sex Tourism of Minors**

**636-** Under consolidation of public/private partnership, MINTOUL in collaboration with organisations involved in the protection of the rights and interests of children in general, and combating sexual tourism and child trafficking in particular, the *Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création* (CIPCRE) and the *Action Locale pour le Développement*



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*Participatif et Autogéré* (ALDEPA) drew up a Charter on the protection of children against sexual abuse in tourism and leisure establishments. The overall goal was to raise the awareness of the people through implementation, in tourism and leisure establishments, of preventive actions against violation and poor treatment of children considered as the most vulnerable category of persons. More than 600 copies of the Charter were posted in tourism and leisure establishments and hotels in Centre and West Regions.

## **C: Approval and Monitoring of Structures**

**637-** The regular holding of sessions of the *National Technical Commission of Tourism Establishments* led to the examination of 432 files out of which 228 were approved. Furthermore, inspection of touristic and leisure infrastructure was intensified as from October 2017.

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**638-** Progress was made particularly in the effective putting in place of collective management bodies, an area that had challenges in the recent past and in the cleaning up of the Tourism and Leisure Sector likewise the strengthening of infrastructure. The creation of the National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism is also worthy of praise. However budgetary constraints hampered the realisation of certain activities which had an impact on guaranteeing the right to culture and leisure.



Chapter **6**

**RIGHT TO A HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT**



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**639-** Actions taken by Government to guarantee the right to a healthy environment focused on conservation and management of natural resources, and pollution control.

## **SECTION 1: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**640-** Pursuant to the obligations under all ratified conventions, Cameroon continued to take actions against desertification and climate change, conservation and protection of species.

### **§1: Controlling Desertification and Climate Change**

**641-** Desertification control continued through the Green Sahel project. In addition, more actions were taken to implement the Paris Climate Agreement. Measures were further taken to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) and control climate change and enable the people to adapt to the phenomenon.

#### **A: Restoration of Soils and Management of the Benoue Watershed**

**642-** In 2017, activities were carried out in Far North and North Regions as part of the Green Sahel project.

**643-** In Far North Region, 1,750ha of land were rehabilitated through planting of 210,000 trees in 7 sites,<sup>314</sup> 6 of which were protected from grazing animals. Besides, 4 boreholes were constructed and equipped, while 9,600 improved stoves were built and distributed in order to reduce harvesting of firewood in Far North Region.

**644-** In addition, in North Region, management of the Benoue watershed continued through stabilisation of 5 km of the banks and planting of 5,000 trees on 15ha of land.

#### **B: Implementing the Paris Climate Agreement**

**645-** As part of implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement<sup>315</sup>, Cameroon undertook through its Nationally Determination Contribu-

<sup>314</sup>In 2017, the 7 sites identified comprised an area of 250ha each and were found in the following communities: Loulou I, Loulou II, Garaï, Galdas, Mora, Sabongari and Djebe.

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tion<sup>316</sup> (NDC) to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 32% by 2035 of which 21% reduction will depend on international financing<sup>317</sup> and 11% reduction not subject to any condition.

**646-** In this regard, focus was on organising activities to disseminate the Paris Agreement and design NDC implementation projects for Cameroon.

<sup>316</sup> The ambitions included in the NDC of States Parties to the Paris Climate Agreement should be reflected in national implementation strategies and programmes. In this regard, Cameroon prepared and validated its NDC in 2015 and revised it in 2016. The NDC contains 47 actions broken down into 30 project ideas.

<sup>317</sup> The withdrawal of the United States of America from the Paris Climate Agreement can be analysed twofold:

- at the legal level, Article 28 lays down the conditions of withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement by a State Party: expiry of a period of 3 years from the date on which this Agreement entered into force for the Party that intends to withdraw from same; written notification of the withdrawal addressed to the Depository; expiry of a period of 1 year from the date the Depository receives the withdrawal notification. *(Article 28: (1) At any time after three years from the date on which this Agreement has entered into force for a Party, that Party may withdraw from this Agreement by giving written notification to the Depository. (2) Any such withdrawal shall take effect upon expiry of one year from the date of receipt by the Depository of the notification of withdrawal, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification of withdrawal. (3) Any Party that withdraws from the Convention shall be considered as also having withdrawn from this Agreement.* In fact, the withdrawal of the USA from the Paris Climate Agreement shall only be officially notified on 4 November 2019 and the withdrawal can only be effective one year after the said notification; that is, in November 2020.
- Globally, the withdrawal of the USA from the Paris Climate Agreement shall hamper its implementation. Indeed, by such act, the USA, 2<sup>nd</sup> world most producer of Greenhouse gas emissions, refuses to reduce such emissions and provide financial resources for adaptation and reduction of emissions in developing countries. During adoption of the Agreement, the USA undertook to reduce their gas emissions to less than 5 Giga tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2025; representing a drop of 28% in relation to 2005. It had signed a financial undertaking of USD3,000,000,000 as part of the Green Climate Fund provided for by the Paris Agreement for developing countries (and had already effectively disbursed USD1,000,000,000). However, it will no longer contribute after the commitment period which ends in 2018. The commitment of all the signatories to the Paris Agreement is to pool USD100,000,000,000 by 2025.

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**647-** Awareness-raising meetings were organised for journalists<sup>318</sup> and civil society stakeholders<sup>319</sup> on the challenges and prospects of the Paris Agreement and NDC implementation thrusts.

**648-** The major NDC<sup>320</sup> implementation action concerned designing projects to oversee its effectiveness. In this connection, 21 projects were designed at the end of a Workshop organised by the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) from 2 to 6 May 2017 in Kribi. In addition, Cameroon received support from the *Initiative Belge d'Appui à la Mise en oeuvre des CDN*<sup>321</sup> to implement a GES National Inventory System in Cameroon<sup>322</sup>.

## **C: Actions under Mechanisms to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation with inclusion of Sustainable Development of Forests, Biodiversity Conservation and Increase in Carbon Stocks (REDD+)**

**649-** In 2017, REDD+ Mechanism continued through adoption of the National Strategy (version 2), and designing 3 strategic surveys especially on deforestation and forest degradation drivers, profit-sharing and conflict management mechanisms, and environmental, social and strategic evaluation.

**650-** Government designed a management mechanism for complaints and appeals as part of the Final Report on Profit Sharing and Conflict Management Mechanisms. The said mechanism will help take timely and appropriate corrective actions with a view to addressing complaints

<sup>318</sup>Capacity development workshop for national Journalists on climate change and NDC implementation in Cameroon organised from 12 to 14 October 2017 in Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Conference Hall, Yaounde.

<sup>319</sup>An information sharing meeting with civil society organizations on preparing NDC implementation in Cameroon was organised on 15 September 2017 at the Environmental Information and Documentation Centre, Yaounde.

<sup>320</sup>NDC implementation has many levels: preparation and planning, designing of an implementation plan and mobilisation of funds, execution and monitoring of progress made, revision of future NDC strategy and planning.

<sup>321</sup> The Belgian support stands at 85,000 Euros (that is, CFAF55,721,750).

<sup>322</sup> The GES Inventory System makes it possible to have a reliable database and all GES-related information. The mechanism was launched in December 2017.

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and appeals filed by people whose rights are alleged to have been violated during implementation of the REDD+ process.

**651-** In 2017, the Multi-stakeholders Steering Committee of REDD+ Mechanism held 2 ordinary sessions and 1 extraordinary session during which project ideas were validated, especially communal REDD+ pilot projects of the National Community-driven Programme (PNDP).

## **D: Actions targeting Adaptation to Adverse Impacts of Climate Change: Balance sheet of Community Resilience Enhancement Programme to the Effects of Climate Change**

**652-** The Community Resilience Enhancement Programme to the Effects of Climate Change (CREPECC) was initiated with the technical and financial support of the UN System following floods in 2011 and 2012 in Far North and North Regions. It covered a determined period (2013-2017) and targeted areas<sup>323</sup>. Satisfactory results were obtained under community resilience to climate change.

**653-** In this regard and through CREPECC, tools were designed to identify risk areas, organise relief actions, and communicate through community radios in 6 national languages on best agricultural practices, risk prevention and reduction of floods and drought. In addition, 92 producer organisations received assistance to reduce the hardship of work and better manage natural resources, improve their productivity and their standard of living. Concerning the impact, 80% of institutions and the population that benefited from the Programme owned the tools developed and 70% of the population better understands the best agricultural practices, 23 structures welcomed volunteers and 25 structures had access to tools for the mobilisation of financial resources. The Programme helped local radio stations of target areas to adjust their programme schedule to integrate programmes on environmental issues. An

<sup>323</sup> CREPECC covers the Sudano-Sahelian Area comprising 2 Councils in North Region (Lagdo and Pitoa) and 5 Councils in Far North Region (Moulvoudaye, Touloum, Maga, Darak and Kousseri). The goal of the Programme was to support national and subregional actions through the following 2 complementary components: preservation of ecosystems and community resilience enhancement to the effects of climate change.



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extension phase of the Programme to other Councils of the Regions has been envisioned.

## §2: Conservation and Protection of Species

**654-** Conservation and protection focused on implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization<sup>324</sup>, and protection of wildlife species.

### **A: Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from their Utilization.**

**655-** The implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing) centred on the following 3 thrusts: capacity development of the Protocol stakeholders, development of participation mechanisms to the National Strategy of the Protocol and enhancement of genetic resources and traditional know-how.

**656-** The following awareness-raising campaigns for stakeholders (researchers, academics, representatives from private Institutes and sectors) on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing process were organised successively: a Scientific Conference under the theme “*Relevance of the Protection of Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from their Utilization*” on 29 March 2017 at the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MIN-RESI), financed by the Support Project to Ratification and Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from their Utilization in countries of the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC); a workshop for researchers from universities, private Institutes and Enterprises on 17 and 18 June 2017 in Garoua for researchers in the northern Regions, and a similar workshop on 17 and 18 August 2017 in Kribi for researchers in Centre, South, Littoral and East Regions.

<sup>324</sup> The State acceded to the Nagoya Protocol on 30 November 2016.

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**657-** Concerning development of participation mechanisms to the National Strategy on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, the following 2 Decisions signed by the Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development are relevant:

- Decision No. 70/D/MINEPDED/CAB of 9 June 2017 to set up a Committee in charge of monitoring the preparation of a bill and enabling instruments on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization. The Committee is in charge especially of validating the working methodology for drafting a bill; monitoring activities in drafting the bill; examining and validating different bills and providing guidelines and recommendations, and giving an opinion to the Minister on all the issues and/or applications for access to genetic resources received before promulgation of the said law; and
- Decision No. 69/D/MINEPDED/CAB of 9 June 2017 to set up a Steering Committee for the project "A bottom-up Approach to ABS Community-level capacity development for successful engagement in ABS value chains in Cameroon".

**658-** Concerning enhancement of genetic resources and traditional know-how, the following 2 major activities were carried out:

- launching of a Local Project on enhancement of *MondiaWhitei* and *Echinopsgiganteus* plants to provide support in terms of capacity development of stakeholders at each level so as to contribute to the full implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
- monitoring implementation of the Agreed Conditions of a Common Agreement for research and marketing of *MondiaWhitei* and *EchinopsGiganteus* plants signed between *Société V. Mane Fils* and Lewoh and Magha-Bamumbu local communities in South West Region<sup>325</sup>.

**659-** Such achievements could be used as part of adoption of a Law on the Nagoya Protocol.

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<sup>325</sup>See 2015 Report, § 853-855.

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## B: Protection of Wildlife Species

**660-** Protection of wildlife species consisted in developing the capacities of some stakeholders. In this connection, the following activities were carried out:

- in January 2017, a two-day capacity development session was organised in Douala with the support of World Wildlife Fund on tools and standards geared towards transparency, good governance and sustainable management of forests and wildlife. It brought together some 20 Journalists from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon, and Cameroon;
- a workshop was organised from 20 to 22 February 2017 in Garoua with the support of the Biodiversity Conservation Programme in Central Africa. It brought together experts from Chad, Central African Republic and Cameroon, and representatives of indigenous peoples on the theme searching for sustainable measures, safeguarding and protecting endangered species, and seeking solutions for a peaceful cohabitation between elephants and men;
- a workshop to launch phase II of the project "Monitoring and management of wildlife in forest concessions" was organised on 30 March 2017 by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and the Wildlife Conservation Society;
- a meeting bringing together conservation authorities and representatives of the local population was held on 3 October 2017 in the Kagwene Sanctuary in Bamenda neighbourhood to evaluate the activities of the Wildlife Conservation Society;
- a consultative meeting was held on 17 October 2017 in Garoua with local authorities and representatives of indigenous people on the reduction of the involvement of Boko Haram supporters in illegal poaching of elephants and trafficking in ivory; and
- a workshop was organised on 14 July 2017 in Yaounde with stakeholders on the presentation of results on conservation of pangolins in Central Africa by MENTOR-POP.

**661-** Concerning response measures, consolidation of surveillance mechanisms helped seize hunting trophies. On 14 March 2017, for example, 144 elephant tusks and 100kg of pangolin scales were seized

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in Douala while on 10 October 2017, 70kg of pangolin scales were seized in Ebolowa, and on 10 November 2017, 160 elephant tusks and more than 6,200kg of pangolin scales were seized in Douala. In addition, during a symbolic ceremony presided at by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife on 17 February 2017, more than 3,000 tonnes of pangolin scales were burnt.

**662-** Furthermore, controlling illegal operations of logging and poaching resulted in the issuance of 23 administrative summonses, 15 suspension permits, 6 fine notification reports of which 2 were pending before the National Control Brigade and 4 before the courts<sup>326</sup>. Besides, 87 cases of poaching were brought before the courts in 2017 and judgment was delivered in 6 of the matters, in which persons prosecuted were convicted and ordered to pay a fine.

## SECTION 2: POLLUTION CONTROL

**663-** In a bid to control pollution, focus was on environmental evaluation and continued plastic packaging control.

### §1: Environmental Evaluation

**664-** In 2017, some 8 sessions of the Committee to examine application files for Environmental Permit were organised and at the end of which, 82 Environmental Permits were issued.

**665-** Besides, joint environmental control and inspection missions were conducted at 1,961 classified establishments.

### §2: Continued Control of prohibited Plastic Packaging

**666-** As part of implementation of Joint Order No. 4/MINEPDED/MIN-COMMERCE of 24 October 2012 to prohibit the manufacture, importation, storing and marketing of non-biodegradable plastic packaging with thickness lower or equal to 60 microns, regional MINEPDED control Brigades conducted regular checks in markets and large stores. Thus, 1,888 checks were conducted nationwide and at the end of which

<sup>326</sup> Three matters on logging by way of sale in a national forest beyond prescribed limits and involving forest exploitation companies *Blimoet Janabi SARL*, and *Martial et Compagnie* resulted in a fine each of CFAF1,000,000 ( About 1,525.44 Euros). Another matter involving *Angélique International* was on illegal logging of some protected trees. The fine imposed on the company stood at CFAF2,000,000 ( About 3,050.87 Euros).

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132 Reports on offences were drawn up relating to 52,312.57 tonnes of prohibited plastic packaging seized and fines amounting to CFAF17,720,000<sup>327</sup> recovered.

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**667-** In 2017, Government undertook to fulfil its commitments as per the Paris Climate Agreement through dissemination of the instrument and designing NDC projects for Cameroon. Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and poaching control further constituted pillars of action for protection of species. However, such efforts did not shadow the current major challenges on the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and pollution control.

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<sup>327</sup> About 27,030.74 Euros

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## CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

**668-** The security context characterised by attacks on persons and property in some Regions of the country and social hardships resulting in strikes by the so-called outraged teachers and those of the English-speaking subsystem of education did not hamper the running of the 2016/2017 academic year. The extension of the closing for registration of official examinations, organisation of extra classes for students in North West and South West Regions, the opening of different Departments of English Law and French Law in the Universities of Buea and Bamenda, Department of English Law in the Universities of Dschang and Ngaoundere consolidated the right to education.

**669-** Concerning health, although challenges were registered in maternal health, disease control, efforts made including the rehabilitation of health centres, the opening of a referral hospital specialised in ophthalmology in Oback, Centre Region, consolidation of international cooperation with the signing of an agreement with the Swiss company NOVARTIS and acceptance of the Mercy Ships mission, and developing the capacity of staff helped enhance the health of the people.

**670-** In order to step up performance within the framework of labour and social security, the Decent Work Country Programme was assessed. The assessment revealed that initiatives were taken to encourage entrepreneurship, employability and vocational integration of women, youths, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples.

**671-** In addition, specific policy documents such as the National Social Security at Work Policy, the Framework Guidelines Document on HIV/AIDS control at work, the Strategic Plan to combat the worst forms of child labour, and the National Plan to combat child labour were drawn up. In spite of such strides, challenges remained including feeble social security coverage despite the existence of work-related diseases, the frequency of industrial injuries and occupational diseases, the lack of sufficient social dialogue at work, and poor respect of national and international labour standards.

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**672-** Regarding improvement of the standard of living, progress was made to reduce the high cost of living. Besides, policies to promote access to water and energy continued to be implemented.

**673-** In order to render Cameroon a first choice tourist destination, infrastructure was enhanced through the increase in hotels and tourist agencies in spite of budgetary constraints. In a bid to promote culture and leisure, holiday camp and cultural events continued to be organised.

**674-** The right to a healthy environment was consolidated in spite of challenges relating to household waste management in big towns.





## PART THREE

# CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND RIGHTS OF SPECIFIC GROUPS



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART THREE

**675-** In order to curb the persistent attacks by *Boko Haram* and the crisis in North West and South West Regions, the State opted for a response based on a multidimensional and integrated approach. Promotion of good governance was characterised by the consolidation of the legal and institutional framework of the public contracts sector and actions to combat corruption continued. Besides, actions were taken to improve detention conditions and guarantee the rights of vulnerable persons.

**676-** Public authorities continued to guarantee women's rights through the implementation of inclusive policies. In addition, guaranteeing the rights of Persons under Involuntary Displacement such as refugees, IDPs and Cameroon nationals in difficult situations abroad was one of the major concerns of the State in 2017.

**677-** These issues are developed in the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Crisis in North West and South West Regions;
- Chapter 2: Human Rights and combating the terrorist Group *Boko Haram*;
- Chapter 3: Good governance and combating corruption;
- Chapter 4: Detention conditions;
- Chapter 5: Promotion and protection of the rights of socially vulnerable persons;
- Chapter 6: Promotion and protection of women's rights; and
- Chapter 7: Protection of the Rights of Persons under Involuntary Displacement



Chapter

1

CRISIS IN NORTH WEST  
AND SOUTH WEST  
REGIONS



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**678-** The right to peace and security both nationwide and at the international level is enshrined in Article 23 (1) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights<sup>328</sup>. Such right may be interpreted to mean at least in part that both the people of a State considered globally and its different components considered individually have a right to internal peace and security. It is such right that is currently threatened considering the ongoing events in North West and South West Regions and seems to undermine the existing social consensus that was the foundation of the determination to live together.

**679-** A recall of the facts will enable a better understanding of the situation and make it possible to appreciate Government responses comprising measures taken to appease tensions and provide security to the people faced with attacks, and consolidate living together through enhancement of the official linguistic practice and normative production in the two languages.

## SECTION 1: SUMMARY OF FACTS IN THE CRISIS IN NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST REGIONS

**680-** The facts will be recalled in a chronological manner followed by a balance sheet thereof.

### §1: Chronology of the Crisis

**681-** The crisis in the 2 Regions started with claims by trade unions that gradually transformed into political claims. Indeed, on 12 October 2016, English-speaking Lawyers in North West and South West Regions went on strike claiming acknowledgement of the specificities of their legal system with especially the proper translation of the Uniform Acts of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA), the CIMA Code (International Conference of Insurance Markets), and the Regulations of the CEMAC. Besides, the Lawyers also complained about the transfer of French-speaking Judicial and Legal Officers who do not understand English and the Common Law system to the said Regions, and clamoured for the opening of a Common Law Division at

<sup>328</sup> The Article provides, "All peoples shall have the right to national and international peace and security. The principles of solidarity and friendly relations implicitly affirmed by the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed by that of the Organization of African Unity shall govern relations between States."

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the Supreme Court and a Common Law Department at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM).

**682-** On 8 and 10 November 2016, Lawyers in the North West and South West Regions respectively took to the streets to demonstrate. On 21 November 2016, teachers of the English-speaking subsystem followed suit. The latter denounced the gradual “francophonisation” of the English-speaking subsystem, and clamoured for the withdrawal from the classroom of all French-speaking teachers who do not understand English. On 28 November 2016, students from University of Buea took to the streets to protest against the decision of the Vice-Chancellor to impose a penalty of CFAF10,000 for any late payment of school fees. The students further requested the suppression of classes on Saturdays and asked for payment of the excellence award instituted by President **Paul Biya**.

**683-** The crisis took different turns. On 9 January 2017, many communities in the 2 Regions observed ghost town following a call to that effect by the Consortium of Cameroon English-speaking Civil Society<sup>329</sup>. On 21 September 2017, activists attacked students on their way to school. The name “Ambazonia” was heard. On 22 September 2017, the crowd chanted the name again during demonstrations in the streets in the 2 Regions, requesting the liberation of English-speaking activists arrested since December 2016. Green and white “Ambazonia” banners were brandished. On 30 September 2017, some individuals of the population in North West and South Regions hoisted the banner in front of public buildings in preparation for the declaration of independence of a virtual Republic. On 1 October 2017, many demonstrations were held in the said Regions.

**684-** The crisis in the North West and South West Regions was riddled with violence resulting in significant loss of human life and property.

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<sup>329</sup> Signatories of the call for strike include Barristers Nkongho Agbor (President) and Fontem Neba (Secretary-General).



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## §2: Loss in Human Life and Property

**685-** Assessment of the crisis by the end of 2017 showed that both civilians and forces of law and order lost their lives. Besides, both private and public property was destroyed.

### 1) Loss in Human Life

**686-** In South West Region, as at 1 October 2017, there were 7 persons dead and 46 wounded amongst forces of law and order, and 10 killed amongst the civilian population<sup>330</sup>.

**687-** In North West Region, as at 1 October 2017, there were 3 persons dead<sup>331</sup> and 14 wounded amongst forces of law and order, and 7 persons killed and 9 others wounded amongst the civilian population<sup>332</sup>. Besides, the Main Prison, Kumbo was burnt down during which 4 persons died and 4 others were wounded.

**688-** Furthermore, the crisis in the said Regions resulted in the displacement of some 7,200 Cameroonians to Nigeria, in particular, in Cross River and Benue States.

**689-** Besides, the crisis also resulted in the internal displacement of the people. However, the number of such displacements was still under compilation at the end of the year.

### 2) Loss in property

**690-** Since the beginning of the crisis, loss in property in the South West Region is broken down as follows:

- 38 secondary schools were partly<sup>333</sup> vandalised including St Pius Catholic College, Ekondo Titi (a dormitory with 40 beds, school property and clothes of students were completely burnt down);

<sup>330</sup> Paper Proceedings of the annual meeting of Heads of Courts of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration, Yaounde, 21-22 December 2017, Vol. II, p.7 (paper by the Procureur General at the Court of Appeal of the South West Region), Appendix 5.

<sup>331</sup> Paper Proceedings of the annual meeting of Heads of Courts of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration, *ibid.*, Paper by the Procureur General at the Court of Appeal of the North West Region, *supra*, p. 13.

<sup>332</sup> Paper Proceedings of the annual meeting of Heads of Court of Appeal, *ibid.* Paper by the Procureur General at the Court of Appeal of the South West Region), Appendix 5.

<sup>333</sup> Source: MINESEC

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- on 1 October 2017, the Legal Department at the Court of First Instance, Tombel was entirely burnt down and the VIP Stand at the ceremonial ground was partly burnt;
- in all, some 7 public buildings were damaged or destroyed;
- the Police Station, Ekona was burnt down; and
- the Gendarmerie Brigade, Kendem and some 7 vehicles were vandalised.

**691-** In North West Region, the loss was as follows:

- 38 secondary schools were vandalised<sup>334</sup>;
- the Kumbo Main Prison was set on fire and the men's wing completely burnt down; and
- on 25 November 2017, the Court of First Instance Batibo was completely burnt down.

**692-** Investigations were opened in a bid to establish the facts, responsibilities and grant compensation to victims.

**693-** In order to resolve the crisis, the State preferred dialogue and opted for solutions geared towards consolidation of national unity through measures to step up living together. The goal of the measures was to appease and provide security to the people.

## SECTION 2: MEASURES TO APPEASE AND PROVIDE SECURITY TO THE PEOPLE

**694-** As soon as the strike broke out, Government tried to calm down the demonstrators by setting up dialogue structures and taking measures to bring back peace. The goal of the measures of appeasement was to quickly stop the crisis the intensity of which caused Government to take security measures.

### §1: Appeasement Measures

**695-** Appeasement measures included the setting up of *Ad hoc* committees in charge of special issues such as the functioning of the Judici-

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<sup>334</sup> Source: MINESEC

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ary or the English-speaking subsystem of education since the crisis sparked off with claims by teachers and lawyers trade unions.

**696-** In this regard, an Interministerial *ad hoc* Committee was set up to examine and propose solutions to the concerns raised by trade unions of English-speaking teachers. Deliberations of the Committee were held in Bamenda on 27 December 2016 to examine the issues with a view to enhancing the functioning of schools and universities of the English-speaking subsystem of education.

**697-** Furthermore, the Prime Minister, Head of Government formed another *ad hoc* Committee by Order of 22 December 2016 to examine the concerns raised by English-speaking Lawyers of Cameroon relating to the functioning of the Judiciary and propose solutions thereto. The Committee was chaired by the Minister Delegate to the Minister of Justice, Professor **Jean Pierre FOGUI**.

**698-** On 31 March 2017, the President of the Republic addressed the claims of English-speaking Lawyers<sup>335</sup>. He ordered an inventory of all English-speaking Judicial and Legal Officers with a view to increasing the staff strength of the Supreme Court, redeploying them on linguistic basis, including courses still not harmonised in Anglo-Saxon universities while respecting the specificities of Common Law, opening a Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at University of Buea.

**699-** Other measures taken included:

- posting of new Judicial and Legal Officers to the Court of Appeal South West Region and Court of Appeal North West Region; and
- appointment of a Common Law Judicial Officer as President of the Judicial Bench of the Supreme Court.

<sup>335</sup> At the press conference granted at the end of March 2017 in Yaounde, the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, referred to the instructions of the Head of State to address the concerns raised.

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**700-** It should be noted that Members of Government took initiatives<sup>336</sup> to implement the instructions of the President of the Republic: These include:

**701-** In the Justice sector:

- the special recruitment of English speaking Pupil Judicial and Legal Officers and Court Registrars into the Division of Magistracy and Registry of the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM)<sup>337</sup>;
- opening a Common Law Division at the Supreme Court to examine appeals from the Court of Appeal, South West Region and Court of Appeal, North West Region<sup>338</sup>;
- opening a Department of English Law at the Universities of Douala<sup>339</sup>, Maroua<sup>340</sup>, and Ngaoundere<sup>341</sup> Dschang<sup>342</sup> and a *Département de Droit Public* at the Universities of Buea and Bamenda.

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<sup>336</sup> These include:

- the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals who formed a working group on 21 April 2017 in charge of conducting capacity development operations of English-speaking judicial staff;
- the formation of a Joint MINJUSTICE/MINESUP/MINFOPRA Commission on 19 April 2017 in charge of designing the syllabus of ENAM; and
- the formation of a Joint MINJUSTICE/MINESUP/MINFOPRA Commission on 19 April 2017 in charge of designing syllabuses for legal studies in view of judicial careers.

<sup>337</sup> Order No. 2257/MINFOPRA of 15 May 2017 which launched a competitive entrance examination for the recruitment of 50 English-speaking pupil Judicial and Legal Officers into the Division of Magistracy and Registry at ENAM for 2017/2018 academic year and Order No. 2258/MINFOPRA of 15 May 2017 which launched the competitive entrance examination for 30 English-speaking pupil Registrars into the Division of Magistracy and Registry at ENAM. The Order was signed following Letter No. 262/CF/SG/PR of 31 March 2017 on claims raised by some English-speaking Lawyers.

<sup>338</sup> Law No. 2017/14 of 12 July 2017 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2006/16 of 29 December 2006 on the organization and functioning of the Supreme Court.

<sup>339</sup> Order No. 17/34/MINESUP of 21 April 2017 to open a Department of English Law in *Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques* at University of Douala.

<sup>340</sup> Order No. 17/33/MINESUP of 21 April 2017 to open a Department of English Law in *Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques* at University of Maroua.

<sup>341</sup> Order No. 17/36/MINESUP of 21 April 2017 to open a Department of English Law in *Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques* at University of Ngaoundere.

<sup>342</sup> Order No. 17/35/MINESUP of 21 April 2017 to open a Department of English Law in the *Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques* at University of Dschang.

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- opening a *Département de Droit Civil* at University of Bamenda<sup>343</sup>; and at University of Buea<sup>344</sup> and
- on 20 January 2017, publication of the official English version of the Uniform Acts of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA)<sup>345</sup>.

## 702- In the education sector:

- in January 2017, redeployment of English-speaking teachers in the 2 Regions concerned; and
- launch of a special recruitment of 1,000 bilingual teachers.

**703-** In addition, on the instructions of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, Head of Government led a Government mission to the 2 English-speaking Regions to dialogue with the people.

**704-** It should be noted that distrust in State institutions was expressed in disinformation campaigns and dissemination of hate messages on social networks. In a bid to address the situation and restore public order, Government temporarily suspended the Internet in North West and South West Regions on 17 January 2017, dissolved the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium and the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC)<sup>346</sup>, and initiated proceedings against several persons including **Fontem Neba, Nkongho Agbor Bala, and Mancho Bibixy** alias BBC<sup>347</sup>.

<sup>343</sup> Order No. 17/38/MINESUP of 21 April 2017 to open a *Département de Droit Civil* in Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at University of Bamenda.

<sup>344</sup> Order No. 17/37/MINESUP of 21 April 2017 to open a *Département de Droit Civil* in Faculty of Social Management Sciences University of Buea.

<sup>345</sup> It should be noted that after publication of the English version of the OHADA Treaty and the other OHADA instruments in its Official Gazette on 24 November 2017 and handing over of same to the Minister, Secretary-General at the Presidency of the Republic by OHADA Permanent Secretary on 28 November 2016, the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals symbolically handed the same instruments on 29 November 2016 to the President of the Cameroon Bar Association. The Minister further printed copies of same instruments and the English versions of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and handed them over to the President of Cameroon Bar Association, representatives of other judicial professions, and all Judicial and Legal Officers in the jurisdictions of the Court of Appeal of the North West Region and Court of Appeal of the South West Region.

<sup>346</sup> By Order of 17 January 2017 of the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization read during CRTV news; the Order prohibited all activities, meetings and demonstrations initiated or encouraged by the said organisations.

<sup>347</sup> On 19 January 2017, Government spokesperson announced their arrest.

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**705-** As the situation improved, on 20 April 2017, the Head of State ordered that the Internet be restored in South West and North West Regions. On 30 August 2017, the State further ordered the discontinuance of proceedings against 51 persons including **Fontem Neba, Nkongho Felix Agbor** and **Ayah Paul**.<sup>348</sup>

**706-** Dialogue that was initiated as soon as the crisis broke out continued with Government missions to inform and explain the situation abroad and in the Regions concerned<sup>349</sup>. Such information and explanation continued in the Regions concerned up till the end of 2017.

**707-** Appeasement measures were accompanied by measures to guarantee the people the right to peace and security.

## **§2: Measures to Guarantee the People the Right to Peace and Security**

**708-** The large number of measures taken by Government did not stop attacks against the people and forces of law and order<sup>350</sup>. The need to protect persons and property in the communities concerned led to the holding of an emergency meeting on 1 December 2017 convened by the President of the Republic and bringing together all Cameroon Army Generals. During the meeting, measures were taken to step up security in North West and South West Regions.

**709-** Appeasement measures add to the constant efforts made by Government to improve linguistic practice and normative production.

<sup>348</sup>In application of section 13 (4) of the Code of Military Justice, on 30 August 2017, the Head of State ordered the Minister of Defence to discontinue proceedings against them. The following day, the Yaounde Military Tribunal freed 42 persons detained in connection with the crisis in the English-speaking Regions.

<sup>349</sup>The missions were conducted from 2 to 15 August 2017.

<sup>350</sup>On 5 December 2017, for example, Defence Forces from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Motorised Infantry Battalion, Nsanakang, Mamfe stopped an attack. In the night of 5 to 6 December 2017, some 3 persons attacked Gendarmes at the weighing station, Bombe-Bakundu near Kumba. Similarly, in the night of 9 to 10 November 2017, an attack was organised against Defence Forces guarding the bridge linking Cameroon to Nigeria in Akwem near Mamfe. In the night of 7 to 8 December 2017, some 200 assailants attacked the Gendarmerie Camp in Mamfe. A number of people died and others wounded in both camps:

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## SECTION 3: ENHANCEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL LINGUISTIC PRACTICE AND NORMATIVE PRODUCTION IN THE TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**710-** One of the institutional responses to the crisis was the formation of the National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism that falls in line with consolidating the official linguistic practice and enhancing normative production in the 2 official languages.

### §1: Consolidating the Official Linguistic Practice

**711-** Section 1 (3) of Law No. 96/6 of 18 January 1996 on amendment of the Constitution of 2 June 1972 provides, *"The Official languages of the Republic of Cameroon shall be English and French, both languages having the same status. The State shall guarantee the promotion of bilingualism throughout the country. It shall endeavour to protect and promote national languages."* Enshrining bilingualism in the Constitution is seen as one of the strides of the constitutional amendment of 1996<sup>351</sup>.

**712-** The official linguistic practice includes official public communication. Such communication is deemed to be bilingual and the Bilingual Training Programme was established by Decree No. 90/1 196 of 3 August 1990 and attached to the Secretariat General of the Presidency of the Republic to replace the Centre for the Teaching of English to Civil Servants, the goal of which was to *"help civil servants and State agents to acquire skills in English."*

**713-** The Bilingual Training Programme with its Regional Centres is part of the policy to promote bilingualism through capacity development of administrative staff and the public.

**714-** Circular No. 1/CAB/PM of 16 August 1991 on the practice of bilingualism in Public and semi-public Administrations provides, *any Cameroonian citizen in general and any user of a public or semi-public office in particular shall have the right to express himself in English or French in any public office and obtain a response in the official language of his choice. [...] Services offered and official documents published by*

<sup>351</sup>As a reminder, the Constitutions of 1961 and 1972 simply provided that the official languages of Cameroon shall be English and French.

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*any public or semi-public office for the public such as an address, opinion, regulatory deed, bill, press release, examination circulars and forms, etc., shall be available in the two official languages. Posters, advertising hoardings, signs and notices that concern State services or property and the use of same shall be written in the two official languages on the same medium or on two separate mediums placed side by side and in such a way that the wording of the text in each official language be visible, clear and available.*

**715-** Translation Units in the different Ministries implement the effectiveness of bilingualism in communications by State Administrations. Similarly, public media generally broadcast information obtained from Administrations in the 2 official languages.

**716-** Such drive for bilingualism revived in the official linguistic practice was preceded by initiatives aimed at enhancing normative production in the 2 official languages.

## **§2: Enhancing Normative Production in the Two Official Languages**

**717-** The Constitution of 18 January 1996 clearly provides that English and French are of equal value. Similarly, Circular No. 3/CAB/PR of 30 May 1996 on the preparation, signing and publication of official instruments in English and French also clearly provides that the 2 official languages are of equal value. The Circular lays the foundation for the drawing up of official instruments and their public communication in the 2 official languages. Indeed, it provides, *"From the date of publication of this Circular, laws, decrees, decisions, circulars and service notes shall be prepared, signed and published in English and French."*

**718-** It further provides that final instruments shall only be forwarded *"for publication according to the procedure of urgency for broadcast on radio, television and daily written press, and for publication in the Official Gazette jointly in English and French."*

**719-** The Constitution and Circular No. 3 referred to above, if proof was still needed, prescribe full equality between the 2 official languages in the preparation and adoption of standards. It should be noted that the Ordinance of 1972 relating to the publication of instruments had rocked the boat by providing in section 2 that *"Legislative and regulatory in-*



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*struments shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic in English and French. A law or regulatory instrument may provide which of the versions, English or French, shall be authentic."*

## **§3: National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism**

**720-** The National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCBM) formed by Decree No. 2017/13 of 23 January 2017 is the fulfilment of one of the promises the Head of State made in his address to the nation on 31 December 2016<sup>352</sup>. The institution has completed the State mechanism aimed at making all Cameroonians bilingual and driven by the determination to live together. It reflects the political vision which makes Cameroon a united and indivisible country, and proud of its diversity.

**721-** The duties of the Commission comprising 15 members<sup>353</sup> and playing the role of advisory body are as follows as provided for in article 3 (2) of the said Decree:"

- *submitting reports and recommendations on issues relating to the protection and promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism to the President of the Republic and the Government;*
- *monitoring the implementation of constitutional provisions establishing English and French as two official languages of equal status, and especially ensuring their use in all government services, semi-public bodies as well as any State-subsidized body;*
- *conducting any study or survey and proposing measures likely to strengthen Cameroon's bilingual and multicultural character;*

<sup>352</sup> « ...Besides the bodies that I instructed the Government to set up and which are already at work, we are ready to go an extra mile. We are willing to move in the footsteps and spirit of the architects of Reunification, and put in place a national entity which will be tasked with proposing solutions aimed at maintaining peace, consolidating our country's unity and strengthening our resolve, and our day-to-day experiences of living together.... »

<sup>353</sup> Members of the said Commission were appointed on 15 March 2017 as per the following 3 decrees:

- Decree No. 2017/95 of 15 March 2017 to appoint the Chair of the National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism;
- Decree No. 2017/96 of 15 March 2017 to appoint the Vice-Chair of the National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism;
- Decree No. 2017/97 of 15 March 2017 to appoint members of the National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism;
- Decree No. 2017/166 of 25 April 2017 to appoint the Secretary-General of the National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism.

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- *preparing and submitting to the President of the Republic draft instruments on bilingualism, multiculturalism and togetherness;*
- *popularizing legal instruments on bilingualism, multiculturalism and togetherness;*
- *receiving petitions against discriminations arising from non-compliance with the constitutional provisions on bilingualism and multiculturalism, and reporting thereon to the President of the Republic;*
- *performing any other task assigned to it by the President of the Republic, including mediation”.*

**722-** A balance sheet of the implementation of bilingualism in 2017 shows that the NCBM led missions to assess the sound application of the Constitutional provisions relating to the practice of bilingualism in public administrations, public establishments and public companies. Phase I of the missions which ran from 1 to 3 November 2017 focused on assessing the practice of bilingualism and an inventory of needs in the 37 Ministries.

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**723-** Throughout 2017, in a process of continuous dialogue and consultation, Government tried to address the claims clearly expressed by the trade unions referred to above. Considering the violent development of the crisis, the State was bound to take measures to protect the people, guarantee the right to security, and maintain unity and integrity of the national territory. The expression of political claims which centred on the form of the State with one school of thought opting for a 2-State Federalism based on linguistic lines and another school opting for secession, highlighted the need to fully involve the people in the management of public affairs especially at the local level. Speeding up decentralization provided for in the Constitution of 1996<sup>354</sup> could help in such management.

<sup>354</sup> See Articles 55 and following of the Constitution.

Chapter 2

HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
COMBATTING THE  
TERRORIST GROUP *BOKO  
HARAM*



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**724-** In 2017, the persistent security challenges relating to *Boko Haram* attacks in Far North Region resulted in an integrated and multidimensional approach in combating the group, and imposed a re-evaluation of the normative framework and criminal justice responses for a better alignment on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy<sup>355</sup>.

## SECTION 1: PERSISTENT BOKO HARAM ATTACKS

**725-** In 2017, *Boko Haram* once more demonstrated its capacity to cause damage through attacks and kidnapping of persons.

### §1: Attacks on Persons and Property

**726-** Although there is a gradual drop in the intensity of the conflict after reaching its peak in 2014 and 2015<sup>356</sup>, recurrent incidents, attacks and a sharp increase in suicide bombings from May to October 2017 illustrated that the terrorist group was far from being defeated. Indeed, since *Boko Haram* registered failures in head-on attacks on the national army, it resorted to using suicide bombings as an operating method to take victims by surprise and undermine their life and physical integrity.

**727-** Though sporadic at the beginning of the year, a resurgence of *Boko Haram* attacks was observed between May and October, then in December 2017. In this regard, in the night of 12 to 13 July 2017 in Waka, Logone and Chari Division, a young female *Kamikaze* blew herself up resulting in a heavy human toll of 15 dead and 43 wounded. In August 2017, some 11 persons including 9 children between 7 and 13 years old were killed in suicide-attacks. In the same month, during an attack on Gakara village, Kolofata Subdivision, Mayo Sava Division, 11 persons were killed, 8 kidnapped and 35 houses burnt down.

**728-** Between 29 October and 1 November 2017, some 19 civilians including 11 villagers in Gouderi, Mayo Sava Division were killed in attacks.

**729-** In September 2017, 3 members of the Cameroon Forces were killed after their vehicle hit an antipersonnel mine.

<sup>355</sup>The said Strategy was adopted in 2006 by the UN General Assembly and comprises the following 4 pillars: prevention, sanction, respect for Human Rights, and reintegration.

<sup>356</sup> See 2014 Report (§ 229-232), 2015 Report (§ 873-874) and 2016 Report (§ 710, 711).

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## §2: Kidnapping of Persons

**730-** *Boko Haram* also took hostages for forced conscription. From 2014 to 2017, *Boko Haram* has kidnapped about 1,000 persons in Far North Region of the country<sup>357</sup>.

**731-** In addition, 387 persons kidnapped by *Boko Haram* were able to return to communities in Mayo-Tsanaga Division in October 2017 after escaping from the hands of members of the group. Specific management of former hostages was one of the elements that oriented the multidimensional approach in combating terrorism.

## SECTION 2: MULTIDIMENSIONAL AND INTEGRATED APPROACH IN COMBATING TERRORISM

**732-** Integrated responses against terrorism included preventive measures associated to combined efforts in combating the scourge. Psychosocial resilience was also observed.

### §1: Prevention of violent Extremism

**733-** Conscious of the fact that good governance, promotion of economic rights and respect for Human Rights are efficient means of preventing violent extremism, Government and its partners continued to implement socio-economic development programmes and projects in Far North Region that has the highest poverty indicators in the country

**734-** The projects that are based on resilience and immediate recovery strategy consisted in providing the people with basic socio-economic infrastructure and laying down conditions that encourage the permanent practice of income-generating activities, creating decent jobs and setting up outreach youth supervision structures. In this regard, as part of PLANUT (2014-2017), regional development projects continued especially with the development of hydro-agricultural areas, construction and development of water collection facilities. Some 970ha of hydro-agricultural land, for example, was reclaimed in Logone-Birni and Kousseri with an execution rate of 72% by the end of 2017.

<sup>357</sup> According to the International Crisis Group (ICG) centre for analysis, in a quoted Report published on 25 October 2017.

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**735-** Besides, a Lake Chad Basin Emergency Development Plan was set up by the Lake Chad Basin Commission for countries affected by *Boko Haram* attacks. The goal of the Plan with one of its components dedicated to Far North Region of Cameroon, was to combat cross-border insecurity through a number of youth programmes such as wealth-creation activities, rural community activities, socio-economic infrastructure development, training and socio-professional integration, all worth CFAF7,290,000,000<sup>358</sup>.

**736-** Furthermore, a Recovery and Peace Consolidation Strategy in the northern regions and East Region (2018-2022) was set up between Government and its partners of which the UN System and the European Union. The Strategy paper that aims at coordination and fair distribution of poverty reduction actions in vulnerable Regions was validated in 2017.

## §2: Combining Efforts to combat Terrorism

**737-** In a bid to step up synergy between Defence Forces and other stakeholders, more than 100 motorcycles were allocated to members of different Vigilante Committees in Far North Region in January 2017.

**738-** The need for a global approach to combat violent extremism warranted cooperation between Cameroon national authorities and its partners. In this connection, Cameroon hosted from 10 to 11 October 2017, a meeting of West and Central Africa Police Chiefs organised under the auspices of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO- INTERPOL). The goal of the meeting was to adapt and step up the anti-terrorist strategy especially through intelligence and information sharing between the different police corps, and modernisation of collaboration tools between operational services. In this regard, the regionalisation of police response through Cooperation Agreements between West and Central Africa was one of the main conclusions of the meeting.

**739-** Furthermore, a Delegation comprising Ambassadors representing the 15 member States of the UN Security Council was in Cameroon from 2 to 7 March 2017, as part of an evaluation meeting of the situation on the ground, progress made and challenges in combating *Boko*

<sup>358</sup> About 11,120,433.22 Euros

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*Haram* in Lake Chad Basin countries. The mission recommended a comprehensive approach to combat terrorism.

**740-** In addition, support from partners of Cameroon consisted in the operational capacity development of Cameroon Defence Forces especially in mine clearance. In this connection, 22 tonnes of mine clearance material were offered by the United States of America to Cameroon as part of cooperation between the 2 countries. Such efforts helped in the recovery of the people.

**741-** Moreover, cooperation with Nigeria helped once more to free hostages. Thus, during sweep operations conducted in February 2017 along the border with Nigeria dubbed "Thunder 2" led by elements of Sector I of the Multinational Joint Task Force with the support of operations "Alpha" and "Emergence 4" of the Cameroon Army and Nigerian Troops, some 5,000 hostages including Cameroonians held by *Boko Haram* were freed.

### **§3: Support to Psycho-social and Economic Resilience**

**742-** In a bid to overcome *Boko Haram*-related trauma, the people resumed their activities, while the problem of "repentant terrorists" emerged.

#### **A: Resumption of Socio-economic Activities**

**743-** Through victories against *Boko Haram*, villages that were abandoned by the people gradually became lively again with the return of displaced persons. In this connection, different forms of support were provided to victims, Vigilante Committees of affected communities, widows and orphans<sup>359</sup>.

**744-** However, such return resulted in many challenges especially concerning cohabitation between returnees and communities.

<sup>359</sup> In March 2017, for example, the Governor of Far North Region handed gifts worth CFAF20,000,000 (About 30,508.73 Euros) to 15 widows, 82 orphans and 92 members of the Vigilante Committee.



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## B: The Problem of “Repentant terrorists”

**745-** The return to the community of some “repentant terrorists” and former hostages taken by *Boko Haram* posed the problem of social resilience and management.

**746-** Indeed, former *Boko Haram* hostages sometimes had difficulties in integrating their communities due to rejection and stigmatisation. In addition, former *Boko Haram* members who had reintegrated communities faced the same problem. The latter who were described as “repentant terrorists” were about 202 as at October 2017.

**747-** In a bid to address the situation, Government decided to settle them in camps developed for such purposes. Besides, discussions on the treatment of such “repentant terrorists” were underway.

## SECTION 3: ADJUSTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO TERRORISM

**748-** In addition to military responses with a positive balance sheet resulting from the weakening of *Boko Haram*'s capacity to cause damage, the legal and judicial response against terrorism was consolidated.

### §1: Consolidation of the Legal Framework

**749-** With the adoption of Law No. 2017/12 of 12 July 2017 on the Code of Military Justice, the legislator consolidated the rules of procedure on terrorism. While specifying the specialised nature of military tribunals, section 8 (c) of the Law referred to above reaffirms the exclusive jurisdiction of Military Tribunals to hear and determine “*offences relating to acts of terrorism and the security of the State.*” The range of offences that may constitute acts of terrorism<sup>360</sup> has been widened. Some of such offences include “*offences of piracy and unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation and platforms*”, thereby incorporating in the national legislation, some Conventions on acts of terrorism to which Cameroon is not yet party<sup>361</sup>.

<sup>360</sup>This was to supplement acts of terrorism provided for in Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on suppression of acts of terrorism.

<sup>361</sup>Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation, adopted on 10 March 1988. It entered into force on 1 March 1992, and was amended by a Protocol adopted

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**750-** In addition, henceforth, criminal proceedings shall be instituted by the State Prosecutor subject to the so-called reported matters the content of which shall be determined by the Minister in charge of military justice.

**751-** Besides, Law No. 2017/13 of 12 July 2017 on repression of offences relating to the safety of civil aviation widens the list of offences in combating terrorism especially concerning civil aviation. The said Law has enshrined in the national legislation, the 5 Conventions adopted under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization<sup>362</sup> (ICAO) with a view to eradicating hijacking of planes and other acts of violence against civilian aircrafts, their passengers and airports.

## §2: Judicial Response

**752-** In 2017, prosecution and trial of perpetrators of acts of terrorism were conducted in the respect of their rights especially rules of procedure as contained in the CPC and illustrated by judgments delivered by some courts.

**753-** Before the Yaounde Military Tribunal, 22 matters were pending while 45 judgments were delivered against 64 persons accused of different offences relating to *Boko Haram*. All the accused persons were assisted by counsel, and *ad hoc* Interpreters appointed by the Tribunal. The judgments delivered reveal that 22 accused persons were sen-

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on 14 October 2005. Cameroon has not yet ratified the Convention and its Protocol. Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf, adopted on 10 March 1988. It entered into force on 1 March 1992 and was equally amended by a Protocol on 14 October 2005. Cameroon has not yet ratified the Protocol.

<sup>362</sup> Convention on offences and certain other acts committed on board aircraft known as the Tokyo Convention adopted on 14 September 1963. It entered into force on 4 December 1969. Cameroon ratified it on 24 March 1988.

- Convention on suppression of unlawful seizure of aircraft known as The Hague Convention, adopted on 16 December 1970. It entered into force on 14 October 1971, and Cameroon ratified it on 14 April 1988.
- Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of civil aviation, known as the Montreal Convention adopted on 23 September 1971. It entered into force on 26 January 1973. Cameroon ratified it on 8 June 1992 and its Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts of violence at airports serving international civil aviation, adopted on 24 February 1988. It entered into force on 6 August 1989 and Cameroon ratified it on 13 March 2003.
- Convention on the marking of plastic explosives for the purpose of detection, adopted on 1 March 1991. It entered into force on 21 June 1998, and Cameroon ratified it on 3 June 1998.

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tenced either for a term or for life, while 42 others were discharged and acquitted, representing an acquittal rate of 65.25%.

**754-** Before the Maroua Military Tribunal, 114 matters were pending while 23 judgments were delivered of which 11 were sentences for from 10 years to life imprisonment, and 12 acquittal, representing an acquittals rate of 52.17%. Moreover, 4 of the judgments have been appealed against.

**755-** Before the Ngaoundere Military Tribunal, 3 judgments were delivered on matters of terrorism, and all the accused persons were discharged and acquitted.

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**756-** In 2017, the sporadic resurgence of *Boko Haram* attacks and its repercussions on Human Rights did not challenge Government's determination to respect Human Rights in combating the scourge. That is why in addition to military and judicial responses against terrorism, a new approach centred on prevention was privileged, thereby giving preference to good governance, and meeting the socio-economic needs of the people so as to build social resilience.







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**757-** In all sectors of national life, enhancing governance continued to be one of the strategic thrusts of Government policy in 2017. Actions undertaken in this regard fall under the framework defined by the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) and focused on promotion of good governance, consolidation of reforms in the public contracts sector, enhancement of governance in the management of public establishments and enterprises, and combating corruption.

## SECTION 1: PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

**758-** In 2017, public sector/private sector dialogue continued with a view to improving the business climate, whereas incentives were made towards investment and clean-up of the mining sector.

### §1: Improving the Business Climate

**759-** The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Cameroon Business Forum (CBF) held on 13 March 2017 in Douala under the theme “Increasing competitiveness of the economy by facilitating foreign trade” enabled the adoption of recommendations the implementation of which was evaluated. Although progress was made, some challenges were observed during the evaluation.

#### A: Evaluating Implementation of the Recommendations of the 8th CBF Session

**760-** During the 8<sup>th</sup> CBF session, 25 recommendations<sup>363</sup> comprising 9 reform sectors were adopted of which 16 were enshrined in the road map proposed by the Doing Business Advisory team of the World Bank as part of its programme to support the growth of competitiveness of the economy by facilitating foreign trade in Cameroon.

**761-** At the end of 2017, some 16 out of 25 recommendations (representing 64%) were implemented, 6 were ongoing (representing 24%), and 2 were not implemented (representing 8%), while 1 recommenda-

<sup>363</sup> This concerned launching the computerisation of the Trade and Property Register in Douala and Yaounde; completion of complementary services of *mybusiness.cm*; installation of the online tracking of applications for building permit in Douala; preparation of feasibility studies of the One-stop Shop and integrated system of acts of town planning in Douala; the functioning of the regime of co-ownership in reimbursing VAT credits; setting up an electronic receipt transmission system during payment of taxes; functioning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> gantry at the Douala port; exploitation of the e-force single form in the e-GUCE platform and e-GUCE portal; etc...

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tion was re-qualified (representing 4%). This gave an implementation rate of 64% as against 75% in 2016, a drop of 11% in 2017.

**762-** The reforms referred to above focused on establishment of enterprises (2 on 2), driver's licence (2 on 3), access to electricity (0 on 1), access to land (1 on 3), access to loans (2 on 2), easing trans-border trade (4 on 5), trade disputes/execution of contracts (1 on 1), promotion of investment (2 on 5), and payment of taxes (2 on 3)<sup>364</sup>.

## **B: Progress made in Implementation of Recommendations**

**763-** In 2017, significant progress was made towards enhancing the business climate especially the opening of the escrow account for reimbursement of VAT credits, and installation of an electronic receipt transmission system at the Department of Large Enterprises and Medium-Sized Taxation Centres.

**764-** In addition, the President of the Republic instructed the timely settlement of debt owed Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME), and enhancement of their access to bank loans<sup>365</sup>.

**765-** In this regard, VAT credits worth CFAF82,000,000,000<sup>366</sup> was given back to enterprises in 2017 as against CFAF58,000,000,000<sup>367</sup> in 2016. In addition, this action made it possible to significantly reduce VAT credits of previous financial years which dropped from CFAF 51,000,000,000<sup>368</sup> as at 31 December 2016 to CFAF 20,000,000,000<sup>369</sup> at the end of 2017.

**766-** Furthermore, in a bid to reduce or stamp out factors<sup>370</sup> that hamper access of SMEs to bank financing, Government took a series of

<sup>364</sup> The figures in brackets take into account reforms undertaken and recommendations adopted.

<sup>365</sup> See the address of the Head of State to the nation on 31 December 2017.

<sup>366</sup> About 125,085,805.81 Euros, funds in an escrow account opened with the Bank of Central African States (BEAC).

<sup>367</sup> About 88,475,326.06 Euros.

<sup>368</sup> About 77,797,269.47 Euros.

<sup>369</sup> About 30,508,733.13 Euros.

<sup>370</sup> These factors are inherent in the structuring, risk aversion in granting credit and challenges relating to the judicial environment.



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measures to enhance governance of SMEs, reduce asymmetry of information, increase financing offer and reduce financial risks.

**767-** Such progress made it possible to improve the classification of Cameroon which cleaned its ranking from 166<sup>th</sup> in 2016 to 163<sup>rd</sup> out of 190 countries in 2017 in the Doing Business index of the World Bank. Similarly, the border distance that also sums up the best practices on 100 also made a step forward from 45.05 to 47.23. Such progress was the result of 2 reforms relating to a drop of CFAF100,000<sup>371</sup> from the minimum capital of Limited Companies (LTD) and that relating to SME platform aiming at enhancing access to credit.

## C: Delays in Implementation of the Recommendations

**768-** Delays in the implementation of the recommendations were due to the fact that some adopted reforms were not taken into account as a result of their insufficient maturity especially in payment of taxes, establishment of online enterprises or even dematerialisation of foreign trade operations.

**769-** In a bid to enhance the business climate and economic growth of the country, the business community and development partners recommended the consolidation of mechanisms to combat non-standard and contraband products<sup>372</sup>.

## §2: Incentives to Investment

**770-** Such actions focused on promoting investment and SMEs.

### A: Promotion of Investment

**771-** In addition to the amendment of the normative and institutional framework made by Law No. 2017/15 of 12 July 2017 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2013/4 of 18 April 2013 to determine incentives to private investment in the Republic of Cameroon and Decree No. 2017/127 of 18 April 2017 to amend and supple-

<sup>371</sup> About 152.54 Euros

<sup>372</sup>This is the same with the Evaluation Programme of Compliance before Boarding of Products in the Republic of Cameroon (PECAE), Halting Illicit Trade Programme (HALCOMI), and control conducted by the Ministry of Trade, and the need to institute the marking of compliance on referenced products.

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ment some provisions of Decree No. 20058/310 of 1 September 2005 to lay down the organization and functioning of the Investment Promotion Agency (IPB), promotion of investment focused on the drive to facilitate investment. This resulted in the signing of agreements between Government and businessmen.

## 1) Amendment of a Normative and Institutional Framework

**772-** Through amendment of the normative and institutional framework, more incentives were given to investors just like prerogatives of IPB were reoriented.

### a) Consolidating Effectiveness in the Implementation of Incentives

**773-** In a bid to further attract investors to Cameroon, the provisions in the amended Law of 12 July 2017 targeted consolidation of effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of different incentives provided for by Law No. 2013/4 of 18 April 2013 to determine incentives to private investment in the Republic of Cameroon.

**774-** Thus, in addition to the enabling instrument provided for in sections 8 and 11 of the law referred to above and which shall lay down the terms and conditions of application of the provisions on fiscal and customs incentives, the procedure for the issuance of a licence<sup>373</sup> is simplified with the replacement of the requirement of a compliant opinion of the Minister of Finance by a simple opinion deemed to have been obtained where it is not given within a period of 15 days. In fact, the power to grant an authorisation is henceforth conferred on IPBs or SMEs depending on the circumstance. The latter are also empowered to oversee that investors who benefit from such incentives meet the conditions that provided for their eligibility and to include in their visa, all applications for importation and purchase of local products during the installation and exploitation phase by such investors<sup>374</sup>.

**775-** Such balancing of institutional mechanisms was consolidated with the reorientation by the supervisory authority on IPBs.

<sup>373</sup>Section 18 of Law of 2013 as amended provides that any investor who claims to be entitled to incentives provided for by this law shall be subject to the authorisation scheme as defined by the Investment Charter.

<sup>374</sup>Sections 19,21, and 25 of the Law of 2013 as amended.

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## **b) Strategic Reorientation of the Missions and Supervisory Authority on IPBs**

**776-** Article 3 of Decree No. 2017/127 of 18 April 2017 to amend and supplement some provisions of Decree No. 2005/310 of 1 September 2005 to lay down the organisation and functioning of IPBs attached same to the Secretariat General of the Presidency of the Republic, thereby changing the technical supervisory authority. Similarly, the vocation of the IPB to promote investment and its accrued resources for the effective discharge of its duties are reaffirmed. Thus, section 35 of the Law of 12 July 2017 widens the base of financial resources of the IPB by allocating to it 15% of resources recovered under land tax and 15% of resources from the Special Telecommunications Fund. With such financing, the IPB which was, up till then, limited to current budget votes, may henceforth delve more efficiently into activities geared towards promoting investment.

**777-** In compliance with the Decree referred to above, the IPB has been conferred the authority to issue licences formerly conferred on the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT). Thus, since the signing of Decree No. 2017/127 of 18 April 2017 to amend and supplement some provisions of Decree No. 2005/310 of 1 September 2005 to lay down the organization and functioning of the IPB, the organization has signed 38 investment agreements with private sector enterprises amounting to CFA1,353,596,259,401<sup>375</sup> and 1,340 decent employment positions to be established.

### **2) The Drive to Facilitate Investment**

**778-** The drive to facilitate investment focused on reception and orientation of investors, and the holding of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Cameroon Investment Forum.

#### **a) 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Cameroon Investment Forum**

**779-** The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Cameroon Investment Forum was held from 9 to 10 November 2017 in Douala. The Forum was organised by the Investment Promotion Agency under the theme *investment matching between project promoters and technical and financial partners for the pro-*

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<sup>375</sup>About 2,066,559,174.65 Euros

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*motion of the local industry and attraction of investors. It brought together more than 1,200 participants from the local business world and foreign enterprises from Africa, America, Asia, and Europe.*

## **b) Accommodation and Guidance of Investors**

**780-** In 2017, some 1,253 foreign investors were received at the Reception Counters at the Douala and Yaounde International Airports. They were assisted, informed and guided on the different sectors of activity (Agroindustry, Smelting, Iron and Steel Industry, Chemistry and Pharmacy, Habitat, Energy, and the Digital Industry). They were offered facilities at the IPB headquarters in Yaounde and its Littoral Regional Office in Douala. The technical services of the Delegation General for National Security eased the issuance of visas to the investors.

## **3) Signing of Investment Agreements**

**781-** MINMIDT signed 137 agreements in different sectors including agroindustry, iron and steel industry, smelting, chemical industry, energy, low-cost habitat for 50,000 estimated direct employment. The global amount of the agreements was estimated at CFAF 2,322,000,000,000<sup>376</sup>.

## **B: Promotion of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME)**

**782-** Actions to promote SMEs focused on facilitation and simplification of procedures to set up enterprises in the Centres for Business Creation Formality (CBCF) and enhancement of competitiveness of SMEs.

### **1) Facilitation and Simplification of Procedures to set up Enterprises in CBCFs**

**783-** In 2017, the Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises Promotion Board (APME) facilitated the establishment of 13,343 SMEs<sup>377</sup> as against 15,219 in 2016, representing a drop<sup>378</sup> of 1,876 enterprises. Thus, 81% of the SMEs were established in Yaounde (4,989, repre-

<sup>376</sup>About 3,542,063,915.79 Euros

<sup>377</sup>Some 1,049 enterprises were set up online using the "mybusiness.cm" software.

<sup>378</sup>The figure reflects the drive to set up enterprises at the level of CBCFs (Interministerial Circular No. 1/MINJUSTICE-MINFI-MINPMEESA of 30 May 2012 on the procedure before CFCEs). Enterprises set up at the level of Court Registries are not included in the figure.

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senting 37%), Douala (5,815, representing 44%) and other towns (2,539, representing 19%).

**784-** As part of speeding up the SME Modernisation Programme through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Government equipped 3 CBCFs.

**785-** Decree No. 2017/877/PM of 28 February 2017 to lay down the terms and conditions of authentication of the rules and regulations governing Limited Liability Companies established under private agreement in CBCFs in Cameroon, simplified procedures for the setting up of enterprises. Thus, within 24 hours following the deposit of an application for authentication of a limited liability company, the head of the CBCF authenticates the rules and regulations by signature at the end of the said rules and regulations and affixes on every page of same, the words "Authenticated by CBCF" (article 3 of the said Decree referred to above). The rules and regulations established by private agreement are drawn up and authenticated in as many original copies as necessary. An original copy is issued each of the associates and a copy filed for consultation at the head office (Article 5 of the Decree referred to above).

## 2) Enhancement of Competitiveness of SMEs

**786-** Enhancing competitiveness of SMEs focused on the financial and non-financial support of SMEs since the goal was to step up and guarantee competitiveness of SMEs.

### a) Financial Support of SMEs

**787-** As at 31 December 2017, some 1,807 SME customers<sup>379</sup> opened an account with the Bank of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Cameroon (BC-SME). The customers received financing worth<sup>380</sup> CFAF6,500,539,958<sup>381</sup> as against CFAF6,934,567,052<sup>382</sup> in 2016,

<sup>379</sup> They include craftsmen, SMEs in the sector of agroindustry, energy, building and construction, forestry, and services (ICTs, trade, transport, and tourism).

<sup>380</sup>The amount is broken down amongst SME customers as follows: agroindustry (CFAF95,021,564 = 144,949.38Euros) ; energy (CFAF209,826,035, About 320,080.90Euros), building and construction (CFAF2,364,125,092 , About 3,606,323.07 Euros), wood and by-products (CFAF4,629,890 = 7,062.60Euros), services (ICTs, trade, transport, tourism) (CFAF2,424,093,047, About 3,697,800.39Euros), and other sectors of activity (CFAF1,402,847,330 , About 2,139,964.74 Euros).

<sup>381</sup>About 9,916,161.94 Euros.

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representing a drop of CFAF434,027,094<sup>383</sup>. The interest rate stood between 10 and 11% excluding taxes.

## b) Non-financial Support of SMEs

**788-** As part of training, 4 sessions were organised for businessmen in Far North, North, North West and South West Regions. They enabled the said businessmen to acquire professional entrepreneur skills and draw up business plans. In addition, 107 young local entrepreneurs were trained in 2017 as against 106 in 2016 as part of the EMPRETEC Project executed with the support of the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

**789-** Furthermore, the pilot phase of the 55/KAIZEN<sup>384</sup> Project made it possible to train 39 promoters of enterprises and 17 consultants of which 5 from the private sector and 12 from the public sector. The impact of the Project on enterprises is the proper organisation of the latter and a better development of the working conditions that will enable them to gain time and incidentally enhance their competitiveness.

**790-** With the support of MTN Cameroon, Government organised 10 training workshops in Yaounde (5), Douala (4) and Bafoussam (1) to raise the awareness of youths on the culture of entrepreneurship. At the end of the workshops, 381 SME promoters were trained in Yaounde, 357 in Douala, and 140 in Bafoussam.

**791-** Concerning the exodus of SMEs from the informal sector to the formal sector, the number of Approved Management Centres increased from 7 in 2016 to 11 in 2017. At the end of different awareness-raising activities, 1,500 SMEs were registered as against 1,000 in 2016. Besides, a workshop on the formalisation of enterprises was held in October 2017 in Douala, in partnership with the International Labour Office.

**792-** Regarding acquisition of market shares, 173 SMEs made a benchmark in Centre, Littoral, West and South West Regions, and 264 SMEs

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<sup>382</sup>About 10,578,242.78 Euros.

<sup>383</sup>About 662,080.84 Euros.

<sup>384</sup>The project was executed in partnership with the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation.

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signed 66 partnership agreements with vote holders. The agreements signed with the support of the Subcontracting and Partnership Stock Exchange of Cameroon generated 2,965 jobs, including 577 closed-ended contracts and 2,388 open-ended contracts.

**793-** Besides, the launching of the pilot phase of the Packaging and Tracking Support Programme enabled the APME to support 12 SMEs, accommodate 2 experts recommended by MINMIDT and 3 experts sent to it on secondment by the European Institute for Cooperation and Development respectively.

## **§3: Cleaning up the Mining Sector**

**794-** In a bid to maintain transparency in the mining sector, permits were issued, attachments made during control missions, and sanctions imposed on unauthorised mining operators.

### **A: Issuance of Permits**

**795-** As part of hydrocarbons exploitation, and increase in oil bonds, 3 orders were signed of which 2 on permits granted to 2 companies and 1 to extend the validity of the Bomono Exclusive Research Permit.

### **B: Seizure during Control**

**796-** In a bid to comply with the certification system of the Kimberly Process that requires transparency in all mining transactions, seizure was made at the Yaounde-Nsimalen International Airport as part of combating illegal trafficking of minerals, including a parcel of diamonds of some 21 carats, 2 plastic bottles containing mineral substances deemed to be Platinum, a 22g gold bullion, and 68 synthetic stones similar to diamond weighing 270.21 carats.

### **C: Sanctions imposed on Miners**

**797-** The national mining area stands at 17,650.829km<sup>2</sup>, that covered by exploitation permits stood at 13,807.07km<sup>2</sup>, while that of concessions stood at 3,849.759km<sup>2</sup>. In 2017, 9 exploitation permits and 19 concessions were still valid and 6 areas free.

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**798-** Concerning sanctions, 23 research permits, 9 authorisations, and 2 quarry exploitation permits were withdrawn and the areas concerned transferred to national lands. Besides, the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development suspended the issuance and transactions under artisanal exploitation permits nationwide. He further suspended the motor-manual artisanal exploitation permits in Eseka Subdivision, Centre Region, and Mbe Subdivision, Adamawa Region. Similarly, PEACEMINING Corporation, owner of the exploitation site dubbed "Higher Higher" in Longa-Malai village, Betare-Oya Subdivision, East Region was ordered to stop any mining activities in the community after a visit to the locus in quo by the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development. The visit revealed that PEACEMINING Corporation was not holder of an exploitation permit, but rather a concession company under a CAMINCO permit, another company suspended by the same Minister.

## SECTION 2: CONSOLIDATION OF REFORMS IN THE PUBLIC CONTRACTS SECTOR

**799-** Governance in the public contracts sector was enhanced through dispute management, and systematic control of public contracts and services.

### §1: Dispute Management

**800-** The Dispute Committee received and examined 346 files, including 241 petitions lodged by bidders who claimed to have suffered prejudice in the award of public contracts, 32 applications for arbitration relating to persistent disagreement between the Contracting Authority and the Tender's Board, and 56 applications filed by different stakeholders of the system especially the Public Contracts Regulatory Board. After examination of all the files, 28 matters seemed founded, representing less than 1% and the rights of the bidders who suffered prejudice were restored.

### §2: Systematic Control of Public Contracts and Services

**801-** In 2017, field control of the execution of public contracts was intensified to ensure that selected and financed projects were effectively



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executed within the agreed time limits and standards. The operation was conducted through a number of general control activities of all contracts awarded in 2017, and specific control of major infrastructure projects.

**802-** As part of general control of all contracts awarded, the Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP) conducted documentary control and field control through its central and local Brigades.

**803-** Concerning documentary control representing 55% of control activities, from 1 January to 31 December 2017, out of 2,502 contracts under execution and worth CFAF2,838,137,690,113<sup>385</sup> including taxes, Central Brigades examined 4,346 payment documents worth CFAF1,207,401,717,110<sup>386</sup>, representing 43% of the amount of contracts under examination in 2017. Thus, 3,414 payment documents processed worth CFAF911,421,366,212<sup>387</sup> were endorsed by the Minister of Public Contracts, representing 75% while 833 payment documents worth CFAF295,833,901,109<sup>388</sup>, representing 25% were rejected for different reasons especially administrative, technical and financial irregularities<sup>389</sup>.

**804-** In the same line, penalties for delay and adjustments worth CFAF1,865,083,174<sup>390</sup> were made on some documents processed by Central Control Brigades, representing 1% of the amount of files processed in 2017. Under this column, 366 current files were processed at the Directorate General of Control of Public Contracts, MINMAP of which 157 amendments to contracts, 63 applications, and 294 workshops and meetings. Out of the 157 amendments worth CFAF 7,628,459,491<sup>391</sup> examined, 118 worth CFAF7,135,783,864<sup>392</sup>

<sup>385</sup>About 4,329,399,267.94 Euros.

<sup>386</sup>About 1,841,814,838.07 Euros

<sup>387</sup>About 1,390,315,561.30 Euros

<sup>388</sup>About 451,275,876.91 Euros

<sup>389</sup>The most recurrent irregularities include ignorance of procedures on the execution of contracts by some control stakeholders especially Engineers, and Service Heads for Contracts, failure by some contracting authorities to forward payment files for endorsement by the Minister of Public Contracts, lack of contract documents (deposits, insurance policies, delivery calendar or plan of action), etc...

<sup>390</sup>About 2,845,066. 24 Euros

<sup>391</sup>About 11,636,731.74 Euros

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were validated and 18 worth CFAF493,675,827<sup>393</sup> rejected for reasons relating to control of the execution of public contracts<sup>394</sup>.

**805-** Furthermore, MINMAP conducted 300 field control missions as part of regular or unannounced missions<sup>395</sup>.

**806-** As part of specific control of contracts, MINMAP conducted inspections of major infrastructure projects by regularly conducting documentary and field controls. Such inspections focused on overarching projects<sup>396</sup>, PLANUT<sup>397</sup> projects and projects relating to the Africa Cup of Nations in football<sup>398</sup>.

## §3: Sanctions against Dishonest Stakeholders

**807-** More than 153 enterprises were excluded from public procurement for different reasons of fraud. Some 200 enterprises were declared bankrupt nationwide within the framework of execution of their con-

<sup>392</sup>About 10,885,186.27 Euros

<sup>393</sup>About 753,071.20 Euros

<sup>394</sup>Such reasons include late submission of contract documents by enterprises, lack of delivery note and technical approval report for contracts on supplies, failure to mobilise material proposed in the contract with consequences on the quality of works, and failure to mobilise experts proposed in the contract with consequences on the quality of services.

<sup>395</sup>Observations made during the missions include poor drawing up of contracts, non-mature projects before execution, delayed activities, complacency of some contracting authorities towards some service providers reflected either by extension of delivery period or change of quantity, etc. Results from documentary control or field control focused on disappearance of payments of fictitious service providers before the execution of contracts or before validation of amendment relating thereto, through control conducted by MINMAP before prior approval on the payment documents; a drop in falsification of contract documents through more authentication action before the issuing bodies (banks, insurance companies and laboratories); increase in the rate of effective execution of contracts on the field; disappearance of fictitious works on the field through field controls by MINMAP, etc...

<sup>396</sup>They include the Yaounde-Douala Super Motorway and Yaounde-Nsimalen Super Motorway; major projects in the road sector in the 10 Regions; major infrastructure projects situated in the following sectors: energy (Dam); hydroelectric sector (water supply); railway and airport sector; sector for sanitation and work of art; and the telecommunications sector.

<sup>397</sup>The projects were in the following sectors: urban sector (construction of 100 low-cost housing per Region); health sector (construction and rehabilitation of hospitals); and water sector (construction of boreholes and water supply in the 10 Regions).

<sup>398</sup>The projects focused on the following sectors: construction of the sports complex of Olembe, Yaounde, and Japoma, Douala; rehabilitation of some stadia (Bonamoussadi, Mbappe Lepe, Reunification stadium, Bepanda, Douala, Roumde Adja, Garoua, etc.); construction and rehabilitation of hotels, and construction of relating infrastructure.

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tracts. In addition, a number of MINMAP officials were dismissed from office for violation of the rules of award of contracts.

**808-** Similarly, in 2017, MINMAP received 1,006 applications for authorisation to award contracts in accordance with the procedure by mutual agreement. In this regard, more than 165 authorisations were issued and notified to contracting authorities or delegated contracting authorities. The authorisations issued represented 3% of the 5,982 contracts programmed in 2017.

**809-** The public contracts sector was equally targeted by governance in the management of public establishments and enterprises.

## SECTION 3: ENHANCEMENT OF GOVERNANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS AND ENTERPRISES

**810-** Law No. 2017/10 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the general rules and regulations governing public establishments, and Law No. 2017/11 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the general rules and regulations governing public corporations were adopted to enhance governance in the management of public establishments and public enterprises<sup>399</sup>.

### §1: Transparency in the Management of Public Establishments

**811-** In a bid to enhance governance in the management of public establishments, innovations of Law No. 2017/10 referred to above focused on the identification of public establishments or their form, purpose, description of managing bodies<sup>400</sup>, the regime of incompatibilities, the supervisory authority, and the monitoring of management and performances.

**812-** Contrary to Law No. 99/16 of 22 December 1999 on the general rules and regulations governing public establishments and public and semi-public enterprises, Law No. 2017/10 referred to above provided for the fundamental criterion of identification of a public estab-

<sup>399</sup> These Laws repealed Law No. 99/16 of 22 December 1999 on the general rules and regulations governing public establishments and public and semi-public enterprises.

<sup>400</sup> This concerns the Board of Directors, headquarters, or any other body in replacement of same.

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lishment which, as different from the public enterprise, is its non-commercial and non-industrial nature. The law has also provided for a multiple categorisation of such establishments<sup>401</sup>.

**813-** The terms and conditions of appointment of managing bodies depend on the level of involvement of the State or Councils in the setting up of public establishments<sup>402</sup>. Management of such establishments by the General Manger is subject to stricter control by the Board of Directors. Their officials are appointed by decree of the President of the Republic for a term of 3 years eventually renewable twice (section 36 (1)). In any case, section 36 (3) clearly states that cumulated terms by the General Manager and his Deputy may not exceed 9 years.

**814-** Section 59 of the law referred to above provides that the function of Chair and member of the Board of Directors and those of General Manager and Deputy General Manager of a public establishment shall be incompatible with those of member of Government or persons ranking as such, Parliamentarian, member of the Constitutional Council, and Judicial and Legal Officer attached to a court. Such incompatibilities and restrictive measures are contained in the instrument to avoid any conflict of interests in the simultaneous discharge of their duties. In this regard, section 60 provides that once a manager has been appointed member of Government or person ranking as such, he shall lose his office as of right.

**815-** Sections 7 and 10 of the rules and regulations governing the exercise of technical and financial supervisory authority<sup>403</sup> provide that the technical and supervisory authorities support monitoring and performance. Concerning the technical supervisory authority, section 7 of the law referred to above throws more light on compliance with activities conducted by a public establishment towards public policy guide-

<sup>401</sup> Public establishments are classified in the following 9 categories: public administrative establishments, social administrative establishments, health administrative establishments, public cultural establishments, scientific public establishments, technical public administrative establishments, vocational public establishments, economic and financial public establishments, and special public establishments.

<sup>402</sup> It is governed by decree in the event of an exclusive action by the State in the setting up and as per the terms and conditions provided for in the act of establishment in the event of joint action between the State and one or more corporate bodies governed by public law.

<sup>403</sup> Sections 7 to 14 lay down the rules and regulations governing the supervisory authority.

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lines within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors. Concerning financial supervisory authority, section 10 of the said law clearly provides for compliance of management operations on the financial impact with the law and regulations on public finance, and further examination of the accounts of public establishments.

**816-** Section 62 (2) has removed amounts to be paid. Henceforth, the General Manager is the contracting authority of all public contracts in the public establishment. Besides, section 63 provides that the Tender's Board of the public establishment shall oversee the rules of transparency, competition, and full price.

## **§2: Transparency in the Management of Public Corporations**

**817-** The new law aligns the rules of public enterprise management on those of private enterprise management. However, it still maintains a minimum of rules dedicated to protecting public property and services.

**818-** The alignment of private enterprise management especially those from the OHADA Uniform Act<sup>404</sup> on commercial companies and the economic interest groups, focuses on the constitution of companies under the form of Limited Companies (Article 10) and the functioning rules especially concerning the designation of governing bodies by the Board of Directors, control henceforth overseen by one or more auditors and not by external audit missions (Article 16 (2)). Besides, section 119 (1) of Law No. 2017/11 provides that public enterprises shall not be governed by the Public Contracts Code. However, the Board of Directors shall oversee compliance with the rules of competition, equality and treatment of candidates. Paragraph 2 of the same section provides that a resolution of the Board of Directors shall lay down the terms and conditions of functioning of the internal Tender's Board, designation of its members and evaluation of bids.

**819-** Protective rules of public interest concerned share capital with an impact on the type of company. Here, 2 categories of public enterprises<sup>405</sup> are concerned: the public-private company with majority shares owned by the State, one or more public enterprises or one or more

<sup>404</sup>It is the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa (OHADA).

<sup>405</sup>These are the publicly owned company and the public-private company.

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Councils, and the publicly owned company in which the entities referred to above own all the capital. Public interest is further reflected by the tightening of the rules of incompatibility that target conflicts of interest more by clearly defining incompatible offices. The sanction of nullity of acts done by a managing body<sup>406</sup> where the term of 3 years renewable twice has elapsed is seen as a further step ahead from the former simple limitation of terms of office of company managers (Article 70 (2)).

**820-** Concerning the duties of the supervisory authority and monitoring management and performance of public enterprises, Articles 4 and 9 are quite clear on both the technical and financial levels that make it possible to establish accountability and individual or collective responsibility of share holders. Besides, Article 58 provides that Boards of Directors henceforth have the power to form *ad hoc* control Committees or Commissions on issues relating to their missions where there are doubts on some areas of management of the enterprise.

**821-** In order to protect the heritage of public enterprises that remain public property, Article 3 provides that their property is public property with regard to the responsibility of managers. Consequently, mismanagement and fraud which constitute misappropriation of public property are contrary and punishable under sections 114 and 115 of the Law of 2017 and Sections 74 and 184 of the PC.

**822-** In 2017, more actions were carried out to combat corruption and misappropriation of public property.

## SECTION 4: COMBATING CORRUPTION AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

**823-** In order to streamline management of public property, Government continued to take actions geared towards prevention, control and detection of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property, and repression of perpetrators of the said acts.

<sup>406</sup> This refers to the shareholder's meeting, the Board of Directors and the Directorate General whose responsibilities and rules of appointment and functioning are clearly laid down and vary depending on the type of enterprise.

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## §1: Prevention

**824-** Prevention focused on the organisation of awareness-raising and communication campaigns.

**825-** Awareness-raising campaigns for youths were organised by the NACC during FENASSCO<sup>407</sup> "A" and "B" Games held from 1 to 10 April 2017 respectively in Buea and Bamenda, and during the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the University Games held from 22 to 29 April 2017 at University of Bamenda. Furthermore, from 10 to 17 December 2017, NACC installed 104 integrity clubs in secondary schools, teacher training colleges, and vocational schools, and 2 in University of Yaounde I and University of Ngaoundere.

**826-** It further organised the "*Corruption-free School Reopening*" campaign in September 2017 in the 10 Regions of the country and continued to broadcast its "*Espace CONAC*" programme in English and French. During the International Anti-Corruption Week from 3 to 9 December 2017, NACC made radio and TV adverts in English and French.

**827-** Besides, in 12 editions of *CONAC Newsletter*, it produced and distributed 96,000 copies free of charge, of which 8,000 by draw in the 10 Regions. This new communication and awareness-raising tool intends to raise the awareness of Cameroonians<sup>408</sup> of all walks of life in combating corruption.

## §2: Control

**828-** Control activities were intensified by NACC, the Supreme State Audit Office, and the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court.

### A: NACC Actions

**829-** As part of implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS)<sup>409</sup>, NACC conducted investigation- and control-related activities

<sup>407</sup> Federation of National School Games

<sup>408</sup>This awareness-raising targets public, semi-public and private administrations; Councils; private sector companies; CSOs; students during school and university games; and the entire population during fairs and awareness-raising caravans organised by NACC.

<sup>409</sup> NACC continued to implement the NACS through the launching of the 10<sup>th</sup> series of Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) on 9 September 2017, the number of structures of which increased slightly from 20

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on the quality of public spending and identification of acts of corruption. In this regard, it received and examined 3,982 reports on acts and practices of corruption in 2017 as against 2,402 in 2016, and 3,268 in 2015.

**830-** NACC conducted 60 rapid interventions through its Rapid Intervention Office based on reports received, as against 79 in 2016, and established 48 flagrant cases relating to scam, extortion of money, forgery, procuring influence, abuse of office, misappropriation of public property, and corruption of users in many areas<sup>410</sup>. The conclusions of the investigations were forwarded to the competent authorities for legal action.

## **B: Activities of the Supreme State Audit Office**

**831-** The Supreme State Audit Office received and examined reports, and also conducted control missions. In this regard, the Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council (BFDC) received files and initiated proceedings against some managers.

### **1) Examining Reports**

**832-** Reports received were examined by the Operational Units of the Supreme State Audit Office. Some were taken into account during mobile control missions. The Legal Affairs and Information Division received and examined 128 reports in 2017 as against 301 in 2016, representing a drop of 173 reports as shown in the table below:

**Table 1: Reports received and examined by the Legal Affairs and Information Division in the 2016 and 2017 financial years**

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organisations in 2016 to 22 in 2017. In addition, NACC conducted an evaluation of progress made in the implementation of Annual Regional Anti-corruption Plans of Action for 2017 in the 10 Regions. No Region obtained 50% achievement rate. However, the rate which was still low, increased slightly as compared to previous years, from 29.61% in 2015 to 30.4% in 2016 and to 32.4% in 2017.

<sup>410</sup>These areas include toll gates, weighing stations, the signing of civil status acts, road checkpoints by police and gendarmes, handling computer data in the payment of salaries, calculation of public contract payments, signing of official documents in Divisional Offices and Councils, the production and payment of illegal treasury cash receipts, etc.



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No.	Administrations concerned	Number	
		2016	2017
1	Public Administrations	58	10
2	Public Administrative Establishments	16	5
3	Private Establishments	21	11
4	Individuals	111	59
5	Councils	4	9
6	Trade Unions	12	4
7	Anonymous	22	16
8	Associations/NGOs/Cooperatives	50	11
9	Liberal Professions	7	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>301</b>	<b>128</b>

**Source:** DAJEI/Supreme State Audit Office

**834-** In 2017, the Divisions for Inspection and Control received and examined 162 reports as against 142 in 2016, sometimes during special missions prescribed by the President of the Republic and during cross-checking missions<sup>411</sup> as shown in the table below:

**Table 2: Reports received and examined by the Divisions for Inspection and Control in the 2016 and 2017 financial years**

Operational Unit	Reports received		Reports examined		Reports resulting in special missions		Reports resulting in cross-checking missions		Pending files	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
<b>DIESP</b>	3	10	3	10	3	5	0	0	4	5
<b>DICTD</b>	103	64	103	60	1	3	0	2	5	4
<b>DIAP</b>	18	82	18	82	0	2	1	2	0	0
<b>DIEPOS</b>	18	6	18	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

**Source:** Supreme State Audit Office

**Legend:**

- DIESP:** Division for Inspection and Control of Public and Semi-public Enterprises
- DICTD:** Division for Inspection and Control of Councils
- DIAP:** Division for Inspection and Control of Public Administrations
- DIEPOS:** Division for Inspection and Control of Public Establishments and Specific Organisations

<sup>411</sup> They check the reported facts and establish "responsibilities".

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## 2) Control Missions

**835-** In 2017, the Divisions for Inspection and Control of the Supreme State Audit Office conducted 19 control missions at Public and Semi-public Enterprises, Specific Organisations and Public Administrations as against 12 in 2016, as part of the execution of the Public Investment Budget, representing an increase of 7 missions in relation to 2016. Such increase continued in carrying out missions; that is, 8 more missions conducted in 2017 as against 2016 as shown in the table below:

**Table 3: Control missions per Division in 2016 and 2017**

Operational Unit	Missions undertaken		Missions completed		Pending Missions		Number of Reports forwarded to the Presidency of the Republic	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
DIESP	0	4	0	1	0	3	0	1
DICTD	1	5	0	5	1	0	1	2
DIAP	6	6	3	0	3	6	1	0
DIEPOS	5	4	4	0	1	4	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

Source: Supreme State Audit Office

## C: Control by the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

**836-** The Audit Bench carried out both judicial and administrative controls and provided assistance and counsel to public authorities.

### 1) Judicial Control

**837-** In 2017, judicial control concerned 4,591 accounts presented by public accountants including those of previous years not presented as at 31 December 2016. The accounts included 15 presented by Senior Treasury Accountants, 636 by accounting agents of Public Administrative Establishments, and 3,940 by Council Treasurers.

**838-** The Audit Bench received 291 accounts and delivered 15 decisions that have become final of which 1 was an order striking off a matter from the cause list of a Division and enlisting it for hearing by the Joint Divisions, 6 rulings of debit charged on some public accountants worth CFAF296,722,003<sup>412</sup> and 7 rulings of discharge from responsibility of management of a *de facto* public accountant.

<sup>412</sup> About 452,630.62 Euros

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**839-** The session of Joint Divisions examined 3 applications for review of rulings that have become final and declared them inadmissible. It further examined 5 matters on the merits forwarded to it by the Supreme State Audit Office. Rulings that have become final have not yet been delivered on the said matters.

## 2) Administrative Control

**840-** In 2017, the control of public and semi-public accounts targeted some 619 accounts to be produced by 67 structures of which 67 accounts from 2016 financial year expected in 2017, and 552 accounts from previous financial years that were not produced as at 31 December 2016. The controls did not result in final observation reports in 2017.

## 3) Assistance and Counsel to Public Authorities

**841-** In addition to the 2016 Annual Report<sup>413</sup>, the Audit Bench continued to provide assistance and counsel to Government and Parliament.

### a) Assistance to Government

**842-** The Audit Bench assisted Government in the certification of the 2016 general account of the State, certification of tax declaration forms for the extractive sector of administrations and public structures, and deliberations of the Permanent MINFI-Audit Bench Discussions Framework.

**843-** Although the production of the General Account of the State is not yet a requirement as per the provisions of Article 128 of Decree No. 2013/160 of 15 May 2013 on the Overall Settlement of Public Accounting, the Audit Bench exceptionally certified the 2016 General Account of the State produced by the Ministry of Finance.

**844-** At the request of the Minister of Finance, Chair of the Extractive Industries-Cameroon Transparency Committee, the Audit Bench delivered Certification No. 2/CDC/CSC of 20 November 2017 to certify tax

<sup>413</sup> The Report informs the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the President of the Senate on the overall results of deliberations and observations made with a view to undertaking reforms and enhancing the keeping of accounts and the discipline of accountants.

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declaration forms for the extractive sector of administrations and public structures<sup>414</sup> for the 2016 financial year.

**845-** In 2017, 2 sessions of the Permanent MINFI-Audit Bench Discussions Framework were organised. Deliberations focused on control and ruling on accounts produced by public accountants of Councils in compliance with section 67 of Law No. 2006/17 of 29 December 2006 on the organization, duties and functioning of Regional Audit Courts; discussions on the recommendations made by the Audit Bench in its 2016 Annual Report; the responsibility of the public accountant in tax collection by way of Assessment Letters; the tax regime of public procurement; and information by the Audit Bench on notification of Judgments<sup>415</sup>.

## b) Assistance and Counsel to Parliament

**846-** In addition to its Opinion on the Settlement Bill for 2016 financial year, the Audit Bench held discussion forums with the National Assembly and the Senate.

**847-** The Audit Bench gave Opinion No. 2/2016/CSC/CDC of 6 November 2017 on the Settlement Bill for 2016 financial year. In the opinion, it made observations on the insufficiency and faults observed in the keeping of accounts by public accountants, and the presentation of the Settlement Bill<sup>416</sup>.

<sup>414</sup>The certification enabled Cameroon to accede to the status of countries of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The act is adopted in chambers and falls under actions carried out by the Audit Bench as part of assistance to public authorities. In this regard, it is an extra-judicial activity of the Audit Bench.

<sup>415</sup>The following recommendations were made at the end of the 2 sessions: (i) requesting the Directorate General of Taxation to present a paper as part of the Permanent Discussion Framework, on tax deductions during settlement of the public procurement (Value Added Tax, Down payment of Income Tax, Special Income Tax, and Non-commercial Income Tax; and (ii) examining during the next sessions, the implementation of recommendations made by the Audit Bench in its Annual Reports, by sets of 4 recommendations per session.

<sup>416</sup>The shortcomings include: undue carry over in input balance for the Financial Year n, of closing balances of estate accounts for the Financial Year n-1 which violates the principle of intangibility of the opening balance sheet; transactions imputed on the provisional accounts and not settled before year-end which alter the authenticity of the Settlement Bill presented to Parliament, artificially reduce the resources and expenses for the year ended, unduly transfer the said expenses to the following Financial Years and give an incorrect budget balance; excess consumption of some payment credits, and this, in violation of section 16 (2) of Law No. 2007/6 of 26 December 2007 to lay down the financial regime of the State, etc.

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**848-** The Audit Bench further held discussion forums with the Finance Committee of the Senate on 6 July and 11 December 2017 and the Finance Committee of the National Assembly on 4 July and 12 December 2017 respectively.

**849-** The discussions focused on presentation of the 2016 Annual Report and papers on the following topics: "Opening public data in Cameroon" and "Cameroon Tax Administration through TADAT<sup>417</sup> diagnostic tool".

### §3: Detection Actions

**850-** Besides combating financing terrorism<sup>418</sup> led by the National Agency for Financial Investigation Agency (ANIF), the capacity of persons in charge of detection was developed to step up the efficacy of operations of institutions in charge of detection. Such detection may be facilitated through information sharing. In this regard, cooperation between institutions was consolidated.

#### A: Capacity Development of Persons in charge of Detection

**851-** NACC developed the capacities of 8 Anti-Corruption Units<sup>419</sup> set up in some administrations to enable them to acquire tools to efficiently combat corruption. It further organised a training workshop on 16 March 2017 in Bamenda for Journalists on anti-corruption.

**852-** The Supreme State Audit Office developed the capacities of vote holders and managers of public credits, staff of internal control bodies in Ministries, and public and semi-public establishments. In this connection, it organised a training seminar from 6 to 17 March 2017 on verification methods and techniques for 25 Service Inspectors of 17 Ministries. It organised another training workshop from 4 to 12 May 2017 on initiation to performance auditing/execution phase for 37 staff of Inspectorates General of the Douala City Council. It further organ-

<sup>417</sup>TADAT means Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool.

<sup>418</sup> See chapter on Human Rights and Combating *Boko Haram*, §724.

<sup>419</sup> The 8 newly established anti-corruption units are those of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Cameroon Radio and Television, Cameroon Telecommunications, Energy of Cameroon, Douala Laquintinie Hospital, Douala Autonomous Seaport, Yaounde Emergency Centre and the Gynaeco-Obstetrics and Paediatrics Hospital, Yaounde.

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ised a technical conference on 12 May 2017 on the application of the principle of separation of powers and duties in Councils for 103 staff of the Douala City Council.

## **B: Operations of Institutions in charge of Detection**

**853-** ANIF received 618 reports of professions and forwarded 88 files to the competent judicial authorities, and 84 to the Supreme State Audit Office and NACC. The files concerned offences relating to money laundering, misappropriation of public property, corruption and false pretences.

## **C: Cooperation on Information Sharing and Combating Corruption**

**854-** Under consolidation of relations and setting up of discussion platforms, the Supreme State Audit Office established working relations with CSOs through experience and information sharing activities. In this connection, a draft Memorandum of Understanding<sup>420</sup> was drawn up with Africa Development Interchange Network, an NGO, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals operations in Cameroon.

**855-** As part of combating corruption, NACC attended 18 international meetings<sup>421</sup> and summits. It further attended the training of Focal Points of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption from 25 to 27 April 2017 in Moscow, Russia.

## **§4: Repression of Perpetrators of Acts of Corruption and Misappropriation of Public Property**

**856-** Repression of perpetrators of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property focused on administrative and judicial sanctions.

<sup>420</sup> The Memorandum of Understanding between the 2 parties may be implemented in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2018.

<sup>421</sup> Some of these include participation of the: 7<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Conference of Heads of Anti-corruption Agencies in Africa from 29 May to 2 June at Mangochi, Malawi; 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Crans Montana Forum of 18 March 2017 at Dakhia, Morocco; 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the African anti-corruption authorities association from 26 to 28 April 2017 at Brazzaville, Congo; working and study visit to Egypt from 9 to 13 July 2017; and working visit to Nigeria from 8 to 12 August 2017.

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## A: Administrative Sanctions

**857-** The BFDC received and examined files during its sessions. It made decisions that were appealed against. It further forwarded files to other institutions.

### 1) Files received and examined

**858-** In 2017, the BFDC received 42 files for initiation of disciplinary action. A good number of them were on mission reports most of which are still under examination. The files resulted in referral of 28 unscrupulous managers or public agents before the BFDC as against 95 in 2016 as shown in the table below:

**Table 4: Files received and examined by the BFDC in 2017**

Year	2017
<b>Matters examined</b>	
Number of files brought before the BFDC	42
Number of matters heard by the BFDC	28
Number of sessions organised	28
Number of matters examined	49
Number of decisions delivered and published	12

**Source:** BFDC

**859-** At the end of the sessions organised and initiation of disciplinary action, the BFDC imposed sanctions against unscrupulous managers as shown in the table below:

**Table 5: Sanctions imposed against unscrupulous managers by the BFDC in 2016 and 2017**

Sanctions	2016		2017	
	Debit	Special fines	Debit	Special fines
Amount of debit and special fines	CFAF 11,926,062,448 <sup>422</sup>	CFAF 27,100,000 <sup>423</sup>	CFAF 7,479,034,032 <sup>424</sup>	CFAF 7,900,000 <sup>425</sup>
Number of persons on who debits were charged	25	34	5	14 <sup>426</sup>
Persons with special forfeiture	4		0	

**Source:** Supreme State Audit Office

<sup>422</sup>About 18,192.38 Euros

<sup>423</sup>About 41,339.33 Euros

<sup>424</sup>About 11,408,792.66 Euros





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**Table 7: Rulings delivered by the Examining Magistrates of the SCC in 2016 and 2017**

Year	Number of matters at the level of preliminary inquiries	Number of investigations closed	Number of persons referred to the SCC	Number of persons in favour of who a no case ruling was entered
2016	67	26	85	35
2017	56	27	129	31

**Source:** SCC

**864-** Amounts of restitution were on the rise while no recovery was undertaken as in the previous years as shown in the table below:

**Table 8: Number and profile of persons prosecuted, sums claimed and sums refunded and recovered in 2016 and 2017**

Year	Number of persons prosecuted	M	W	Sums claimed			Sums refunded	Sums recovered	Sums Cameroonians	Foreigners
				Fines	Costs	Damages				
2016	183	124	59	0	CFAF3,974 300,904.46 <sup>428</sup>	CFAF79,127,883,862.3 <sup>429</sup>	CFAF493,365,933 <sup>430</sup>	0	182	1
2017	260	210	50	CFAF200,000 <sup>431</sup>	CFAF4,190,978,805 <sup>432</sup>	CFAF8,726,103,507 <sup>433</sup>	CFAF1,008,001,278 <sup>434</sup>	0	259	1

**Source:** SCC

**865-** Some SCC judgments were appealed against before the Specialised Division of the Supreme Court. The said Division received 10 appeals and delivered 23 judgments<sup>435</sup> including 19 persons convicted and sentenced and 1 person discharged and acquitted. Meanwhile, as at 31 December 2017, 62 matters were pending before the said Division including 10 matters removed from the cause list for re-examination<sup>436</sup>, 38 forwarded to Rapporteurs, and 14 under examination.

<sup>428</sup> About 6,062,544.28 Euros.

<sup>429</sup> About 120,704,574.57 Euros.

<sup>430</sup> About 752,598.48 Euros.

<sup>431</sup> About 305.09 Euros.

<sup>432</sup> About 6,393,072.69 Euros.

<sup>433</sup> About 13,311,118.15 Euros.

<sup>434</sup> About 1,537,642.10 Euros.

<sup>435</sup> The number of judgments includes the number of matters brought forward from 2016 to 2017.

<sup>436</sup>For reasons of different standpoints between the Bench and the Legal Department.

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**866-** Furthermore, the Inquiry Control Chamber of the Specialised Division received 6 appeals relating to acts carried out during preliminary inquiries. The Chamber delivered 8 judgments to dismiss the appeals and ordered the return of the files to the courts before which the matters were pending.

## 2) Repression before other Courts

**867-** In 2017, other courts also imposed sanctions against perpetrators of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property.

**868-** Concerning misappropriation of public property, the number of matters registered at the said courts in 2017 increased compared to 2016. The number of inquiries opened increased from 210 in 2016 to 249 in 2017 while the number of matters under examination dropped from 167 in 2016 to 105 in 2017 as shown in the table below:

**Table 9: Judgments delivered by courts of ordinary law in 2016 and 2017**

Year	Number of judicial police investigations opened	Number of matters at the level of preliminary inquiry	Number of matters under trial	Number of persons convicted and sentenced	Number of discharge and acquittals
2016	210	200	167	114	55
2017	249	202	105	65	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>+39</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>-62</b>	<b>-49</b>	<b>-28</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**869-** Regarding corruption, the number of matters registered before the courts of ordinary law dropped slightly in 2017 compared to 2016. The number of investigations opened dropped from 19 in 2016 to 17 in 2017 while the number of matters under hearing increased from 14 in 2016 to 22 in 2017 as shown in the table below:

**Table 10: Judgments delivered by courts of ordinary law in 2016 and 2017**

Year	Number of investigations opened	Number of matters at the level of judicial investigation	Number of matters under trial	Number of persons convicted and sentenced	Number of discharge and acquittals
2016	19	7	14	3	6
2017	17	4	22	6	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>-5</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

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**870-** In 2017, public sector/private sector dialogue was maintained to enhance the business climate. The number of investors increased as a result of a number of incentives. Checking the proper execution of public contracts resulted in sanctions imposed on poorly managed enterprises in the public contracts sector. Sanctions were also a driving force for transparency in the mining sector and management of public enterprises and establishments. Enhancement of governance in the management of public enterprises and establishments was at the centre of the normative framework reform. It is hoped that the reform will produce positive effects by the time the rules and regulations governing them are fully drawn up. One of the expected effects is, of course, protection of public property for which criminal courts continue to carry out repression. However, poor recovery of misappropriated property, consolidation of the culture of respect for public property, and eradication of corruption in Cameroon remain a serious challenge.







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**871-** Enhancing detention conditions was a particular challenge in 2017 in a context marked by threats on security and social peace. Nevertheless Government maintained its efforts aimed at respecting the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty. Thus, efforts were made to enhance the capacity of prison staff, construct prison facilities, improve living conditions and prepare inmates for social reintegration. Mapping of the prison population was necessary to carry out these actions and controls and visits to prisons helped to monitor and evaluate same.

## SECTION 1: MAPPING OF PRISON POPULATION

**872-** The composition of the prison population is analysed using different criteria such as awaiting trials and convicts, gender, the situation of minors and the nationality of inmates.

### §1: Mapping of Awaiting Trials and Convicts

**873-** The trend over the past years concerning awaiting trials and convicts remained a challenge with the number of awaiting trials being above that of convicts. Thus, out of 30,701 prisoners, 17,845 detainees were awaiting trial, that is about 58.1%; while 12,856 (41.9%) were already convicted<sup>437</sup>. However, the number of awaiting trials outnumbered convicts in the North West Region (513 awaiting trials/1,028 convicts) and the East Region (865 awaiting trials/919 convicts). The table below illustrates prison statistics of awaiting trials and convicts per Region.

**Table 1: Prison Statistics per Region as at 31 December 2017**

No.	Region	Accommodation Capacity	Awaiting Trials	Convicts	Total	Occupancy rate (%)
1	Adamawa	1,070	1,214	985	2,199	206
2	Centre	4,270	5,055	2,809	7,864	184
3	East	1,475	865	919	1,784	121
4	Far North	1,970	2,197	1,652	3,849	195
5	Littoral	1,550	3,021	1,349	4,370	282
6	North	1,300	1,688	1,440	3,128	241
7	North West	1,750	513	1,028	1,541	88
8	West	2,720	1,307	1,165	2,472	91

<sup>437</sup>This tendency was observed in 8 regions, the highest ratio being recorded in the Centre Region (5,055 awaiting trials against 2,809 convicts, about 64.3%) and the Littoral Region (3,021 awaiting trials against 1,349 convicts, about 69.1%).

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No.	Region	Accommodation Capacity	Awaiting Trials	Convicts	Total	Occupancy rate (%)
9	South	800	740	554	1,294	162
10	South West	1,010	1,245	955	2,200	218
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,915</b>	<b>17,845</b>	<b>12,856</b>	<b>30,701</b>	
	<b>Average occupancy rate</b>					<b>171</b>

Source: DAPEN

**874-** Among the 17,845 detainees awaiting trial, there were 15,553 men, 541 women and 827 minors who were nationals, while 924 were foreigners. Convicts comprised 11,873 men, 282 women and 121 minors including 580 foreigners, giving a total of 12,856.

**875-** As a result of limited space in prisons, there was no strict separation of awaiting trials and convicts.

## §2: Distribution of Detainees according to Gender, Age and Nationality

**876-** Specific categories of inmates included women, minors and foreigners.

### A: Female Detainees

**877-** A total number of 823 female inmates were registered in prisons across the country. These included 541 awaiting trials and 282 convicts. The highest number of female detainees was in the Centre Region (287) and Littoral Region (107), while the lowest number was registered in the Adamawa Region (27) and South Region (36). The table below provides details on female detainees per Region.

**Table 2: Women in Prison as at 31 December 2017**

No.	Region	Awaiting Trials	Convicts	Total	Percentage Rate
1	Adamawa	17	10	27	3.3%
2	Centre	202	85	287	34.9%
3	East	22	18	40	4.9%
4	Far North	70	22	92	11.2%
5	Littoral	73	34	107	13.0%
6	North	25	19	44	5.3%
7	North West	20	51	71	8.6%
8	West	38	22	60	7.3%
9	South	28	8	36	4.4%
10	South West	46	13	59	7.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: DAPEN



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**878-** Babies of female detainees are obliged to remain with their mothers in prisons despite the difficult prison conditions. In all, 19 babies were with their mothers detained in prisons, while 22 pregnant women were registered among detainees in 2017. This situation is very uncomfortable, considering the exigencies of post natal care and consultations.

## B: Imprisoned Minors

**879-** As in the previous years, imprisoned minors were unevenly distributed in all the Regions, with the Centre (229, about 24.2%) having the highest number and the North West (18, about 1.9%) having the lowest. Out of the 948 imprisoned minors, only 121 were convicted (12.8%) as against 827 awaiting trials (87.2%) as seen in the table below:

**Table 3: Imprisoned Minors as at 31 December 2017**

No.	Region	Awaiting Trials	Convicts	Total	Percentage Rate
1	Adamawa	71	13	84	8.9%
2	Centre	212	17	229	24.2%
3	East	75	17	92	9.7%
4	Far North	99	7	106	11.2%
5	Littoral	75	1	76	8.0%
6	North	60	13	73	7.7%
7	North West	15	3	18	1.9%
8	West	91	21	112	11.8%
9	South	39	2	41	4.3%
10	South West	90	27	117	12.3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>827</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** DAPEN

## C: Foreigners

**880-** Foreigners constituted a significant proportion of detainees in some prisons as presented in table 4 below. Foreign detainees were registered in all Regions with the lowest numbers in the North West Region (4) and the West Region (12). The highest number of foreign inmates was found in the Far North Region (358) and the North Region (318). These inmates were regularly visited by staff of their respective consular offices.

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**Table 4: Imprisoned Foreigners as at 31 December 2017**

No.	Region	Awaiting Trials	Convicts	Total	Percentage Rate
1	Adamawa	98	83	181	12.0%
2	Centre	120	30	150	10.0%
3	East	102	86	188	12.5%
4	Far North	276	82	358	23.8%
5	Littoral	67	23	90	6.0%
6	North	142	176	318	21.1%
7	North West	3	1	4	0.3%
8	West	8	4	12	0.8%
9	South	12	21	33	2.2%
10	South West	96	74	170	11.3%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** DAPEN

### §3: Prison Intake Capacity and Occupation Rate

**881-** In 2017, the prison population by December 31 was 30,701 for 17,915 places. The highest number of detainees was found in the Centre Region (7,864), the Littoral Region (4,370) and Far North Region (3,849), while the least number of inmates was recorded in the South Region (1,294) and the North West Region (1,541).

**882-** The highest prison occupancy rates were registered in the Littoral Region (4,370 inmates for 1,550 beds, 282%), the North Region (3,128 inmates for 1,300 beds, 241%) and the South West Region (2,200 inmates for 1,010 beds, 218%). The lowest occupancy rates were found in the North West Region (1,541 inmates for 1,750 beds, 88%) and the West Region (2,472 inmates for 2,720 beds, 91%). The average occupancy rate stood at 171% (30,701 inmates for 17,915 beds).

**883-** Prison overcrowding was still significant in the Yaounde and Douala Central Prisons with 4,424 inmates for 1,500 beds and 3,179 for 800 beds respectively. Some prisons that host only convicts had very low occupancy rates. This is the case with the Yoko Main Prison (97 inmates for 500 beds), the Baham Main Prison (49 inmates for 300 beds) and the Sa`a Main Prison (79 inmates for 100 beds). Most secondary prisons such as the Ndikinimeki, Betare Oya, Doume, Messamena,

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Moloundou, Doukoula, Makary, Meri, Moulvoudaye, Ngambe, Bali and Bazou were less crowded.

## SECTION 2: STAFF ENHANCEMENT

**884-** The increase in staff strength through recruitments, staff capacity development through training and improving working conditions all contributed to staff enhancement.

### §1: Increase in Staff Strength

**885-** Staff strength was increased through direct recruitments and professional examinations. Direct competitive entrance examinations for the recruitment of staff into different grades of the Penitentiary Administration were organized in June 2017. Some 545 candidates as compared to 305 in 2016 were declared successful and started training at the National School of Penitentiary Administration, Buea.

**886-** Professional examinations organised in June 2017, led to the recruitment of a total of 75 staff into the different corps of the Penitentiary Administration.

**887-** The total number of prison staff in 2017 stood at 4,869 as against 4,416 in 2016, presenting an increase of 453.

**888-** The table below shows the number of specialised penitentiary staff.

**Table 5: Specialised Penitentiary Staff as at 31 December 2017**

No.	Nature of personnel	Number
1	Medical Doctors	23
2	Nurses	66
3	Nurse's Aide	148
4	Medico-Sanitary Laboratory Technicians	36
5	Computer Experts	4
6	Sports and Civic Education Teachers	10
7	Youth and Animation Counsellors	3
8	Social Welfare personnel (MINAS)	20
9	Engineers (agriculture, veterinary and civil)	6
10	Agriculture Assistant Technicians	10
11	Animal Husbandry Assistant Technicians	10
12	Drivers	7
<b>Total Number</b>		<b>344</b>

**Source:** DAPEN



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warnings, blame recorded in the administrative files, temporary suspension from duty of up to 3 months and downgrade in incremental position.

## SECTION 3: IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

**894-** The State continued with the rehabilitation and equipment of prisons. The Penitentiary map showed 91 prisons out of which 79 were operational in 2017 and 12 were pending construction<sup>440</sup>. The refurbishing of prisons included the construction of a fence round the Mbalmayo Main Prison.

**895-** Some prisons were also equipped with different materials. The Bali Secondary Prison in the North West Region that went operational in 2016 was equipped in 2017 with office, infirmary, kitchen and sleeping materials among others. The Yaounde Central Prison on its part benefited from infirmary material.

## SECTION 4: AMELIORATION OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN PRISONS

**896-** The improvement of living conditions in prisons was achieved through feeding, health coverage and the organisation of socio-cultural activities.

### §1: Feeding of Prisoners

**897-** The budget allocated for the feeding of prisoners witnessed an increase. The initial budget for feeding in 2017 stood at CFAF3,070,000,000<sup>441</sup> as against CFAF2,570,000,000<sup>442</sup> in 2016. In the course of the year, extra efforts furnished by the Government led to the granting of an additional CFAF1,400,000,000<sup>443</sup>. This increase brought the general average rate for feeding per detainee per day from CFAF290<sup>444</sup> to CFAF408<sup>445</sup>. The average rate stood at CFAF250<sup>446</sup>

<sup>440</sup>Architectural, geotechnical and technical feasibility studies were carried out in view of the construction of 5 new prisons in Banyo, Dschang, Kribi, Monatele and Yagoua.

<sup>441</sup> About 4,683,090.53 Euros

<sup>442</sup> About 3,920,372.21 Euros

<sup>443</sup> About 610,174.66 Euros

<sup>444</sup> About 0.44 Euros

<sup>445</sup> About 0.62 Euros

<sup>446</sup> About 0.38 Euros

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per detainee in 2016. Generally, most prisons had an average of 2 meals per day while minors, sick and older detainees had 3 meals per day. To complement this effort, detainees also benefited from food supply by families and civil society organisations.

## §2: Health Coverage

**898-** The health coverage budget in 2017 stood at CFAF150,640,000<sup>447</sup> as was the case in 2016. This amount coupled with an increase in the number of detainees brought the annual rate per detainee to CFAF4,907<sup>448</sup> in 2017 as against CFAF5,327<sup>449</sup> in 2016. The total number of medico-sanitary penitentiary staff still stood at 273 as was the case in 2016. The doctor/detainee ratio was 1:1335, nurse/detainee ratio was 1:465, nurse's aid/detainee ratio was 1:207 and assistant laboratory technician/detainee ratio was 1:853.

**899-** Monthly report of activities from certain prisons within the period from January to November 2017 concerning some 21,502 inmates, brought out some useful information on the situation of transmissible diseases (tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS), non transmissible diseases, mental illnesses, drug abuse and deaths in prisons.

### A: Transmissible Diseases

**900-** Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other STDs are generally the main transmissible diseases as presented below.

#### 1) Tuberculosis

**Table 6: Situation of Tuberculosis**

Number of persons whose awareness was raised	9279
Total number of suspected inmates	1111
Total number of inmates diagnosed with TB	1105
TPM+	912
TEP	50
TPM-	143
Deaths resulting from TB	7
Relapsed ( <i>rechutes</i> ) TB cases	33
Staff undergoing treatment in prisons	56
TB infected inmates released in the course of the year	12

**Source:** DAPEN

<sup>447</sup> About 229,791.78 Euros

<sup>448</sup> About 7.48 Euros

<sup>449</sup> About 8.13 Euros

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**901-** All inmates who were diagnosed positive with tuberculosis were all undergoing treatment.

## 2) HIV/AIDS

**Table 7: Situation of HIV/AIDS**

Number of inmates whose awareness was raised	6583
Number of inmates tested at the time of imprisonment	3770
Number of seropositive persons at the time of imprisonment	178
Number of inmates tested during routine consultations	5859
Number of seropositive inmates in a month (routine consultations and general testing campaigns)	477
Total number of seropositive inmates in prisons (old and new cases)	3294
Inmates co-infected with TB and HIV	136
Number of deaths resulting from HIV within the year	20
New inmates under cotrimoxazole treatment within the year	1566
New inmates under ARV drugs within the year	1368

**Source:** DAPEN

**902-** From this table, 15.31% of inmates were tested positive with HIV/AIDS during the routine and massive testing campaigns. Two new units for the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS were created in the Bafoussam and Bertoua Central Prisons.

**903-** In order to fight against HIV/AIDS in the penitentiary milieu, the following measures were taken:

training of 486 peer educators in certain prisons of the Centre, Far North, Littoral, North, West and South West Regions;

training of 44 penitentiary staff as data collectors and 132 as distributors of antiretroviral drugs; and

organisation of massive screenings for HIV in prisons.

**904-** All inmates diagnosed with HIV/AIDS (322) were undergoing treatment.

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### 3) STDs

**905-** STDs other than HIV/AIDS were also recorded in prisons following screening sessions. Some 577 cases of STDs were diagnosed representing 2.68% of the targeted inmates.

### 4) Other Transmissible Illnesses

**906-** Apart from the above-mentioned transmissible illnesses, others included salmonellosis (*salmoneloses*) (41 cases that is, 0.19%), testicles mycoses (*mycoses testiculaires*) (1,380 cases that is, 6.42%), fungal skin infections (*mycoses cutanées*) (2835 cases that is, 13.18%), diarrhea (3170 cases that is 14.74%), scabies (3580 cases that is, 16.65%) and malaria (9,641 cases that is, 44.83%).

### B: Non-transmissible Illnesses

**907-** The table below clearly indicates that respiratory infections affected a good number of detainees as 25.5% of the detainees suffered from it.

**Table 8: Situation of Non-transmissible Illnesses**

No.	Current illness/Disease	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Respiratory infections	5485	25.50
2	Wounds/sores	2806	13.05
3	Eye disorders	663	3.08
4	Hernia	508	2.36
5	Bone trauma	279	1.29
6	Oral dental diseases	255	1.18
7	Pulmonary arterial hypertension	234	1.08
8	Gastric ulcer (gastritis)	163	0.75
9	Diabetes	125	0.58
10	Malnutrition	116	0.54
11	Hemorrhoids	19	0.09

Source: DAPEN

### C: Mental Illnesses

**908-** In 2017, 44 inmates were diagnosed with mental problems. These added to the 120 already diagnosed, gave a total of 164 inmates suffering from mental illnesses. Such cases are given specific treatment in some prisons. For instance, there is a separate section for inmates with mental illnesses in the Yaounde Central Prison. Serious cases are gen-



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erally referred to the Jamot Hospital, specialised in the treatment of mental illnesses, accompanied by prison warders to guard them.

## **D: Drug Addiction, Tobacco Addiction and Alcoholism**

**909-** The consumption of drugs and other prohibited substances was very rampant in prisons. About 88.21% of inmates were suspected to be involved with drug abuse. These included 3,865 cases for cigarettes, 3,245 cases for cannabis, 1,807 cases for tramol, 1,670 cases for D10, 461 cases for ethanol, 18 cases for heroine, 10 cases for cocaine and 10 cases for glue drugs. A total of 9 prison staff was sanctioned for drug trafficking in 2017.

## **E: Deaths**

**910-** A significant number of deaths were recorded in certain prisons. A total of 105 inmates died in 2017, representing 0.34% of the prison population, as opposed to 206 deaths (0.7%) that were registered in 2016. From this number, 20 cases resulted from HIV/AIDS, 7 from tuberculosis, 2 from malaria and 76 from unspecified illnesses. The Yaounde Central Prison alone registered 40 deaths resulting from meningitis, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. To handle this, prevention campaigns were carried out coupled with lobbying for means for prompt diagnosis.

## **SECTION 5: SOCIAL REINTEGRATION**

**911-** Apart from training in production activities, education constituted the main strategy to prepare detainees for their social reintegration.

**912-** Production activities included the construction of a piggery in the Kumbo Main Prison amongst others. The CSO *Relais Enfants-Parents du Cameroun* (REPCAM), provided weekly training on income generating activities to women detained in the Yaounde Central Prison in view of their social reintegration between March and November 2017.

**913-** The Yaounde Central Prison had 120 students/pupils (115 boys and 5 girls). Out of this number, 5 sat in for the GCE O'Levels/BEPC, 6 for *Probatoire* and 7 for GCE 'A' Levels/*Baccalauréat* with a success rate of 38.46%. These students were taught by some 21 benevolent teachers. The Bamenda Central Prison which had 4 teachers sent by the

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State and 6 volunteer teaching staff had a total of 47 students/pupils. Among these, 2 candidates registered for the FSLC and passed.

## SECTION 6: CONTROLS AND VISITS OF PRISONS

**914-** Controls in prisons take the form of judicial control which involves all control activities regularly carried out by the Legal Department or administrative control carried out by some officials of the Ministry of Justice. Visits were carried out by NCHRF, officials of the Ministry of Justice and CSOs.

### §1: Judicial and Administrative Controls

**915-** Control of prisons was either judicial by the Legal Department or administrative by the General Inspectorate of Penitentiary Administration.

#### A: Control by the Legal Department

**916-** Controls were carried out by the Legal Department in most prisons including the following:

##### North West Region:

- Bamenda Central Prison, Nkambe Main Prison, Mbengwi Main Prison and Fundong Main Prison (4 controls each);
- Kumbo and Ndop Main Prisons (12 controls each);
- Wum Main Prison (1 control).

##### Centre Region:

- Yaounde Central Prison, Nanga-Eboko Main Prison (2 controls each);
- Akonolinga, Bafia, Sa'a, Yoko Main Prisons, NdiKinimeki Secondary Prison (1 control each);
- Mbalmayo, Mfou, Monatele, Ngoumou Main Prisons (4 controls each); and

**Adamawa Region:** Tignere and Banyo Main Prisons (14 and 12 controls respectively).

#### B: Administrative Control

**917-** Administrative controls were carried out essentially by the General Inspectorate of Penitentiary Administration of the Ministry of Justice.

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The prisons visited include the Yaounde, Ebolowa and Bamenda Central Prisons, the Akonolinga, Sa'a, Fundong, Kumbo, Ndop, Sangmelima and Yaounde main prisons. At the end of these control exercises, irregular cases were generally referred to the competent Procureur General for appropriate measures which include the release of unduly detained persons and the transfer of inmates to other prisons in order to decongest some.

## **§2: Visits by the Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation (DDHCI), NCHRF and CSOs**

**918-** In a bid to evaluate the Human Rights situation in the country, officials of the DDHCI of the Ministry of Justice visited some prisons. Visits to prisons were also carried out by the NCHRF as well as CSOs.

### **A: Monitoring visits by the DDHCI**

**919-** As in previous years, the staff of the DDHCI visited detention centres in all regional headquarters and in some divisional headquarters. The objective of the visit was to get a first-hand appreciation of detention conditions. At the end of these visits, cases of violation of Human Rights were channelled to the competent authorities for appropriate corrective action.

### **B: Visits by the NCHRF**

**920-** The NCHRF within the framework of their mission visited from January to August 2017 a total of 48 detention centers among which 19 prisons. The Commission indicated that they operated under a difficult context which was characterised by limited financial resources and social tensions in certain regions (Far North, North West and South West). Within the framework of the protection of Human Rights, the Commission visited some prisons in the North West, West, South and South West Regions. They regretted the fact that they were not authorised to visit certain detention centres in Yaounde especially the Gendarmerie headquarters that lodges the Yaounde Secondary Prison where some of the activists from the North West and South West Regions were allegedly detained.

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**921-** The Commission also visited the Ebolowa Central Prison and Ambam Main Prison from 20 to 21 July 2017, the Mantoum and Foubot Secondary Prisons on 11 and 16 May 2017 respectively.

## **C: Visits by CSOs**

**922-** Some CSOs visited prisons to assist inmates as was the case of REPCAM. They organised group visits for children to meet their parents during certain feasts and commemorations such as the Youth Day, the Day of the African Child, Mothers Day and Fathers Day as was the case with the Yaounde Central Prison and the Mfou Main Prison. From 25 to 27 October 2017, it provided dental treatment to minors detained in the Yaounde Central Prison. They visited the said Prison on 11 September 2017 to hand over learning kits to detained minors in the bilingual socio-educative centre of the prison and also offered minimum packets to their teachers. REPCAM also assisted detained pregnant women by paying some of their hospital bills and giving them psycho-social assistance between February and December 2017.

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**923-** Notwithstanding the remarkable efforts put in by Government to improve detention conditions, a lot still needs to be done to meet acceptable international standards. More efforts are required to increase the accommodation capacity which has remained static for a couple of years despite the persistent increase in the number of detainees, thereby resulting to overcrowding in prisons. The feeding of inmates, health coverage, education and psycho-social support need to be improved upon. The rehabilitation and the construction of new prisons can go a long way to decongest prisons and thus ensure the treatment of detainees with dignity. The re-socialisation, de-radicalisation and reintegration of inmates are primordial.

Chapter **5**

PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF THE  
RIGHTS OF SOCIALLY  
VULNERABLE PERSONS



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**924-** Measures taken to promote and protect the rights of socially vulnerable persons in 2017 included strengthening the institutional framework for the protection of children and persons with disabilities as well as enhancing the capacity of indigenous peoples and the economic empowerment of older persons.

## **SECTION 1: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

**925-** The promotion and protection of children's rights was done by strengthening the institutional framework for the protection of children as well as their civil rights and freedoms. Other actions included protection against violence and exploitation, protection of children in conflict with the law as well as special protection measures.

### **§1: Strengthening Institutional framework**

**926-** To strengthen the institutional framework, Decree No. 2017/383 of 18 July 2017 on the organisation of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) conferred child protection to the said Ministry. The Decree in its article 48 bestowed the responsibility of child protection to the Department of Social Protection.

**927-** In addition, the National Commission for Juvenile Delinquency, Abandoned Children or those in Moral Danger met on 24 January 2017 during its 2017 session to examine and validate a draft National Policy Document on the protection of children in Cameroon. The Document identifies factors which hinder child protection and puts forward a strategic orientation to enable the child benefit from a holistic protection. It ensures that all issues on child protection are fully taken into account in every aspect of national life.

### **§2: Civil Rights and Freedoms**

**928-** As regards civil rights and freedoms of children, measures taken on access to citizenship, participation in decision making and alternative care were based on the best interest of the child.

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## A: Right to Citizenship

**929-** Statistics from the last Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of 2014 published in 2016 indicate that only 66.1% of births are registered in Cameroon. The Region with the lowest rate is the Far-North with 42.1%, followed by the South West with 55.6%.

**930-** On 15 June 2017, the Government adopted the Cameroon Civil Status Rehabilitation Strategic Plan (2018-2022) in the context of civil status reforms. The budget of the Plan is CFAF 69,000,000,000<sup>450</sup>.

**931-** The major recommendations of the assessment report that the said Plan intends to implement are focused on 7 major frameworks<sup>451</sup>. Also, Cameroon has been chosen for a regional 3-year pilot project *Towards universal birth registration in Africa* to test at the district level a registration system using information and communication technologies to increase the birth registration rate to 20% by 2019. The Project is implemented by the National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC) and CSOs with the support of UNICEF in the health districts of Mokolo, Far North Region and Betare-Oya, East Region.

**932-** Moreover, Government signed an Agreement worth CFAF 6,500,000,000<sup>452</sup> with the European Union to facilitate the work of the *Programme d'appui à la citoyenneté active (PROCIVIS)* which is an initiative to ameliorate access of the population to civil status services and to reinforce good governance of CSOs in the management of public affairs.

**933-** Also, BUNEC as per its functions<sup>453</sup> which include the transmission of registers to civil status registries, training of civil status stakeholders, awareness raising of the population on the importance of civil status cer-

<sup>450</sup>About 105, 255,129 Euro

<sup>451</sup>Framework 1: The consolidation of the legal framework for the registration of civil status events and the production of statistics on civil status events, Framework 2: Strengthening the organisation and functioning of the registration of civil status events, Framework 3: Strengthening institutional coordination and the role of BUNEC, Framework 4: Improving the demand for civil registration and vital statistics services, Framework 5 : General computerisation and control of civil status, Framework 6 : Production, dissemination and the use of civil status statistics and Framework 7: Sustained financing of the civil status.

<sup>452</sup> About 9,923,664.12 Euro

<sup>453</sup>As per Decree No.2013/31 of 13 February 2013, S.4 (1)



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tificates and the control of civil status registries, distributed 18,000 civil status registers to Secondary civil status registries nationwide from 8 to 13 May 2017. Some 499 Main and Secondary civil status registries were controlled nationwide consisting of 121 Main and 378 Secondary civil status registries giving a percentage rate of 18.2%.

**934-** The 10 Heads of the BUNEC Regional Agencies received training in Yaounde on 2 November 2017 and the said agencies went operational as from 6 November 2017.

**935-** Furthermore, Government and UNICEF organised a workshop from 5 to 6 July 2017 in Kousseri, Far North Region in which administrative, traditional and religious authorities, and elected local officials participated. Its objectives included promoting birth registration, vaccination of children and combating early marriages.

**936-** In the same vein, within the framework of *Programme d'Appui à l'Amélioration des Prestations Rendues aux Usagers des Services Publics*, Government in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme issued 17,000 birth certificates to children and youths of Maga, Touloum and Moulvoudaye Councils in the Far North Region.

**937-** In addition, *Association pour la Promotion et la Protection des Personnes Handicapées, Agées et Orphelins de Kouoptamo (APPPHAK)* in collaboration with the Malantouen and Foubot Councils in the West Region established about 2,681 birth certificates to children (1,056 girls and 1,625 boys) between 1 to 180 days old from March to December 2017. The said Association further identified in April and December 2017, 538 children (330 girls and 208 boys) between 1 to 90 days old who needed birth certificates.

## **B: Participation in Decision Making**

**938-** To promote the right of children to participate in the management of public affairs, the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Children's Parliament was organised on 16 June 2017. It gave an opportunity for children to question Government Ministers on issues concerning the wellbeing of children in Cameroon. In the course of the Session, the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Day of the African Child was also celebrated under the theme: *"The 2030 agenda for a sustainable development in favour of children in Africa:*

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*let's encourage their protection, their empowerment and equal opportunities for all."*

**939-** In order to ensure better visibility and follow up of the activities of junior parliamentarians, Regional offices of Children's Parliament were also created after its 19<sup>th</sup> Session.

## **C: Alternative Care: Adoption and Guardianship**

**940-** An analysis of decisions of courts showed that the best interest of the child was taken into account as per article 3(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the process of adoption, or article 4 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on guardianship. The courts in some jurisdictions in granting the application for adoption or guardianship laid emphasis on the child's best interest<sup>454</sup>.

**941-** However in Judgment No.1024/CIV of 1 December 2017 where the High Court Wouri (*Tribunal de Grande Instance de Wouri, Douala*) refused to grant application for adoption on grounds that the mother of the child to be adopted never gave her consent, thus violating article 358 of the Civil Code<sup>455</sup>. The same decision was arrived at by the same Court<sup>456</sup> in an application for guardianship where the father of the child never gave his consent.

**942-** About 160 applications for adoption by nationals and about 15 by foreigners were granted by some courts. Also, about 6 judgments on guardianship were delivered in favour of nationals and 5 in favour of foreigners.

## **§3: Protection of Children against Violent Crimes**

**943-** Alleged offenders of violent offences such as capital murder, murder, unintentional killing, assault occasioning death, assault occasion-

<sup>454</sup>See for example Judgment No. 1309/L of 27 September 2017 of *Tribunal de Première Instance de Douala Bonanjo* on adoption, Judgment No.205/TPD of 2 June 2017 of *Tribunal de Première Instance de Mfou* on guardianship and Judgment No.702/L of 8 June 2017, *Tribunal de Première Instance de Douala Bonanjo*, on delegation of parental authority, suit No.HCF/048/A/17 of 11 July 2017 of the High Court of Fako on adoption.

<sup>455</sup> Under this article, consent of both parents is required.

<sup>456</sup> Judgment No.635/CIV of 28 July 2017.

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ing grievous harm, rape, grievous harm and indecency to child under 16, were prosecuted and those found guilty were punished.

**944-** Trends from courts<sup>457</sup> nationwide indicated that about 1,001 (755 girls and 246 boys) children were victims of the above violent crimes and about 1,130 persons were convicted. Some cases are illustrative. In suit No. HCF/058C/15 before the High Court Fako, 2 women charged with capital murder of 2 children by poisoning were found guilty and convicted on 28 June 2017 to imprisonment terms of 15 and 20 years respectively. Also, in suit No. HCMB/235C/2016 before the High Court Mezam, the accused was found guilty of raping 2 minors aged 9 and 10 years old and sentenced on 17 August 2017 to an imprisonment term of 5 years.

**945-** With regard to trafficking in persons, some children were victims of trafficking and offenders found guilty were convicted. Thus in suit No. HCMB/215C/2016 of 31 October 2017, the accused (2 women) were standing trial for contravening the provisions of Section 2(b) and 5 of Law No. 2011/024 of 14/12/2011, relating to the fight against trafficking in persons and slavery. Both were charged for promoting the movement of 2 young girls for financial and other materials gains. The 2 women were given 3 years suspended sentences. The Court held that sending minor girls to hawk hot drinks on the streets exposed them to sexual assault, economic exploitation, interference with the mental, moral and social development of the children contrary to the spirit of Article 15 of ACRWC.

**946-** Furthermore, in the High Court of the Ntem Valley<sup>458</sup>, the accused were standing trial for attempting to sell a girl (minor) for FCFA2,000,000<sup>459</sup> at Kye-Ossi in the South Region but were arrested by the police. They were given 3 years sentences and prohibited to hold duties related to child care or education for a period of 10 years after the expiration of their sentences.

<sup>457</sup>With the exception of Courts in Tombel, Menji and Bangem in the South West Region, and Mokolo in the Far North Region.

<sup>458</sup>Judgment No.21/CRIM of 17 March 2017.

<sup>459</sup> About 3,050.87 Euros

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## §4: Protection of Juvenile Offenders

**947-** The Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy's project<sup>460</sup> "Juvenile Justice Reform: diversion, alternatives to detention, humane incarceration and reintegration of children" in partnership with the Bamenda City Council and Health Consultancy Services which was started in 2015 ended in October 2017 with 158 children benefitting from the Project in various ways. Lawyers secured the bail of 67 children and subsequently removed from the justice chain, most cases being closed after victim-offender mediation which led to withdrawal of complaints against the juveniles. For the children who stood trial, Lawyers were provided to defend them. Of the initial 66 who were recommended for the diversion programme, 27 successfully went through the same. A total of 20 of the 27 children and their families were counselled and the children reinserted into their families. Counsellors who benefitted from the training programme counselled over 500 children at risk of being in conflict with the law as well as those who had already been in conflict with the law in 3 schools<sup>461</sup> in Bamenda. As a result of the Project, a Juvenile Justice Reform Diversion Centre was constructed in Bamenda to continue to cater for children in conflict with the law and those at risk.

## §5: Special Protection Measures

**948-** The capacity of Stakeholders on child protection was developed especially on the protection of children associated with armed forces or armed groups and releasing some of these children from detention.

### A: Capacity Development

**949-** The National Platform for Child Protection held 3 sessions precisely on 24 February, 28 June and 18 August 2017. The Platform is a framework whose objective is to develop and coordinate an appropriate national prevention, response and advocacy strategy for child protection. The objectives of the 3 Sessions were the drafting of the annual plan of action on child protection and presentation of the project on referrals in the psychosocial care of children associated with armed forces

<sup>460</sup>Funded by the European Union

<sup>461</sup>Government Technical High School Bamenda, Government Bilingual High School Bamenda and Progressive Comprehensive High School Bamenda.

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or armed groups; exchange of good practices on juvenile justice and combating gender based violence; and finding solutions to challenges in the management of unaccompanied children who are former hostages.

## **B: Protection of Children Associated with Armed Groups**

**950-** To enhance the protection of children associated with armed forces or armed groups, Government and UNICEF held in Mbalmayo from 10 to 12 July 2017 a workshop on children suspected of association with armed forces or armed groups. The aim of the workshop was to establish a referral system for children who have participated in the activities<sup>462</sup> of armed forces or groups. The main outcome was the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the United Nations System relating to the transfer and care delivery to children associated with armed forces or armed groups. It aims at handing children to social services for their reintegration.

**951-** The situation of children that were arrested in 2014, 2015 and 2016 on suspicion of being associated with Boko Haram and detained in the Maroua Central Prison, evolved positively<sup>463</sup>. Following the application for habeas corpus<sup>464</sup> filed by **Barister SEIDOU Florent**, the Judge ordered the immediate release of 26 children. The Court relied on Section 8 of Law No. 2008/015 of 29 December 2008 to organize Military Justice and lay down rules of procedure applicable before Military Tribunals which provides that minors aged between 14 and 18 who commit or are accomplices of the offences falling within the competence of the Military Tribunal shall be tried by ordinary law courts. The Court also held that the children's detention warrants had not been renewed. The released children were taken to *Institution Camerounaise de l'enfance de Maroua* for rehabilitation and reintegration into their families.

**952-** To raise awareness of stakeholders on children associated with armed forces or armed groups, 2 other workshops were organised by

<sup>462</sup>Regardless of their capacity as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies and those exploited sexually.

<sup>463</sup> Ruling Nos. 19 to 44/CAB/PTGI/MRA/17 of 31 March 2017.

<sup>464</sup> Ruling Nos. 19 to 44/CAB/PTGI/MRA/17 of 31 March 2017.

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the Ministry of Justice with the support of UNICEF from 23 to 24 November 2017 in Garoua and from 27 to 29 November 2017 in Maroua to develop the capacity of civil and military Magistrates, lawyers, social workers, staff of the penitentiary administration and CSOs on alternatives to detention of children associated with armed forces and groups. Recommendations made at the end of these workshops included amongst others the adoption of a general policy on the status of children associated with armed groups and forces.

**953-** Cameroon hosted a Regional Workshop in Yaounde, from 10 to 12 October 2017 on implementing the *Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice*. The workshop aimed at disseminating the Toolkit on juvenile justice within the context of counter-terrorism. Magistrates, Police Officers, Social Workers and Penitentiary Administration staff from Mali, Cameroon, Niger and Senegal took part in the workshop which enabled participants share best practices with countries which are parties to the Memorandum of Handover (e.g. Chad, Mali and Niger) and also share principles contain in the Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counter-terrorism Context<sup>465</sup>. When a child is alleged to be involved in terrorism-related offences, he should be tried using the principles of juvenile justice as endorsed in the Neuchâtel Memorandum.

## SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

**954-** In 2017, focus was on the right to health and the economic empowerment of the older persons.

### §1: Right to Physical and Mental Health

**955-** Within the framework of the celebration of the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October 2017 under the theme: «*Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society*», MINAS through its social wel-

<sup>465</sup>The Memorandum can also be used to shape national, bilateral, regional, and multilateral capacity building assistance in this area with a view to include the needs of children into counterterrorism policies and measures.

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fare services in the Regions organised free medical consultations on different old age pathologies. The awareness of older persons was raised on "aging well" through the popularisation of the *Guide pour un vieillissement sain et actif*.

## §2: Training for Economic Empowerment of Older Persons

**956-** Public service, private and informal sector personnel participated in a capacity development seminar on successful planning for retirement. They were drilled on the laws and national instruments on retirement, the procedure to benefit from the different retirement pension and advise on training opportunities, and existing reconversion activities amongst others.

**957-** In addition, the *Institut Africain d'Informatique* organised a training session on computerisation and communication for 39 older persons from 18 to 30 September 2017. The said training focused on the basic computer and internet skills to enable older persons set up income generating projects for a better socio-economic integration.

## SECTION 3: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**958-** The institutional framework of protection of persons with disabilities was enhanced as well as inclusive politics and education.

### §1: Institutional Framework

**959-** Decree No.2017/383 of 18 July 2017 organising the Ministry of Social Affairs highlights the concern of Government with regard to promoting inclusive education and the protection of persons with disabilities. The said Decree states that MINAS will ensure the drafting and monitoring of the implementation of Government's policy on inclusive education, functional rehabilitation, medico-social assistance, equipment and vocational training of persons with disabilities.

### §2: Promotion of Inclusiveness in Politics

**960-** To strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities in politics, the Cameroon office of Sights Savers organised an advocacy work-

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shop from 16 to 17 February 2017 in Yaounde on the theme: *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Political Inclusion and Participation of persons with disabilities*. The aim of the workshop was to inform and sensitise stakeholders on SDGs, specifically on their inclusiveness, Cameroon electoral law and political participation of persons with disabilities. At the end of the workshop the following recommendations were made relating to:

- signing the Decree of implementation of Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities in Cameroon;
- creating a National Disability Council with legal personality which will be directly attached to the Presidency of the Republic;
- revising the Electoral Code to include disability unequivocally;
- ensuring the inclusive implementation of SDGs by each stakeholder (programming, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation);
- ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities as members of Joint Electoral Commissions; and
- intensifying political activism of persons with disabilities through information, awareness-raising and training campaigns for political participation.

**961-** Also, within the framework of the implementation of its 2017 plan of action, the Yaounde School of Citizenship and Politics (YSCP) organised from 8 to 9 December 2017, in partnership with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), its 8<sup>th</sup> annual regional session under the theme: *“Social inclusion, involvement in politics and integration of women and youth with disabilities”*. In the same light, the National Union of Associations and Institutions of and for Persons with Disabilities in Cameroon hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of *Fédération d’Afrique Centrale des Organisations pour la Protection et la Promotion des Droits des personnes handicapés* and organised a sub-regional conference of persons with disabilities at the end of which the socio-economic and political integration of persons with disabilities was recommended.



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## §3: Inclusive Education

**962-** The Pan African Institute for Development West - Africa (PAID-WA) Buea, in partnership with Global Forum for the Defence of the Less Privileged (GFDLP) launched an inclusive education scholarship scheme for persons with physical disabilities in 2017. The main objective of the PAID-WA/GFDLP Inclusive Education Scholarship Programme is to support persons with disabilities to gain quality university education by studying at PAID-WA in any specialization of their choice at no cost which will enable them make positive economic contributions towards Cameroon and Africa's development as a whole.

**963-** MINESEC equally offered scholarships worth CFAF10,000<sup>466</sup> to 249 students with disabilities.

## SECTION 4: ENHANCING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**964-** To improve on the rights of indigenous peoples including their economic, social and cultural rights, capacity development workshops, advocacy on access to land and cultural manifestations were organized. The promotion of their rights to inclusive education and citizenship was enhanced.

### §1: Capacity Development and Training

**965-** To strengthen inter-community dialogue in the localities of Santa in the North West Region and Eseka in the Centre Region, 2 capacity development workshops were organised by MINAS<sup>467</sup>. The main objective of these workshops was to sensitize administrative and local authorities and the population on living together.

**966-** Also, members of the *Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association* (MBOSCUDA) Dialogue Platforms (DP) were trained on conflict mediation techniques and alternative source of energy from 6 to 27 September 2017. One of the trainings focused on farmer-grazer conflict mediation in which a total of 299 persons (217 men and 82

<sup>466</sup>About 15.25 Euro

<sup>467</sup>It brought together 5 persons from each community, Divisional officers, mayors and traditional chiefs.

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women) participated. All the 56 DPs in the North West Region entertained 174 new farmer/grazer cases of which 144 (82.7 %) were amicably resolved while 9 (6.2%) cases were pending before the Agro-pastoral Commission and 21 were not yet decided.

**967-** Furthermore, MBOSCUDA carried out capacity development and training within the Mbororo community on the use of Biogas<sup>468</sup> as an alternative source of energy.

## §2: Economic Empowerment

**968-** In 2017, through the *Plan de Développement des Peuples Pygmées* (PDPP)/ National Community Driven Development Program (NCDDP) some 200 Baka Pygmies were assisted in the development of farmland (0.5ha of land per person) for the farming of cassava, bananas and plantains as well as other crops in the localities of Lokoundje, Oveng and Bengbis in the South Region and Dimako, Messamena and Atok in the East Region.

## §3: Right to Inclusive Education

**969-** The number of Baka pygmy children in schools continued to increase in the East Region. In 2017, 183 (112 boys and 71 girls) candidates wrote the CEP exams. Some 5,262 indigenous children were assisted by MINAS during the 2016/2017 school year. Moreover, 17 indigenous children wrote and passed the competitive exams into the Police Force in 2017.

**970-** Also, during its activities in the East Region in 2017, Plan International Cameroon under its programme "Learning for Life" created 17 community kindergartens in remote areas inhabited by the Bakas. The result being that amongst the 1,092 children who moved officially to the primary education system, 367 were Baka children (205 girls and 162 Baka boys) and 725 children (391 girls and 334 boys) were from other ethnic backgrounds.

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<sup>468</sup>Biogas is a renewable energy that uses cow dung (manure) to produce domestic gas used for cooking.

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## §4: Right to Citizenship

**971-** As part of the *PDPP* led by NCDDP, emphasis was laid on citizenship to enable indigenous people to fully enjoy their rights and accomplish their duties in the community. Thus, the PNDP in 2017 established about 106 birth certificates for indigenous children, and 4 national identity cards to indigenous people in the 3 Regions concerned, that is, Centre, East and South Regions. PNDP further supplied registers and ink to civil status registries for birth registration and also trained community relays especially in Djoum.

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**972-** Government actions in 2017 were oriented towards strengthening the institutional framework of child protection and persons with disabilities, sanctioning perpetrators of violence on children, providing inclusive education for both indigenous children and children with disabilities, and strengthening the capacity building of socially vulnerable persons in general. However challenges persist. There is need to strengthen the social protection system especially that of the older persons.



Chapter **6**

PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS



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**973-** The budget of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family stood at CFAF6,072,000,000<sup>469</sup>, representing 0.13% of the national budget<sup>470</sup>, and in line with the National Gender Policy (NGP), and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>471</sup>, Government action to promote and protect women’s rights was consolidated through inclusive policies on gender equality, combating discrimination, gender-based violence, promotion of women’s empowerment, and protection of property and non-property rights.

## SECTION 1: CONSOLIDATION OF INCLUSIVE POLICIES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

**974-** New strategic impetus was provided so that gender be taken into account in public life. This can be assessed through the participation of women in the management of public affairs.

### §1: New Strategic Impetus for Gender Consideration

**975-** The new strategic impetus stems from the Directives of the Head of State contained in the Budget preparatory Circular with a view to implementing the NGP and adopting a National Plan of Action of Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions of the UN security Council on “Women, Peace and Security” (2018-2020).

#### A: Directives for the Implementation of the NGP

**976-** Circular No. 1/CAB/PRC of 20 June 2017 to lay down the general guidelines of the Budget Policy of the State for the 2018 financial year focuses on the consolidation of *strides already made on Gender mainstreaming* as one of the major goals of public policies. In this regard, the effective and efficient implementation of the NGP Multisector Plan<sup>472</sup> through proper planning of actions by every Ministry is the main lever. Such planning streamlines the financial resources necessary to

<sup>469</sup> Representing an increase of CFAF429,000,000 ( About 654,412.32 Euros) in absolute terms and 7.6% in relative terms as against 2016.

<sup>470</sup>The overall budget stood at CFAF4,373,800,000,000 ( About 6,671,954,847.07 Euros).

<sup>471</sup>The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were adopted in 2015 to replace the Millennium Development Goals. Goal No. 5 of the SDG concerns gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls

<sup>472</sup> As a reminder, the NGP was adopted in 2014, followed in 2016 by its implementation Plan

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carry out actions contained in the Plan, defines gender equality indicators and monitoring through a budget execution report.

## **B: Adoption of a National Plan of Action of UN Resolution 1325 and relating Resolutions on “Women, Peace, and Security” (2018-2020)**

**977-** In a bid to ensure the full involvement of women in conflict prevention and management, and especially peace restoration and post-conflict reconstruction, Government drew up a National Plan of Action<sup>473</sup> of UN Resolution 1325<sup>474</sup> and relating Resolutions<sup>475</sup> on “Women, Peace, and Security” (2018-2020). The Plan takes into account the disastrous effects of conflicts and political and military crises on women and girls, and provided inclusive gender responses.

**978-** Adoption of the Plan<sup>476</sup> was timely for the humanitarian crisis in Far North, Adamawa and East Regions. It further had a special impact on women and girls in relation to their participation in the management of public affairs.

## **§2: Participation of Women in the Management of Public Affairs**

**979-** Assessing the participation of women in the management of public affairs focused on the policy level with the appointment of women to decision-making positions.

<sup>473</sup> Its official presentation was done on 16 November 2017.

<sup>474</sup> Resolution 1325 was adopted on 31 October 2000 by the UN Security Council on the following 3 aspects: “Women-Peace and Security”.

<sup>475</sup>The related Resolutions include Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013)

<sup>476</sup>The Plan has the following thrusts:

- female leadership and participation in prevention and management of conflicts and post-conflicts;
- strict compliance with international humanitarian law and legal instruments on the protection of the rights of women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence during crisis;
- better integration of the “gender” dimension in emergency assistance, and during reconstruction before and after armed conflicts; and
- consolidation of institutional mechanisms and qualitative and quantitative data collection on gender consideration in the areas of peace, security, and conflict prevention and resolution.



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## A: Feeble Involvement of Women in Public Affairs

**980-** In 2017, in addition to the Manual on the political training of women drawn up in 2012, Government took more actions on the political mentoring of women. That is why awareness-raising campaigns were organised especially through some media<sup>477</sup> to encourage women to register on the electoral lists. With the support of UN-Women, 10 *Gender Café*<sup>478</sup> sessions were organised to develop the political capacity of women<sup>479</sup>. However, publications by Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) of statistics of registered voters in 2017 revealed that gender inequality persisted in spite of the fact that women make up the larger number of the population. As at 31 August 2017, some 159,154 women were identified out of the 403,069 registered, representing a percentage of 39.49%.

**981-** Mobilisation of women and girls of voting age continued in spite of the bottlenecks<sup>480</sup> that hampered their registration on the voters' register. In this regard, the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Day of the African Woman celebrated on 31 July 2017 under the theme "*female leadership and political participation of women*" comprised the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns including the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of *Gender Café* organised with the support of UN-Women for that purpose. In addition, a charter of best practices in the implementation of the provisions of the Electoral Code was adopted during a Workshop organised from 30 November to 2 December 2017 in Yaounde by ELECAM, with the support of the UN System on the participation of women and vulnerable groups in political issues.

<sup>477</sup> This is the case of the following: a commercial in which MATHEMATIK, a singer admired by women, calls on women to register on the voters' register; awareness-raising hoardings, programmes broadcast by ELECAM, and mobile registration kits.

<sup>478</sup> Thematic forum and discussions on promotion and protection of women's rights.

<sup>479</sup> The Gender Cafés were held in Ngaoundere on 12 June 2017, Yaounde on 27 July, 12 October, 2 and 22 November 2017, Bertoua on 18 August 2017, Ebolowa on 22 September 2017, Maroua on 24 October 2017, Garoua on 26 October 2017, and Bafoussam on 4 November 2017.

<sup>480</sup> The bottlenecks include cultural hitches such as patriarchal organisation of the society that confines women to domestic chores, discriminatory laws and practices, lack of a gender-quota policy, violence against women during elections, and low literacy rate of women in some Regions.

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## **B: Strides made in the Appointment of Women to Decision-making Positions**

**982-** In 2017, the drafting of a new edition of the *Track Record of Gender Mainstreaming in Public Administration* made it possible to re-evaluate the number of women in decision-making positions in public and semi-public Administrations. In 2016, the trend stood at 16.76% of women as against 83.24% of men appointed to the office of Director and persons ranking as such in the Central Administration. In 2017, there was an increase to 23.46% of women as against 76.54% of men.

**983-** Furthermore, the integration of new Judicial and Legal Officers and appointments made following the holding of the Higher Judicial Council on 7 June 2017 brought the number of women in the Corps of Judicial and Legal Officers to 607 out of a staff strength of 1,668, representing 36.39%. At the Supreme Court, there were 22 women out of 109 Judicial and Legal Officers, representing 20.18% as against 8 women out of 67 Judicial and Legal Officers, representing 11.9% in 2014. Besides, there are 4 female Heads of Courts of Appeal and Procureurs General, representing 18.18% as against 3 female Heads of Courts of Appeal and Procureurs General, representing 13.63% in 2014. The number of women heading Administrative Courts remained at 3, representing a ratio of 30%.

**984-** At the level of territorial administration, and following appointments of Senior Divisional Officers (SDO) and Subdivisional Officers (DO) in 2017<sup>481</sup>, there was an increase in the number of women in the Corps. Two women were appointed SDO as against 1 previously, and 13 women appointed (DO) against 9 previously, thus reducing the institutional gender gap.

## **SECTION 2: COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**985-** Based on the National Strategy to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Government and its partners focused their actions on prevention, repression, and support to victims.

<sup>481</sup> Decree No. 2017/239 of 22 May 2017 to appoint Subdivisional Officers

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## §1: Prevention of Violence through Awareness-raising

**986-** In addition to awareness-raising on female genital mutilation during the commemoration of 6 February, a day dedicated to combating such harmful cultural practice, other awareness-raising campaigns were organised nationwide on the consequences of violence against women. In this regard, the traditional campaign of the UN Secretary-General dubbed “16 days of activism against gender-based violence” was launched in Cameroon on 24 November 2017 under the theme “Leave no one behind, end violence against women and girls”.

**987-** Moreover, 26,532 families and persons were brought together by the campaigns and the advocacy against GBV including in humanitarian areas. Similarly, 24,773 community leaders benefitted from the dissemination of legal instruments on the protection of women’s rights, with focus on the provisions of the Penal Code in order to enhance judicial response.

## §2: Revitalisation of the Judicial Response to Violence against Women

**988-** In a bid to step up judicial response to violence against women, the capacity of judicial stakeholders was developed while the determination to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of such violence was consolidated.

### A: Capacity Development of Stakeholders of the Criminal Law Chain

**989-** The Capacity Development Project for Police Officers launched in 2015 on protection of the rights of women and children against GBV in a humanitarian context, led by the General Delegation for National Security with the support of UN-Women continued. In all, the number of beneficiaries stood at 450 in addition to the other 300 trained police officers on duty in Far North Region<sup>482</sup>. The Workshops were followed by the installation of 4 Gender Desks in 2017 including 2 in Maroua, 1 in Kousseri and 1 in Mora.

<sup>482</sup> Some 4 Workshops were organised in Maroua between February and March 2017 for that purpose.

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**990-** Besides, some 30 stakeholders of the criminal law chain<sup>483</sup> in the jurisdictions of the Courts of Appeal of the Littoral and South West Regions, and social workers were drilled on the protection of women against GBV during a capacity development seminar on protection against violation of the right to life and physical and moral integrity of the person organised in Douala from 28 to 30 August 2017.

**991-** Similarly, 3 Capacity Development Workshops were organised on GBV in emergency humanitarian situation for some 30 Judicial and Legal Officers, and 15 officials from the Department of Civil Protection at MINATD. The workshops were organised in December 2017 (2 in Mbalmayo and 1 in Maroua).

## **B: Repression of Perpetrators of Violence against Women**

**992-** In a bid to sanction different forms of violation of the physical and moral integrity of women, investigations were opened in matters relating thereto, and some of them resulted in prosecution and conviction. In 2017, some 309 cases of rape and sexual assault of women and girls were registered in judicial services resulting in 146 convictions and 29 acquittals while the other matters were pending.

**993-** Further investigations<sup>484</sup> on the suspicious death of 6 women in Nkolbisson quarters, Yaounde VII Subdivision resulted in charging the suspect again for the murder of **Obele Menguele Véronique**, and Mrs. **Menguele Rose Melingui** following his confession for the cases of the other 4 women. Whereas the first matter was pending before the High Court Mfoundi, a preliminary inquiry was opened for the matter relating to the other 4 women.

**994-** The case of **Meko'o Emmanuel** is indicative of such determination. An investigation was opened by the Legal Department at the High Court Mvila Division following the death of Ms. **Edima Alo'o Laetitia** assaulted by her partner in reaction to her persistent request for food money<sup>485</sup>. The suspect was remanded in custody on 11 August 2017

<sup>483</sup> Judicial and Legal Officers, Judicial Police Officers from the DGSN and the National Gendarmerie, and Penitentiary Administration staff from Littoral Region.

<sup>484</sup> See 2016 Report, §974-975

<sup>485</sup> The State of case before the High Court Mvila.

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and referred before the High Court Mvila Division on such facts. Some examples of convictions are as follows: **Bouhin Henri** and **Fotsing Djoumessi Jean Marie** were convicted and sentenced by the High Court Wouri Division, to 3 years and 15 years imprisonment respectively for gang rape of Ms. N.S., 25 years old<sup>486</sup>. **Bassi Moukoudi Theodore** was convicted and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for assault occasioning the death of Ms. **Eke Jessica Emilienne**<sup>487</sup>, while the judgment convicting and sentencing **Njiman Jean Claude** to 20 years imprisonment for rape of his 13 years old niece was upheld by the Court of Appeal, Littoral Region.

**995-** However, the silence of victims remains one of the stumbling blocks of the fight. That is why more support of the victims is necessary.

### §3: Supporting Victims and Survivors

**996-** In order to support victims and survivors of violence, 47 socio-legal clinics for outreach legal assistance were organised and 4,351 women were attended to therein. Similarly, the *Vie de femme* Centre of the *Association de Lutte contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes* of Yaounde received and provided care for 83 survivors of violence. The Association trained 12 social stakeholders on identification, support and referencing of victims of violence against women in December 2017 in Yaounde.

**997-** Special measures were taken in humanitarian areas. In this connection, female cohesion forums for a holistic care of GBV survivors in refugee sites continued to be organised. During the forums, 13,681 persons (8,820 women and 4,861 men) were received in 2017. In addition, a workshop to examine mental health and psychosocial support service delivery to GBV survivors and former *Boko Haram* hostages was organised in Maroua from 28 to 29 September 2017, and one of the recommendations of the workshop was the need to coordinate actions of the different stakeholders in Far North Region.

<sup>486</sup> Judgment No. 147/CRIM of 28 March 2017 by the High Court Wouri Division; the same court in Judgment No. 363/CRIM of 22 August 2017 convicted and sentenced Fameni Tchokoteu Lucien to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of CFAF300,000 ( About 457.63 Euros ) for rape of a 2 years old minor.

<sup>487</sup> Judgment No. 108/CRIM of 9 March 2017 delivered by the High Court Wouri Division.

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**998-** Furthermore, the central coordination of the Intersector Subgroup to combat GBV continued its activities and revised the standard operational procedures on GBV in Far North Region during a Workshop organised from 11 to 15 December 2017 in Maroua.

**999-** Institutional support continued in the Call Centres and Gender Desks. In this regard, an average of 20 women were received every week at the Gender Desks. Such reception encouraged resilience with a view to their economic and social empowerment.

## **SECTION 3: PROMOTION OF WOMEN AS SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS**

**1000-** In a bid to step up women's empowerment, public policies focused on the vocational integration of women, mentoring women's entrepreneurship, and guaranteeing access of women to land.

### **§1: Policies on Vocational Integration of Women**

**1001-** The 32nd edition of the International Women's Day celebrated under the theme "*Women in a changing labour world: a 50-50 planet by 2030*" highlighted Government's determination to promote a socio-cultural and economic environment to help reduce gender inequality in the vocational sector. In this connection, the socio-professional integration of women was taken into account in public orientation and through different forms of support to women.

#### **A: Taking Gender into Account in Public Orientation**

**1002-** In order to promote female entrepreneurship, Government designed programmes on socio-professional integration of women or chose to take gender into account in programmes and projects.

**1003-** That is why the Female Entrepreneurship Promotion Support Programme targeting access of women to low cost financial services entered its final phase with the signing of a loan Agreement of CFAF7,000,000,000<sup>488</sup> between Government and the Development Bank of Central African States. Similarly, the Gender and Women's Economic Empowerment Project in the Transport Sector Support Pro-

<sup>488</sup> About 10,678,056.59 Euros

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gramme, Phase I: Maintenance of the Bachenga-Ntui-Yoko-Lena road that integrates specific support to women's entrepreneurship activities including aspects such as capacity development, supply of agricultural kits to women's cooperatives continued.

**1004-** Gender integration consisted, during the execution of projects, in developing aspects that are likely to add value to women's activities. In this regard, activities of the *Women and Standardisation and National Women and Standardization Unit in Cameroon* were launched by the Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR) in partnership with the *Normalisation et Francophonie Network*, to raise the awareness of women on the relevance of quality. A workshop was organised for that purpose from 6 to 8 December 2017 in Yaounde with a view to rendering female entrepreneurship competitive by introducing women and youths to standards as sustainable economic development tools, and merging all women's initiatives in Cameroon into a network.

## **B: A Policy that focuses on Support to Women**

**1005-** Public authorities took measures to supervise women to enable them design income-generating activities, especially through training, with a view to their socio-professional integration. In this connection, some 60 retailers in Yaounde VI Subdivision were trained for 2 days on management of small units and were later given a loan of CFAF3,200,000<sup>489</sup> to develop their small businesses. This was made possible through the capacity development programme for retailers (*Bayam Sellam*) of the National Employment Fund (NEF). Similarly, 8 training workshops on financial education and management of income-generating activities along the Bachenga-Ntui-Yoko-Lena road were organised for 416 women as part of the programme referred to above.

**1006-** In addition, 3 training workshops were organised in collaboration with UN-WOMEN and Coca-Cola Company for 600 women on financial management, as part of implementation of the "5 by 20" Project launched on 20 June 2017, and socio-professional integration kits were distributed to 500 trained women as part of the same Project.

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<sup>489</sup> About 4,881.40 Euros

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**1007-** Besides, special incentives were designed for rural women. In this regard, the Forest Investment Programme (FIP), and the programme to define targets of Land Degradation Neutrality (PDT/LDN) were launched in 2017 to address the issue of access of rural women to land. Similarly, the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme set up in 5 Regions<sup>490</sup> targets the resilience of rural women to the effects of climate change.

**1008-** Furthermore, Government allocated agricultural material<sup>491</sup> to 275 women's groups during and after celebrations to mark the International Day of Rural Women<sup>492</sup>, and subventions to 164 other women's groups. In addition, 23,790 women and girls were trained to design and manage income-generating activities, and taught techniques on production, processing, conservation, and marketing of agricultural products. More so, female entrepreneurship was supervised.

**1009-** Out of the 143 micro development projects<sup>493</sup>, 49 were designed by women, representing 34.26%. The projects received financial support worth CFAF650,000,000<sup>494</sup> allocated to social economy organisations.

## §2: Supervision of Female Entrepreneurship

**1010-** At the institutional level, the Women's Empowerment Centres, Koutaba, Kumbo, Pete, Dschang, Bafang, Nkongsamba, Monatele, Mbangassina, and Mbe, and the Applied Technology Centre, Maroua and the *Halte-garderie*, Garoua were equipped while the Women's Empowerment Centre, Eseka and Ebolowa were rehabilitated.

**1011-** In a bid to boost female entrepreneurship, the Interprofessional Group of Cameroon (GICAM) with the support of the International Labour Office organised a series of thematic conferences in October 2017 in Douala, on female entrepreneurship and training on a number

<sup>490</sup>Centre, South West, North West, Adamawa, and West Regions.

<sup>491</sup> Wheelbarrows, power-driven pumps, sprayers, grinding mills, atomizers, and watering cans.

<sup>492</sup> Celebrated on 15 October of each year.

<sup>493</sup> The sectors concerned included agriculture, agri-food processing, livestock, and small industry.

<sup>494</sup> In 2016, the allocation stood at CFAF605,000,000 (About 922,889.18 Euros)



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of subjects, especially mechanisms to obtain financing. The goal was to train them to better protect their rights and including in the family within the framework of the GERME programme (manage better your enterprises)

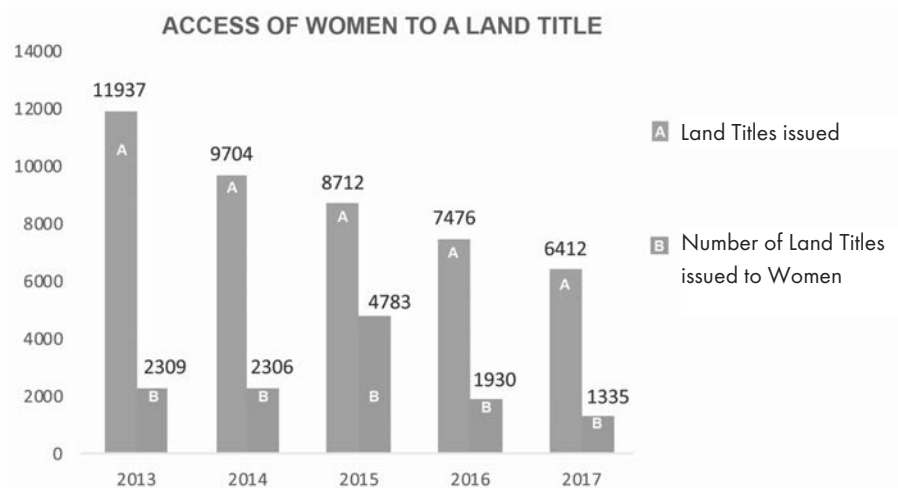
### §3: Access of Women to Land

**1012-** In order to better grasp the evolution of access of women to land, it is relevant to refer to previous years. In 2016, out of 7,476 land titles established, 1,930 were issued to women, representing 25.81%. These figures show a sharp drop compared to 2015 where, out of 8,712 land titles established, 4,783<sup>495</sup> were issued to women. However, the drop is general and also concerns the number of land titles issued in 2017.

**1013-** In 2017, some 374 women were issued a land title by direct registration, 69 by full transfer, 886 by subdivision of lots, and 6 by change of deed. In all, 1,335 women were issued a land title while 3,483 men were issued same in 2017.

**1014-** The table below shows the evolution of access of women to a land title. in 2017.

**Table 1: Evolution of access of women to a land title**



Source: MINDCAF

<sup>495</sup> See 2016 Report

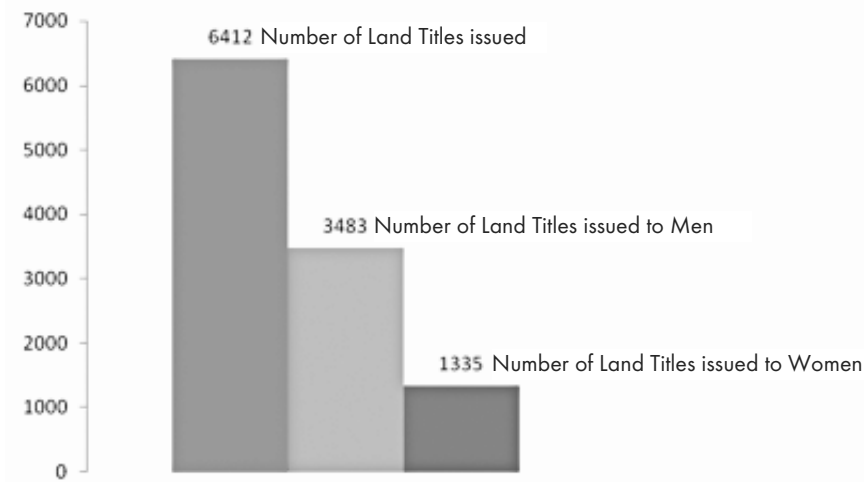
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**1015-** Although legal instruments are not gender discriminatory as regards access to land, cultural and sociological bottlenecks remain a challenge. Generally, the number of women issued a land title is far below that of men. This was due to the following reasons: low economic power, high cost of registration procedure, lack of information on registration procedures made in violation of their rights, cultural bottlenecks according to which a women destined to be married should not own land belonging to her parents.

**1016-** Statistics show the overall drop in the number of women with land titles compared to that of men. The table below is quite illustrative.

**Table 2: Gender distribution of persons with land title in 2017**



Source: MINDCAF

## SECTION 4: PROTECTION OF FAMILY RIGHTS OF WOMEN

**1017-** In order to implement its international commitments contained in ratified Conventions on the issue, Cameroon preserved the property and non-property rights of women before, during, and after marriage.

### §1: Protection of Women’s Rights before Marriage

**1018-** Such protection focused on prenuptial education and security of the couple.

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## A: Prenuptial, Matrimonial and Family Education

**1019-** In a bid to promote the family, Government decided to supervise the family through prenuptial, matrimonial and family education of 19,377 persons. Besides, the awareness of 30,153 persons and families was raised on harmful socio-cultural practices including child marriage.

## B: Security of Couples

**1020-** In order to combat common law marriage, 5,141 collective marriages were celebrated. In a bid to settle matrimonial and family conflicts, some 300 family disputes were examined by specialised units of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF).

### §2: Protection of Women's Rights in Marriage: Protection of the Land Rights of a Woman married under the Joint Property system

**1021-** The protection of a woman married under the system of joint property is a subject of debate. Indeed, section 2121 of the Civil Code provides that the legally mortgaged rights and credits shall be those of a woman married under joint property. A woman married under joint property shall benefit from legal mortgage of her husband's property. In order to protect their rights, some women request the Court to authorise them to include a legal mortgage on immovable property acquired during marriage. This was done in the *Mensa Gozo* case<sup>496</sup>.

**1022-** Others choose the original form of diversion of attached property in compliance with Article 299 of OHADA Uniform Act on the procedures of execution, and apply for court prior appraisal<sup>497</sup>.

**1023-** Still, some women challenge the sale of real estate without their knowledge by relying on the provisions of Article 15 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

<sup>496</sup> Ruling No. 1109 of 15 November 2017 of CFI Douala-Bonanjio to authorise applicant to include a legal mortgage on the building acquired during the marriage and belonging entire to the spouses.

<sup>497</sup> The matter concerning Mrs. **Ndedi Félicité Ngobo Mbella**, Ruling No. 1270 of 22 March 2018 of CFI Douala-Bonanjio.

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(CEDAW). In this regard, the High Court, Wouri<sup>498</sup> cancelled the sale of jointly owned real estate without the consent of the wife, relying on the provisions of Article 15 of CEDAW. According to the Court, *“the fact that a husband sells a joint property without the consent of his wife violates the international provisions referred to above.”*

**1024-** The application of the said Convention by the Court is not uniform. Some Courts believe that it is quite clear and apply it directly arguing that it is in fact part of the bulk of conventions the Court is bound to respect.

**1025-** Other Courts consider that this Convention, like all those relating to Human Rights, are norms with constitutional value, subject to a constitutional review and cannot be applied by the Judge hearing non administrative matters.

**1026-** The amendment of the Civil Code will obviously harmonise the different standpoints since one of its goals is to make national legislation compliant with the international commitments of Cameroon.

## **§3: Protection of Women’s Rights in the event of Dissolution of Marriage**

**1027-** The rights of the woman are protected in the event of dissolution of the marriage by divorce or death of her husband.

### **A: Protection of the Rights of a Woman in the event of Divorce**

**1028-** Court protection of women’s rights was characterised by the tendency of some courts to order the liquidation of the matrimonial regime in the event of dissolution of the marriage by divorce. The trend is quite current in the jurisdictions of the Courts of Appeal of the Littoral and Centre Regions. In this connection, in Judgment No. 140/CIV of 6 February 2017 delivered by the High Court Wouri, the Court declared the marriage dissolved by divorce at the instance of both spouses and ordered the liquidation of the property acquired by the spouses whereas the lat-

<sup>498</sup> High Court Wouri, Judgment No. 281/Com of 15 June 2017, affaire **NOUTEPING** née **NOUBISSIE Julienne** c/ Sieur **NOUTEPING Jean-Marie**, la Société Coopérative Mutuelle d’épargne et de Crédit (COMECI SA).

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ter aspect was not requested for in the petition<sup>499</sup> for divorce. As per the provisions of section 1441 of the Civil Code according to which divorce results in dissolution of the property, one therefore questions the extent of the powers of the Court concerning automatic liquidation. Considering the stakes of this issue, the position of the Supreme Court is highly expected.

## **B: Protection of Women's Rights in the Event of Widowhood**

**1029-** Protection included awareness-raising and support to widows or court protection of their rights.

### **1) Awareness-raising and Support to Widows**

**1030-** During celebrations to mark the International Day of Widows on 23 June 2017, information days and socio-legal clinics were organised on the concerns of widows. In this connection, 2,043 persons were informed on actions carried out by MINPROFF for such vulnerable group, and 215 widows in Mfoundi Division were attended to during the socio-legal clinics. Educational talks were also organised at the Regional level and the awareness of more than 15,000 persons was raised on the specific challenges widows face.

### **2) Court Protection of the Rights of Widows**

**1031-** It was clearly observed that some customary courts proceeded directly to the liquidation of the matrimonial regime before the liquidation of the succession. This was the case before the Customary Court Douala-Bonanjo<sup>500</sup> where, without consideration of the custom governing the parties, it ordered the liquidation of the matrimonial regime.

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<sup>499</sup> For more examples before the same Court, see Judgment No. 761/CIV of 18 September 2017; Judgment No.843/CIV of 6 October 2017; Judgment No.536/CIV of 5 June 2017.

<sup>500</sup>Judgment No. 925/L of 6 July 2017; Judgment No. 1039/L of 3 August 2017; Judgment No. 1598/L of 7 December 2017; Judgment No. 1038/L of 3 August 2017; Judgment No. 1054/L of 3 August 2017; Judgment No. 1036 of 3 August 2017.

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**1032-** The policy foothold of the promotion and protection of women's rights was further deepened and expressed by making Ministries more responsible in the implementation of the NGP and adoption of a Plan of Action for the implementation of Resolution 1325 and relating Resolutions in Cameroon. However, political, social and economic challenges remain, with the feeble participation of women in the management of the affairs of their country, and their large number concentrated in the informal sector. Violence is still a major challenge in spite of the efforts made by judicial stakeholders to eradicate the scourge.

Chapter

7

PROTECTION OF THE  
RIGHTS OF PERSONS  
UNDER INVOLUNTARY  
DISPLACEMENT





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**1033-** Government's concern is to mobilise, and give priority to the human being in designing public policies and actions as reaffirmed in the statement of the Head of State during the 72<sup>nd</sup> UN General Assembly<sup>501</sup>. In this connection, important measures were taken with the support of partners to ensure the well-being and free movement of Cameroonians and all persons living in Cameroon. Guaranteeing freedom of movement incorporated concerns on humanity be they protection of persons affected by forced displacements such as refugees and internally displaced persons, or the right of entry into one's country concerning Cameroonians whose migration was halted under inhuman conditions.

## **SECTION 1: RIGHTS OF REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP)**

**1034-** The multiple security crisis generated a refugee influx and IDPs whose burden the State and its partners incurred.

### **SUBSECTION 1: CONSOLIDATION OF THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

**1035-** The hospitality of Cameroon and her people was maintained with the arrival of refugees and asylum seekers whose care was geared towards empowerment. In addition, conciliation marked the end of refugee status for Rwandans in Cameroon.

#### **§1: Maintaining Hospitality with the Arrival of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

**1036-** Integration into communities was characterised by the settlement of new persons whose number fluctuated.

#### **A: Fluctuation of the Number of New Persons**

**1037-** Unlike in previous years, Cameroon received a small number of refugees and opted in collaboration with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), for an individual procedure for refugees in urban areas and *prima facie* procedure for the other refugees.

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<sup>501</sup> It was held in New York from 13 September to 24 December 2017.

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**1038-** As at 31 December 2017, the number of refugees from different nationalities<sup>502</sup> dropped from 375,415 in 2016 to 337,398 in 2017 thereby reducing the number by 38,017 persons. Central Africans were in the majority and their number dropped by 49,886 persons, from 283,602 persons in 2016 to 233,716 in 2017, of which 16,762 persons in urban areas, 76,577 in Sites and the rest in communities. In the same line, the number of Nigerian refugees dropped by 3,556 persons from 88,706 in 2016 to 85,140 in 2017, of which 1,912 live in urban areas, more than 60,000 in the Minawao Site and the rest in neighbouring villages in Mayo-Tsanaga, Mayo-Sava and Logone and Chari Divisions.

**1039-** One of the reasons for such fluctuation is that the biometric registration launched in 2016 had a dissuasive effect and resulted in the closure of many files on varied grounds (spontaneous departures, double registration, registration error, etc.). Out of the closed files, 10,919 were from Far North Region.

**1040-** Meanwhile, the number of asylum seekers<sup>503</sup> rose from 3,521 in 2016 to 5,784 in 2017<sup>504</sup>.

**1041-** Asylum seekers who were received in Cameroon were issued identification documents<sup>505</sup> by the UNHCR<sup>506</sup>.

<sup>502</sup> They include Chad, Rwanda, Congo, Sudan, Burundi, Côte D'Ivoire, and the DRC

<sup>503</sup> The asylum seekers include 4,744 from Central African Republic and 9 from Nigeria.

<sup>504</sup> At the end of 2017, the UNHCR registered 25,558 refugees and asylum seekers in Yaounde and Douala from different nationalities including 3,732 children less than 5 years old, 4,547 children of primary school age, and 2,862 aged between 12 and 17 years. The number of adult refugees stood at 14,064 and refugees aged 60 years and above were 353.

<sup>505</sup> This includes Attestation of Family Composition for households, Refugee Identification Card for persons aged 16 years and above, Attestation of Application for Asylum and Travel Documents of the Convention.

<sup>506</sup> It was a temporary measure while waiting for the implementation of Decree No. 2016/375 of 4 August 2016 to lay down the characteristics and terms and conditions of establishment and issuance of the National Identity Card, to amend and supplement some provisions of the Decree of 4 September 2007 to lay down the terms and conditions of application of the Law of 12 January 1997 on conditions of entry, stay and exit of foreigners in Cameroon which provides for the issuance of the refugee card by the General Delegation for National Security.

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**1042-** In a bid to guarantee the effectiveness of freedom of movement for asylum seekers and refugees who were holders of documents issued by the UNHCR, the value of which was sometimes not recognised by some authorities, capacity development activities for Forces of Law and Order, administrative, judicial, penitentiary, council and traditional authorities, and lawyers on international protection of refugees were carried out by the UNHCR<sup>507</sup>.

## **B: Integration into Communities of Persons received in Cameroon**

**1043-** The new “multi-year and multiple partner” protection strategy initiated by the UNHCR in collaboration with public authorities to run from 2017 to 2020<sup>508</sup> and validated on 27 September 2017 is based on 5 goals<sup>509</sup> to progressively improve the situation of refugees, host communities and persons running the risk of statelessness.

**1044-** Concerning refugees, one of the concerns of the strategy was the closure of sites which represented a form of marginalisation through progressive settlement of refugees in communities.

**1045-** In 2017, after the biometric registration of new arrivals by the UNHCR, some 30% of registered refugees were settled in developed Sites and the remaining 70% were settled in communities. Refugees from the Central African Republic were settled in 7 developed sites and in 300 villages in East, Adamawa, and North Regions. Meanwhile, some Nigerian refugees were settled in Minawao Site, and others in communities in Far North Region. Generally, asylum seekers were settled in communities in urban areas, mainly in Douala and Yaounde.

**1046-** Refugees living in sites received facilities from both Government and the UNHCR. In Minawao site, for example, the UNHCR and its partners built 541 emergency family shelters during the first half of 2017 to meet settlement needs of new arrivals in the transit centre. In a bid to

<sup>507</sup> There were 12 sessions organised in East Region and 3 in Yaounde on the dissemination of legal instruments on refugee protection in Cameroon.

<sup>508</sup> The matrix was validated on 27 September 2017 in a workshop held in Yaounde.

<sup>509</sup> It includes protection; access to social and basic services; sustainable means of subsistence; environmental promotion and protection, and peaceful cohabitation in settlement areas; sustainable solutions for the largest number of refugees and displaced persons, and reduction of statelessness.

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transform their emergency shelters into transition shelters, construction tools were distributed per community including 300 community tool kits<sup>510</sup>. Thus, through a community approach, refugees started moulding bricks to build their own shelters, 1,560 households received transition shelter kits<sup>511</sup> and constructed their own shelters. For the most vulnerable, 100 transition shelters were built for 100 vulnerable households (500 persons) and shelter kits were distributed to 510 households whose shelters were destroyed by violent winds.

**1047-** In order to provide housing assistance to new refugees from Central African Republic, more than 150 emergency shelter kits were distributed including 74 in Lolo, 55 in Mbile and 21 in Timangolo. The beneficiaries built or rehabilitated their own shelters with more than 565 shelter rehabilitation kits received.

**1048-** On the whole, refugees living outside the Sites were properly treated by the host communities who shared their limited resources with them, especially by providing them with pieces of land for settlement free of charge.

## C: Challenges in Settling in a convenient Environment.

**1049-** The problem was that of addressing both environmental and security challenges.

**1050-** As part of protection of the environment in which refugees live, the National Civic Agency for Participation in Development and its partner *Abiog* (an NGO), donated some 5,000 plants for reforestation of Minawao Camp and its surroundings. In December 2017, *Landlife*, a partner, also provided technical support for the planting of 10,000 trees through the "Cocoon" technology that enables a high rate of survival under adequate climatic conditions<sup>512</sup>. In Lolo community, East Region, on 19 October 2017, the UNHCR officially inaugurated the "one household, one tree" project for refugees and host communities<sup>513</sup>. The

<sup>510</sup> The kits comprised wheelbarrows, shovels, pickaxes and hoes.

<sup>511</sup> The shelter kit comprised 1 tarpaulin, 5 laths, 1 rafter, 1 kg of 80cm nails and 1 kg of roofing sheet nails per household.

<sup>512</sup> The pilot phase will continue until March 2018 for the 30,000 remaining plants.

<sup>513</sup> It was a donation of 3,100 plants and a student intern **Essomba Thierry** from the humanitarian

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project includes planting and nursing fruit trees and medicinal plants of which 2,500 in Lolo site and 600 in the village. The beneficiaries were trained before in cultivating such species.

**1051-** At the level of security, the relative calm in border areas resulting from actions taken by defence and security forces encouraged public authorities to order the partial opening of the borders which had been closed for 2 years to reduce *Boko Haram* attacks. Under passive security, 308 solar streetlights were installed in Minawao Camp and its surroundings<sup>514</sup> by the UNHCR, financed by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration-USA. For more efficiency, 17 members of the Partner Management Committee for the implementation of BERCOTECH were trained to maintain the streetlights. A border surveillance mechanism to check border movement and security of the camps and neighbouring communities was also set up.

**1052-** In addition, in a bid to promote peaceful cohabitation between refugees and host communities in the northern and East Regions, the Police, other security forces, Camps Administration Committees, traditional rulers and UNHCR officials organised regular awareness-raising campaigns for different communities on the validity of social harmony.

## §2: Proactive Management amid rising Challenges

**1053-** In spite of a drop in financing by donors, Cameroon, supported by her partners focused on refugee management on access to basic social services in a humanitarian approach while increasingly directing it towards empowerment in a development approach.

### A: Access to Basic Social Services

**1054-** Different strategies were used to guarantee acceptable access to education, adequate standard of living and health.

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vocational institute "HUMANORIA".

<sup>514</sup> Host communities and IDPs in Gawar, Zamaï, Minawao village and Gadala also benefitted from the measure.

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## 1) Promotion of Education

**1055-** Provision of infrastructure and meeting the demand for education had an impact on refugee schooling indicators.

### a) Developing School Infrastructure

**1056-** The gradual return to calm in Far North Region where some 138 schools were closed due to insecurity, saw the construction of 104 schools in the 2016/2017 academic year for children of refugees, IDPs and host communities. In East Region, Government Primary School (GPS) Laoudjara was constructed. It has a population of 3,000 pupils. Besides, many schools reopened especially in Fotokol which was one of the epicentres of violence.

### b) Education Incentives

**1057-** In a bid to encourage children to go to school, defence and security forces were deployed in border areas and during official examinations. In Far North Region, 38 awareness-raising campaigns were organised, bringing together 22,360 persons (5,754 men, 5,858 women, 5,479 boys, and 5,269 girls). In addition, 243 refugee teachers<sup>515</sup> and 24 State-deployed teachers guaranteed the supervision of the pupils and adults. School kits were distributed especially 1,500 in the host community, 4,020 school uniforms of which 500 in host communities, 1,450 benches of which 215 in host communities, and 400 sports uniforms.

**1058-** In East Region, awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of education with special focus on the education of the girl child were organised and the Cameroon education system was consolidated through rehabilitation and construction of additional classrooms. The State and its partners such as the UNHCR took special measures to guarantee the schooling of refugee children. Assistance was also provided by other partners such as Cosmos Educational Press Ltd which offered refugees in East and North Regions, official textbooks for 2017/2018 academic year worth some CFAF20,000,000<sup>516</sup>. UNICEF offered

<sup>515</sup> They were distributed as follows: 46 teachers (24 women) in nurseries, 127 (49 women) in primary schools, 59 (9 women) in high schools and 11 (4 women) in adult school.

<sup>516</sup> About 30,508.73 Euros



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## 2) Challenges in Guaranteeing Refugees the Right to an adequate Standard of Living

**1062-** Guaranteeing refugees an adequate standard of living was a challenge concerning both sufficient feeding for which a number of strategies were implemented or water supply and sanitation.

### a) Strategies to guarantee Refugees Sufficient Feeding

**1063-** Due to budgetary constraints, the World Food Programme (WFP) reduced by half the food ration given to refugees from the end of 2016 thereby imposing an average annual calorie intake of 1,260Kcal<sup>518</sup>.

**1064-** However, to reduce the impact of the drop in the financing necessary for humanitarian assistance<sup>519</sup>, many strategies were adopted including food donations from Government and its partners<sup>520</sup>, cash based transfer<sup>521</sup> to 40,263 refugees settled in Gado, Timangolo, Lolo and Ngarisingo, and support for income-generating activities to reduce food insecurity in East Region<sup>522</sup>. In addition, a 1,000m<sup>2</sup> fish pond was built in the Region with the support of WFP for 200 households and comprising 1,000 persons, refugees and host communities.

**1065-** In 2017, in spite of adjustment measures, malnutrition rate stood at 8.9% for Central African refugees in East, Adamawa and North Regions while the malnutrition rate for Nigerian refugees in Far North Region stood at 2.2%. Such poor malnutrition rates required intensive care in hospitals.

<sup>518</sup> The food ration dropped from 2,100Kcal to 1,050Kcal for 7 months and slightly increased to 1,554Kcal for the remaining 5 months.

<sup>519</sup> Out of some USD80,000,000 (About 45, 040, 000 000 FCFA or 68, 705, 666. 99 Euros) of budget estimates for the assistance in 2017, the UN announced a coverage rate of nearly 20% as at 29 September 2017.

<sup>520</sup> The donations were provided by partners such as the Embassy of Turkey, and the *Réseau des Femmes Parlementaires de la Francophonie*. Food was also supplied in East Region to some 128,830 refugees distributed in 38,746 households by the WFP and the UNHCR through money transfer.

<sup>521</sup> The beneficiaries received an average of CFAF5,319 (about 8.11 Euros) of monthly food credit per refugee.

<sup>522</sup> The refugees also received a monthly average of 1,335 tonnes of staples with a food basket comprising sorghum, yellow peas, Corn Soya Blend, palm oil and salt.



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## b) Enhancing Water Supply

**1066-** Water supply for refugees was enhanced. In Minawao, for example, the water supply network inside the Camp was extended by 4km with the construction of 10 additional taps and installation of a 70m<sup>3</sup> tank. The drinking water supply sources (32 boreholes and 36 taps) built in the Camp by partners of the UNHCR helped averagely produce 835m<sup>3</sup>/day, representing 14 litres/person/day. The water points enabled an average coverage of 1,066 persons per water point. In addition, more than 200 bacteriological and physical water analyses were conducted at home, and the construction of the Mokolo-Minawao Drinking Water Supply Project that started in 2016 was completed in 2017.

**1067-** Such actions should be consolidated to meet the UNHCR standard which stands at 500 persons per water point and 20 litres/person/day.

## c) Sanitation of Refugee Living Quarters

**1068-** In East, Adamawa and North Regions, the UNHCR supported hygiene and sanitation activities in the 7 developed Sites and host villages. In the developed Sites, 561 latrines, 408 showers, and 32 refuse pits were constructed. Besides, 20 washing areas and 1,002 latrines/showers were rehabilitated, thereby giving a global access rate to latrines of 67% with an average ratio of 15 persons per latrine (on the whole, 5,171 latrine were available). Furthermore, 808 waste containers, 500 defecation pots for children and 800 hygiene kits were distributed, and during hygiene promotion campaigns on themes such as washing of hands, maintenance of latrines, and environmental sanitation, 124,417 persons were reached. In 20 host villages, 1,115 households had access to latrines through the implementation of Community-led Total Sanitation by the Community.

## 3) Refugee Health Coverage

**1069-** The progressive and full integration of refugees in the national health system that designs actions to guarantee the right of the people to health, was implemented through health supply and consolidation of infrastructure and human resources.

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## a) Healthcare Administration

**1070-** Government continued to carry out periodic vaccination campaigns, and the MINSANTE-UNHCR Framework Agreement<sup>523</sup> on the joint payment of refugee hospital bills nationwide became operational. In East, Adamawa, and North Regions, the refugee health programme was gradually divided into the following 3 components: primary healthcare through the minimum package of activities, secondary healthcare through the complementary package and lifesaving.

**1071-** Refugee access to healthcare focused on the following 2 important pillars: the Framework Agreement and Multi-annual Integration Strategy for refugee care in the national health system, and consolidation of efficient partnership between Government and the National Performance-based Financing Coordination and other UN Agencies enabling a progressive and total integration of refugees in the national health system.

**1072-** In urban areas, the programme continued to target vital emergencies and the most vulnerable refugees<sup>524</sup> whose hospital bills were paid entirely throughout 2017. Cases that did not fall under such category or the cost of which was too high were handled individually by a medical panel. Besides, the programme included patients referred from other Regions accommodating refugees. Furthermore, all the health facilities in urban areas were accessible to both nationals and refugees.

**1073-** In Far North Region, in some health facilities supported by NGOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), treatment was entirely free of charge either to every person or only to a category of vulnerable persons.

**1074-** Besides, treatment of severe acute malnutrition and HIV control were taken into account.

<sup>523</sup> The Agreement that was signed on 10 August 2016 provides for the payment of hospital bills of Nigerian and Central African refugees in the Regions concerned up to 70% by the UNHCR and 30% by Cameroon.

<sup>524</sup> This included pregnant women, children less than 5 years old, Persons Living with HIV, accompanied children, patients with chronic diseases, survivors of Gender-based sexual violence, and mad people.

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## i) Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

**1075-** Food insufficiency was one of the causes of the high rate of SAM. Thus, in Koza and Makary, Far North Region<sup>525</sup>, a high rate of SAM was observed in children less than 5 years old and more than half of the children treated suffered from other diseases such as acute respiratory infections, malaria or diarrhoea for which they were treated free of charge at the District Hospital, Mokolo. In addition, the Alliance for International Medical Action whose action is centred on malnutrition and malaria provided assistance through intensive treatment of SAM in hospitals in Mokolo, Koza, and Makary, and organised outpatient treatment in neighbouring health centres. Out of 60,897 children of 6-59 months old screened in the reference year, 3,575 suffering from severe malnutrition were admitted in Outpatient Nutritional Centres and Internal Therapeutic Nutritional Centres in East, Adamawa, and North Regions.

**1076-** The outcome of such actions was a drop in the mortality rate of children less than 5 years old, representing 0.4 deaths/1,000 children/month in 2017<sup>526</sup> as against 0.5 deaths/1,000 children/month in 2016 in Far North Region.

## ii) HIV Control

**1077-** HIV control for refugees was part of the *HIV Prevention in other Vulnerable Persons* subproject carried out by the National AIDS Control Committee, the goal of which was to help reduce new HIV infections among the population by at least 50%. The actions carried out in target areas including 9 refugee camps in Adamawa, East, and North Regions focused on HIV awareness-raising, screening and treatment.

**1078-** Concerning awareness-raising, 29,297 educational talks were organised in target camps for 295,655 men and 360,163 women as contained in the table below:

<sup>525</sup> Far North Region has registered the most disturbing health concerns in the country, for health services and the economy were destabilised by an influx of refugees and IDPs.

<sup>526</sup> In January 2017, the plan was to maintain the gross mortality rate and the mortality rate of children less than 5 years old far below their respective thresholds of 0.75 and 1.5 deaths/1,000 children/month.

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**Table 1: Number of HIV educational talks in target refugee camps**

Region	Refugee Camp	Number of educational talks	Number of refugees with raised awareness	
			Men	Women
Adamawa	OuaNgam	1,622	17,760	20,976
	Borgop	2,915	54,270	73,346
East	Lolo	3,979	41,415	45,558
	Mbile	4,516	32,073	46,191
	Timangolo	1,580	8,263	8,260
	GariSingo	362	3,399	4,941
	Tihomo	1,006	13,694	20,849
	GadoBadzere	4,893	55,157	70,303
Far North	Minawao	8,424	69,624	69,739
<b>Results obtained from January to December 2017</b>		<b>29,297</b>	<b>295,655</b>	<b>360,163</b>

**Source:** NACC

**1079-** The awareness-raising campaigns included mass screening at the end of which 17,675 refugees<sup>527</sup> accessed “Voluntary Counselling and Screening” services. The outcome was that 198 refugees were tested seropositive of which 157 were under antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, representing a treatment rate of 79% unlike in 2016 where only 50 seropositive refugees were under treatment. Management and continuous care and ARV treatment were hampered by the fear that the community will be informed, the fear of the reaction of the spouse and/or refusal to be allowed by spouse to take treatment or the sudden return of some refugees to their country.

## **b) Healthcare Supply**

**1080-** More health infrastructure was built and human resources consolidated.

### **i) Enhancement of Health Infrastructure**

**1081-** The security situation had an impact on health infrastructure as some health facilities were either destroyed or abandoned. Consequently, it was necessary to build more infrastructure to meet the needs of both communities and refugees. In Minawao Camp, for example, there were 2 health facilities in 2017 for some 60,000 refugees although the number was far below the UNHCR standards for health centres in refugee camps which is one health centre for 20,000 refugees.

<sup>527</sup> This data represents 13,38% of voluntary screening services which is 8 times higher than that of 2016 which was 1,957 screened refugees.

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In order to fill the gap, a separate building used as a maternity was constructed in the first half of 2017. The outcome was an increase in capacity and enhancement of the quality of reproductive health and HIV treatment.

**1082-** In East Region, GIZ constructed 2 buildings and rehabilitated another building at the Catholic Hospital, Batouri.

## ii) Consolidation of Human Resources

**1083-** The recruitment of 150 additional medical staff (Doctors, Nurses, and Nurse Aids) helped enhance the quality of care of refugees in health facilities in the 3 Regions hosting Central African refugees. In Minawao, 6 qualified Midwives were recruited by the International Medical Corps in the new maternity set up by the UNHCR to provide reproductive health and a Psychiatrist was also recruited for 4 months to step up mental health and provide psychosocial support.

**1084-** In addition, many trainings were organised with the support of Regional Delegations of Public Health and the management team of the Health District for medical and paramedical staff. The trainings focused mainly on integrated care of childhood disease, use of health flow charts, care of acute malnutrition and care of pregnant women.

**1085-** A drop in food ration, continuous increase in the population and financial constraints had an impact on the nutritional stability of refugees. The outcome was an increase in the rate of SAM, a rise in the risk of epidemics such measles, meningitis, cholera, malaria and death. In fact, more than 113 deaths were registered in Minawao Camp.

## B: Empowerment as a Development Factor

**1086-** The new approach adopted was to ensure that refugees had a resilience and empowerment level that is also beneficial to host communities by linking humanitarian assistance to development. In this regard, in a bid to enable refugees to live under increasing self-sufficient conditions, that is, to help them move forward from the level of assistance to that of development and indirectly facilitate cohabitation with communities considering the pressure refugees exercise on available re-

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sources and infrastructure, a plan to support host councils was drawn up and income-generating activities established.

## 1) Host Councils Support Plan

**1087-** By an Agreement signed in October 2016 between MINEPAT and the UNHCR, a support plan was adopted, the goal of which was to enhance the standard of living of the people in the 16 Councils in Adamawa, East and North Regions accommodating Central African refugees. Besides, a Steering Committee to monitor development actions of the said communities was formed and officially launched on 30 May 2017 by the 2 parties referred to above. Similarly, a workshop was organised on 20 October 2017 by the UNHCR to harmonise the method, calendar and tools for data collection to draw up the said Plan that would serve as reference for the planning of the IDA18<sup>528</sup> Special Counter for refugees and host communities, and other development actions.

## 2) Income-generating Activities

**1088-** Parcels of land were distributed to refugees especially through some chiefs of host communities for farming and breeding in Yoko Sire, Garoua Boulai Council. In Minawao, 100 beneficiaries including 60 refugees and 40 members of host communities divided into groups of 5 persons were assisted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and the UNHCR in agricultural activities such as maize cultivation. Besides, 495 direct beneficiaries comprising 95 groups of 5 persons per group including refugees and members of host communities received assistance from the UNHCR for small business as part of the empowerment project through income-generating activities set up by Plan Cameroon. In addition, UN-WOMEN offered refugees of the site improved stoves and buildings worth CFAF100,000,000<sup>529</sup> for vocational training, counselling and awareness-raising centres.

<sup>528</sup> The World Bank had a special counter for refugees and host communities for 2018 through the International Development Association (IDA). The special counter is to install parity between refugees who receive assistance from NGOs and host communities by making it possible to better handle refugee afflux. In this regard, funds will be allocated to IDA, some of which as grants and others as loans refundable at the normal interest rates of IDA loans. The funds are supplemental financing to the National Community-driven Programme, "Health" project, "Social Nets" project, and "Basic Education" project.

<sup>529</sup> About 152,543.66 Euros

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**1089-** In 2017, the World Bank granted Cameroon some CFAF105,000,000,000<sup>530</sup> as part of the Extended Credit Facility. Other allocations will be granted in 2018 and 2019 depending on the needs expressed for the management of refugees, IDPs and host communities.

**1090-** Capacity development workshops on income-generating activities were initiated, such as the training<sup>531</sup> organised by MINPROFF with the support of the National Employment Fund, the UNHCR, and Plan Cameroon from November 2016 to January 2017 in Yaounde, for more than 90 refugees living in urban areas, and that organised by the UNHCR in Gado Badzere, East Region for more than 150 refugees on the manufacture of briquettes for improved stoves and beaded jewellery.

### §3: Conciliation in the Management of End of Refugee Status

**1091-** Conciliation was carried out through collaboration and cooperation between the different stakeholders whether relating to the implementation of the clause of end of refugee status or return to country of origin.

#### A: Implementation of the Clause of End of Refugee Status of Rwandans

**1092-** The entry into force of the clause of end of refugee status of Rwandans initially slated for 1 January 2015 had been postponed to 31 December 2017<sup>532</sup>. After this deadline, the refugees concerned could choose one of the following options: return to their country of origin, to be settled in another country, or integrated in the host country.

**1093-** Rwandans who had fled their country following violence and the Genocide of April 1994 and who enjoyed the status of political refugees in host countries were classified into the following 2 categories by the Rwandan President: those who had fled the country between 1959 and 1998, and those who fled their country after 1998. The

<sup>530</sup> About 160,170,848.90 Euros

<sup>531</sup> The training included manufacture of cleaning agents, fruit juice and soya bean by-products, dry cleaning, fish and chicken smoking, and job search techniques.

<sup>532</sup> At the request of President **KAGAME**, the cessation clause for political refugee status for Rwandan citizens abroad concerned by the clause had to become effective from 1st January 2018

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clause of end of status of political refugee was applied only to the 1<sup>st</sup> category.

**1094-** In Cameroon, 832 Rwandan refugees living in urban areas were registered in 2017 according to the UNHCR. Most of them were involved in small businesses in Yaounde and Douala where they enjoyed relative integration into the local communities with which they were familiar.

**1095-** Concerning management of their status, an exemption procedure was opened from 2013 to 2014 for the refugees concerned by the clause of end of refugee status. Those who were exempt<sup>533</sup> and chose one of the options referred to above, the UNHCR extended the validity of their refugee card to 31 December 2020 to enable the changeover to an alternative status. Those who did not choose any of the 3 options on the ground that they were not convinced of the enhancement of Human Rights in their country<sup>534</sup> and refused any repatriation, voluntary or not, their refugee status ceased to be valid on 31 December 2017 at midnight, and no application for an alternative status or for Convention Travel Document necessary for movement out of the asylum country could be considered after this date.

**1096-** In August 2017, negotiations were conducted between Cameroon through the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX), the UNHCR and the Rwandan community for the issuance of residence permits to eligible Rwandan refugees. The outcome was the commitment of Authorities to issue such permits without waiving establishment fees following the forwarding of the final list of refugees who opted for an alternative status. The said list, drawn up from the UNHCR database and comprising 724 persons was forwarded to Government at the end of 2017, which in turn had to communicate the budget for the financing of the permits to the UNHCR.

<sup>533</sup> It was established that these are Rwandan refugees who continued to rightfully fear persecution in the event of return. Others were not sure that their country will protect them considering previous persecutions.

<sup>534</sup> According to some Rwandans who did not share the position of their Government, Rwanda was considered as a tyrannic country where the life, security and Human Rights of those who had fled the country after 1998 could not be guaranteed, and also considering that the application of the Clause referred to above only concerns Rwandan refugees who had fled the country between 1959 and 1998, a lot of uncertainty was raised.



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## B: Consolidation of Voluntary Repatriation of Nigerian and Central African Refugees

**1097-** Voluntary return of refugees to their country once proper and security conditions were met was one of the envisioned solutions in refugee management. In this regard, Cameroon signed a Tripartite Agreement with the Government of Nigeria and the UNHCR on 2 March 2017 for the voluntary return of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Tripartite Commission held on 10 August 2017 in Abuja, Nigeria followed by a plan of action designed by the Working Group that was formed. In November 2017, a mission was commissioned to identify the avenues of the return of refugees.

**1098-** In 2017, negotiations for the establishment of a voluntary repatriation framework for Central African refugees continued. However, it should be noted that Central African refugees constituted 88% of the 215 urban refugees who voluntarily returned to their country of origin in dignity and security with the support of the UNHCR.

### SUBSECTION 2: MANAGEMENT OF IDPs

**1099-** The number of IDPs who had fled and abandoned their homes to save their lives following constant attacks by *Boko Haram* increased from 198,889 in 2016 to 221,695 in 2017. They were welcomed and accommodated by families in host communities in Far North Region, in schools and developed Sites. Logone and Chari Division hosted most of them (50%) followed by Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga, Diamaré, and Mayo Kani Divisions in that order.

**1100-** IDPs also received support in the form of shelter and basic emergency commodities depending on their accommodation needs, and assistance for their schooling and nutrition. For the past 4 years, different donations made by the State, its partners and host communities helped them meet daily needs. Health centres were rehabilitated, drugs distributed to them, and water points constructed. In Logone and Chari Division, the ICRC provided support to IDPs in the areas of health, nutrition, and agricultural development. In July 2017, for example, more than 1,107 tonnes of foodstuffs were distributed to some 4,500 households

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in Fotokol, Kousseri, Logone Birni, and Makary Subdivisions, and many households benefitted from support to agricultural production.

**1101-** Through the above-mentioned efforts to restore security in some deserted areas in Far North Region, some 64,000 IDPs returned to their villages. The ICRC provided assistance to the State through Ministries, to resettle IDPs by supporting their agricultural activities. The ICRC further supported projects that had already been started concerning IDPs who had decided to settle permanently in resettlement areas.

## **SECTION 2: GUARANTEEING THE RIGHT OF FREE MOVEMENT OF CAMEROONIANS IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ABROAD**

**1102-** The gravity of the difficulties migrants faced in North Africa required that urgent measures be taken for the return of Cameroonians and their care once they arrived home.

### **§1: Repatriation of Cameroonians**

**1103-** Government, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) chartered special aircrafts for the return of nationals who were victims of poor treatment and auction sale in Libya<sup>535</sup>.

**1104-** Out of some 1,700 Cameroonians involved in the humanitarian crisis in Libya, only 850 expressed their desire to return to Cameroon. Those who voluntarily decided to return to Cameroon were assembled in Niamey, Niger. The 1<sup>st</sup> group of 250 illegal migrants comprising pregnant women, unaccompanied minors and elderly persons returned to Cameroon in the night of 21 to 22 November 2017 followed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> group of 107 persons on 16 December 2017<sup>536</sup>. The returns were conducted in 4 groups.

<sup>535</sup> On 14 November 2017, the American TV station CNN broadcast a report on the multiple violent practices and auction sale of black people in Libya including Cameroonians.

<sup>536</sup> The goal was to repatriate all voluntary migrants; other returns were slated for the beginning of 2018.

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## §2: Management and Integration of former Migrants

**1105-** In a bid to oversee the return and integration of former migrants, an Interministerial Working Group coordinated by MINREX was formed, comprising officials from MINSANTE, MINAS, MINATD, and MINJEC. Government and its partners guaranteed the former migrants healthcare and nutrition.

**1106-** Financial care was provided within the framework of « *European Union Trust Fund (EUTF-IOM) for the protection and integration of migrants* » Project to support 14 Sub-Saharan African countries including Cameroon for the return of their illegal migrants to their country of origin, and the social integration of same. The 3-year Project has a budget of CFAF2,161,000,000<sup>537</sup> The financial assistance is provided in 2 phases. Phase I comprised a financial support of CFAF65,000<sup>538</sup> distributed to each of the migrants to enable them to return to their respective families. Phase II focused on the socio-economic integration of the migrants. In this connection, in order to help them start an economic activity, subventions varying between CFAF500,000<sup>539</sup> and CFAF1,000,000<sup>540</sup> were given migrants who submitted a project.

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<sup>537</sup>About 3,296,468.61 Euros.

<sup>538</sup> About 99.15 Euros

<sup>539</sup>About 762.72 Euros

<sup>540</sup>About 1,525.44 Euros

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**1107-** The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan launched on 3 January 2017 identified 2,700,000 persons in need of assistance. However, only 1,200,000 persons were targeted by the said Plan with a budget estimate of CFAF180,000,000,000<sup>541</sup> geared towards the health, food security and empowerment sectors. At the end of 2017, the achievement rate stood only at 48%, thereby requiring Government to make more effort and increase humanitarian assistance so as to implement sustainable solutions. Similarly, the capacity of border authorities on international protection of refugees should be further enhanced.

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<sup>541</sup> About 274,578,598.12 Euros

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## CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

**1108-** In 2017, public authorities took measures while respecting Human Rights, to curb the persistent attacks by *Boko Haram*. Such measures included the adoption of Law No. 2017/12 of 12 July 2017 relating to the Code of Military Justice. As part of management of the crisis in North West and South West Regions, the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism was formed to address the claims by trade unions. Such action –clearly expressed the concern for permanent dialogue. Similarly, strides were made to guarantee the rights of detainees, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, women, refugees, IDPs, and Cameroonians in challenging situations abroad.

**1109-** In fact, prisons were rehabilitated and re-equipped, and the staff strength of Penitentiary Administration increased. BUNEC Regional Offices were opened. In addition, gender mainstreaming was effected through the adoption of the National Plan for the Implementation of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council and relating Resolutions, and directives designed to implement the NGP.

**1110-** However, challenges are still to be addressed such as better participation and more representation of women in public and political affairs, significant reduction of violence against women, implementation of economic reforms, decongestion of prisons, provision of more humanitarian assistance, better coordination in the management of refugees and IDPs, and proper care of repatriated Cameroonians.



**GENERAL**

**CONCLUSION**





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**1111-** At the start of a national evaluation of Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017 after the one made by 3 Human Rights mechanisms, it is important to stress that the combined effects of the changing security constraints stemming from the crisis in North West and South West Regions, atrocities by *Boko Haram* and incursions of armed groups in East and Adamawa Regions have obliged public authorities to strike a balance between the duty to respect, protect and guarantee Human Rights, and the duty to maintain public order, public security and territorial integrity. The option of conciliation implemented through Human Rights public policies resulted in progress made in the enjoyment of the said Rights. Nevertheless, the State still has to address a number of challenges which are sometimes closely linked to the security crises mentioned above and the respective responses thereto by the State.

**1112-** Efforts made by Government to promote economic, social and cultural rights in spite of a difficult economic situation are worth mentioning. In this connection, Government adopted a Rural Sector Development Strategy that aims at reducing food security risks. Besides, evaluation of the Decent Work Country Programme highlighted progress made in enhancing working conditions for all through the drawing up of specific policy documents that include the National Policy on Social Security at Work, the Framework Document on Guidelines on HIV/AIDS Control in the World of Work, and the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cameroon. The goal of Law No. 2017/10 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the general rules and regulations governing public establishments and Law No. 2017/11 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the general rules and regulations governing public corporations is to promote good governance through enhancement of quality management.

**1113-** In addition, special consideration was given to women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, detainees, refugees and displaced persons. In this regard, the implementation of the National Gender Policy was given a new drive while the Plan of Action of Resolution 1325 and relating Resolutions of the UN Security Council will henceforth effectively address the effects of conflicts on women. Although the economic hardship did not make it possible to fully implement the 2017

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Humanitarian Response Plan, humanitarian actions taken by the State for refugees and displaced persons were maintained and assistance was given to Cameroonian migrants in difficulties abroad.

**1114-** However, corrective measures will be taken to address the drop in education supply at the primary school level and in the pass rate in examinations, to enhance infant and maternal health, the art and tourism sector, overcrowding in prisons, recurrent shortage in water supply and power shed, care of older persons and combating child violence. The maturation of the Universal Health Coverage is also envisaged

**1115-** In addition, varied progress was made in the promotion and protection of civil and political rights. Prospects to deepen decentralization and provide equity in recruitment into the Public Service, to give a new impetus to the press in Cameroon and efforts to guarantee access to justice including for English-speaking litigants are some of the indicators of the determination of public authorities to guarantee the Rule of Law.

**1116-** Meanwhile, the right to life, prohibition of torture and violation of the physical and moral integrity of persons were violated seriously during the different crises the country faces. Although *Boko Haram* has been weakened, it still causes casualties while some of its sympathisers have returned to civilian life. However, such return is challenging considering the treatment given to "returnees".

**1117-** Furthermore, national unity and cohesion, the bedrock of the country's hitch-free living together were seriously threatened in the current crisis in North West and South West Regions. Unfortunately, the form of expression adopted hampered enjoyment of the right to education, smooth administration of justice and stability of institutions. However, this situation has not constricted Government's determination to promote dialogue in the search for consensual solutions. Thus, Decree No. 2017/13 of 19 January 2017 to set up the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism and the large number of measures taken in the judicial and education sectors to enhance living together clearly express such determination.

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**1118-** In fact, since the crisis mentioned above has taken a political turn with the violent challenge of the form of the State, the unity and indivisibility of Cameroon were reiterated by the Head of State. In conclusion, peace remains the ideal vector for the full achievement of Human Rights and sustainable peace cannot be obtained without respect and protection of Human Rights.



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## APPENDIX

The following institutions contributed in preparing this Report: the Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the UNHCR, the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal and Lower Courts, Ministries, independent administrative services, public and semi-public establishments, and civil society organizations :

### Ministries / Courts

- Supreme Court;
- Ministry of Communication (MINCOM);
- Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF);
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU);
- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER);
- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA);
- Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE);
- Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE);
- Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB);
- Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC);
- Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP);
- Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP);
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS);
- Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform (MINFOPRA);
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF);
- Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC);
- Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL);

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- Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED);
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS);
- Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE);
- Ministry of Defence (MINDEF);
- Ministry of External Relations (MINREX);
- Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT);
- Ministry of Finance (MINFI);
- Supreme State Audit (CONSUPE);
- Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT);
- Ministry of Youth and Civic Education (MINJEC);
- Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA);
- Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL);
- Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF);
- Ministry of Public Works (MINTP);
- Ministry of Transport (MINTRANSPORT);
- Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP);
- Ministry of Sports and Physical Education (MINSEP);
- Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI);
- Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE);
- General Delegation for National Security (DGSN);
- National Gendarmerie;
- Special Criminal Court (SCC).

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## Councils and Independent Administrative Services

- Cameroon Housing Corporation (*SIC*);
- Cameroon Investment Promotion Agency (*CIPA*);
- Cameroon Water Utilities (*CAMWATER*);
- Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (*MIRAP*);
- Douala City Council (*CUD*);
- Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (*ARSEL*);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (*CONAC*);
- National Civil Status Registration Office (*BUNEC*);
- National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (*NCHRF*);
- National Aids Control Committee (*CNLS*);
- National Communication Council (*NCC*);
- National Employment Fund (*FNE*);
- National Financial Investigation Agency (*ANIF*);
- National Fund for Youth Integration (*FONIJ*);
- National Governance Programme (*PNG*);
- National Institute of Statistics (*NIS*);
- National Social Insurance Fund (*NSIF*);
- Rural Electrification Agency (*AER*);
- Small and Medium sized Enterprises Promotion Agency (*APME*);
- Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Bank of Cameroon (*BC-PME*);
- Standard and Quality Agency (*ANOR*);
- Urban and Rural Land Development Authority (*MAETUR*);
- Yaounde City Council (*CUY*);
- National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (*ANTIC*);

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- National Employment and Vocational Training (ONEFOP).

## **International Organizations and Civil Society**

- African Action on Aids (AAA);
- Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT-Bamenda);
- *Association de Lutte contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes (ALVF)*;
- *Association Camerounaise des Femmes Juristes (ACAFEJ)* ;
- United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA);
- *Confédération Camerounaise du Travail (CCT)*;
- *Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED)* ;
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-Cameroon;
- Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA);
- Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH)-Cameroon ;
- Platform on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (DESC-CAM Platform);
- National Union of Associations and Institutions of and for Persons with Disabilities of Cameroon (UNAPHAC).