

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND



**REPORT BY THE MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN CAMEROON IN 2015**

Yaounde, October 2016



# **REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMEROON IN 2015**



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Human Rights in Cameroon in 2015

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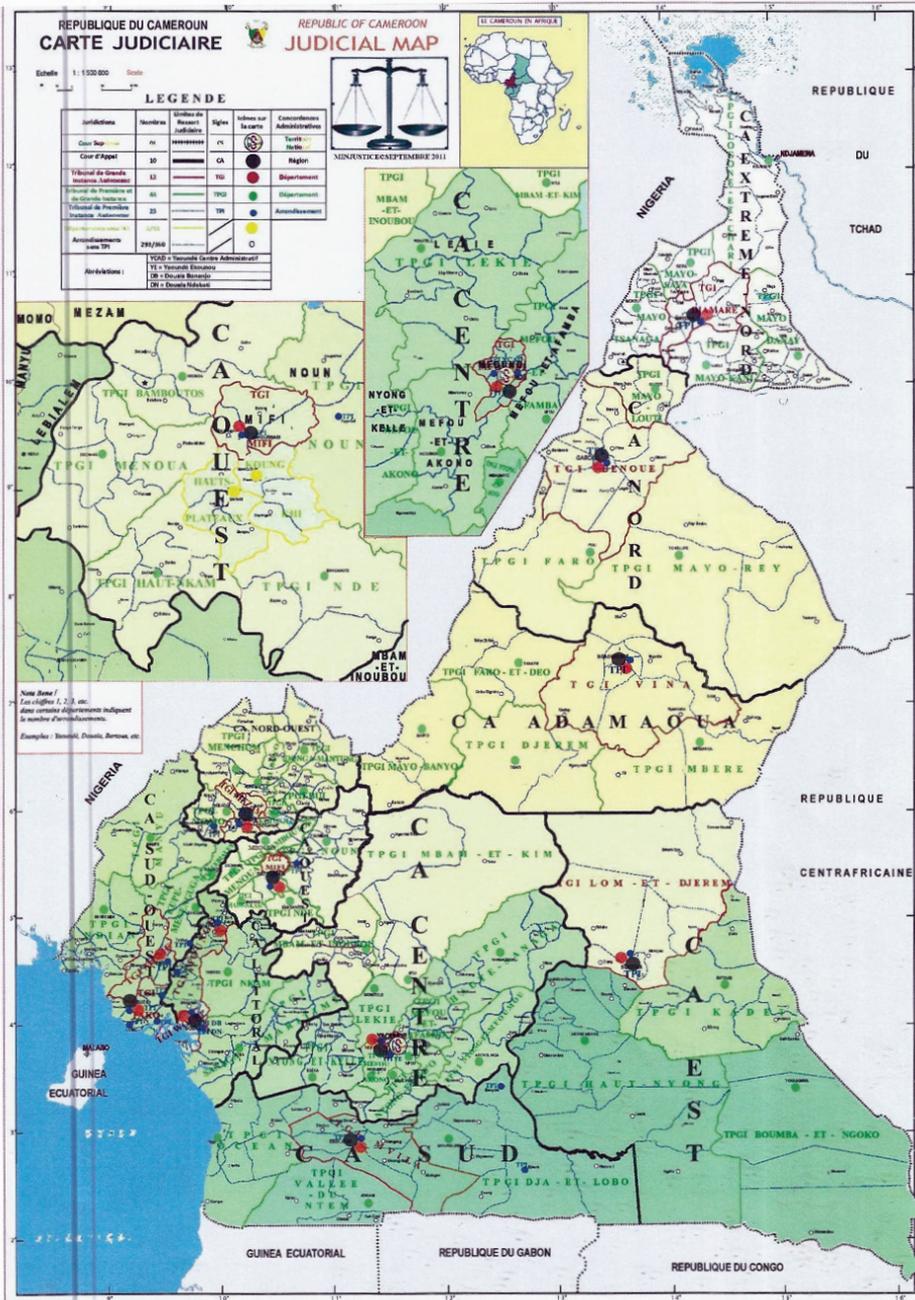
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## JUDICIAL MAP OF CAMEROON



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## PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION MAP OF CAMEROON

### LEGEND

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  Far North  |  North      |
|  Adamawa    |  East       |
|  Centre     |  South      |
|  Littoral   |  South West |
|  North West |  West       |

 DAPEN     ENAP

 10 Regional Delegations

 10 Central Prisons (CP)

 50 Main Prisons (MP)

 19 Secondary Prisons (SP)

 1 Non Functional Central Prison

 6 Non Functional Main Prisons

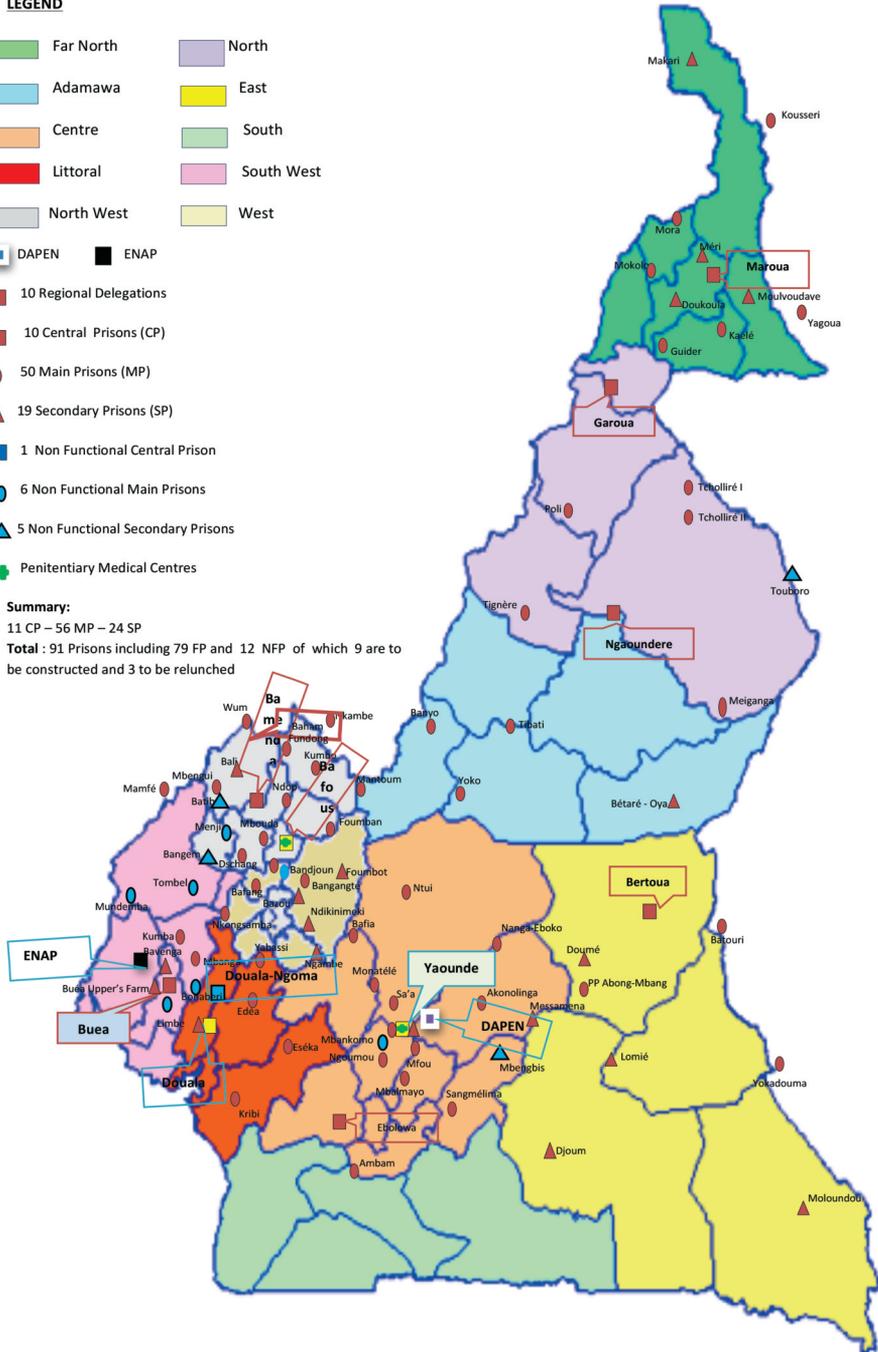
 5 Non Functional Secondary Prisons

 Penitentiary Medical Centres

### Summary:

11 CP – 56 MP – 24 SP

Total : 91 Prisons including 79 FP and 12 NFP of which 9 are to be constructed and 3 to be relunched



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## FOREWORD

*“Permit me to point out, once again, that this is in no way whatsoever, a “crusade” against Islam or an episode in some kind of “clash of civilizations”.*

*The reality is simple. On one side, there are our forces, defenders of a modern and tolerant society which guarantees the exercise of human rights, including that of religion, as well as representative democracy. On the other side, namely Boko Haram and similar movements, there are partisans of an obscurantist and tyrannical society which has no consideration for human dignity.*

*You would agree with me that these two models of society are absolutely incompatible and, hence, compromise is absolutely impossible.*

*Therefore, we need to put an end to the actions and activities of terrorist movements. We need to eradicate Boko Haram. By so doing, we would be able to reassure our populations and better focus on the only worthwhile struggle: the struggle against poverty ...”*

**Speech by H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon at the opening ceremony of the Extraordinary Summit of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), 16 February 2015**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

...	: Result not available
AC	: Administrative Courts
ACEFA	: Improvement of the Competitiveness of Agro-pastoral Family Farms
ACHPR	: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AHA	: African Humanitarian Action
AIMS	: African Institute for Mathematical Sciences
ANIF	: National Agency for Financial Investigation
ANOR	: Standards and Quality Agency
ANTIC	: National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies
APME	: Small-and Medium-Size Enterprise Promotion Agency
ARSEL	: Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency
ART	: Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
ASF	: African Swine Fever
B2MEDR	: Mobile Mixed Brigades of Street Children
BCAC	: Business Coalition Against Corruption
BTS	: <i>Brevet de Technicien Supérieur</i>
BUCREP	: National Office for Population and Housing Census
BUNEC	: National Civil Status Office
C2D	: Debt Relief and Development Contract
CAMWATER	: Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation
CAPEP	: Fast Track Preparatory Programme for Entrance into Primary School
CAR	: Central African Republic
CARED	: Fast Track Reinsertion Programme for School Drop-Outs

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<b>CBF</b>	: Cameroon Business Forum
<b>CB-SME</b>	: Cameroon Bank for Small- and Medium - Sized Enterprises
<b>CCFF</b>	: Financial Support Committee of FEICOM
<b>CDBF</b>	: Budgetary and Financial Disciplinary Board
<b>CDC</b>	: Commonwealth Development Corporation
<b>CDE</b>	: <i>Camerounaise des Eaux</i>
<b>CDPAA</b>	: Comprehensive Development Programme for African Agriculture
<b>CE</b>	: Common Entrance
<b>CEP</b>	: <i>Certificat d'Etudes Primaires</i>
<b>CFI</b>	: Court of First Instance
<b>CHRAPA</b>	: Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy
<b>CNLCC</b>	: National Anti-Corruption Coalition
<b>CNTD</b>	: Chronic Non Transmissible Disease
<b>CNTI</b>	: Internal Therapeutic Nutrition Centre
<b>COECAM</b>	: Centre for Educative Orientation
<b>CONSUPE</b>	: Supreme State Audit Office
<b>COPAX</b>	: Peace and Security Council in Central Africa
<b>COP 21</b>	: Conference of States Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>CPC</b>	: Criminal Procedure Code
<b>CPFF</b>	: Women's Centres
<b>CRC</b>	: Cameroon Red Cross
<b>CRF</b>	: French Red Cross
<b>CRTV</b>	: Cameroon Radio Television
<b>CSO</b>	: Civil Society Organizations
<b>CVUC</b>	: Association of United Councils and Cities of Cameroon
<b>DAJEI</b>	: Department of Legal Affairs and Exploitation of Information

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<b>DAPEN</b>	: <i>Direction de l'Administration Pénitentiaire</i>
<b>DDHCI</b>	: Department of Human Rights and International Co-operation
<b>DECC</b>	: Department of Examination and Certification
<b>DGSN</b>	: General Delegation of National Security
<b>DPDC</b>	: Dibamba Power Development Corporation
<b>DSEP</b>	: Professional Education Diploma
<b>DTT</b>	: Digital Terrestrial Television
<b>ECCAS</b>	: Economic Community of Central African States
<b>ELECAM</b>	: Elections Cameroon
<b>ENEO</b>	: The Energy of Cameroon
<b>ENS</b>	: Higher Teachers Training College
<b>ENSET</b>	: Higher Technical Teachers Training College
<b>ESMP</b>	: Environmental and Social Management Plan
<b>ESTP</b>	: Secondary Technical and Industrial Vocational Education
<b>ETAPE</b>	: Temporary Learning Spaces for Children
<b>FEICOM</b>	: Special Council Support Fund
<b>FENASSCO</b>	: Federation of National School Games
<b>FENASU</b>	: Federation of National University Games
<b>FGM</b>	: Female Genital Mutilation
<b>FIU</b>	: Financial Intelligence Units
<b>FMD</b>	: Foot and Mouth Disease
<b>FSDF</b>	: Forestry Development Special Fund
<b>FSLC</b>	: First School Leaving Certificate
<b>GABAC</b>	: Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa
<b>GBV</b>	: Gender-based Violence
<b>GCE</b>	: General Certificate of Education
<b>GESP</b>	: Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
<b>GFF</b>	: Global Financial Facility

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<b>GTHS</b>	: Government Technical High School
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	: Human immunodeficiency virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>HND</b>	: Higher National Diploma
<b>HPD</b>	: Higher Professional Diploma
<b>ICRC</b>	: International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>ICT</b>	: Information and Communication Technologies
<b>IDP</b>	: Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IFC</b>	: International Finance Corporation IFC - Intati Finance IGA Income Generation Activity
<b>IHL</b>	: International Humanitarian Law
<b>IMC</b>	: International Medical Corps
<b>IPES</b>	: Private Institutions of Higher Education
<b>IPV</b>	: Injectable Polio Vaccine
<b>IRAD</b>	: Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
<b>ITU</b>	: International Telecommunications Union
<b>JPO</b>	: Judicial Police Officers
<b>KPDC</b>	: Kribi Development Company
<b>kWp</b>	: kilo Watts-peak
<b>LAFTA</b>	: Living Alternatives for the Ageing
<b>LANAVET</b>	: National Veterinary Laboratory
<b>LLIN</b>	: Long Lasting Insecticidal Net
<b>MBOSCUA</b>	: Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association
<b>MCT</b>	: Multipurpose Community Telecentres
<b>MDG</b>	: Millennium Development Goals
<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>MINATD</b>	: Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation
<b>MINCOM</b>	: Ministry of Communication

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<b>MINDHU</b>	: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
<b>MINEDUB</b>	: Ministry of Basic Education
<b>MINEFOP</b>	: Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
<b>MINEPAT</b>	: Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
<b>MINEPDED</b>	: Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection 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>MINFI</b>	: Ministry of Finance
<b>MINJUSTICE</b>	: Ministry of Justice
<b>MINMAP</b>	: Ministry of Public Contracts
<b>MINPMEESA</b>	: Ministry of Small- and Medium -Size Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicraft
<b>MINPOSTEL</b>	: Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
<b>MINPROFF</b>	: Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family
<b>MINSANTE</b>	: Ministry of Public Health
<b>MINSEP</b>	: Ministry of Sports and Physical Education
<b>MINTOUL</b>	: Ministry of Tourism and Leisure
<b>MINTP</b>	: Ministry of Transport
<b>MINTSS</b>	: Ministry of Labour and Social Security
<b>MIRAP</b>	: Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority
<b>MNJTF</b>	: Multinational Joint Task Force
<b>MSF</b>	: Doctors without Borders
<b>MT</b>	: Military Tribunal
<b>MTN</b>	: Mobile Telephone Network
<b>NACC</b>	: National Anti-Corruption Commission
<b>NAIP</b>	: National Agricultural Investment Plan
<b>NCC</b>	: National Communication Council

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<b>NCD</b>	: Newcastle Disease
<b>NCHRF</b>	: National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms
<b>NEF</b>	: National Employment Fund
<b>NGP</b>	: National Gender Policy
<b>NSIF</b>	: National Social Insurance Fund
<b>NTD</b>	: Neglected Tropical Disease
<b>NTFIU</b>	: National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit
<b>OBC</b>	: Cameroon Baccalaureate Board
<b>ONACC</b>	: National Observatory on Climate Change
<b>OPCAT</b>	: Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture
<b>PACA</b>	: Improvement of Agricultural Competiveness
<b>PAME</b>	: Self-Employment and Micro-Enterprises Programme
<b>PANETEC</b>	: National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Form of Child Labour
<b>PIB</b>	: Public Investment Budget
<b>PIDMA</b>	: Project for Investment and Development of Agricultural Markets
<b>PLANUT</b>	: Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Growth
<b>PLMI</b>	: National Multisectoral Programme for Combating Maternal, Newborn & Child Mortality
<b>PLWHA</b>	: People Living with HIV/AIDS
<b>PMEAA</b>	: Programme for Small- and Medium-Size Agricultural and Agri-Food Enterprises
<b>PMM</b>	: Periodical Model Markets
<b>PMTCT</b>	: Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
<b>PNDP</b>	: National Community Driven Programme for Development
<b>PPUE</b>	: Project on the Humanization of Detention Conditions and the Protection of the Rights of Detainees

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<b>PSN</b>	: Persons with Special Needs
<b>RGAE</b>	: National Census of Agriculture and Livestock in Cameroon
<b>RM</b>	: Roving Markets
<b>SC</b>	: Supreme Court
<b>SCC</b>	: Special Criminal Court
<b>SEEPD</b>	: Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
<b>SHUMAS-Cameroon</b>	: Strategic Humanitarian Services in Cameroon
<b>SJNC</b>	: National Union of Cameroon Journalists
<b>SMC</b>	: Subdivisional Medical Centre
<b>SME</b>	: Small- and Medium -Size Enterprise
<b>SMM</b>	: Special Model Markets
<b>SNLCC</b>	: National Anti-Corruption Strategy
<b>SRP</b>	: Small Ruminants Pest
<b>STF</b>	: Special Telecommunications Fund
<b>STVE</b>	: Secondary Technical and Vocational Education
<b>UC</b>	: Unaccompanied Children
<b>UNAPHAC</b>	: National Union of Associations of and for Persons with Disabilities
<b>UNCHRD-CA</b>	: United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa
<b>UNFPA</b>	: United Nations Fund for Population Activities
<b>UNHCR</b>	: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	: United Nations Children's Fund
<b>VRD</b>	: Utility Networks
<b>WFP</b>	: World Food Programme

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## Preface

It is fundamental to map the course of action in the lives of individuals and nations. That is why in 2015, Cameroon adopted a *National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights* for the period 2015-2019 to consolidate its resolute march towards achieving sustained and effective Human Rights. This proactive approach, that lays down guidelines for future action depends on an evaluation that increasingly relies on a retrospective approach.

To this end, Government has been examining since 2005, developments and drives on Human Rights promotion and protection. The publication of the Report on Human Rights in Cameroon, therefore, provides an opportunity to examine how Government and other components of society understand and express Human Rights culture.

The evaluation process for 2015 was based on presenting common concerns such as terrorism and corruption control, as well as challenges like access to employment, adequate housing, water and energy.

Indeed, 2015 was full of events like the communication sector reform, which significantly consolidated Human Rights. Although milestones for corrective measures such as the National Census of Agriculture and Livestock were also set, all expectations were certainly not met.

However, although the past is gone, the future lies ahead. The onward drive will be accomplished by action and not words. Therefore, I hope that this Report, which reflects steps taken by Cameroon, inspires individual and collective contributions towards the consolidation of the Rule of Law.

Enjoy your reading.

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



**GENERAL**

# INTRODUCTION



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1- As part of a well-established tradition, Cameroon, in a self-evaluation approach hereby publishes its 2015 Human Rights Report. Some of the highly topical issues include the persistence of terrorism and the huge national and international mobilization to combat it. The unanimous condemnation of the phenomenon and the multifaceted response against it was remarkable.

2- In the face of such a dreadful phenomenon that has had a cross-cutting impact on the enjoyment of all Human Rights of persons under its jurisdiction, and made it necessary to adopt appropriate solutions in the promotion and protection of rights in various sectors, Cameroon has continued to protect Human Rights.

3- This option is reflected at the strategic level by the adoption of policies and programmes to guarantee the exercise of rights.

4- The 2015-2019 *National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Cameroon*, certainly falls within this drive. The Plan which aims at ensuring greater coherence in the actions of various stakeholders, seeks to contribute to the consolidation of Human Rights culture in Cameroon.

5- Before the Prime Minister, Head of Government, launched this holistic Plan on 15 December 2015, other sector strategies had already been disclosed. Thus, with respect to the fight against discrimination and the promotion of Gender, the National Gender Plan was launched on 14 January 2015.

6- The Family Planning Operational Plan (2015-2020), the Strategic Plan for Securing Contraceptive Products (2015-2020) and the National Strategic Plan to Control Blindness (2015-2019) are some of the actions to promote the right to health.

7- The General Agriculture and Livestock Census was ordered by Decree No. 2015/292 of 29 June 2015 to consolidate the right to adequate food. Operationally, a Support Programme for Small- and Medium-Size

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Agricultural and Agri-food Enterprises was set up by the Small- and Medium-Size Enterprises Promotion Agency.

**8-** Besides strategies, the number of normative and institutional frameworks was increased during 2015 thereby consolidating Cameroon's participation in the following international and regional instruments:

- Convention No. 144 of the ILO on Tripartite Consultations adopted on 2 June 1976 in Geneva, Switzerland, ratified as per Decree No. 2015/578 of 16 December 2015; and
- Convention No. 155 of the ILO on the safety and health of workers adopted on 22 June 1981<sup>1</sup>, in Geneva, Switzerland, ratified by Decree No. 2015/579 of 16 December 2015.

**9-** At the national level, coordination efforts against terrorism included the setting up of the Food Security Emergency Management Commission by Order No. 20/CAB/PM of 26 February 2015 and the *Ad hoc* Ministerial Management Committee of Donations to the people and defence forces by Order No. 209/CAB/PR of 21 April 2015.

**10-** With regard to civil and political rights, supervision of freedom of expression and communication recorded significant progress with the amendment of Law No. 2010/13 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications by Law No. 2015/6 of 20 April 2015 and the adoption for the first time, of a law specifically devoted to the audio-visual sector, namely Law No. 2015/7 of 20 April 2015 governing audio-visual communication.

**11-** The right to governance was further guaranteed with the signing of Decree No. 2015/405 of 16 September 2015 to lay down the procedures for remuneration of Government Delegates, Mayors and their Deputies.

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<sup>1</sup> Instruments of ratification had not been deposited as at 31 December 2015.

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**12-** As regards economic, social and cultural rights, Law No. 2015/18 of 21 December 2015 governing commercial activity in Cameroon was adopted with a view to supporting the productive fabric and hence the creation of wealth and jobs. This approach was strengthened with the opening of the Small- and Medium-Size Enterprises Promotion Agency and the Cameroon Bank for Small- and Medium- Size Enterprises. To further consolidate the effectiveness of the right of workers to social security, Decree No. 2015/2517/ PM of 16 July 2015 to lay down the rules of implementation of Law No. 17/2001 of 18 December 2001 to amend the social contributions recovery procedures was signed.

**13-** To improve accessibility to staples, the Minister of Trade signed Decision No.101/MINCOMMERCE/CAB of 22 May 2015 to establish the list of goods and services<sup>2</sup> whose prices and tariffs are subject to prior approval.

**14-** Promotion of the right to culture was also a major concern with the search for a lasting solution to the problem of collective management of copyright. On 25 September 2015, the Prime Minister, Head of Government signed 2 enabling instruments of Law No. 2000/11 of 19 December 2000 on copyright and related rights, namely, Decree No. 2015/3978/PM of 25 September 2015 on the organization of the Arbitration Commission and Decree No. 2015/3979/PM of 25 September 2015.

**15-** Moreover, the institutional framework of the right to a healthy environment was reinforced with the effective implementation of the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC) by Decree No. 2015/512 of 16 November 2015 to appoint members of the Governing Council of the Observatory on Climate Change and Decree No. 2015/513 of 16 November 2015 to appoint the Director and Deputy Director of ONACC.

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<sup>2</sup> These include water and related services, cooking, industrial and medical gas, sugar, milk, crude palm oil, imported frozen fish ,wheat flour, corn flour, imported rice, cooking salt, table oils.

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**16-** Alongside these normative and institutional changes, the following capacity building activities for stakeholders were conducted:

- *capacity building workshop for juvenile justice stakeholders in the Far North Region* held in Maroua from 25 to 27 May 2015 organized by the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- *capacity building workshop for stakeholders in the juvenile justice system and child protection in the Far North Region* held in Maroua from 24 to 26 June 2015 organized by MINJUSTICE and UNICEF;
- *training Workshop on Human Rights for Police and Gendarmerie officers, in Yaounde* from 15 to 16 September 2015 organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA), for 35 participants including 18 Police Officers and 17 Gendarmes;
- *capacity-building workshop for law enforcement officers on their role and responsibilities in Human Rights protection and fundamental freedoms during elections* held in Yaounde from 11 to 12 November 2015 organized by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD), Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) and the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF) for 30 participants including 15 Policemen and 15 Gendarmes;
- *training workshop for Military Judicial and Legal Officers on International Humanitarian Law, in Yaounde* from 29 to 30 September 2015 organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- *training of 150 members of the Cameroon Police Force of the East and Adamawa Regions on the protection of women and children in humanitarian context of armed and unarmed<sup>3</sup> conflict within the framework of the "Provisions of Life-saving integrated GBV services and protection for women and girl Refugees in the Adamawa and East Regions of Cameroon", organized with the support of UN Women; and*

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<sup>3</sup> This training started in December 2015 in Bertoua and continued in January 2016 in Meiganga.

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- *restitution workshop of the subregional workshop on the treatment of minors suspected to be linked to Boko Haram as perpetrators, victims and/or witnesses of offences, organized in Mbalmayo from 30 November to 1 December 2015 by MINJUSTICE and UNICEF.*

17- The methodology of the Report has been maintained with the participation of stakeholders from Public Administrations, independent Administrative Institutions and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The Draft Report prepared by MINJUSTICE with contributions from the aforementioned stakeholders, was subsequently validated by them during a workshop before its publication. The list of the said stakeholders has been appended to this Report that has maintained its structure. Part I deals with civil and political rights; Part II treats economic, social and cultural rights and the right to a healthy environment while Part III addresses cross-cutting issues. The Report begins with an introductory chapter on cooperation between Cameroon and international and regional Human Rights mechanisms.



# PRELIMINARY Chapter

## COOPERATION BETWEEN CAMEROON AND INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS



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**18-** Cooperation between Cameroon and international Human Rights mechanisms for the promotion and protection of Human Rights has enabled various bodies not only to assess the State's commitments in this area, but also to provide their support in response to the most pressing concerns such as the fight against the activities of the terrorist group *Boko Haram*.

## SECTION 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS

**19-** The assessment of the State's commitments was both contentious and non-contentious based on the institutions concerned.

### §1: Non-contentious Assessment

**20-** The non-contentious assessment was made within the context of dialogue with the Human Rights Council through questionnaires and requests for information, and on the occasion of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which crowned the Fourth World Evaluation Process on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

#### A: Cooperation with the Human Rights Council

**21-** In 2015, Cameroon responded to questionnaires and requests for information transmitted by the United Nations Human Rights Council by submitting the:

- National Assessment Report of the World Programme for Education in Human Rights;
- Questionnaire on the impact of the management and rational ecological disposal of hazardous products and wastes on Human Rights; and
- measures taken to promote and protect the rights of persons with albinism.

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## **B: Fourth Global Assessment of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

**22-** During its 59<sup>th</sup> Session held in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women reviewed progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and recommendations made to States. Cameroon submitted its Country Report as part of this assessment carried out at the national, regional and global levels.

### **1) Country Report**

**23-** Cameroon's Report with respect to the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Assessment of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>4</sup> was drawn up through a participatory approach involving Public Administrations, CSOs and development partners. This Report analyzes the achievements and obstacles encountered since 1995, progress made since 2009 in the implementation of the critical areas of the Plan of Action, and identifies priorities.

#### **a) Progress made and obstacles encountered since 1995**

**24-** The achievements considered most important in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and instruments produced by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the General Assembly include the:

- introduction of Gender in the electoral law, in the strategic guidelines for development and in the training curricula;
- adoption of the National Gender Policy in January 2014;
- circulars of the President of the Republic advising consideration of gender in the preparation of the State budget<sup>5</sup>;

<sup>4</sup> See Country Report: Assessment of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Cameroon, 20 years after, MINPROFF, UN Women, 2015, 71 pages.

<sup>5</sup> See for example Circular No. 1/CAB/PR of 2 August 2014 on the preparation of the Budget for 2015

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- institutional strengthening<sup>6</sup> for optimal care of Gender-based Violence (GBV) and specific forms of abuses of Human Rights and women's reproductive health; and
- roll-out of economic, educational and social inclusion programmes for vulnerable persons, including women.

**25-** The following obstacles were identified:

- persistence of some socio-cultural practices depicting bias on the status of women, a corollary of a patriarchal social organization;
- limited access of women to factors of production (land, capital, research, innovation, input, training and information);
- insufficient financial, human and technical resources;
- low participation of women in politics and decision-making; and
- persistent declining support by partners who finance gender institutionalization.

## **b) Progress made since 2009 in the Implementation of the Critical Areas of the Plan of Action**

**26-** The following progress has been made since 2009 in the implementation of critical areas of the Plan of Action:

- drop in poverty among women from 40.5% in 2007 to 33.11% in 2011<sup>7</sup>;
- education parity almost achieved for the 6 to 11 years age group, representing 82.1% of girls and 83% boys;
- increase of 85 points since 2005 of the enrolment rate of girls in higher education;
- adoption of a National Multisectoral Programme for Combating Maternal, Newborn & Child Mortality (PLMI);
- outreach of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security;
- inclusion of gender in the electoral law;
- advocacy on the inclusion of gender in environmental and social impact studies and in management plans resulting there from;

<sup>6</sup> These include especially local committees for the fight against FGM, *Gender desk* in Police Stations, prevention and management units of GBV attached to promotion centres for women and the family.

<sup>7</sup> This percentage increased to 37.7% from 2007 to 2014.

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- establishment of platforms between stakeholders in GBV control;
- improving the image of women in the media; and
- production of awareness materials on the importance of education of girls and the shortfall due to the drop-out of girls.

## c) Priorities

**27-** The implementation of the National Gender Policy is the top priority to guide action over the next 5 years. The implementation of strategic plans on education, training and the reduction of maternal mortality (major concern) is another priority.

## 2) Recommendations of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**28-** At the end of the 59th Session, the following recommendations were made to States:

- review discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes;
- change economic policies to achieve gender equality and sustainable development;
- significantly increase resources allocated to gender equality;
- ensure the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels;
- strengthen the responsibility of men and boys in gender equality and achieve the fundamental rights of women and girls;
- ensure greater accountability on actions geared towards gender equality and women's empowerment;
- improve capacity building; and
- set up partnerships with all stakeholders in GBV control.

**29-** The recommendations were disseminated nationally during a restitution workshop organized by MINPROFF with the support of Agencies of the United Nations System, in Yaounde from 24 to 25 June 2015. During this workshop, the implementation outlines of these recommendations were examined.

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## §2: Contentious Evaluation of the State's Commitments

**30-** Although the number of cases brought against Cameroon before the Human Rights Mechanisms has increased, only 3 were settled by the institutions seised.

### A: Increased Number of Litigation

**31-** With 2 new registered Communications, 6 Communications against Cameroon<sup>8</sup> were pending before the Human Rights Committee. The same number of Communications was under review at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) that received a new Communication against Cameroon.

**32-** The main complaints in the new Communications related to alleged violations of the right to fair trial and the right to freedom and security. The same complaints ensued from the Urgent Appeals brought before the Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention that received a new Communication against Cameroon in 2015 and delivered an Opinion in a pending case.

### B: Settled Cases

**33-** The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued its opinion on a case while the African Commission on Human Rights settled 2 cases.

#### 1) Opinion of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in the YEN-EYOUM Annette Lydienne Case

**34-** On 27 April 2015, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued Opinion No. 46/2014 on the situation of Ms. **YEN-EYOUM Annette Lydienne**, who was arrested on 8 January 2010 in Yaounde and remanded in custody on 11 January 2010 after indictment on charges of

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<sup>8</sup> Communication procedures before Treaty Bodies are confidential until the decisions thereon are published.

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accessory and co-offender in misappropriation of public property. She was convicted and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment on 26 September 2014 by the Special Criminal Court (SCC) as per Judgment No. 21/CRIM/TCS/14.

**35-** Several objections were raised regarding her loss of liberty: the legality of the warrantless arrest, continued detention on expiry of the legal period of detention and the discriminatory treatment allegedly suffered by the applicant.

**36-** The Working Group considered the allegation of discrimination not sufficiently substantiated based on the fact that the SCC had granted bail to defendants in some proceedings and had not granted Ms. **YEN-EYOUM** bail. For the Working Group, the complainant did not provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that in those other cases, the accused persons were in an identical situation to that of Ms. **YEN-EYOUM** such that there was undue difference in treatment. The Group also took a similar position to the complaint against the invasion of Ms. **YEN-EYOUM**'s privacy as well as that on the lack of hearing of the defence witnesses and the failure to take exculpatory evidence into account.

**37-** Conversely, the Working Group considered founded the allegations of non notification of reasons for arrest as well as those concerning the non respect of the maximum legal period of 18 months for preventive detention under Cameroon law. By placing the situation in Class I of the criteria for the consideration of cases submitted to the Working Group, it considered that Ms. **YEN-EYOUM**'s arrest and loss of liberty was arbitrary.

**38-** Accordingly, the Working Group requested the Government of Cameroon to take the necessary steps to remedy the material and moral

<sup>9</sup> As per this provision, any person who is victim of illegal arrest or detention is entitled to compensation.

<sup>10</sup> The State of Cameroon considers that this Opinion was made on the basis of incorrect information. Indeed, the Working Group delivered its Opinion only on the basis of the evidence provided by the author of the urgent appeal, because the submission of the defence was time-barred. On 9 June 2015, pursuant to Judgment No. 1/SSP/CS, the Specialised Division of the Supreme Court upheld Judgment No. 21/CRIM/TCS/14 of 26 September 2014. Nevertheless, Ms. Yen-Eyoum was granted clemency by the President of the Republic in Decree No. 2016/302 of 4 July 2016.

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prejudice suffered by Ms. **YEN-EYOUM** by providing full compensation in accordance with Article 9 (5)<sup>9</sup> of the ICCPR<sup>10</sup>.

## 2) Cases decided by the ACHPR

**39-** These cases include Communication No. 389/10, **MBIANKEU G nevi ve** v Republic of Cameroon and Communication No. 416/12, **Jean Marie ATANGANA MEBARA** v Republic of Cameroon.

### a) Findings of the ACHPR in the Communication **MBIANKEU G nevi ve**

**40-** During its 56<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in Banjul, The Gambia from 21 April to 7 May 2015, the ACPHR ruled on the Communication by **MBIANKEU G nevi ve**. The said Communication that was filed on 7 September 2010 concerned violation of the right to property and the right to housing.

**41-** The applicant argued that, after the necessary checks in the lands service, she bought a plot of 500m<sup>2</sup> before a Notary Public at the Bastos neighbourhood in Yaounde for which she was subsequently issued a land certificate. When her husband sought to develop the land, he encountered violent opposition from a third-party who also claimed ownership of same.

**42-** The ACHPR established violation of property rights in that the State did not guarantee security of the applicant's property. The Commission, however, found no violation of the right to housing in that the applicant and her family did not live in the premises at the time.

**43-** By way of redress, the Commission requested the State to take the following measures:

- award compensation in kind or pay the sum of CFAF50,692,185<sup>11</sup> corresponding to the cost price of the land;
- pay an additional amount to be determined on the basis of crite-

<sup>11</sup> About 77,392.64 Euros

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- ria laid down by the Commission and corresponding to the transaction value of the land at the date of the decision; and
- pay the sum of CFAF15,391,460<sup>12</sup> in compensation for the financial loss resulting from the non-enjoyment of rights related to property rights, and the sum of CFAF5,000,000<sup>13</sup> for moral damage, then jointly with the complainant determine the amount of material damage.

## b) The ACHPR findings in Communication No. 416/12, Jean-Marie ATANGANA MEBARA v Republic of Cameroon

**44-** During its 18<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session held from 29 July to 8 August 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya<sup>14</sup>, the ACHPR heard and determined the Communication filed by **Jean-Marie ATANGANA MEBARA**. The Communication that was filed on 26 July 2012, addressed the challenge by the applicant of the quality of the proceedings against him before Cameroon courts since 2008. The alleged violations contained therein concerned the right to liberty and the right to fair trial.

**45-** The ACHPR established violation of the right to liberty, the right to the presumption of innocence, obstructing the rights of the defence and infringement of the right to be tried within a reasonable time.

**46-** However, the Commission considered that the complainant had not sufficiently demonstrated the partiality of the Supreme Court based on the fact that judges who had heard the matter before were appointed as judges to the Supreme Court.

**47-** Following its findings, the ACHPR requested the State to free **Jean-Marie ATANGANA MEBARA**, punish the State employees responsible for the violations and award to the author of the Communication the sum of CFAF400,000,000<sup>15</sup> for material and moral damages suffered.

<sup>12</sup> About 23,498.41 Euros

<sup>13</sup> About 7,633.58 Euros

<sup>14</sup> The State was notified on 6 May 2016.

<sup>15</sup> About 610,687.02 Euros

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## SECTION 2: SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN COMBATING THE TERRORIST GROUP *BOKO HARAM*

**48-** At the request of the Group of African States, submitted by Algeria and supported by 19 Member States of the Human Rights Council and 4 Observer States including Cameroon, an Extraordinary Council Meeting<sup>16</sup>, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, held in Geneva on 1 April 2015 on the atrocities committed by the terrorist group *Boko Haram* and their effects on Human Rights in affected countries.

**49-** During this Session, Cameroon's Minister of External Relations made an inventory of the atrocities committed by this nebula in Cameroon and their multidimensional consequences. He indicated the measures taken at the national and subregional levels to fight against this Group and emphasized the need for a comprehensive response to this global threat.

**50-** At the end of discussions, the Council, by Resolution A/HRC/RES/S-23/1, condemned the atrocities committed by the terrorist group *Boko Haram*. It reiterated the need to respect Human Rights and the primacy of the Rule of Law in the fight against terrorism. It expressed its solidarity with the people of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger who suffer the effects of the terrorist acts of *Boko Haram* and noted the efforts of the Governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin to counter such acts of terrorism. It highlighted the initiatives of the African Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States, and called on States and the international community to support this fight. The Council stressed the need to strengthen coordination at the multinational, subregional, regional and international levels to strengthen the global effort against terrorism.

**51-** The Council further requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a Report on Human Rights violations, abuses of these rights and atrocities committed by the terrorist group *Boko Haram* in affected States.

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<sup>16</sup> The following States, members and non members of the Council subsequently supported the request: Argentina, Benin, Chad, Cuba, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

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**52-** In addition to the atrocities of the terrorist group, the Report that was presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council held in September 2015 contains information on alleged Human Rights violations attributable to States.

**53-** Overall, Cameroon's interaction with international and regional mechanisms of Human Rights contributed to the appreciation of efforts made, but especially in the identification of challenges, among which the respect of Human Rights in the fight against terrorism. Continued cooperation will help consolidate actions targeting this goal.

# PART ONE

# CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART ONE

**54-** In 2015, the security context marked by the change in warfare of the terrorist group *Boko Haram* forced the State to adjust some of its strategies in the promotion and protection of civil and political rights, including right to life, right to physical and moral integrity, right to freedom and security, right to fair trial, freedom of expression and communication, and the right to participate in the management of public affairs.

**55-** In fact, confronted with the need to protect people's lives and mostly the lives of inhabitants of affected areas, communicate without revealing defence secrets, or ensure fair trial and consolidate the electoral system for future elections, Government took measures to preserve all prevailing interests.

**56-** Moreover, the increase in the number of cases on violent crime before the courts boosted indicators of the right to fair trial, while the proliferation of audio-visual communication media highlighted the need for regulation, professional management of information on the consolidation of the electoral system or transfer of skills on decentralization.

**57-** All these issues identified above are presented in Part One of the Report in the following 4 chapters:

- Right to Life, Physical and Moral Integrity and the Right not to be subjected to Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and Right to Freedom and Security;
- Right to Fair Trial;
- Freedom of Expression and Communication; and
- Right to Participate in the Management of Public Affairs.



# Chapter

# 1

RIGHT TO LIFE, PHYSICAL  
AND MORAL INTEGRITY,  
FREEDOM AND SECURITY,  
AND RIGHT NOT TO BE  
SUBJECTED TO TORTURE



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**58-** The right to life and physical integrity was further guaranteed because of the security situation at our national borders. The State streamlined the dual dimension of the right into its actions. To this end, it consolidated the prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of life and the physical integrity of persons, and took stringent measures to protect life. In this regard, special attention was paid to reduce road accidents that cause large numbers of deaths in the country. Besides, litigation on freedom reflects Government's option to properly guarantee individual freedom.

## SECTION 1: PROHIBITION OF ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

**59-** Prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of life and physical integrity was carried out through a preventive approach by promoting Human Rights culture among law enforcement officials and through a repressive approach by punishing those who violate such rights. Apart from law enforcement officials, each and everyone is prohibited from violating life and physical integrity. Accordingly, understanding violent crime helps to improve the protection of individuals.

### § 1: Promotion of Human Rights Culture among Law Enforcement Officials

**60-** Human Rights culture was promoted through the capacity building of law enforcement officials.

**61-** In this regard, Government and the UNCHR-CA jointly organized a Human Rights training Workshop from 15 to 16 September 2015 in Yaounde, for 35 participants (18 Police Officers and 17 Gendarmes) on Respect of Human Rights.

**62-** One of the objectives was to appoint Human Rights Focal Points in these units. On this occasion, a presentation of international, regional and national Human Rights protection systems was made. Participants were also made aware of their role in protecting the rights of minors, women, refu-

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gees and non-nationals during investigation, arrest and detention. The rules governing the use of force, firearms, maintenance of law and order and the functioning of a people-friendly police were recalled.

**63-** As a prelude to elections, a workshop on the role and responsibilities of the forces of law and order in the protection of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms during elections was held in Yaounde on 11 and 12 November 2015. One of the goals was to prevent violence during elections. It was attended by 15 Police Officers, 15 Gendarmes, representatives from the MINATD, ELECAM and the NCHRF.

**64-** In addition to these activities, 2,428 National Gendarmerie interns were trained in International Humanitarian Law (IHL). This is a Government initiative to include IHL in the National Gendarmerie Training syllabus.

**65-** As part of their continued training in Human Rights, 10 Police Officers attended a refresher course on compliance with the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

**66-** Although National Security authorities advocated an educational approach in respecting Human Rights and IHL, they equally envisaged punishment of law enforcement officials in case of violation.

## **§2: Sanctioning Law Enforcement Officials**

**67-** Disciplinary and judicial sanctions were imposed on law enforcement officers for violation of the right to life, the right not to be subjected to torture and the right to security.

### **A: Disciplinary Sanctions**

**68-** Disciplinary sanctions were imposed on Police Officers and Gendarmes.

#### **1: Sanctions imposed by the National Security**

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**69-** Disciplinary sanctions ranging from suspension to dismissal were imposed on 13 Police Officers for assault on users, colleagues or for violation of freedom of movement. Punishment for violation of the regulations on firearms is included because of the risk of harm to life and physical integrity to which it exposes users. Moreover, these sanctions were imposed on all defaulters irrespective of their rank as shown in the table below.

**Table 1: Disciplinary Sanctions imposed by the National Security**

No	Name	Rank	Alleged Misconduct	Punishment Imposed
1	<b>DEUGOUE Jean Désiré</b>	SIP	Violence and assault on a third-party	Written Reprimand
2	<b>LONGSO Jacques</b>	SASP	Violence and brutality on a public employee	Written Reprimand
3	<b>ENGUENE MENGUELE Augustin</b>	SP1	Violence and assault on a superior	Written Reprimand
4	<b>ZOA Sebastian</b>	SASP	False arrest of public employee	Written Reprimand
5	<b>EWOMBE MBANG Michelle</b>	SIP	Assault on a superior	20-day layoff
6	<b>MESSINA Theodore</b>	SP	Misuse of firearm	Reprimand
7	<b>LEWALA Severin</b>	ASP1	Misuse of firearm	Reprimand
8	<b>ESSAMA MBAYI Thierry</b>	SPC	Violence on third parties	Reprimand
9	<b>ADEBA Romuald Toussaint</b>	PC1	Scandal in a public place and misuse of firearm	Reprimand
10	<b>NKONO EVINA Samuel</b>	SIP	Violence and brutality on a user	20-day layoff

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No	Name	Rank	Alleged Misconduct	Punishment Imposed
11	<b>Atangana Charles Désiré</b>	SASP.	Misuse of firearm	Reprimand
12	<b>BOMBA AMOUGOU Jean</b>	IP1	Violence on a person in custody	Drop in incremental position
13	<b>Ndongo Patrick Steve</b>	PC2	Assault on superiors, theft, co-offender in theft	Dismissal

**Source:** DGSN

**Legend:**

SPC: Senior Police Constable      IP2: Inspector of Police Second Grade  
 PC1: Police Constable First Grade      IP1: Inspector of Police First Grade  
 PC2: Police Constable Second Grade      SIP: Senior Inspector of Police  
 SASP: Senior Assistant Superintendent      SP: Superintendent of Police  
 of Police

## 2: Sanctions imposed by the National Gendarmerie

**70-** Disciplinary proceedings were instituted against 4 Sergeants and 1 Staff Sergeant for violation of the physical integrity of persons.

**71-** In addition to disciplinary action, judicial sanctions were imposed on Police, National Gendarmerie and Penitentiary Administration staff.

### B: Judicial sanctions

**72-** Decisions taken in judicial proceedings mentioned in the previous Report will precede proceedings and judgments delivered in 2015 by military courts.

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## 1: Proceedings mentioned in the 2014 Report

**73-** Two judgments were delivered against some law enforcement officers for judicial proceedings instituted against them in 2014<sup>17</sup>. They are:

- The People V MFACHIKO MAMA, Warrant Officer, charged before MT, Maroua for Slight harm and sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and cost of CFAF183,100 by judgment of 6/11/2015; and
- The People V PFOUER ZOLO François Sébastien, Gendarme, charged before MT, Maroua for Slight harm, violation of instruction, drunkenness and sentenced to six months imprisonment and fine of CFAF53,663<sup>18</sup> by Judgment of 6/4/2015.

## 2: Proceedings before Military Tribunals

**74-** In addition to the violations of the right to life and physical integrity, punishment of some offences such as dangerous carriage of firearm or oppression are covered because they aid in the commission of offences relating liberty of persons or to their physical and moral integrity.

**75-** The fight against impunity comprised punishment of violation of the right to life, physical and moral integrity, as well as, punishment for arrest, torture, oppression and assault. Punishment of these offences concerned both military offences and those committed by servicemen in a military establishment or during service, those involving civilians as co-offenders or accomplices of servicemen or offences within the *ratione materiae* of Military Tribunals.

**76-** Under military offences or offences committed by soldiers in a military establishment or during service, there were prosecutions for rape, slight harm, false arrest and assault on a superior.

<sup>17</sup> See *Report by the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2014*, § 82.

<sup>18</sup> About 81.93 Euros

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77- In all, in 2015, cases of torture (5), false arrest (26), slight harm (11), simple harm (23), grievous harm (7), rape (2), attempted rape (1), murder (5), capital murder (5), attempted capital murder (3), oppression (5), assault (13) and violence on civil servant (1) were recorded.

### 3) Judgments Delivered by Military Tribunals

78- Judgments were delivered by Military Tribunals against law enforcement officials for arbitrary arrest and detention, violation of physical integrity, murder and capital murder.

79- The table below summarizes, for illustrative purposes, convictions by Military Tribunals Ngaoundere, Yaounde and Bafoussam.

**Table 2: Sentences handed down by Military Tribunals Ngaoundere, Yaounde and Bafoussam**

No	Name	Rank	Offence	Military Tribunal	Sanction
1	<b>NDONGUE Etienne alias BELOKO</b>	Corporal	Desertion of post, violation of instruction (illegal use of a service weapon), arrest and detention	<b>Ngaoundere</b>	JGT No. 19 / COR / 15 of 10/27/15 Guilty, 40 days imprisonment, CFAF10,000 <sup>19</sup> fine, CFAF107,297 <sup>20</sup> costs
2	<b>KANDJA Fabien</b>	Chief Warrant Officer	Oppression, arrest, destruction and conditional threats		JGT N o. 24/15 of 14/07/15, Guilty, CFAF 200.000 <sup>21</sup> fine, CFAF 1,120,350 <sup>22</sup> costs
3	<b>NGALLA Jean</b>	Warrant Officer	Violence, assault and contempt of superior	<b>Yaounde</b>	JGT No. 1/CRIM/15 6/1/15 Guilty, 1-year imprisonment, CFAF 46,127 <sup>23</sup> costs
4	<b>NJIH MESSOCK Abraham</b>	Chief Major Warrant Officer	Abuse of authority and simple harm		JGT No. 14 / CORR / 15 27/01/15 Guilty, CFAF75,000 <sup>24</sup> fine, CFAF136,826 <sup>25</sup> costs
5	<b>TOBAGNE Zepherin</b>	Chief Major Warrant Officer	Contempt of superior officer, violence on civil servant, conditional threats and resistance		JGT No. 19 /CORR/15 27/1/15 Guilty, 5 years imprisonment, CFAF89,441 <sup>26</sup> costs
6	<b>SELMA SELMA Alain</b>	Staff Sergeant	Oppression, Simple harm, public drunkenness, arrest and false imprisonment		JGT No. 43/CORR/15 2/12/15 Guilty, 2 years imprisonment, CFAF150,695 <sup>27</sup> costs

<sup>19</sup> About 15.27 Euros

<sup>20</sup> About 163.81 Euros

<sup>21</sup> About 305.34 Euros

<sup>22</sup> About 1710.46 Euros

<sup>23</sup> About 70.42 Euros

<sup>24</sup> About 114.50 Euros

<sup>25</sup> About 208.89 Euros

<sup>26</sup> About 136.55 Euros

<sup>27</sup> About 230.07 Euros

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No	Name	Rank	Offence	Military Tribunal	Sanction
7	<b>EBASSOLA Jean OYONO</b>	Warrant Officer	Arrest and theft	<b>Yaounde</b>	JGT No. 76/CRIM/15 19/2/15 Guilty, 5 years imprisonment, CFAF200,000 <sup>28</sup> costs
8	<b>AMOUGOU ANGOA</b>	Chief warrant Officer	Unlawful retention of another's property, destruction of property, public drunkenness, simple harm, conditional threats, illegal detention and dangerous carriage of war weapon		JGT No. 82/CORR/15 3/19/15 Guilty, 5 years imprisonment, CFAF127,027 <sup>29</sup> costs
9	<b>MBARGA ENGOLA Serge Patrick J. NDI MANGA Victor Elvis NJI ACHU</b>	Staff Sergeant	Murder, violation of instruction (failure to comply with rules on the use of a service weapon)		JGT No. 113/CORR/15 21/4/15 Guilty, 5 years imprisonment (MBARGA Engola), 6 years imprisonment (NDI MANGA), 2 years imprisonment (Elvis ACHU NJI) CFAF761,504 <sup>30</sup> costs
		Sergeant			
		Gendarme			
10	<b>BENYOMO André Marie</b>	Gendarme	Violation of instruction (irregular service) and slight harm		JGT No. 65/CORR/15 5/5/15 Guilty, CFAF200,000 <sup>31</sup> fine, CFAF25,650 <sup>32</sup> costs
11	<b>OUNOUK NYAM Joseph DJATTO Jean Pierre</b>	Civilian	Aggravated theft, misrepresentation, destruction, unlawful retention of another's property, accomplice in arrest and detention, oppression, and violation of instruction		JGT No. 127 / CRIM / 15 5/5/15 Guilty of oppression, arbitrary arrest and detention, violation of instruction, 1 year imprisonment, CFAF81, 460 <sup>33</sup> costs
		Chief Warrant Officer			
12	<b>MINKALA BILOA Henry</b>	Sergeant	Destruction, Unlawful retention of another's property, simple harm and contempt of superior	JGT No. 139/CORR/15 27/05/15 Guilty, CFAF200,000 <sup>34</sup> fine, CFAF 25,650 <sup>35</sup> costs	
13	<b>FOE Ernest ATANGANA Albert</b>	Chief Warrant Officer	Violation of instruction (irregular service) arrest, conditional threat, oppression and theft with firearm	JGT No.154/CRIM/15 17/7/15 Guilty. 3 years imprisonment, CFAF500,000 <sup>36</sup> fine each, CFAF202,717 <sup>37</sup> costs	
		Chief Warrant Officer			
14	<b>NJEK John MBAH</b>	Gendarme Major	Slight harm, desertion of post and violation of instruction	JGT No. 214/CORR/15 8/25/15 Guilty. 3 years imprisonment and CFAF100,000 <sup>38</sup> fine, CFAF56, 500 <sup>39</sup> costs	

<sup>28</sup> About 305.34 Euros

<sup>29</sup> About 193.93 Euros

<sup>30</sup> About 1162.60 Euros

<sup>31</sup> About 305.34 Euros

<sup>32</sup> About 39.16 Euros

<sup>33</sup> About 124.37 Euros

<sup>34</sup> About 305.34 Euros

<sup>35</sup> About 39.16 Euros

<sup>36</sup> About 763.36 Euros

<sup>37</sup> About 309.49 Euros

<sup>38</sup> About 152.67 Euros

<sup>39</sup> About 86.26 Euros

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No	Name	Rank	Offence	Military Tribunal	Sanction
15	<b>ETEME NDZANA Simon</b>	Chief Warrant Officer	Murder and violation of instruction (illegal use of service weapon).		JGT No. 235/CORR/15 From 21/09/15 Guilty, 9 months imprisonment, suspended for 3 years, CFAF 50,000 <sup>40</sup> fine, CFAF 216 200 <sup>41</sup> costs
16	<b>MBONANG Paul</b>	Lieutenant Colonel	Violation of instruction (non-compliance with the rules on opening fire) and grievous harm		JGT No. 255/CRIM/15 10/21/15 Guilty of unintentional harm FCFA104,712 <sup>42</sup> costs
17	<b>AMBATA Gilbert</b>	Private	Arrest and detention		JGT No. 299/CRIM/15 8/12/15 Guilty, CFAF50,000 <sup>43</sup> fine, CFAF 66,390 <sup>44</sup> costs
18	<b>ABANDA Raphael Bertrand</b>	Soldier 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Violation of instruction (non-compliance with instructions on use of defence weapons), capital murder and grievous harm		JGT No. 301/CRIM/15 8/12/15 Guilty, 7 years imprisonment, CFAF 185,264 <sup>45</sup> costs
19	<b>NNA CHARITAN Noël Robert</b>	Captain	Violence and assault against subordinate, slight harm		JGT No. 305/CORR/15 10/12/15 Guilty, 3 years imprisonment and CFAF 200,000 <sup>46</sup> fine, CFAF 128,336 <sup>47</sup> costs
20	<b>KANDJA Fabien</b>  <b>FOTSO Etienne</b>	Chief Warrant Officer  Civilian	Oppression, arbitrary arrest and detention, destruction, conditional threats	<b>Bafoussam</b>	JGT No. 24/15 of 14/7/15, not guilty (FOTSO Etienne), Guilty (KANDJA Fabien) Oppression and arbitrary arrest and detention, CFAF 200,000 <sup>48</sup> fine, CFAF 1,120,350 <sup>49</sup> costs
21	<b>EPONANG SIMPOURA</b>  <b>GASKIA HAMSOU Bienvenu</b>  <b>EKANI AMBASSA</b>  <b>KAMTCHEBOU Bermando</b>	Student Assistant Officer  Student Assistant Officer  Student Assistant Officer  Student Assistant Officer	Violence, tolerance of abuse of individual rights		JGT No. 49/15 of 18/11/15 Guilty of violation of instruction, tolerance of violation of individual rights (GASKIA HAMSOU Bienvenu EKANI AMBASSA KAMTCHEBOU Bermando), sentenced to 6 months imprisonment each, and jointly and severally to costs of CFAF 626,300 <sup>50</sup>

**Source:** Department of Military Justice /MINDEF

<sup>40</sup> About 76.34 Euros

<sup>41</sup> About 330.08 Euros

<sup>42</sup> About 76.33Euros

<sup>43</sup> About 101.36 Euros

<sup>44</sup> About 282.84 Euros

<sup>45</sup> About 305.34 Euros

<sup>46</sup> About 195.93 Euros

<sup>47</sup> About 305.34 Euros

<sup>48</sup> About 1710.46 Euros

<sup>49</sup> About 956.18 Euros

<sup>50</sup> About 956.18 Euros

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## §3: Statistics on Violent Crime

**80-** Statistics on violent crime are assessed in terms of the crimes listed by Police and Gendarmerie Units and by the Judicial Services.

### A: Judicial Police Units

**81-** Data from the database of the National Gendarmerie and the National Security provide useful information on violent crime in 2015.

#### 1) National Gendarmerie

**82-** Statistics on violent crime and the number of Gendarmes killed or injured during service will be analyzed.

##### a) Statistical Data

**83-** Compared to 2014, statistics on violent crime show a clear drop in such crimes recorded in Police and National Gendarmerie Units. In this regard, from 4,382 cases recorded in 2013, it dropped to 1,870 cases in 2014 and 1,048 cases in 2015. These statistics highlight violations on the right to life (25 cases of capital murder, 145 cases of murder, 108 cases of manslaughter, 13 cases of assault occasioning death, 35 cases of abortion, 7 cases of infanticide and 107 cases of suspicious deaths), 55 cases of human trafficking, 1 case of torture, 229 cases of abduction of minors, 7 cases of indecency to minor of 16 years and 125 cases of rape.

##### b) Gendarmes killed or Injured in Service

**84-** In 2015, the National Gendarmerie was particularly affected by the war against *Boko Haram*. Besides the death of 45 Gendarmes that occurred during ordinary service, 129 died from attacks by this group, giving a total of 174 deaths. During the same period, 67 Gendarmes were hurt in service.

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**85-** These losses have not hampered the action of the National Gendarmerie that handled 7,482 cases including 3,642 persons arrested or remanded in custody and drafted 3,722 Judicial Police Reports.

## 2) National Security

**86-** Police Units recorded 1,804 cases in 2015, with an increase in cases of trafficking in persons that rose from 23 to 57 between 2015 and 2016.

**Table 3: Statistics on Violent Crime**

Offences	Number of Reports Drafted	Status of Offenders		Status of Victims		
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Children
Capital Murder	138	106	32	66	37	39
Murder	187	149	38	79	64	45
Assault occasioning death	39	28	11	13	22	7
Torture	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grievous harm	71	69	2	26	29	16
Assault occasioning grievous harm	59	45	14	16	21	22
Slight harm	333	249	84	122	146	65
Simple harm	848	665	183	341	364	143
False Arrest	17	15	2	2	7	9
Trafficking in persons	57	34	23	4	47	16
Slavery of persons	21	16	5	3	24	8
Kidnapping with fraud or violence	34	31	3	...	19	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>1407</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>386</b>

**Source:** DGSN

**87-** The proceedings established by Police and Gendarmerie Units primarily provide data for the database of judicial services.

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## B: Courts

**88-** The Courts received 5,254 Judicial Police Investigation Reports relating to violent crime. As in the previous year, victims are mainly from vulnerable groups such as women and children. The protection provided to victims led to a significant increase from 882 to 2,945 persons convicted and sentenced.

**Table 4: Judicial Statistics on Violent Crime**

Offences	Number of Judicial Police Investigations on Reports received	Number of proceedings Instituted		Persons convicted	Number of accused discharged/acquittals	Number of Victims				Offenders	
		At preliminary inquiry	Before the trial courts			M <sup>51</sup>	W	C		Number of law enforcement officials	Number of persons with authority over the victim
								B	G <sup>52</sup>		
Capital Murder	282	278	178	184	53	245	65	4	10	0	9
Murder	362	361	173	240	54	264	79	10	10	0	12
Assault occasioning death	167	166	68	125	16	140	36	6	1	5	6
Torture	10	3	5	0	1	8	1	0	1	0	2
Grievous Harm	246	169	82	109	11	126	35	19	14	0	5
Slight harm	987	76	968	468	113	565	252	25	28	0	24
Simple harm	1,882	124	1,698	1,078	147	1058	492	40	36	0	71
Kidnapping with fraud or violence	75	48	40	18	2	7	5	12	29	0	3
Arrest	81	17	78	41	21	89	14	3	4	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,335</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>3400</b>	<b>1289</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>169</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**89-** Prohibition of violation of the right to life and torture by law enforcement officials tends to punish acts committed intentionally by the latter. This is not the case with deaths in traffic accidents, which, because of their seriousness, and even in the absence of intention required Government to take appropriate action.

<sup>51</sup> M: Men; W: Women; C: Children

<sup>52</sup> B: Boy, G: Girl

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## SECTION 2: GUARANTEEING THE RIGHT TO LIFE BY REDUCING ROAD ACCIDENT DEATHS

**90-** The safety of persons requires respect of the right to life and physical integrity of road users. This concern guided Government strategy in 2015. Compared to other means of travel (air, rail and sea), the worrying number of injuries and deaths related to road accidents led Government to take measures to drastically reduce the violation of the right to life and physical integrity of persons.

### §1: Statistics on Road Accidents

**91-** Violations of the right to life and physical integrity of persons related to road accidents are of concern. The high number of persons injured or killed in 2012, 2013 and 2014 is indicative of the risks incurred and the drive initiated by Government with a view to reducing them. This number is explained by both the non-compliance with regulatory requirements by drivers and the poor state of roads and road signs, particularly on the accident-prone Bafoussam, Yaounde and Douala highways. The following statistics are illustrative:

**Table 5: Statistics on Road Accidents**

Year	2012	2013	2014
Number of accidents	3,398	3,071	3,064
Number of injured persons	4,284	4,630	4,043
Number of deaths	1,058	1,170	1,081

**Source:** Ministry of Transport

**92-** Government took appropriate measures as a result of these statistics.

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## §2: Measures to Reduce Road Accidents

93- Government took both preventive and corrective measures to reduce the number of persons injured or killed in road accidents.

### A: Preventive Measures

94- Preventive measures are related to vehicle safety, training in driving and the safety of road users.

#### 1) Vehicle Safety measures

95- The Ministry of Transport increased the number of Vehicle Testing Centres from 20 to 27. This increase by 7 additional centres is part of the strategy to bring Technical Control Centres closer to road users.

96- To supplement this strategy, particular emphasis was placed on the harmonization of the technical inspection sheet such that henceforth, all Centres control the same aspects.

#### 2) Driving-related Measures

97- Appropriate measures including reform of the regulatory framework and a more enhanced supervision of driving licence examination sessions were taken to enhance partnership between the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training.

##### a) Regulatory Framework Reform

98- As part of improving the organization of the driving licence examination and the functioning of driving schools, the Minister of Transport signed 2 instruments: Order No.183/MINT of 8 September 2015 to lay down the conditions for obtaining, suspending and withdrawing driving licences and Order No. 184/MINT of 8 September 2015 to lay down conditions for the opening and running of driving schools.

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## b) Enhancement of Driving Licence Examination Sessions

99- In 2015, 9 driving licence examination sessions were organized on fixed dates throughout the country. In addition, 26 special sessions for motorcycle riders only were organized in 7 Regions on different dates. The table below contains results of the examination and special sessions:

**Table 6: Results of the Driving Licence and Special Examinations Sessions**

Regions	Driving Licence Examination Sessions			Special Examination Sessions for motorcyclists		
	Number of registered candidates	Number of successful candidates	Number of unsuccessful candidates	Number of registered candidates	Number of successful candidates	Number of unsuccessful candidates
Adamawa	6167	4654	128	173	173	0
Centre	4,4403	3,2309	1,290	1,472	1,232	240
East	4,862	3,523	60	0	0	0
Far North	8,573	6,266	111	1,140	1,091	49
Littoral	3,5603	2,7542	741	425	379	45
North	6,646	5,275	261	0	0	0
North West	1,2925	10,196	413	0	0	0
West	1,0771	7,906	224	969	860	1,09
South	2,658	1,674	211	125	114	11
South West	7,287	4,839	105	186	159	27

**Source:** Ministry of Transport

## 3) Safety Measures for Road Users

100- These measures focused on awareness raising and the acquisition of prevention and road safety equipment.

### a) Awareness-raising Measures

101- Awareness-raising activities including 4 field trips by the Minister of Transport were conducted in schools, along highways and communities along highways, and travel agencies during peak periods and the media (radio and television).

101-1- Besides, 2 refresher courses were organized in Yaounde and Bafoussam for 47 and 57 professional drivers respectively, giving a total of 107 trained professional drivers.

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## b) Acquisition of Prevention and Road Safety Equipment

102- Aware of the stakes relating to both the prevention of road accidents and the safety of road users, Government funded the acquisition of adequate material worth CFA1,210,127,660<sup>53</sup>. The equipment, cost and destination are indicated in the table below:

**Table 7: Acquisition of Prevention and Road Safety Equipment**

Type of equipment	Number	Cost (CFAF)	Beneficiary
Crane for removal of obstacles	5	1,000,000,000 <sup>54</sup>	Ministry of Transport
Motorcycle	5	99,250,000 <sup>55</sup>	Administrative garage
Lamp panel	10	110,877,660 <sup>56</sup>	Installation on the Yaounde-Douala road as well as in both towns
Fixed radar	15	690,758,080 <sup>57</sup>	Yaounde-Douala Road

**Source:** Ministry of Transport

103- These preventive measures were accompanied by corrective measures.

### B: Corrective Measures

104- Corrective measures were aimed at assisting victims and punishing offenders.

#### 1) Emergency Assistance to Victims

105- To facilitate the immediate evacuation of road accident victims, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Public Health agreed to provide and immediately deploy the Emergency Medical Action Service (SAMU) teams to accident sites.

<sup>53</sup> About 1,847,523.14 Euros

<sup>55</sup> About 151,526.71 Euros

<sup>57</sup> About 105,459.35 Euros

<sup>54</sup> About 1,526,717.55 Euros

<sup>56</sup> About 169,278.87 Euros

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## 2) Sanctions

106- Administrative or judicial sanctions were taken against individuals and corporate bodies involved in road accidents.

### a) Administrative Sanctions

107- In 2015, 3 decisions to withdraw or suspend driving licences were taken against individuals.

### b) Judicial Proceedings

108- Injuries and loss of lives recorded in road accidents led to the prosecution of offenders before the Courts for harm or unintentional killing.

109- In 2015, the courts heard 1,032 cases on unintentional killing, with an estimated 1,293 victims, including 890 men, 304 women and 99 children. At the end of the proceedings before the trial courts, 622 persons were convicted while 33 were acquitted.

110- The punishment for violations of the right to life did not overshadow the enhancement of individual freedoms.

## SECTION 3: LITIGATION ON FREEDOM

111- In 2015, guarantees on the right to freedom were reaffirmed and statistical data collected can be used to assess its importance.

### §1: Guaranteeing the Right to Freedom

112- These guarantees comprise management of pre-trial detention and reasoned remand warrant.

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## A: Guidelines for the Management of Remands

**113-** Overcrowding remains a concern for Justice and public authorities. This theme was submitted for consideration by Heads of Courts of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration during their Annual Meeting held on 17 and 18 September 2015. Following this meeting, the Minister of Justice recommended the effective implementation of legal provisions relating to the exceptional nature of detention and the requirement for diligent treatment of detainees' proceedings.

**113-1-** The desire to regulate detention also led the Supreme Court to take a stand on the need for reasoned remand warrant.

## B: Reasoned Remand Warrants

**114 -** The remand warrant should be reasoned by the Judge<sup>58</sup>. The Supreme Court pointed this out in *Paul Eric Kingue v. The Procureur General, Court of Appeal Littoral, Société des Plantations du Haut-Penja* and *Songa Daniel*<sup>59</sup>, in declaring the nullity of the remand warrant issued on 19 March 2008 against Paul Eric Kingue, on the ground that the case file contained no reasoned Order of the said warrant.

## §2: Statistics on Litigation on Freedom

**115-** There were 21,135 pre-trial detainees<sup>60</sup> in 2015, out of which 5,894 were released against 3,230 in the previous year as shown in the table below:

<sup>58</sup> Section 208 of the CPC

<sup>59</sup> JGT No. 71/P of 16 July 2015

<sup>60</sup> These statistics relate to persons detained in connection with proceedings pending before the ordinary courts

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**Table 8: Litigation on Freedom**

Jurisdic tions	Number of persons remanded in custody	Number of applications for bail			Number of persons released By judge of his own motion		Number of detainees discharged/acquitted		Number of release decisions reviewed by Courts <sup>61</sup> of Appeal
		At preliminary inquiry		At the hearing	At prelimin ary inquiry	At the hearing	With bail	Without bail	
		Number granted	number rejected	Number granted					
CFI	14,731	881	350	3,811	1,067	842	4,354	950	0
HC	6,178	826	563	291	525	310	728	156	0
CA	226	20	4	65	33	18	46	11	15
SC	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,135</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>5,128</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>15</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

116- Moreover, appeals in proceedings for immediate release were effective and reflected the inclusion of the requirements of the respect for the legality of detention whether ordered by a Military Tribunal or Ordinary Law Courts. Thus, at the level of the Courts of Appeal, 189 decisions for immediate release were delivered against one rejection.

117- The Criminal Division of the Supreme Court received 2 applications for release which are pending.

118- This situation is given in the table below:

**Table 9: Habeas corpus**

	Number of motions for <i>habeas corpus</i> based on different types of detention	Administrative Detention		Detention by Military Courts		Detention by ordinary courts	
		Granted	Rejected	Granted	Rejected	Granted	Rejected
		HC	57	11	0	25	6
CA	11	2	0	0	0	189	1
SC	2	...	...	...	...	...	...

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

<sup>61</sup> Statistics from the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court

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**119** - The punishment for violation of the right to life and the prohibition of torture demonstrate Government's willingness not to allow any derogation to these rights which constitute the so-called "Core" Human Rights. This has been expressed through preventive measures focused on strengthening the capacities of law enforcement officials, the punishment of both horizontal and vertical violations noted and the reduction of the number of deaths due to road accidents. The principle of guarantee of the consecration of freedom and security of the person guided the administrative and jurisprudential guidelines for loss of liberty of persons whose physical integrity must be assured.

**120**- However, protection of the right to life and to physical integrity was hampered by significant difficulties that considerably affected the reaction of some stakeholders in the response chain. The difficulties are caused by uncontrolled urbanization that prevents the deployment of security forces and therefore extends response time, poor telephone networks and poor cooperation of urban dwellers, some of whom believe that they are not involved in the fight against insecurity.

**121**- Furthermore, considerable efforts should be devoted to improving road traffic lanes, better road signs, the fight against fake driving licences and raising the awareness of road users.



**Chapter** 2

**RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL**



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**122-** The right to fair trial is considered a key element of Human Rights. That is why in 2015, it was based on several standards and indicators ranging from guaranteeing access to the courts and proceedings as well as the rights of litigants.

## SECTION 1: GUARANTEES RELATING TO COURTS AND PROCEEDINGS

**123-** The need for proper administration of justice underpins the need to respect guarantees relating to access to the courts and proceedings.

### §1: Guaranteeing Access to Courts

**124-** The establishment of Regional Administrative Courts has increased the number of administrative matters heard and determined. Such improvement in access to justice calls for special focus on the requirement of competence, fairness, and the independence of all the courts.

#### A: Activities of Administrative Courts

**125-** From 2013<sup>62</sup> to 2015, 6,604 appeals were filed before 9 of the 10 Administrative Courts (AC) in the country<sup>63</sup>. Data from these Courts show that most of the appeals were filed before the AC, Yaounde (3,987) and AC, Douala (1,506). The AC Bertoua and Maroua received the least number of appeals, that is, 37 and 39 respectively.

**126-** Besides, most matters filed before these ACs were related to land, tax and financial disputes. In addition, more judgments were entered for the State than against it.

**127-** Furthermore, judgments against the State reflect the requirement of submission of the Administration to the Rule of Law.

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<sup>62</sup> Effective date of commencement of these Courts.

<sup>63</sup> Apart from the AC, Garoua.

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**128-** The following table reflects the breakdown of appeals filed before ACs in the country.

**Table 1: Breakdown of Appeals in 9 ACs**

Administrative Court	Number of Judgments		Number of Rulings	
	In favour of the State	Against the State	In favour of the State	Against the State
<b>Yaounde</b>	117	74	159	121
<b>Douala</b>	30	26	89	86
<b>Bafoussam</b>	14	12	14	7
<b>Buea</b>	11	1	41	0
<b>Bamenda</b>	21	9	9	0
<b>Bertoua</b>	7	0	1	1
<b>Maroua</b>	8	0	2	0
<b>Ngaoundere</b>	9	2	2	3
<b>Ebolowa</b>	7	3	2	1

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**129** - Analysis of some judgments delivered by ACs shows that poor mastery of the rules of procedure can be an obstacle to accessing justice in administrative matters. The non-respect of the requirement to file a complaint to hierarchy before seising the AC is sufficiently illustrative of this fact, as demonstrated by case-law from some ACs.

**130-** In Judgments No. 5/AFD of 17 November 2015 and No. 4/AFD of 17 November 2015, **AMADOU BELLO** and **ABBA DALA** v The State of Cameroon (MINDCAF) and **OUMAROU TCHARI** v The State of Cameroon (MINFI) and **DAIROU ADARUM**) respectively, the AC, Maroua declared the plaintiffs' applications inadmissible on the grounds that they were time barred pursuant to Section 17(3) of Law No. 2006/22 of 29 December 2006 to lay down the organization and

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functioning of Administrative Courts. In fact, the plaintiffs in both cases were criticized for failure to respect the time limit for seising the AC following the implicit rejection of the complaint by the authority who issued<sup>64</sup> the challenged act.

**131-** In Judgment No.1/ADD/AFAD of 3 November 2015), (**Emmanuel YAGOUBA v The State of Cameroon**), the AC, Maroua declared that the complaint must be sent to the authority who issued the challenged decision. In the instant case, the act in dispute was taken by the Senior Divisional Officer, Diamaré to whom the complaint had to be sent and not the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation. It concluded: *"...consequently, because the complaint was misdirected, it is considered non-existent and therefore the application should be declared inadmissible."*

**132 -** Poor mastery of the rules of procedure before the AC shows the urgent need to educate judicial stakeholders, in particular litigants, on administrative procedure.

## B- Competent, Independent and Impartial Court

**133-** The requirement for quality justice has made it incumbent on the Judicial Power to reiterate the rules of jurisdiction and those relating to the independence and impartiality of the court.

### 1) Rules of Jurisdiction

**134 -** The obligation to respect rules of jurisdiction was reiterated in both Administrative and Judicial Courts. In **The People and CAMTEL v SAGARA MODIE**, the Supreme Court, in Judgment No. 9/SSP/CS of 27 October 2015, reiterated the special character of the jurisdiction of the Special Criminal Court<sup>65</sup> (SCC). In this case, the Court was faulted for holding that it had jurisdiction over a matter after amending the charge

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<sup>64</sup> In fact, the Administration's silence over 3 months after deposit of the complaint is deemed implicit rejection of same.

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from misappropriation of public funds, with respect to 5 tons of *CAMTEL* cables valued at CFAF231,684,618<sup>65</sup>, to attempted violation of the export ban on scrap and metal waste pursuant to Sections 74 and 94 of the Penal Code and Articles 9 and 11 of Order No.237/MINIMIDT/CAB of 19 July 2008 to lay down conditions for the collection, transportation, storage, processing and export of scrap.

**135-** Since the SCC was incompetent to handle the new charge, namely the attempted violation of the ban on exports of scrap and metal waste, the Supreme Court stated *"the Court was wrong to hold that it was fully competent to try accused persons brought before it, regardless of the offence."*

## 2) Independence and Impartiality

**136-** During the judicial year, measures were taken to strengthen the independence of courts as well as guarantee their impartiality.

### a) Independence of Courts

**137-** In order to establish the independence of the Court, measures were taken to upgrade the qualifications of Judicial and Legal Officers, as well as the material and financial conditions provided for the functioning of the judicial system.

**138-** On this score, in 2015, many Judicial and Legal Officers took part in capacity building courses organized both in and out of the country, to

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<sup>65</sup> Law No. 2011/28 of 14 December 2011 to set up the Special Criminal Court as amended by Law No. 2012/11 of 16 July 2012 states the competence *ratione materiae* of this Court. Thus, Section 2 provides "The Court shall be competent to hear and determine matters, where the loss amounts to at least CFAF50,000,000 (about76,335.88 Euros) relating to misappropriation of public property and other related offences provided for in the Penal Code and International Conventions ratified by Cameroon".

<sup>66</sup> About 353,716.97 Euros

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improve on their professional skills. Thus, 1 63 Judicial and Legal Officers received 10 training modules<sup>67</sup>, while 85 State Employees governed by the Labour Code were trained in Administrative Writing, Judicial Ethics and deontology.

**139-** Efforts to improve the working conditions of judicial staff led to an increase in both the budget of the Supreme Court (SC) and MINJUSTICE.

**140-** The SC received CFAF4.728,000,000<sup>68</sup> in 2015 against CFAF4,410,000,000<sup>69</sup> in 2014, that is an increase of CFAF318 ,000,000<sup>70</sup>.

**141-** The budget of MINJUSTICE was also increased. It received CFAF47,992,000,000<sup>71</sup>, that is 1.25% of the State budget<sup>72</sup> that stood at FCFA3,746,600,000,000<sup>73</sup>. A small fraction of this budget, that is CFAF5,000,000,000<sup>74</sup>, was devoted to investment while the remaining CFAF42.992,000,000,000<sup>75</sup> was used as running budget.

**141-1-** In order to further facilitate the work of judicial staff, MINJUSTICE acquired 521 complete computers, 143 photocopy machines, 500 record books, 286 office chairs, 256 tables, 278 visitors' chairs, 38 wooden secretaries' tables, 112 storage cabinets and 30 wooden-glass cabinets.

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<sup>67</sup> These included, Litigation under the OHADA Acts in Porto-Novo, terrorism issues in Washington, trans-border crime in Rabat, Legal Science and Civil Law in Cairo, fake drugs control in Yaounde, the treatment of minors associated with terrorist groups in Dakar, corruption control in St. Petersburg, and the punishment of cybercrime in Yaounde.

<sup>68</sup> About 7, 218,320.61 Euros

<sup>69</sup> About 6, 732,824.42 Euros

<sup>70</sup> About 485,496.18 Euros

<sup>71</sup> About 5720,000,000

<sup>72</sup> 73 270 229,01 Euros

<sup>73</sup> Based on the standard proposed by the Special Rapporteur of Judges and Lawyers, the budget allocated to the judicial system should be between 2 and 6% of the national budget.

<sup>74</sup> About 7,633,587.78 Euros

<sup>75</sup> About 65,636,641.22 Euros..

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**142-** Moreover, the independence of the Judge came up incidentally before the SC in a matter brought before same: can the Judge hearing a case, request additional information from the Examining Magistrate to buttress a conviction, without weakening the principle of the separation of the functions of criminal justice?

**143-** The SC, in response, reiterated that Law No. 2011/28 of 14 December 2011 to set up a Special Criminal Court as amended and supplemented by Law No. 2012/11 of 16 July 2012 did not prohibit the SCC from applying ordinary law rules of procedure. On the contrary, Section 6 of this Law specifically refers to the provisions of the CPC for rules of procedure. This is the purport of the Rejection Decision No. 4/SSP/CS of 22 November 2015 in the matter **KAPTUE TAGNE Serges Bruce** and Others v The People and the State of Cameroon (MINFOF- RIGC Project). In the matter, a complaint was filed against the SCC for ordering additional information in proceedings against **KAPTUE TAGNE Serges Bruce** in application of the provisions of Sections 389 and 390 of the CPC, on the grounds that Section 390 of the CPC was only applicable before the Court of First Instance. The SC ruled that the SCC is empowered to order for additional information, just as the Court of First Instance and the High Court.

## b) Guarantees on Impartiality

**144-** The impartiality of Judicial Officers was questioned in 2015. In this regard, 45 applications for recusal were submitted. Eight of them were granted and 4 rejected. The remaining 33 applications are pending.

**145-** Two of these applications for recusal were directed against Supreme Court Judges demonstrating that the obligation of impartiality applies to all Judicial and Legal Officers.

**146-** The number of applications for recusal brought before the Courts of Appeal in 2015 increased from 6 in 2014 to 43 in 2015 while those brought before the Supreme Court dropped considerably from 19 in 2014 to 2 in 2015.

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**147-** No petition was submitted in 2015 against a Judge for miscarriage of justice.

## §2: Guarantees at Trial

**148-** Trial was the parameter used to determine the quality procedures, especially the exceptional nature of hearings in camera and the consolidation of the right to be tried without undue delay.

### A: Hearings in Camera

**149-** Public trial is a general principle of law. The purpose of public hearings is to ensure that proceedings are transparent. It is an important safeguard of the interest of the individual and the entire society<sup>76</sup>, as illustrated by the 168,027 cases that were heard in open court in 2015.

**150-** However, there was an increase in the number of cases heard in camera in 2015, either at the request of the parties or by the court of its own motion. Cases heard in camera remain an exception. Court sessions may be held in camera only where the interest of good morals, public order or national security in a democratic society or the privacy of the parties involved, the court finds it absolutely necessary or where, because of the particular circumstances of the case, publicity would jeopardize justice. Thus, 1491 cases representing 0.88% were heard in camera including 1,314 ordered by the judge of his own motion and 177 at the request of the parties. The table below relates to these findings.

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<sup>76</sup> General Comment No. 32 of the Human Rights Committee.

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**Table 2: Right to Public Trial**

	Number of proceedings in open court	Number of Cases heard in Camera	
		Judge of his own motion	At the request of the parties
<b>CFI</b>	105,136	774	58
<b>TPD</b>	26,886	18	90
<b>HC</b>	12,546	445	29
<b>CA</b>	22,437	9	0
<b>SC</b>	1,022	68	0

Source: Legal Departments of Courts of Appeal

## B: Right to be Tried without Undue Delay

**151-** Hearing a case promptly is an important aspect of fair trial because justice delayed is justice denied.

**152-** This cardinal requirement was reiterated by the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals in his speech during the installation of the Procureur General at the Special Criminal Court on 9 October 2015. The Minister emphasized the need to respect the time limit for hearing cases, and the enforcement of some procedural acts.

**153-** The Minister of Justice admitted the existence of material contingencies which he said should not result in non-compliance with the rules of judicial proceedings. To this end, he asked judicial staff to carry out their duty promptly, and respect the rights of parties.

**154-** In Judgment No. 3/CCS/SSP/CS of 30 June 2014 (*The People and the State of Cameroon (MINFI) v Djidere Etina and Others*), the issue of non-compliance with time limits was raised before the SC. In fact, the SC observed that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 (3) of Law No.

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2011/28 of 14 December 2011 to set up a SCC as amended and supplemented by Law No. 2012/11 of 16 July 2011, the period of 180 days granted the Examining Magistrate from preferment of the holding charge to closure of the preliminary inquiry is indicative. In a nutshell, the SC ruled that:

*“The legislator did not provide a procedural sanction in case of failure to comply with this time limit. At most, the Examining Magistrate shall be liable to disciplinary sanctions as provided for in Section 17 of the aforementioned law. It follows that the 180 days granted the Judge of the Special Criminal Court to close the preliminary inquiry is purely indicative and non-compliance shall not result in declining jurisdiction”.*

**155-** The call to respect procedural time limits was accompanied by the guarantee of the rights of litigants.

## SECTION 2: RIGHTS OF LITIGANTS

**156-** The guarantees granted litigants were observed through consolidation of the rights of defence and the right to file an appeal.

### §1: Consolidation of the Rights of Defence

**157-** Respect for the rights of the defence was demonstrated through the right to counsel and the right to legal aid.

#### A: Right to Counsel

**158-** There was a great demand for the service of Advocates in 2015, thus highlighting the importance of the right to counsel. Thus, with the exception of the SC where the presence of counsel is obligatory, parties to cases before other courts benefited from the legal assistance of counsel chosen by themselves or officially appointed by the Court, where the law so requires. Counsel provided assistance to parties in some 10,580 cases in 2015 as against 8,365 in 2014. Furthermore, 1,649 counsel were officially appointed in 2015 as against 1,481 in 2014.

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**159-** As in the previous year, the number of counsel paid by parties was greater than counsel assigned by the Court, as shown in the table below:

**Table 3: Right to Counsel**

Courts	Number of Accused (AC) /Complainants (C) / Applicants (APP) Civil Defendants (CDF) assisted										Number of officially appointed Counsel	Number of Counsel briefed by the suspect/ accused
	Civil		Labour		Customary		Misdemeanours and simple offences		Criminal			
	APP	CDF	APP	CDF	APP	CDF	C	DF	C	AC		
CFI	1,188	1,076	462	411	2,214	879	1,6224	2,0962	53	117	659	7324
HC	2,198	1,853	806	320	49	59	58	149	1,186	2,797	985	2,779
CA	2,577	279	410	115	150	23	289	571	98	119	5	477

**Source:** Legal Departments of Courts of Appeal

**160-** Disciplinary proceedings were also initiated in 2015 against some lawyers for violation of professional ethics. In this regard, 143 applications were received by the Bar Association’s Disciplinary Committee. Some 74 decisions were taken out of which 49 closures and 5 acquittals. Regarding sanctions, 5 lawyers were disbarred, 4 suspended, 2 called to order and 9 reprimanded. The other cases are still under investigation.

**161-** In cases where litigants were unable to afford the services of counsel or access to justice they were granted legal aid.

## **B: Right to Legal Aid**

**162-** During the reference year, 220 applications for legal aid were recorded of which 69 were partially or fully granted. In addition, the inclusive approach also prevailed with the granting of legal aid to 2 persons from vulnerable groups. The table below is quite illustrative:

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**Table 4: Statistics on Legal Aid**

	Number of applications for legal aid	Number of decisions rejecting legal aid	Number of decisions granting legal aid		Number of beneficiaries:		
			Full Grant	Partial grant	Men	Women	Others (Detainees, Refugees, Indigenous people (Pygmies, Mbororo) + Persons living with disability)
CFI	71	28	17	1	23	9	2
HC	127	27	46	3	46	12	0
CA	22	0	2	0	1	1	0
SC	23	3	8	1	7	1	0

**Source: Legal Departments of Courts of Appeal**

**163-** However litigants before the AC were not granted legal aid since these courts do not have Legal Aid Commissions.

## **§2: Right to Appeal**

**164-** Pursuant to Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, review of a case before a court is a fundamental guarantee of the right to fair trial. This guarantee was implemented in 2015 in the 10 judicial regions. However, about 689 files were not forwarded to appellate courts for lack of payment of the costs of reproduction of records of proceedings. Notwithstanding the inability of some litigants to pay the costs of reproduction of records of proceedings, it is often difficult to determine the authority in charge of receiving such fees in some proceedings. This difficulty stems from the concurrent application of the provisions of Section 23(6) of Law No.2006/15 of 29 December 2006 on judicial organization and those of Section 487 of the CPC. These provisions authorise either the Registrar-in-Chief of the Court that delivered the decision under appeal, or that of the SC to reproduce the case file.

**165-** In the review of appeals filed before it, the SC interpreted some legal provisions to clarify their meaning to lower courts. Thus, among the grounds for inadmissibility, there is the obligation to comply with the formalities of the appeal, which was highlighted in the SC Judgment No.

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7/CCI/SSPSC of 19 August 2015, in the case **Etienne TIAKO** v The People and SONARA. In fact, the SC affirmed respect for the provisions of Section 479 (2) of the CPC, relating to the need to petition the President of the SC as follows: *“the appellant shall address to the President of the Supreme Court an application setting out and arguing the grounds of appeal. The application shall be filed at the registry of the Inquiry Control Chamber for onward transmission.”*

**166-** Failure to comply with these formalities results in inadmissibility of the appeal as held by the SC in the following terms:

*“Whereas his application registered at the Registry as said above is not the ground of his appeal, but rather a separate and autonomous action, as illustrated by some excerpts of that act;*

*That because in the instant case, Mr. TIAKO Etienne did not send a petition that fulfils the conditions stated above to the President of the Supreme Court, the appeal against the contested judgment shall be inadmissible; That because the applicant did not satisfy the conditions required by law, his appeal shall accordingly be declared inadmissible.”*

**167-** By Judgment No. 8/CCI/SSP/CS of 4 September 2015 (The people and CAMTEL v **DJOULDE YOUNGOUA**), the Court declared the appeal by the Legal Department of the Courts of Mokolo to the Chief Justice of the SC inadmissible, for violation of Section 42 of Law No. 2006/16 of 29 December 2006 to lay down the organization and functioning of the SC which provides: *“an appeal, in judicial matters, shall be inadmissible unless it is made by a notice lodged at the registry of the court from where the Judgment emanates.”* In fact, it said *“in this case, the State Counsel at the Court of First Instance, MOKOLO and of the High Court, Mayo-Tsanaga instead of filing the appeal at the Registry of the courts, rather petitioned, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It is therefore necessary to declare his appeal inadmissible”*

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**168-** The right to fair trial was further guaranteed in 2015. Indeed, the increasing volume of litigation before the ACs is proof that the opening of Regional Administrative Courts has enhanced access to justice. In addition, the independence and impartiality of the Court were further consolidated to achieve quality justice notably with the training of judicial staff or the growing number of recusals of Judicial and Legal Officers recorded before the CAs. Concerning guarantees granted to litigants, the SC took advantage of claims filed before it to reaffirm some legal principles. However, these achievements do not overshadow the gray areas, such as lack of a Legal Aid Commission before the AC, insufficient means allocated to MINJUSTICE or judicial delays that remain a concern. It is therefore imperative to control time limits for proceedings, at least with the notion of reasonable delay.



**Chapter**

**3**

**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION  
AND COMMUNICATION**



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**169-** The review of the normative framework of the telecommunications sector, the extension of telecommunications networks and the improvement of access to information are major events that helped enhance freedom of expression and communication in Cameroon. Nonetheless, the responsibility of some media stakeholders was challenged by the regulatory bodies and the Courts.

## SECTION 1: REVIEW OF NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK OF COMMUNICATIONS SECTORS

**170-** Law No. 2015/6 of 20 April 2015 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2010/13 of 21 December 2010 to regulate electronic communications, and Law No. 2015/7 of 14 April 2015 governing audiovisual activity have brought significant progress in the electronic communications sector and in audiovisual activities.

### §1: Innovations

**171-** Consideration of audiovisual sector operators, amendment of concession procedures and the change in the allocation of royalties collected from electronic communications network operators are the major innovations introduced by Law No. 2015/6 of 20 April 2015 to regulate electronic communications.

#### A: Consideration of Audiovisual Operators

**172-** The establishment and operation of multiplex and broadcast networks that are activities which fall under the audiovisual sector, but which use electronic communications as a medium were introduced in the amended Law, as networks that could be granted concession in full or in part by one or more public or private law corporate bodies.

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## B: Amendment of Rules for Granting Concessions

**173-** Section 9 (new) (2) of Law No. 2015/6 of 20 April 2015 on the conditions for granting concessions<sup>77</sup> no longer considers competition as a condition for granting same, as provided for in Law No. 2010/13 of 21 December 2010.

**174-** In fact, the new provision highlights the granting of the concession to any corporate body that is committed to respecting the regulatory provisions in force and the ensuing specifications.

**175-** While this open policy gives Government room to select candidates for the concession, it equally enshrines the mutual agreement procedure.

## C: Taxes

**176-** Under the former Law, 1.5% was deducted from the turnover, exclusive of tax, of electronic communications network operators and paid to the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART). The new Law shares that percentage between ART (1%) and the National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC) (0.5%). This distribution helps to strengthen the financial capacity of ANTIC.

**177-** Furthermore, Section 34 (4) (new) also provides for the deposit of all resources of the Special Telecommunications Fund (STF) collected by ART, at an authorized financial institution and not in the Public Treasury account.

**178-** Innovations were also recorded in the audiovisual sector.

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<sup>77</sup> It is the privilege that the State grants a corporation, to operate a network and provide electronic communications services.

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## §2: Organization of the Audiovisual Sector

**179-** The organization of the audiovisual sector seemed indispensable for the adaptation of the audiovisual landscape to the requirement of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which required all African States to switch no later than 17 June 2015, from analogue to digital broadcasting. Thus, the need to update the sector is even more urgent due to the introduction of new audiovisual activities in Law No. 2015/7 of 20 April 2015. Furthermore, this Law provides for the setting up of a Special Development Fund to support audiovisual activity.

### A: Updating the Audiovisual Sector

**180-** To update the audiovisual sector, the legislator, for the first time ever, adopted a law specifically governing audiovisual activities in Cameroon. The said Law defines the legal regimes applicable to audiovisual activities, determines the rights and obligations of business operators and lays down the terms and conditions of service delivery.

**181-** This Law was necessary because of drifts characterized by the proliferation of poor quality TV channels that very often offered programmes with poor local content. Thus, emphasis was laid on promoting the production of audiovisual works in general and artistic works in particular, the protection of vulnerable groups and consumers of audio-visual products.

### B: New Audiovisual Activities

**182-** With the advent<sup>78</sup> of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), new activities were introduced in the audiovisual landscape. These activities include storage and conservation of audiovisual content, multiplexing activities and/or dissemination of audiovisual communication signals.

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<sup>78</sup> Only Yaounde and Douala and their environs have successfully switched over. The move shall continue gradually throughout the country.

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**183-** Activities on the storage and preservation of audiovisual content consist in collecting programmes from publishers, producers and all holders of works that fall under the national production, for preservation in the national audiovisual heritage. The State is responsible for these activities.

**184-** Actions on multiplexing and/or broadcasting of audiovisual communication signals consist in collecting programmes and other audiovisual services from publishers who hold a suitable operating licence, technically assembling them and broadcasting same to different audiences. The activities are incumbent upon the State and they have been entrusted to Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), in its capacity as a multiplexing and broadcasting Public Company<sup>79</sup>. It is on the grounds of these new duties that CRTV organized a DTT forum from 19 to 21 October 2015. The major resolution taken at the end of this forum was that the national radio (CRTV) set up an experimental bundle of 12 TV channels including 3 international and 9 national channels.

**185-** This experimental bundle was intended to ensure the effective switch over and measure the spatial propagation of the signal as well as its quality and stability over time.

**186-** Moreover, to occupy the spaces created by DTT, arrangements were made during this forum for CRTV to provide 6 new TV channels. This involves splitting the national TV into the following 6 separate channels: CRTV General, CRTV News, CRTV Sport, CRTV Regional, CRTV Culture, and CRTV Youth.

**187-** DTT will ensure a decrease in radio and TV communications interference since digitalization solves the problem of saturated radio frequencies. It is expected that this will result in improved image and sound quality and many other innovations. It will be possible for instance, to provide real-time audience broadcast rate.

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<sup>79</sup> Pursuant to Section 66 of Law No. 2015/7 cited above.

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**188-** The setting up of the Special Development Broadcasting Fund is part of these achievements.

## C: Special Development Fund

**189-** To support audiovisual projects and programmes, in particular activities aimed at the development of the audiovisual sector, Law No. 2015/7 of 20 April 2015 established the Special Development Fund. The Fund comes in the wake of a recommendation of the National Communication Forum held in Yaounde from 5 to 7 December 2012<sup>80</sup>.

**190-** In fact, the recommendation urged Government to encourage the emergence of genuine audiovisual companies. Section 62 of the said Law provides: *“the Fund’s resources shall be derived notably from the share of annual contributions from licensed audiovisual media under the terms and conditions in force, the share of annual fees collected by the body responsible for allocating radiofrequencies and the share of concession entry and renewal fees of electronic communication network operators open to the public.”*

**191-** It is hoped that other recommendations of the General Forum will also be implemented, such as the Collective Agreement by press organs that was strongly requested by journalists during the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Day on Freedom of Expression celebrated on 3 May 2015.

**192-** All these achievements will only be visible if the telecommunications network covers the entire country.

## SECTION 2: EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

**193-** The year 2015 was marked by the development of the ICTs and Post Office sectors with a view to covering a large number of areas on the postal network.

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<sup>80</sup> See Chapter on Freedom of Expression and Communication, 2012 Report, § 170 and seq

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## § 1: Development of Communications Sector

**194-** Several actions were taken in 2015 to continue expansion of the national communications network. Fibre optics was laid over a distance of 5,500 km, bringing the total distance of fibre optics laid to 11,000 km. This coverage increased the number of Multipurpose Community Telecentres (MCT) thereby helping reduce the digital divide and promoting the use of computers by rural dwellers.

**195-** Urban fibre optics loops of 35.2 km and 39.42 km respectively were constructed in Limbe and Maroua. This infrastructure will considerably improve the quality of telecommunications in both cities.

**196-** Moreover, the 2nd phase of the Central African Backbone Project was launched in July 2015. This is an extension of the national fibre optics backbone with 3 neighbouring countries: Central African Republic, Congo and Nigeria. The objective of this project is to lay 916 km of fibre optics towards these countries to facilitate interconnection with them.

**197-** Besides these infrastructural extensions, digital complexes were constructed in Maroua and Bamenda and 2 Internet Exchange Points in Yaounde and Douala. Furthermore, 78 sites were connected in 2015 to the optical fibre.

**198-** In addition, mobile network coverage in Bakassi notably DJabane, Akwa, Bamusso, and PC-RIO enabled this part of the country to be connected and reduced the digital divide in Cameroon. The country has reached the 11% Internet penetration threshold.

**199-** Infrastructure to cover ICTs and telecommunications services for the 2016 and 2019 African Cup of Nations was also set up. This concerns completion of the procurement process for linking and wiring stadiums and hotels.

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**200-** Furthermore, the continued improvement of access to ICTs is also reflected by the technical rehabilitation of CRTV with the renewal of technical equipment for production and broadcast at Mballa II, Mbankolo in Yaounde , and Logbessou in Douala.

**201-** The CRTV Rebroadcasting Centre (Radio and TV), at Banyo, has been constructed and it is operational within the framework of REDCOMZOFT. Similarly, the new KBA COMET printing machine at SOPECAM has been installed and is now operational.

**202-** The extension of telecommunications continued with the Postal sector.

## **§2: Extension of the Post Office Network**

**203-** In order to bring postal services closer to people in the hinterland, the Postal sector was significantly expanded in 2015 with the completion of several projects.

**204-** There are 250 open and functional Post Offices throughout the country with the construction of Post Offices in Olembe, Memve'ele, Lom Pangar, Obala, Eseka, Batouri and Mbalmayo. Furthermore, the first phase of making Ebolowa a post town was initiated.

**205-** In addition, several studies were conducted as part of the postal sector reform. They include the architectural and geotechnical studies for the construction of the Post Office, Mboro in Kribi and that of transforming the Post Office on the site of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Monument in Buea into a postal museum.

**206-** The expansion of the telecommunications network has contributed to the improvement of access to information.

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## SECTION 3: IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

**207-** To ensure and facilitate access to information, some media and advertising organs were maintained and the Press Card Commission reactivated.

### §1: Government Support to the Private Press

**208-** In 2015, public assistance to private communication companies stood at CFAF243,000,000<sup>81</sup>. This amount that dropped by CFAF27,000,000<sup>82</sup> compared to the previous year was distributed to 131 private communication companies: 37 community radio stations, 10 commercial radio stations, 3 TV stations, 51 print media, 3 online newspapers, 17 professional associations, 3 producers, 1 global communication media and 6 printing presses.

**209-** Although the number of private news companies that received public assistance compared to 2014 decreased, the conditions for obtaining this support remained unchanged<sup>83</sup>.

**210-** As at 31 December 2015, there were 27 television stations, 65 commercial radio stations, 52 community radio stations, 10 online newspapers and 1,130 official newspapers that publish copies of their newspapers more or less regularly in Cameroon.

### §2: Advertising Sector Activities

**211-** Within the framework of regulating the advertising industry, in particular that of display advertising, MINCOM organized courses in the 10 Regions of the country for Delegates and Regional Service Heads of MINCOM to train them as special Judicial Police Officers ( JPO). These

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<sup>81</sup> About 370,992.37 Euros

<sup>82</sup> About 41,221.37 Euros

<sup>83</sup> See 2014 Report, §149

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courses were organized in Yaounde on 8 July 2015 for the Centre, South and East Regions, in Douala on 28 July 2015 for the Littoral, South West, North West and West Regions, and in Garoua on 29 September 2015 for the Far North, North and Adamawa Regions.

**212-** The themes covered during these training courses were related to the procedure for the punishment of offences, the duties and missions of JPOs and judicial police investigations. These JPOs also better understood Law No. 2006/18 of 29 December 2006 to regulate advertising in Cameroon.

**213-** In addition, 103 licences were granted advertising professions including 68 for advertisers and 35 for communication counselling agencies.

**214-** Besides these licences, the Press Card Commission was reactivated.

### §3: Press Card Commission

**215-** Consolidation of the media sector and access to information were improved in 2015 with the reactivation of the Press Card Commission that was set up with the installation of a new team by Order No. 1/MINCOM of 18 May 2015. The Commission is composed of 9 members representing the Government (MINCOM, MINATD and MINJUSTICE), representatives of journalists, the Media Trade Union as well as auxiliaries of the profession of journalist, all designated by their peers.

**216-** The press card the main goals of which are to organize and improve the image of journalism in Cameroon has several advantages for the journalist such as<sup>84</sup> protection and assistance by law enforcement officials, access to information, facilities relating to hotels, transportation, etc.

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<sup>84</sup> Article 5 of Decree No. 2002/170 of 9 December 2002 to lay down conditions for issuing press cards in Cameroon

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**217-** Improving access to information was followed by consolidation of the communications sector.

## SECTION 4: REFORM OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

**218-** The telecommunications sector was consolidated by both regulatory bodies and the courts.

### §1: Regulators

**219-** Regulators such as the National Communication Council (NCC) and the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART) conducted activities that helped strengthen the telecommunications sector.

#### A: NCC Activities

**220-** The NCC, as the information monitoring body, conducted an intense educational activity before imposing sanctions that were subject to appeal.

#### 1) Educational Activities

**221-** The NCC organized several awareness, training and information seminars for media professionals across the country on their responsibility in the current security environment.

**222-** At the national level, the NCC organized a seminar on 1 and 2 September 2015 at the *Mont Fébé* Hotel, Yaounde on the theme "*Child Protection in the Media*". The major resolution of this meeting was the production of a guide on child protection in the media.

**223-** At the regional level, NCC focused on wartime communication. It organized 4 seminars on the theme "*The Social Responsibility of the Journalist in the Collection and Processing of Wartime Information*". These seminars were held in Douala from 11 to 15 March 2015, Kumba from

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11 to 15 May 2015, Ngaoundere from 4 to 6 May 2015 and Bertoua from 26 to 30 October 2015.

**224-** The NCC raised the awareness of journalists on the impact of information on people in times of crisis.

**225-** In the same vein, it produced 3 bilingual spots that were broadcast over CRTV radio and television and some channels to remind media professionals of their social responsibility in times of security crisis.

**226-** Also, as part of its new role stemming from Law No. 2015/7 of 20 April 2015 on audiovisual activity, the NCC organized a series of discussions with TV distributors to evaluate their activities and disseminate that Law.

## 2) Sanctions imposed by NCC

**227-** In 2015, during its ordinary and extraordinary sessions, the NCC issued 17 decisions broken down as follows:

- 6 temporary suspension decisions not exceeding 6 months;
- 6 temporary suspension decisions for periods of 6 months or more;
- 1 permanent ban decision; and
- 4 no-case decisions.

**228-** These decisions concerned media professionals or media houses charged with violation of the dignity of persons (this is the case of the programme “*Embouteillage*” broadcast on *Amplitude FM* and its presenter **Martinez ZOGO**), and violation of ethics and professional ethics on social communication (this is the case of the daily newspapers “*Le Devoir*” and “*La Nouvelle*”).

**229-** As for *La Dépêche plus du Cameroun* and its Publisher Mr. **Gilbert AVANG** who were permanently banned, they were accused of publishing (in its No. 168 of 6 January 2015) serious and unfounded statements, citing by name some public figures in sex cases.

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## 3) Appeals against NCC Decisions

**230-** The NCC issued 17 decisions, 9 of which were appealed against before the Administrative Courts. Some of these appeals were filed by the TV channels "*Vision 4*" and "*Afrique media*" and by **Marcelin ATEBA** and **Martinez ZOGO**, both journalists. The outcome of most of these appeals is still pending, with the exception of the application for stay of execution by **Martinez Zogo** before the Administrative Court, Yaounde, that was declared inadmissible by Judgment No. 148/RG/2015 6 March 2015<sup>85</sup>.

**231-** The consolidation of the telecommunications sector continued with the activities of the ART.

### B: ART Activities

**232-** In its capacity as official in charge of equal access to ICTs, the ART conducted many activities. In this regard, before carrying out controls and imposing sanctions, the Agency conducted an awareness campaign for both mobile operators and consumers.

#### 1) Outreach Activities for Mobile Operators

**233-** The quality of mobile network services was enormously disrupted in 2015. The ART conducted outreach activities for operators to understand these experiences by mobile telephone subscribers and to find relevant solutions. In this regard, it organized a workshop on the actions taken to guarantee the protection of consumers' rights over electronic communications products and services in Bertoua, capital of the East Region on 10, 11 and 12 June 2015.

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<sup>85</sup> On the sidelines of appeals before Administrative Courts, developments in the case **AYISSI ETOA Parfait**, Deputy Director of the TV channel *Vision 4* and Others against NCC and the then Vice-President **Peter ESSOKA**, for oppression (Section 40 PC). This action was also declared inadmissible for failure to submit a deposit and identification of the accused by the CFI Yaounde, Centre Administratif.

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## 2) Control and Sanctions imposed by ART

**234-** To ensure compliance with the obligations provided for in the specifications and regulations, the Agency carried out checks and imposed sanctions against operators for various reasons, including use of frequencies without authorization, use of unallocated numbering resources, establishment and operation of inter-urban transmission links without authorization and non-compliance with coverage and service quality requirements.

**235-** With respect to service quality offered customers, the ART received complaints to which solutions were provided or some of which are being processed. The following examples illustrate complaints for airtime refund:

- complaint by Mr. **ASSIM BAZIN** of 18 March 2015 against *Orange Cameroun* for restitution of his airtime collected from his account. The case was closed after restitution of the airtime to the complainant;
- complaint by Mr. **YOMI Gédéon** of 1 April 2015, against *Orange Cameroun* for restitution of his airtime. After an airtime refill of CFAF20,000, the complainant found that his airtime had been refilled into a promotional account although he had not subscribed to a promotional offer. The examination of this matter is ongoing ;
- complaint by Mr. **NZALI NGANDJOUONG Mitterrand** of 20 March 2015 for fraud against *Orange Cameroun*. The complainant requested the termination of the subscription contract with the phone operator *Orange Cameroun* for unjustified deduction of airtime worth CFAF12,000<sup>86</sup>. Following action of the ART, the sum was returned to him;
- complaint by Mr. **Jules MBALLA** of 6 November 2015 against MTN Cameroon for reimbursement of his transfer Freedom of CFAF3,000<sup>87</sup>. This file is pending; and
- complaint by Mr. **TCHIEDJOU Pierre Derrick** of 17 June 2015 against *Viettel Cameroon* claiming reimbursement of Internet

<sup>86</sup> About 18.32 Euros

<sup>87</sup> About 4.54 Euros

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airtime purchased but not used and suspension of lines. The complainant claims to have lost a job opportunity and demands compensation for damages. This file is pending.

**236-** On 26 June 2015, the ART also received complaints from the Association for the Defence of Consumers' Rights against *Orange Cameroun* for false advertising. The file is pending. Furthermore, in May 2015, Mr. **EVEO'O Dieudonné** filed a complaint to the ART against *Viettel Cameroon* for implantation of an antenna on his property without permission. That complaint was declared inadmissible for lack of jurisdiction of the Agency on land disputes.

**237-** Journalists and media staff were also prosecuted.

## §2: Prosecution and Criminal Sanctions against Media Professionals

**238-** Media professionals were prosecuted and sanctioned accordingly for invasion of privacy or endangering national security. These lawsuits and sanctions had consequences.

### A: Lawsuits and Criminal Sanctions for offences against Private Interest

**239-** Apart from the case *CAVAYE YEGUIE DJIBRIL v Magnus BIAGA and KAMI Jefferson* wherein the defendants were charged as co-offenders with the offences of defamation and contempt of constituted corps already mentioned in the 2014 Report<sup>88</sup> and that is pending before the CFI, *Centre Administratif*.

**240-** It is worthwhile to refer to the case *The People and MVE EBANG Urbain Noel Francis v Zacharie NDJIMO*, Editor of the Newspaper *Le Zenith*, prosecuted before the CFI, Yaounde-Ekounou for conditional threats, false news, defamation by press, and attempted false pretences

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<sup>88</sup> See 2014 Report, § 173.

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provided for and punishable under Sections 74, 302, 304, 305, 94 and 318 of the Penal Code committed in September 2014. In its judgment of 5 February 2015, the Court convicted and sentenced him to 3 months imprisonment. He filed an appeal against the judgment<sup>89</sup>.

## B: Judicial Proceedings for Violation of General Interest

**241-** In 2015, some journalists were prosecuted for violation of general interest. The following proceedings were recorded:

- The People v. **AHMED ABBA** pending before the MT, Yaounde wherein the accused was charged with being an accessory in acts of terrorism and failure to disclose acts of terrorism provided for and punishable under Section 2 of Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism. This correspondent of Hausa Language for *Radio France International* was arrested in July 2015 and remanded in custody;
- The People v. **François FOGNO FOTSO**, Editor of the weekly *Génération Libre*, arrested on 15 September 2015 by officers from the Central Police Station No. 1 in Yaounde and prosecuted for resistance provided for and punishable under Sections 74 and 157 of the PC. This case that was enlisted for hearing on 28 October 2015 is pending; and
- The People v. **Simon ATEBA**, Cameroon Journalist based in Nigeria, arrested on 28 August 2015 and brought before the Military Tribunal, Yaounde for spying.

**242-** Furthermore, the judicial supervision order against **Rodrigue TONGUE, Felix EBOLE BOLA** and **BABA WAME** all 3 Journalists, prosecuted for failure to report provided for and punishable under Sections 74 and 107 of the PC before the MT, Yaounde was lifted and investigations are ongoing<sup>90</sup>.

<sup>89</sup> The decision on appeal is pending.

<sup>90</sup> Judicial investigation opened in this case was closed by referring the accused to the MT, Yaounde where the case is pending.

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**243-** In all, despite criticisms arising from the prosecution and conviction of Journalists<sup>91</sup>, freedom of expression and communication evolved considerably in 2015, especially with the legislative changes in the audiovisual and electronic communications sector as well as the switchover to DTT. It is hoped that the benefits of this development will be perceptible in order to further facilitate access to ICTs and enable people to participate effectively in the management of public affairs.

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<sup>91</sup> According to the National Union of Cameroon Journalists (SJNC), the prosecution and conviction of Journalists reflect toughing of repression against them and a decline in freedom of expression which according to them is the cause of Cameroon's classification as 133rd out of 180 by Reporters without Borders in 2015.

**Chapter**

**4**

**RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THE MANAGEMENT OF  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



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**244-** The right to participate in the management of public affairs can be exercised either directly through access to the Public Service<sup>92</sup> or indirectly through the election of the peoples' representatives. Although elections were not held in 2015, the electoral system was improved. Furthermore, the decentralization process continued in particular with the extension of the deadline for the complete transfer of skills.

## SECTION 1: IMPROVEMENT OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

**245-** The main changes made were preparation of elections and the replacement of elected representatives.

### § 1: Preparation of Elections

**246-** There were 298 political parties in 2014 and 2015. Public financing for 2015 was made available fairly early compared to 2014 for political parties that participated in elections. The organ in charge of elections, on its part, consolidated the preparation of future elections.

#### A: Public Funding of Political Parties

**247-** Pursuant to Joint Order No.107/A/MINFI/MINATD of 23 April 2015 relating to the allocation of subvention for public financing of political parties for the 2015 Financial Year, the State allocated CFAF1,500,000,000<sup>93</sup> to 31 political parties based on results obtained during the last elections. This allocation was disbursed in 2 instalments, depending on the number of seats and votes obtained.

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<sup>92</sup> For access to the Public Service, see chapter on the Right to Work and Social Security § 716 and seq.

<sup>93</sup> About 2, 290 ,076.34 Euros

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## 1) Distribution Based on Number of Seats

248- The 1<sup>st</sup> instalment worth CFA750,000,000<sup>94</sup> was divided into 3 equal parts to the Senate, the National Assembly and Municipal Councils. The part received by each institution was redistributed to the parties represented, based on the number of seats obtained.

249- Distribution at the Senate is shown in the table below:

**Table 1: Distribution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of Public Funding**

No.	Political Parties	Number of Seats at the Senate	Amount (in CFAF)
1	CPDM	82	205,000,000 <sup>95</sup>
2	SDF	14	35,000,000 <sup>96</sup>
3	NUDP	1	2,500,000 <sup>97</sup>
4	MDR	1	2,500,000
5	FSNC	1	2,500,000
6	ANDP	1	2,500,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>250,000,000</b>

**Source:** MINATD

250- Distribution at the National Assembly was as follows:

**Table 2: Distribution of the 1st Instalment of the 1st Quarter of Public Funding**

No.	Political Parties	Number of Seats at the National Assembly	Amount (in CFAF)
1	CPDM	148	205,555,555.56 <sup>98</sup>
2	SDF	18	25,000,000.00 <sup>99</sup>
3	NUDP	5	6,944,444.44 <sup>100</sup>
4	UDC	4	5,555,555.56 <sup>101</sup>
5	UPC	3	4,166,666.67 <sup>102</sup>
6	MDR	1	1,388,888.89 <sup>103</sup>
7	MRC	1	1,388,888.89
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>250,000,000<sup>104</sup></b>

**Source:** MINATD

<sup>94</sup> About 1,145,038.17 Euros

<sup>95</sup> About 312,977.10 Euros

<sup>96</sup> About 53 435.11 Euros

<sup>97</sup> About 3,816.79 Euros

<sup>98</sup> About 313,825.28 Euros

<sup>99</sup> About 38,167.94 Euros

<sup>100</sup> About 10,602.21 Euros

<sup>101</sup> About 8,481.76 Euros

<sup>102</sup> About 6,361.32 Euros

<sup>103</sup> About 2 120, 44 Euros

<sup>104</sup> About 381,679.39 Euros

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251- The table below presents the distribution to Municipal Councils:

**Table 3: Distribution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Instalment of Public Funding**

No.	Political Parties	Number of Seats in Municipal Councils	Amount (in CFAF)
1	CPDM	8,685	204,192,546.58 <sup>105</sup>
2	SDF	826	19,433,465.09 <sup>106</sup>
3	NUDP	518	12,187,088.27 <sup>107</sup>
4	UPC	179	4211,368.34 <sup>108</sup>
5	CDU	163	3,834,933.18 <sup>109</sup>
6	MDR	149	3,305,552.42 <sup>110</sup>
7	UFP	25	588,179.94 <sup>111</sup>
8	UMS	21	494,071.15 <sup>112</sup>
9	MRC	19	447,016.75 <sup>113</sup>
10	FSNC	14	329,380.76 <sup>114</sup>
11	ANDP	13	305,853.57 <sup>115</sup>
12	ADD	5	117,635.99 <sup>116</sup>
13	MP	3	70,581.59 <sup>117</sup>
14	CPP	2	47,054.39 <sup>118</sup>
15	PADDEC	2	47,054.39
16	UNIVERS	2	47,054.39
17	AFP	1	23,527.20 <sup>119</sup>
18	FDP	1	23,527.20
19	MLDC	1	23,527.20
20	PURS	1	23,527.20
21	MCNC	1	23,527.20
22	RCPU	1	23,527.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,632</b>	<b>250,000,000</b>

**Source:** MINATD

## 2) Distribution Based on Votes Cast

252- The 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of CFAF750,000,000 was equally shared to the National Assembly, the Senate and Municipal Councils. It was distributed to political parties that obtained at least 5% of the votes cast in elections.

<sup>105</sup> About 311,744.35 Euros

<sup>106</sup> About 29,669.41 Euros

<sup>107</sup> About 18,606.24 Euros

<sup>108</sup> About 6429.57 Euros

<sup>109</sup> About 5854.86 Euros

<sup>110</sup> About 5046.64 Euros

<sup>111</sup> About 897.98 Euros

<sup>112</sup> About 754.31 Euros

<sup>113</sup> About 682.47 Euros

<sup>114</sup> About 502.87 Euros

<sup>115</sup> About 466 Euros

<sup>116</sup> About 179.60 Euros

<sup>117</sup> About 107.76 Euros

<sup>118</sup> About 71.84 Euros

<sup>119</sup> About 35.92 Euros

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253- The breakdown for Senate elections was as follows:

**Table 4: Distribution of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment of Public Funding**

No.	Political Parties	Constituency by Eligible Votes	Amount (in CFAF)
1	CPDM	8	117,647,058.82 <sup>120</sup>
2	SDF	4	58,823,529.41 <sup>121</sup>
3	NUDP	4	58,823,529.41
4	CDU	1	14,705,882.35 <sup>122</sup>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>250,000,000</b>

Source: MINATD

254- The distribution for Parliamentary elections is shown in the table below:

**Table 5: Distribution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment of Public Funding**

No.	Political Parties	Constituency by Eligible Votes	Amount (in CFAF)
1	CPDM	85	115,489,130.43 <sup>123</sup>
2	SDF	35	47,554,347.83 <sup>124</sup>
3	NUDP	25	33,967,391.30 <sup>125</sup>
4	MRC	6	8,152,173.91 <sup>126</sup>
5	CDU	5	6,793,478.26 <sup>127</sup>
6	ANDP	5	6,793,478.26
7	MDR	4	5,434,782.61 <sup>128</sup>
8	UPC	4	5,434,782.61
9	PAP	3	4,076,086.96 <sup>129</sup>
10	MP	2	2,717,391.30 <sup>130</sup>
11	FSNC	2	2,717,391.30
12	MDP	1	1,358,695.65 <sup>131</sup>
13	AMEC	1	1,358,695.65
14	MLDC	1	1,358,695.65
15	MANIDEM	1	1,358,695.65
16	PURS	1	1,358,695.65
17	MCNC	1	1,358,695.65
18	PADDEC	1	1,358,695.65
19	CDP	1	1,358,695.65
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>250,000,000</b>

Source: MINATD

<sup>120</sup> About 179,613.83 Euros

<sup>121</sup> About 89,806.92 Euros

<sup>122</sup> About 22 451, 73 Euros

<sup>123</sup> About 176,319.28 Euros

<sup>124</sup> About 72,602.06 Euros

<sup>125</sup> About 51,858. 61 Euros

<sup>126</sup> About 12,446.07 Euros

<sup>127</sup> About 10,371.72 Euros

<sup>128</sup> About 8,297,378.03 Euros

<sup>129</sup> About 6,223. 03 Euros

<sup>130</sup> About 4,148.69 Euros

<sup>131</sup> About 547. 63 Euros

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**255-** The following table summarizes the amount of funds allocated to political parties for Municipal Council elections:

**Table 6: Distribution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment of Public Funding**

No.	Political Parties	Constituency by Eligible Votes	Amount (in CFAF)
1	CPDM	359	129,136,690.65 <sup>132</sup>
2	SDF	103	37,050,359.71 <sup>133</sup>
3	NUDP	101	36,330,935.25 <sup>134</sup>
4	UPC	20	7,194,244.60 <sup>135</sup>
5	CDU	15	5,395,683.45 <sup>136</sup>
6	MRC	14	5,035,971.22 <sup>137</sup>
7	MDR	13	4,676,258.99 <sup>138</sup>
8	FSNC	11	3,956,834.53 <sup>139</sup>
9	ANDP	10	3,597,122.30 <sup>140</sup>
10	UMS	9	3,237,410.07 <sup>141</sup>
11	ADD	6	2,158,273.38 <sup>142</sup>
12	MLDC	4	1,438,848.92 <sup>143</sup>
13	PAP	4	1,438,848.92
14	UFP	4	1,438,848.92
15	CPP	3	1,079,136.69 <sup>144</sup>
16	MDP	3	1,079,136.69
17	AFP	2	719,424.46 <sup>145</sup>
18	MCNC	2	719,424.46
19	PADDEC	2	719,424.46
20	CDP	1	359,712.23 <sup>146</sup>
21	FDP	1	359,712.23
22	MP	1	359,712.23
23	PAGEN	1	359,712.23
24	PUR	1	359,712.23
25	PURS	1	359,712.23
26	RCPU	1	359,712.23
27	RDDR	1	359,712.23
28	RDI	1	359,712.23
29	UNIVERS	1	359,712.23
<b>Total</b>		<b>695</b>	<b>250,000,000</b>

**Source:** MINATD

<sup>132</sup> About 197,155.25 Euros

<sup>133</sup> About 56,565.43 Euros

<sup>134</sup> About 55,467.08 Euros

<sup>135</sup> About 10,983.58 Euros

<sup>136</sup> About 8,237.68 Euros

<sup>137</sup> About 7,688.51 Euros

<sup>138</sup> About 7,139.33 Euros

<sup>139</sup> About 6,040.968.75 Euros

<sup>140</sup> About 5,491.78977 Euros

<sup>141</sup> About 494,261,079 Euros

<sup>142</sup> About 329,507,386 Euros

<sup>143</sup> About 2,196.72 Euros

<sup>144</sup> About 164,753,693 Euros

<sup>145</sup> About 109,835,795 Euros

<sup>146</sup> About 549.18 Euros

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## B: Preparation by the Body in charge of Elections

**256-** The first elections managed by Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) (2011<sup>147</sup> and 2013<sup>148</sup>) were used to measure this Institution's deployment capabilities. In 2015, changes occurred at the helm of this body and its operational capacities were reinforced with a view to updating the electoral register that was the main activity during an election-free year.

### 1) Change of Management

**257-** The initial changes concerned the Directorate General of Elections. By Decree No.2015/323 of 21 July 2015 to appoint the Director General of Elections at ELECAM, Mr. ABDOULAYE BABALE, previously member of the Electoral Board since 30 December 2008 replaced Mr. MOHAMAN SANI TANIMOU, who held this position since 2008<sup>149</sup>. The new Director General of Elections took office on 24 July 2015 before the Chair of the Electoral Board<sup>150</sup>.

**258-** The mandate of 6 of the 18 members<sup>151</sup> of the Electoral Board that had come to an end was renewed for a period of 4 years. The following members were concerned: Mgr. Dieudonné WATIO, Mrs Delphine TSANGA, Messrs. Pierre TITI NWEL, Christopher TIKU TAMBE, NSANGO ISSOFA and MOHAMADOU BOUBAKAR.

### 2) Building of Operational Capacity

**259-** Although the Institution's budget decreased from CFAF11,136,000,000<sup>152</sup> in 2014, to CFAF 10,636,000,000<sup>153</sup> in 2015, its human and material operational capacities were strengthened.

<sup>147</sup> Presidential Elections.

<sup>148</sup> Senatorial, Legislative and Municipal Elections.

<sup>149</sup> Pursuant to Section 24 of the Electoral Code, the Director General of Elections is appointed for a term of 5 years renewable.

<sup>150</sup> The Director General of Elections Cameroon conducts his main responsibilities under the authority of the Chair of the Electoral Board of Elections Cameroon and as provided in the Electoral Code.

<sup>151</sup> See Decree No. 2015/322 of 21 July 2015 to extend the term of some members of the Electoral Council of *Elections Cameroon*.

<sup>152</sup> About 17,001,526.7 Euros

<sup>153</sup> About 16,238,167.9 Euros

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## a) Strengthening of Material Resources

**260-** The Directorate General of Elections acquired on 14 July 2015, a site with a surface area of more than 2000m<sup>2</sup>, to house the headquarters of the Regional Delegation of Adamawa, in the Ngaoundere I, Sub-Division.

## b) Strengthening of Human Resources

**261-** In 2015, staff were redeployed and capacity building activities conducted through continued training in electoral biometrics.

### i) Staff Redeployment

**262-** As part of the redeployment of staff, 7 Regional Delegates of ELECAM, appointed in 2014<sup>154</sup> to replace their predecessors relieved of their duties or placed on retirement, were installed in 2015 by the Director General of Elections. The Regional Delegates of ELECAM for the Centre, South, West, South West, East, North and Adamawa Regions were concerned.

**263-** Apart from retirement cases, 154 members of staff of ELECAM were transferred as follows: 12 persons working in the Support Services of the Directorate General of Elections where 3 out of 4 Division Heads were replaced; at the decentralized services, 101 persons were redeployed to Council Branches, 31 to Divisional Branches and 10 to Regional Delegations.

**264-** Due to insecurity concerns about the terrorist group *Boko Haram* in the Far North Region, 2 Council Branches were relocated. The Fotokol Branch in the Logone and Chari was relocated to the Divisional Branch, Kousseri and the Kolofata Branch in Mayo-Sava, relocated to the Divisional Branch, Mora.

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<sup>154</sup> See Resolution No. 159/ELECAM/EC of 9 July 2014 for the appointment Decision.

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## ii) Continued Staff Training

**265-** Strengthening staff capacity seemed to be one of the strategic lines of action of the organ in charge of elections to overcome the poor mastery of maintenance of registration kits by staff<sup>155</sup>.

**266-** In this regard, the Directorate General prepared a training schedule for all staff from September to December 2015. Staff of the Communication and Public Relations Division participated in a seminar on public relations management and strategies of institutional communications, from conception to implementation of road maps and communication plans in Organizations bound by obligation of results. Staff of the Administrative and Financial Affairs Division participated in 2 training courses on Audit and financial control of public and para-public enterprises and mastery of public spending tools as well as on the mid-term evaluation, production of annual performance reports, preparation, planning and results-based budget management.

**267-** From 7 to 11 December 2015, a series of trainings on the election process took place at the external services of ELECAM. ELECAM's Regional, Divisional and Council Officials were schooled on the following 3 modules: *the establishment and management of the electoral register and voter cards with biometrics; Electoral Communication; Management of a Polling Station*. The objective was to enhance electoral communication and relations with media organs.

**268-** Furthermore, a Cooperation Agreement was signed on 1 September 2015 for an execution period of 18 months between the Directorate General of Elections and the company VERIDOS. It concerns building the capacity of IT experts responsible for the maintenance<sup>156</sup> of the equipment of the National Centre for Electoral Biometrics and regional *hubs*. This aims at ensuring technology transfer between the provider's experts and those of ELECAM.

<sup>155</sup> This was reported during the organization of the twin legislative and municipal elections of 2013.

<sup>156</sup> It should be recalled that the equipment to be maintained is used for the conservation and security of electoral register databases, removal of duplication, tidying up of electoral lists to reflect removals and changes of address, as well as the production of voter cards.

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**269-** The said Convention also provides for exchanges between the parties to intensify technological innovations in the management of Cameroon's electoral register.

### 3) Updating of Electoral Register

**270-** Some incentives were provided to encourage registration in the biometric electoral register that was tidied up at the wake of registration.

#### a) Incentives

**271-** Elections Cameroon provided incentives prior to registration.

**272-** To mobilize the maximum number of youth in the age group between 20 and 35 that constitutes the majority of the voting population, particular emphasis was placed on *"Electoral Commercial Agents"* and the participation of ELECAM's registration teams at University Games. Social networks were used notably with the setting up, since 24 November 2015, of a Face book Account dubbed *"Elections Cameroon"* that bears the image of the building to house its future headquarters as profile picture and the following contact number: 222 212 552. The aim of this communication strategy *via* social media is to develop its subscribers' sense of civic responsibility.

**273-** The Operation named *"Registration of 3,000 Women in Three Days"* was launched in parallel with all the measures aimed at youths. It was carried out through awareness-raising programmes by community radios, griots, opinion leaders, the distribution of communication gadgets and advertising objects.

**274-** Similarly, a Roadmap for Regional Delegates was adopted. Many registration pools were also opened in all cities of the country by the different ELECAM<sup>157</sup> teams with the support of administrative authorities.

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<sup>157</sup> This is an operation carried out jointly by the Electoral Board and Directorate General of Elections.

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**275-** Insecurity concerns linked to the activities of the terrorist group *Boko Haram* in the Far North Region<sup>158</sup> imposed special measures facilitating registration in risk areas especially in the *Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga* and *Logone and Chari* Divisions. Besides the relocation of council branches referred to above, ELECAM staff were compelled to wear badges.

## b) Registration

**276-** Registration took place both in and out of the country.

### i) National Biometric Registration

**277-** ELECAM, with a projected goal of registering 200,000 new voters, registered 224,065 persons<sup>159</sup> on the electoral register as at 31 August 2015, giving a score above 12% in relative value and 24,065 registered voters in absolute value. The Gender analysis of these results reveals a higher proportion of men than women. There were 134,439 men representing 60% against 89,626 women representing 40% of the number of registered voters. By adding these figures to those of the previous year, the consolidated electoral register as at 31 December 2015 comprised 5,805,668<sup>160</sup> registered voters. The consolidated electoral register had 5,581,603 registered voters as at 31 December 2014 after tidying up. Data from the Directorate General of Elections are presented below:

<sup>158</sup> The Far North Region covers 47 Councils divided into the following Divisions: Mayo-Danay (11), Logone and Chari (10) Diamaré (9), Mayo-Kani (7), Mayo-Tsanaga (7) Mayo-Sava (3).

<sup>159</sup> Yet, it remains far from the target because the national electoral population is estimated between 11 and 12 ,000,000. The sum of the registered voters in 2014 is barely half the number of potential voters.

<sup>160</sup> It is distributed among 3,483,401 men and 2,322,267 women giving a total of 5,805,668.

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**Table 7: Distribution of New Registered Voters as at 31 December 2015**

Region	Registered voters in 2015	Distribution of Registered Voters by Gender	
		Men	Women
Adamawa	13,903	8,342	5,561
Centre	44,625	26,775	17,850
East	8,718	5,231	3,487
Far North	26,213	15,727	10,485
Littoral	29,031	17,418	11,612
North	22,562	13,537	9,025
North West	29,413	17,648	11,765
West	31,724	19,034	12,690
South	3,988	2,393	1,595
South West	13,888	8,333	5,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>224,065</b>	<b>134,439</b>	<b>89,626</b>

**Source:** ELECAM

**278-** At the close of registration, 119,631 youths aged 20 to 35 were registered on the electoral lists.

**279-** In Divisions most exposed to terrorism, the Divisional Branch, Mora recorded 300 registered voters, that is higher than some areas unaffected by terrorism. The number of new registered voters in other Divisions was as follows: Mayo Tsanaga 7,857, Diamaré 6,840, Mayo-Danay 7,417, Mayo-Sava 6,252, Mayo Kani 4,986 and Logone and Chari 1,367 that has only one identification station<sup>161</sup> located at Kousseri Sub-Division.

## ii) Consolidation of Electoral Lists Abroad

**280-** Funding for Focal Points abroad, who are staff of our diplomatic representation, that stood at CFAF98,000,000<sup>162</sup> in 2014 was not provided in 2015.

<sup>161</sup> It should be noted that access to the Civil Status Registry was limited in the Division to better monitor the nationality of Cameroonians.

<sup>162</sup> About 149,618.32 Euros

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**281-** The final number of registered voters in the Diaspora after collection of all missing data increased from 8,073 as at 31 December 2014 to 9,629 as at 31 August 2015<sup>163</sup>.

**282-** Obstacles, however, persisted in the review of electoral lists. Diplomatic staff were overworked due to lack of ELECAM staff in charge of this task.

## c) Post Registration Operations

**283-** The National Centre for Biometrics received raw registration data that were processed and thereafter cards were produced and distributed to voters.

### i) Processing of Electoral Register

**284-** At the end of information processing, 98,461 irregular entries were deleted bringing as at 31 December the final number of persons living in the country and abroad that were registered through the biometric system to 5,815, 297.

### ii) Distribution of Voters' Cards

**285-** The main activity at council branches of ELECAM's decentralized services, was the distribution of voters' cards that were not collected after election registers were updated in 2014.

**286-** To this end, messages inviting holders to collect their voter's card were sent either to the public or to beneficiaries through the telephone numbers provided at registration. Similarly, Quarter Heads were requested to post the schedule for registration teams of the respective areas.

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<sup>163</sup> It should be noted that the data of Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations in the United States of America (New York) and the Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon in Liberia (Monrovia), the Holy See (Vatican), Japan (Tokyo), the United States of America (Washington) were still expected as at 31 December 2014 at the headquarters of the Directorate General of Elections, in Yaounde.

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## §2: Change of Representatives

**287-** The death of some elected representatives in office led to the replacement of representatives of both Council Executives and Parliament.

### A: Renewal of Council Executives

**288-** Due to the death of their Mayor<sup>164</sup>, 8 Council Executives were renewed including the Sub-Divisional Councils of Tchatibali and Kar-Hay in the Far North Region, Bayangam in the West Region, Douala V in the Littoral Region, Ngaoundere III in the Adamawa Region, Kiiki in the Centre Region, Meyomessi in the South Regions and Moloundou in the East Region.

**289-** The analysis of this change reveals concerns with respect to the time limit for renewal and the rule of the highest average<sup>165</sup> in the Municipal Council.

**290-** In general, election of the new Executive was held after the expiry of the time limit of 60 days prescribed by law. The elections were delayed from between 69 to 193 days.

**291-** Moreover, the representation of political parties in the Council Executive has generally been based on the rule of the highest average. In some constituencies, however, this rule was not rigorously applied, for some political parties with absolute majority did not occupy the seats of Mayor and Deputy Mayors as required<sup>166</sup>.

**292-** Apart from the change of Municipal Executives, the mandate of some members of Parliament was also interrupted.

<sup>164</sup> The first Assistant generally served as interim until the election of the new Mayor.

<sup>165</sup> See section 60 (3) of Law No.2004/18 of 22 July 2004 to lay down rules applicable to Councils.

<sup>166</sup> In the Douala V Council, for example, the CPDM that had absolute majority did not occupy all the executive seats (one of the Deputy Mayors was an SDF member).

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## B: Interruption of the Mandate of Members of Parliament

**293-** Both Houses of Parliament<sup>167</sup> lost a member each. As at 31 December 2015, the Senate had only 95 Senators instead of 100 and the National Assembly, 178 Parliamentarians instead of 180.

**294-** Besides measures taken to improve the electoral system, Government has continued to promote the consolidation of decentralization.

## SECTION 2: CONSOLIDATION OF THE DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS

**295-** The transfer of State skills to Councils had to end in 2015. Although this deadline was postponed due to some constraints, resources to support the decentralization process were increased and decentralized cooperation enhanced.

### §1: Transfer of Skills

**296-** As at 31 December 2014, 12 Ministries still had to transfer 19 skills.

**297-** At the end of 2015, 11 Ministries<sup>168</sup> transferred 14 skills<sup>169</sup>, representing 92% of the effective transfer rate of skills by the State to Councils<sup>170</sup>.

<sup>167</sup> These are Mr. **YOUSOUFA DAOUA**, Senator of the North Region, who died on October 11 and Mr. **VICHE TAGA**, Parliamentarian of Mayo Tsanaga North, who died on 21 August.

<sup>168</sup> MINAC, MINAS, MINEDUB, MINEFOP, MINEPDED, MINHDU, MINJEC, MINT, MINSANTE, MIN-COMMERCE and MINMIDT are concerned.

<sup>169</sup> These skills are: rehabilitation and promotion of museums of local interest; setting up and maintaining infrastructure and equipment for the promotion of national languages; social reinsertion; implementing plans for the eradication of illiteracy; setting up and maintaining educational infrastructure and facilities; training, integration or vocational rehabilitation; monitoring and controlling industrial waste management; water hyacinth control; realization of development projects; construction and equipment of multi-purpose Youth Development Centres; organization and management of urban public transport; health inspection of manufacturing, packaging, storage and food distribution establishments; organization of local trade fairs; and setting up of industrial activity areas.

<sup>170</sup> This process started since 2010.

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**298-** Given that some Councils could not exercise these skills, 3 Ministries still had to transfer 5 skills. For MINAC, these skills relate to the organization of local literary and artistic competitions and the setting up and management of socio-cultural centres and public libraries. For MINEE, these skills concern contribution to the electrification of needy areas and the protection of ground and surface water resources, while for MINSANTE it involves assistance to health facilities.

**299-** The deadline for the transfer of these skills has been extended to 31 December 2016. Moreover, the transfer process was marked by several concerns such as defining the content and the technical details of the operation, and increasing allocated financial resources.

## §2: Transfer of Financial Resources

**300-** Councils received financial resources from transferred resources, the General Decentralization Budget and financial support from FEICOM.

### A: Resources transferred to Councils

**301-** The funds transferred in 2015 by Ministries to Councils were valued at CFAF 48,324,659,000<sup>171</sup>, bringing the total amount transferred since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to CFAF 192,855,816,000<sup>172</sup>.

### B: General Decentralization Budget

**302-** The General Decentralization Budget, especially the General Investment Budget, was increased by CFAF 500,000,000<sup>173</sup>. It increased from CFAF 10,000,000,000<sup>174</sup> to CFAF 10,500,000,000<sup>175</sup>.

<sup>171</sup> About 73,778,105.30 Euros

<sup>172</sup> About 294,436,360 Euros

<sup>173</sup> About 7,633,587.79 Euros

<sup>174</sup> About 15,267,175.60 Euros

<sup>175</sup> About 16,030,534.40 Euros

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**303-** The distribution of the General Recurrent Budget for the 2015 Financial Year earmarked jobs as presented in the table below:

**Table 8: Distribution of the General Recurrent Budget (2015 Financial Year)**

No.	Jobs	Amount (in CFAF)
1	Special or urgent operating expenses for some Councils or City Councils	1,200,000,000 <sup>176</sup>
2	Payment of some mandatory Council expenditures and those of their related institutions notably salaries of staff and elected representatives	3,000,000,000 <sup>177</sup>
3	Functioning of the National Decentralization Council	170,000,000 <sup>178</sup>
4	Functioning of the Interministerial Local Services Operation Committee	250,000,000 <sup>179</sup>
5	Functioning of the National Local Finance Committee	40,000,000 <sup>180</sup>
6	Functioning of the Interministerial Commission for Decentralized Cooperation	25,000,000 <sup>181</sup>
7	Functioning of the Committee for the Training of Decentralization Stakeholders and Support to the National Training Programme for Small City Businesses	50,000,000
8	Support for the setting up and implementation of a Local Development Index	40,000,000
9	Production of a bilingual collection of decentralization texts	20,000,000 <sup>182</sup>
10	Support to Council Trade Unions	25,000,000
11	Functioning of the Decentralized Services of the State providing their assistance or support to Councils and City Councils	180,000,000 <sup>183</sup>
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,000,000,000<sup>184</sup></b>

**Source:** Prime Minister's Office

**304-** The problem of the salary of Council Executive Officials was solved with the signing of Decree No. 2015/405 of 16 September 2015 to set out conditions for the remuneration of Government Delegates, Mayors and their Assistants. The remuneration components include the basic salary, duty allowance and representation allowance. Pursuant to this Instrument, the basic gross monthly salaries of Council Executive Members are: CFAF400,000<sup>185</sup> for the Government Delegate, CFAF250,000<sup>186</sup> for the Mayor, CFAF200,000<sup>187</sup> for the Assistant Government Delegate and CFAF150,000<sup>188</sup> for the Assistant Mayor.

<sup>176</sup> About 1,832,061.07 Euros

<sup>177</sup> About 4,580,152.67 Euros

<sup>178</sup> About 259,541,985 Euros

<sup>179</sup> About 381,679.39 Euros

<sup>180</sup> About 61,068.70 Euros

<sup>181</sup> About 38,167.94 Euros

<sup>182</sup> About 30,534.35 Euros

<sup>183</sup> About 274,809.16 Euros

<sup>184</sup> About 7633,587.79 Euros

<sup>185</sup> About 610.69 Euros

<sup>186</sup> About 381.68 Euros

<sup>187</sup> About 305.34 Euros

<sup>188</sup> About 229.01 Euros

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**305-** Other allowances and benefits are also provided including an official residence for Government Delegates and Mayors. The Decree also sets the rate for *per diem*, mission and transport allowances allocated to Heads of Council Executives, their Assistants, Council Board Members and Municipal Councillors.

**306-** Moreover, the 2015 General Investment Budget was allocated to the financing of priority projects identified in some Councils with modest means. Despite the increase of the General Decentralization Budget, resources remained insufficient.

## C: FEICOM's Financial Assistance

**307-** Besides transferred resources, Councils requested project funding from FEICOM. The Financial Support Committee of FEICOM<sup>189</sup> (CCFF), during its 19<sup>th</sup> Session held on 24 February 2015, granted a total of CFAF1 1,758,487,043<sup>190</sup> to 60 Councils for the realization of 64 projects spread across the country.

**308-** Geographically, the funds are distributed as follows:

**Table 9: Evolution of the Distribution of Funds to the Ten Regions**

Region	Project in 2014	Project in 2015	Amount (in CFAF) in 2014	Amount (in CFAF) in 2015
<b>Adamawa</b>	4	8	475,369,600	847,910,862 <sup>191</sup>
<b>Centre</b>	6	10	1,243,533,320	2,031,585,941 <sup>192</sup>
<b>East</b>	5	6	1,347,032,120	986,190,160 <sup>193</sup>
<b>Far North</b>	9	8	1,219,527,767	1,404,797,160 <sup>194</sup>
<b>Littoral</b>	3	5	623,476,830	425,996,517 <sup>195</sup>
<b>North</b>	2	4	670,000,000	760,651,382 <sup>196</sup>

<sup>189</sup> The session is composed of elected officials and representatives of the Administration. It examines applications for assistance for an amount greater

than or equal to CFAF30 ,000,000. It is chaired by the Director General of FEICOM.

<sup>190</sup> About 17,951,888.61 Euros

<sup>191</sup> About 1,294,520.40 Euros

<sup>192</sup> About 3,101,657.93 Euros

<sup>193</sup> About 1,505,633.83 Euros

<sup>194</sup> About 2,144,728.49 Euros

<sup>195</sup> About 650,376.36 Euros

<sup>196</sup> About 1,161,299.82 Euros

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Region	Project in 2014	Project in 2015	Amount (in CFAF) in 2014	Amount (in CFAF) in 2015
North West	5	4	1,178,030,675	815,626,229 <sup>197</sup>
West	6	11	819,726,247	2,397,025,535 <sup>198</sup>
South	7	5	1,415,537,732	993,524,417 <sup>199</sup>
South West	5	3	912,125,061	1,095,178,840 <sup>200</sup>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9,904,359,352</b>	<b>11,758,487,043</b>

**Source:** FEICOM

**309-** The projects adopted in 2015 focused on basic infrastructure, socio-community equipment as well as equipment and commercial facilities. These awards indicate CCFF's will to promote the creation of youth employment.

**310-** Councils in the Centre, East and Littoral Regions received more funding between 2014 and 2015 because of the level of municipal expertise in setting up projects. Due to the harmonization of all interventions in unsecured areas, the Far North Region was given priority, followed by the Adamawa and the North Regions, which were indirectly affected. In a nutshell, the Djohong Council, Mbéré Division had the largest number of approved projects (3), dedicated to infrastructure for access to drinking water (construction of 4 boreholes), electrical energy by solar panels for the City Hall and street lighting for the city.

### §3: Strengthening of Decentralized Cooperation

**311-** The pooling of Councils' resources was achieved by restructuring Council associations, the trade union action, and by the signing of a twinning Convention.

<sup>197</sup> About 1,245,230.88 Euros

<sup>198</sup> About 3,659,580.97 Euros

<sup>199</sup> About 1, 516,831.17 Euros

<sup>200</sup> About 1,672,028.76 Euros

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## A: Council Association

**312-** The ordinary and extraordinary General Assembly of the Association of United Councils and Cities of Cameroon<sup>201</sup> (CVUC), were held on 14 January 2015, in Yaounde. It was attended by 5 Ministers<sup>202</sup>, FEICOM and the National Community Driven Development Programme. Besides the election of a new Bureau<sup>203</sup>, new resolutions were taken.

**313-** Government Delegates, in terms of Administration, were represented in the National Bureau. Moreover, Divisional Delegations were set up to support Regional Delegations which operated with an annual budget of CFAF30,000,000<sup>204</sup>. In addition, the periodicity of the General Assembly was reduced from 5 years to 1 year.

**314-** As regards finance<sup>205</sup>, the budget of CVUC increased from CFAF850,000,000<sup>206</sup> in 2013 and CFAF1,770,000,000<sup>207</sup> in 2014, to CFAF1,777,000,000<sup>208</sup> in 2015.

## B: Union Action

**315-** The development potential of Councils took into account the strengthening of trade union action and the development of mature projects.

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<sup>201</sup> This is a network which includes the 360 Councils and 14 Government Delegates of City Councils in Cameroon. The CVUC is a member of the Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of the three-year Emergency Plan.

<sup>202</sup> It included MINATD, MINHDU, MINTSS, MINPROFF and MINTP

<sup>203</sup> The outgoing Chair Mr. Emile ANDZE ANDZE, CPDM Mayor of the Yaounde I Council was renewed for a 3rd term at the helm of the Association.

<sup>204</sup> About 45,801.53 Euros

<sup>205</sup> To improve the living conditions of the population, participants considered advocating for the granting of 10% of the State Budget to finance decentralization.

<sup>206</sup> About 1,297,709.92 Euros

<sup>207</sup> About 2,702,290.08 Euros

<sup>208</sup> About 2,712,977.10 Euros

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## 1) Consolidation of the Action of Council Unions

**316-** The *Syndicat des Communes du Mbam et Inoubou*<sup>209</sup> (SYCOMI) and le *Syndicat des Communes du Nyong et Kellé* (SYNCONYK) were granted legal existence in 2015 for the management of hydraulic facilities<sup>210</sup> in rural areas. SYCOMI Cameroon in charge of the sustainable consolidation of public water service and basic sanitation implemented the Water Governance Project in the *Mbam and Inoubou* (GEMI).

**317-** As at 31 December 2015, SYCOMI had constructed 150 ecological latrines, with the support of the *Syndicat des Hauts du Bas Rhin* that groups 400 Councils in France. SYCOMI adopted "a fee Water" collected by users<sup>211</sup> (CFAF500<sup>212</sup>/ Month) to maintain the water system. To this end, 205 Water Users' Committee comprising at least 50% women trained in the use of simple management documents, were set up.

## 2) Promotion of Mature Council Projects

**318-** On this score, the CVUC organized Regional Conferences on the Presentation and Validation of Mature Projects. Thus, from 24 to 26 August 2015, the Regional Branch, Adamawa, composed of 16 of the 21 Councils that make up the Region, took delivery of constructed drinking water points, a resurfaced rural road, rehabilitated classrooms and a building for a Health Centre. In addition, 300 mature projects selected for funding worth CFAF20,000,000,000<sup>213</sup>, fell within several sectors, including water, energy, health, education and rural roads. These

<sup>209</sup> SYCOMI that was set up on 28 February 2011, comprises the following 9 Councils: Bafia, Bokito, Kiiki, Kon-Yambetta, Makénééné, NdiKinimeki, Ombéssa, Deuk and Nitoukou.

<sup>210</sup> The management of water in urban areas is under the jurisdiction of the State that has entrusted this assets to a State company Cameroon Water Utilities (CAMWATER) and its exploitation to Camerounaise des Eaux (CDE).

<sup>211</sup> The beneficiaries are the entire population of the Division (190,000 inhabitants.), especially the 108,000 inhabitants in rural areas. The most vulnerable entities and persons are schools, health facilities and the socially disadvantaged.

<sup>212</sup> About 0.76 Euros

<sup>213</sup> About 30,534,351.10 Euros

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projects will be funded in part by FEICOM's budget<sup>214</sup> for 2016 amounting to CFAF75,000,000,000<sup>215</sup> for each Council concerned. Decentralized cooperation was also explored.

## C: Signing of Twinning Agreement

**319-** A twinning agreement between the Mfou Council in the Central Region and the Bonoua Council, a town about 50 kilometres East of Abidjan in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, was signed on 22 May 2015 in Yaounde. The Convention seeks to harmonize the expertise of both Councils in culture, economics and agriculture.

**320-** The rooting of democratic culture was consolidated with continued biometric registration and internal initiatives to enable Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) register as voters. These achievements, however, should not cloud the need to meet deadlines for the renewal of the interrupted terms of Council Executives. Furthermore, the decentralization process has contributed to strengthening the pooling of resources between Councils despite the absence of a Local Development Index. These actions could be included as part of a National Decentralization Strategy.

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<sup>214</sup> The Director General of FEICOM deplored the following 2 cases of poorly-executed projects: the roof of a hangar at the Mbé Market was pulled down before its reception and the City Hall, Meiganga had cracks a few years after its construction.

<sup>215</sup> About 114,50.82 Euros



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## CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

**321-** In 2015, Cameroon that was prey to the violation of life and Human Rights violations by the terrorist group *Boko Haram*, opted to respect its international Human Rights commitments. On this score, it increased the number of prosecutions and sanctions against violent crime before the Courts. These proceedings were fertile ground for the guarantee of the right to fair trial, particularly the right to counsel and the right to appeal. Moreover, the enactment of Law No. 2015/7 of 20 April 2015 governing audiovisual activity in Cameroon was the major innovation in that sector because the interests of all parties involved were preserved. The relocation of ELECAM Branches from areas affected by terrorist threat and the change at the helm of the Directorate General of ELECAM particularly marked the revitalization of its activities and increased registration in the electoral lists.

**322-** However, constraints persist, particularly judicial delays and delay in the transfer of skills to Councils.

**323-** Corrective measures are therefore required so that the enjoyment of civil and political rights mentioned in this first part, contribute in rooting in time and space Human Rights culture which are indivisible and which include economic social and cultural rights.



## PART TWO

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



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART TWO

**324-** In 2015, Government continued to promote economic, social and cultural rights and implement the right to a healthy environment. In this connection, focus was on improving the education system, easing access to health care, providing adequate standard of living (availability of healthy and sufficient food, water and energy, and adequate housing) and decent work, and developing culture and leisure in a healthy environment. The right to ownership of land was further guaranteed by a survey plan.

**325-** These actions are presented and analyzed in this part of the Report under the following chapters:

- Right to Education;
- Right to Health;
- Right to Adequate Standard of Living;
- Right to Work and Social Security;
- Right to Culture and Leisure;
- Right to Land Ownership; and
- Right to a Healthy Environment.



**Chapter**

**1**

**RIGHT TO EDUCATION**



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**326-** Education is a fundamental Human Right that is guaranteed mainly by the State. To fulfil this obligation, Government continued to promote the right to education at the Basic, Secondary and Higher Education levels.

## SECTION 1: BASIC EDUCATION

**327-** The main objective of the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB) was to improve nursery and primary education. Its budget increased from CFAF174,580,000,000<sup>216</sup> in 2014, to CFAF188,583,000,000<sup>217</sup> in 2015, representing an increase of CFAF14,003,000,000<sup>218</sup> in absolute value and 8.02% in relative value.

### §1: Improving Nursery Education

**328-** A support programme was initiated to improve nursery education. The main activities under this programme were directed towards adding the number of infrastructure to improve nursery education indicators.

#### A: Support Programme for Nursery Education Development

**329-** In order to facilitate access of a larger number of children to nursery education, Government initiated a support programme for nursery education development. The objective of this programme is to expand nursery education coverage through the development of community experience for the rural masses.

**330-** The main thrusts of this programme are to improve nursery education supply and quality indicators.

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<sup>216</sup> About 266,535,351.15 Euros

<sup>217</sup> About 287,912,977.10 Euros

<sup>218</sup> About 213,378,625.95 Euros

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## B: Nursery Education Infrastructures

**331-** Apart from the setting up of 200 public kindergartens, 30 nursery blocks and 20 classrooms were built and equipped with 1,601 slates, 4,800 small chairs, 240 tables on trestles and 80 teachers' offices. Furthermore, 5 kindergartens were rehabilitated.

## C: Increase in Nursery Education Indicators

**332-** The number of public and private nurseries increased from 8,267 in 2013/2014 academic year to 9,175 in 2014/2015 academic year. The number of classrooms increased from 14,580 in 2013/2014 academic year to 16,431 in 2014/2015 academic year. These actions stepped up the number of seats which rose from 491,802 in 2013/2014 academic year to 544,984 in 2014/2015 academic year.

**333-** The number of pupils enrolled in public and private community nurseries increased from 465,237 in 2013/2014 academic year to 517,493 in 2014/2015 academic year. Meanwhile, the number of teachers increased from 22,450 in 2013/2014 academic year to 24,826 in 2014/2015 academic year.

**334-** This improvement of indicators also led to an upward trend of gross nursery enrolment that at the national level was 35% in 2014/2015 academic year as against 28.8% in 2011/2012 academic year, recording an increase of 6.2% over the past 4 years.

**335-** However, this notable evolution overshadows disparities. In fact, 68% of nursery school children are in urban areas as against 32% in rural areas. Pursuit of the community-based nursery school development strategy targeting mainly rural areas will greatly enhance the number of children in nursery schools.

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## §2: Primary School

**336-** MINEDUB continued to take steps to improve accessibility, equity, quality and efficiency of primary education.

### A: Accessibility Measures

**337-** Accessibility indicators for primary education were improved through increased educational opportunities and demand.

#### 1) Enhancing Education Supply

**338-** Public and private primary education supply increased significantly during the reference year.

##### a) Public Education Supply

**339-** To increase public education supply, facilities were built and equipped, teachers recruited, and literacy and non-formal education continued.

##### i) School Facilities and Equipment

**340-** In 2015, Councils and development partners continued to support Government in constructing infrastructure and providing school equipment. A School Emergency Response Plan was implemented to give stronger impetus to Government's economic and social development efforts.

- Provision of School Infrastructure by MINEDUB

**341-** Through the Public Investment Budget (PIB), 589 classrooms and 82 latrines were built while 156 classrooms were rehabilitated.

**342-** Some 522 classrooms were built, 85 wells/water points, 110 latrines and 112 classrooms rehabilitated with C2D funding.

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**343-** Apart from the Chantal Biya Foundation that built 6 classrooms, partners such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Plan Cameroon, built classrooms with semi-permanent material<sup>219</sup>.

**344-** In addition, the School Emergency Response Plan, ordered by the Head of State for displaced children in the Far North Region due to the atrocities of the terrorist group *Boko Haram* worth CFAF3,644,257,000<sup>220</sup>, enabled the construction of 208 classrooms, 68 latrines and 56 wells/water points.

**345-** Furthermore, 41,430 desks were acquired. In all, in 2015, 1,381 new classrooms were built, 268 public schools, 374 latrines and 153 wells/water points were rehabilitated.

**346-** As regards administrative buildings and means of movement, the following were achieved during the reference year:

- construction of 40 staff houses for teachers in rural areas;
- continuation of the construction of the Regional Delegations of Basic Education of the North, South, and West Regions;
- acquisition of a motorized canoe for the Sub-Divisional Inspectorate, Bamusso; and
- acquisition of 4 vehicles for the Central Services.

- Council Actions

**347-** Council action focused<sup>221</sup> on provision of the minimum package<sup>222</sup> to all public schools amounting to CFAF4,842,180,000<sup>222</sup>. Constraints persist regarding the quality, content and timely delivery of the minimum package, the complexity of procurement procedures and the disclaimer of some Council officials.

<sup>219</sup> See chapter on the Protection of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons below, § 1308

<sup>220</sup> About 5,563,751.14 Euros

<sup>221</sup> Unlike previous years where they also were involved in the construction, equipment and rehabilitation of infrastructure.

<sup>222</sup> About 7,392,641.22 Euros

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## ii) Increased Number of Teachers

**348-** The total number of teachers increased from 60,357 in the 2013/2014 Academic Year to 68,150 in the 2014/2015 Academic Year. This was due to the recruitment of 3,060 teachers in 2015 as part of the 9,000 teacher recruitment operation through the conversion of the teachers recruited by Parents-Teacher Associations to Contract Teachers. Despite this increase, challenges remain with regard to their geographical distribution. In this vein, special measures were taken especially the redeployment of teachers serving in schools in insecure areas to safer areas, continuous staff training and payment of special bonuses to staff serving in the ceded areas of Darak and Bakassi.

**349-** Moreover, human resource management was improved in particular by systematic automatic promotions, tidying up staff payroll and the redeployment of teachers.

## iii) Literacy and Non-Formal Education

**350-** As part of the literacy and non-formal education programme, 17,573 adults were taught to read and write and 50 Functional Literacy Centres equipped with literacy kits.

## b) Private Education Supply

**351-** Private education indicators significantly improved in particular as regards infrastructure and workforce, despite the drop in State support.

**352-** Regarding infrastructure, the number of private schools increased from 6,229 in the 2013/2014 Academic Year to 6,861 in the 2014/2015 Academic Year. The number of classrooms increased from 30,784 in the 2013/2014 Academic Year to 33,201 in the 2014/2015 Academic Year. The number of seats increased from 1,205,085 in the 2013/2014 Academic Year to 1,292,672 in the 2014/2015 Academic Year.

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**353-** The number of primary school teachers increased from 33,381 in the 2013/2014 Academic Year to 35,842 in the 2014/2015 Academic Year.

**354-** For the 2015 Financial Year, CFAF1,852,990,000<sup>223</sup> was allocated to 3,705 primary schools and nurseries of different denominations as subsidy distributed as follows:

- Catholic Education CFAF526,965,518<sup>224</sup>;
- Protestant Education CFAF127,667,986<sup>225</sup>;
- Islamic Education CFAF183,814,018<sup>226</sup>; and
- Secular Education FCFA1,014,542,478<sup>227</sup>.

**355-** Compared to 2014 where the subsidy awarded to lay private education was CFAF1,857,772 000<sup>228</sup>, in 2015 it decreased due to the general reduction of the recurrent budget votes of various ministries.

## 2) Increase of Demand

**356-** Corruption control, the distribution of text books and the increasing number of basic education pupils have contributed to the increased demand for education.

### a) Corruption Control

**357-** As part of corruption control, several activities were undertaken including:

- intensification and extension of the implementation of Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) through the organization of initiation workshops for 12,533 public primary school Headmasters from 360 Councils of the country;
- continued audit engagements, reporting of acts of corruption in the decentralized services; and

<sup>223</sup> About 2,828,992.37 Euros

<sup>224</sup> About 804,527.51 Euros

<sup>225</sup> About 194,912.96 Euros

<sup>226</sup> About 280,632.10 Euros

<sup>227</sup> About 54,919.81 Euros

<sup>228</sup> About 2,836,293.13 Euros

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- deployment of corruption control Brigade during the resumption of the 2015/2016 Academic Year in 1,861 schools.

## b) Distribution of Textbooks

**358-** Free distribution of textbooks in public primary schools in 2014 that began under the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) funded by the World Bank continued. This second phase of the operation has helped to provide learners with 269,356 textbooks, 25,632 teaching guides and 795,196 exercise books in Class one.

## c) Increased Pupil Enrolment in Basic Education

**359-** Nursery and primary school enrolment increased from 4,604,149 in the 2013/2014 Academic Year to 4,878,147 in the 2014/2015 Academic Year. Overall, as a reminder, the shortfall in classrooms during the 2013/2014 Academic Year was estimated at 9,655, representing 2,903 in urban areas as against 6,752 in rural areas.

**360-** Thus, over the past 2 years, enrolment indicators rose with a net enrolment rate at the national level, which climbed from 89% in the 2011/2012 Academic Year to 90% in the 2014/2015 Academic Year, and a completion rate from 73% in the 2011/2012 Academic Year to 74.2% in the 2014/2015 Academic Year.

## B: Promotion of Equity

**361-** Equity measures continued to be implemented in the promotion of inclusive education and the gender approach.

**362-** To this end, besides the organization of 10 regional training workshops for officials of decentralized services on inclusive education and a workshop on the inclusion of the gender approach in teaching practices in primary school for 97 supervisors, MINEDUB conducted a study on bot-

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tlenecks in the education of the girl child in Priority Education Areas (PEAs) and the rest of the country. This study will reorient the educational approach of the girl child in the light of realities on the ground.

**363-** Moreover, proximity awareness campaigns for peace to prevent the exploitation of children in general and girls in particular for terrorist purposes were organized. More so, the production of a map on Community Units involved in awareness-raising is ongoing. Similarly, a girls' education monitoring Committee to ensure their assiduity in school was set up.

**364-** In addition, to encourage their enrolment and malnutrition control, the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed 55,174 tons of food to 10,607 pupils and 37,529 tons of maize to 1,290 girls in classes 5 and 6 as dry rations in 33 schools that have canteens in the Far North Region.

**365-** Furthermore, the NGO Counterpart International selected 146 schools as part of its United States Department of Agriculture programme. A food warehouse and an equipped kitchen were built in each of these schools.

**366-** These actions that were previously meant for girls were extended to boys. As a result, the national girls/boys parity index rose from 0.9 in the 2011/2012 Academic Year to 0.92 in the 2014/2015 Academic Year. In the PEAs, this index increased from 0.76 in the 2011/2012 Academic Year to 0.82 in the 2014/2015 Academic Year.

## C: Quality and Efficient Primary Education

**367-** Despite the difficult socio-economic context, MINEDUB strove to make primary education more qualitative and efficient.

### 1) Quality Primary Education

**368-** To continue improving the quality of primary education, emphasis was placed on strengthening school health, staff capacity and pursuing the teaching of national languages.

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## a) Enhancing School Health

**369-** The school health system was improved. To this end, teams from the Ministry of Public Health toured schools to promote school health. Some 7,528,000 school children were dewormed against helminths and schistosomiasis amongst which 4,360,000 in the primary education cycle.

**370-** In addition, vaccination and medical consultation campaigns were organized. Similarly, cardiovascular disease screening and ophthalmological campaigns were also organized for children from vulnerable groups with the assistance of the Cameroon Cardiology Association<sup>229</sup> and Lions Club.

**371-** The WASH campaign to promote hand washing with clean water and soap in schools was continued.

**372-** Moreover, in the same vein, STIs-HIV/AIDS activities were conducted and 50,000 books on basic skills in HIV and STDs control distributed to schools with the help of the Chantal Biya International Reference Centre (CBIRC).

## b) Capacity Building of Basic Education Staff

**373-** As part of the capacity building of basic education staff, MINEDUB organized training sessions and educational research for different stakeholders in the educational supervisory chain of nursery and primary school. This included the organization of consultative workshops on the drawing up of lesson notes in reading and mathematics and the capacity building of teachers in second language teaching (English/French-speaking class and French/English-speaking class). Some 7 media centres out of the 14 provided for were installed to build the capacity of teachers and students in education technology.

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<sup>229</sup> The Cameroon Cardiology Society screened for cardiovascular disease in children in September 2015 at the Public School, Nkoldongo-Mbida (Yaounde), diagnosed and treated a case of congenital heart disease against 8 cases screened in 2014 at the Public School, Centre Administratif.

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## c) Continued Teaching of Mother Tongues

**374-** After the 2013-2014 experimental phase, the teaching of national languages was accelerated with the production of teaching materials for reading and writing in a national language, training of 93 teachers to teach national languages, co-design and build the pilot education project for the teaching of national languages in 360 Government primary schools, representing a school per Council and the organization of a diagnostic-assessment of the performance of pupils in pilot schools.

**375-** Although the introduction of national languages is encouraged, for a better impact, it would be wise to involve parents through awareness campaigns on practice at the family level.

## 2) Effective Primary Education

**376-** In order to have an effective internal and external evaluation system, strategic discussion focused on the systematic evaluation of the educational achievement of pupils by setting up an Educational Systems Analysis Programme and initiating discussions on the development of compensatory pedagogy for collective promotion. Apart from these strategies, the effectiveness of the education system was assessed through the improvement of results in official examinations and the issuance of certificates.

### a) Increase in Positive Results at Official Exams

**377-** The *Certificat d'Etudes Primaires (CEP)*, the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) and Common Entrance (CE) examinations took place under normal conditions and the following success rates were obtained: CEP 73.18%, FSLC 90.29% and CE 82.10%.

**378-** These success rates improved, with the exception of CEP, compared to 2014 during which the following results were obtained: FSLC, 80.90%; CE, 77.80%; and CEP, 75.63%.

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**379-** The overall examinations success rate increased from 77.92% in 2014 to 78.40% in 2015 and an increased completion rate from 73% in the 2011/2012 Academic Year to 74.2% in the 2014/2015 Academic Year.

## b) Certification of Official Exams

**380-** In pursuing its certificate award programme, MINEDUB issued 290,667 secure certificates in 2015. It should be noted that since the beginning of the operation in 2011, a total of 1,689,914 certificates have been issued.

**381-** Government efforts to make the right to primary education a reality were also extended to secondary education.

## SECTION 2: PROMOTION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

**382-** The budget of the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC) declined from CFAF232,600,000,000<sup>230</sup> in 2014 to CFAF217,505,813,000<sup>231</sup> in 2015, about 2.2%. Despite this decline, efforts continued to be made to improve accessibility, quality and effective Secondary Education.

### § 1: Accessibility of Secondary Education

**383-** In order to improve access to secondary education, MINESEC continued expansion of the school map and redressed actions on school governance thereby increasing dema

#### A: Expansion of School Map

**384-** The school map of both public and private secondary education was further expanded.

<sup>230</sup> About 355, 114,503.82 Euros

<sup>231</sup> About 332, 069,943.51 Euros

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## 1) Public Secondary Education

**385-** Given the many land disputes faced by officials of decentralized services and schools, MINESEC took steps to secure State land with its structures, through land investigation missions in all the 58 Divisions of the country.

**386-** Further enlargement of the school map involved infrastructural development of public teacher training education, general secondary education, technical and vocational education.

**387-** A one-storey building was constructed in 3 secondary schools (Government High School (GHS) Nkolmesseng, GHS Mbo-Yom and GHS Nsam-Efoulan). A block of 2 classrooms was also constructed in 170 schools. Likewise, the NGO SHUMAS-Cameroon built 6 classrooms distributed as follows: 3 at the Mongo Nam High School, Batouri in the East Region and 3 at Tchamba II High School, Upper Bayang in the South West Region.

**388-** As regards equipment, some 18 workshops were equipped and 11,100 desks received, Multimedia rooms were commissioned at Bilingual High Schools Tiko and Ebolowa and a science laboratory at Bilingual High School, New-Bell, in partnership with Mobile Telecommunications Network (MTN Cameroon).

**389-** In terms of technical and vocational education, 1 building of 2 classrooms was constructed in 80 schools as well as 1 building of latrine and 11 others schools and 25 workshops. MTN Foundation equipped the multimedia hall at Government Technical High School (GTHS) Loum. Besides, SHUMAS-Cameroon built 16 classrooms with 4 workshops equipped at GTHS Nkwen in the North West Region.

**390-** Some 2,880 desks were provided to schools. Likewise, 6 technical secondary schools (GTHS Mouanko, GTHS Nyanon, Government Technical College (GTC) Makondo, GTC Bantoum, GTC Nnelefut, GTC Nake-Bokoko) and 10 computer rooms were connected to the grid.

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**391-** A one-storey building was constructed in 9 Secondary Teacher Training Colleges, 1 administrative block in 6 Secondary Teacher Training Colleges, 1 block of 2 classrooms in 24 Secondary Teacher Training Colleges and 1 block of latrine in 9 Secondary Teacher Training Colleges.

**392-** MINESEC further signed a number of agreements with the following structures to enhance education supply:

- MINPOSTEL on 29 January 2015 for the Internet connection of Multimedia Resource Centres of public secondary schools and teacher training colleges. This agreement enabled 50 rural schools to be connected to the Internet;
- ENEO on 7 July 2015 in education on electrical safety through better integration of electrical safety in the training of students and the mobilization of educational tools; and
- Peace Corps in Cameroon on 5 August 2015. Among other objectives, this agreement aims at supporting the reform and mastery of pedagogic approaches, back up education offer by providing institutions with qualified Mathematics/Science, ICT and English Language teachers, build staff capacity in the use of ICT/scientific, library/laboratory documentary material and resources of secondary education and teacher training institutions, and increase ICT/science, library/laboratory material and information resources.

**393-** Besides, through an informal partnership with MINESEC, Express Union continued to promote academic excellence by awarding scholarships to the best high school students and providing alternating training to students.

## 2) Private Secondary Education

**394-** In private secondary education, infrastructural development was materialized with the opening of schools. To this end, 86 authorizations were granted promoters to set up open and expand private institutions.

**395-** In conclusion, 3,786 secondary schools were functional in 2015: 2,589 public and 1,197 private secondary schools; 2,467 for General

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Secondary Education (GSE), 1,159 for Secondary Technical and Vocational Education (STVE) and 160 for Teaching Training Education (TT).

## B: Enhancing School Governance

**396-** The enhancement of school governance focused primarily on control missions. At public institutions, 2 inspection missions were carried out. The first took place in 40 schools in 4 Regions to control staff hourly quotas and the second, in the 10 Regions of the country to control management of IT education project funds by principals. Based on these missions, the competent services made suggestions<sup>232</sup>.

**397-** As part of corruption control, the implementation of IRRI was conducted in 25 Secondary and Technical Education schools to increase practical sessions in Industrial Technologies from 35% to 70%.

**398-** In private schools, 3 management control missions of private secondary schools were conducted in 7 Regions (Adamawa, Centre, Littoral, North West, West, South West, and South Regions). These missions found out that State subsidies were used for other purposes, detected and closed 34 illegal schools; that was below the 120 schools that were identified and closed in 2014. Moreover, registration of schools continued in order to halt the phenomenon decied above with 341 registrations for private technical education and 292 for general private education.

**399-** At the end of the 2015 examinations session and particularly those organized by the Department of Examination and Certification (DECC), 3 decisions were taken by MINESEC on 27 October 2015 sanctioning various stakeholders for fraud during the said examinations comprising:

- 26 examiners for late submission of files, fraudulent registrations, replacement of examination scripts, refusal to mark scripts, mix up of the content of envelopes, scam and extortion of funds from candidates or attempted scam. Three types of sanctions were im-

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<sup>232</sup> These are letters that a higher authority addresses to a subordinate which may be positive (congratulations) or negative (sanctions).

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sed on the accused: Warning letters, suspension for the 2016 Session and withdrawal from the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Sessions;

- 12 third parties: pupils or students of a higher level sat in for some candidates. Criminal proceedings were instituted against them; and
- 20 candidates for fraudulent or improper registration, attempted substitution or substitution of candidate, replacement of scripts, cheating and forgery. They were all suspended for the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 sessions.

**400-** Still within the framework of the 2015 examination sessions, litigation involving the Cameroon Baccalaureate Board (OBC) and the GCE Board resulted in 64 and 17 sanctions respectively.

## C: Increase in Demand

**401-** Regarding secondary schools enrolment and attendance rates, the tables below show the respective increase in enrolment of students (girls and boys) in GSE, TVSE, TT in 2014 and 2015 as well as data on vulnerable children (orphans and those with disability).

**Table 1: Enrolment of students in the GSE, TVSE, TT**

Order	Public		Private		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
<b>GSE and TVSE</b>						
Girls	636,158	1,337,548	277,572	594,412	913,730	<b>1,872,335</b>
Boys	810,382	1,696,886	275,964	587,712	1,086,346	<b>2,284,598</b>
<b>Total 1</b>	<b>1,446,540</b>	<b>3,034,434</b>	<b>553,536</b>	<b>1,182,124</b>	<b>2,000,076</b>	<b>4,156,933</b>
<b>ENIEG</b>						
Girls	13,933	12,328	4,772	4,137	<b>18,705</b>	<b>16,465</b>
Boys	9,957	8,483	1,382	1,378	<b>11,339</b>	<b>9,861</b>
<b>Total 2</b>	<b>23,890</b>	<b>20,811</b>	<b>6,154</b>	<b>5,515</b>	<b>30,044</b>	<b>26,326</b>
<b>ENIET</b>						
Girls	2,032	2,759	945	634	<b>2,977</b>	<b>3,393</b>
Boys	2,243	2,926	321	153	<b>2,564</b>	<b>3,079</b>
<b>Total 3</b>	<b>4,275</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>5,541</b>	<b>6,472</b>
Total Girls	652,123	13,52,635	283,289	599,183	<b>935,412</b>	<b>1,892,196</b>
Total Boys	822,582	1,708,295	277,667	589,243	<b>1,100,249</b>	<b>2,297,538</b>
<b>Total number of students</b>	<b>1,474,705</b>	<b>3,060,930</b>	<b>560,956</b>	<b>1,188,426</b>	<b>2,035,661</b>	<b>4,189,734</b>

**Source: MINESEC**

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**Table 2: Distribution of the Number of Vulnerable Children in Public and Private GSE and TVES by Region and Gender**

Region	Orphans			Students with Disabilities		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Adamawa	460	880	<b>1,340</b>	52	84	<b>136</b>
Centre	1,349	1,532	<b>2,881</b>	229	274	<b>503</b>
East	357	539	<b>896</b>	34	67	<b>101</b>
Far North	1,634	3,276	<b>4,910</b>	163	330	<b>493</b>
Littoral	2,126	2,368	<b>4,494</b>	264	278	<b>542</b>
North	667	1,587	<b>2,254</b>	116	176	<b>292</b>
North West	2,232	2,002	<b>4,234</b>	273	256	<b>529</b>
West	1,276	1,292	<b>2,568</b>	274	274	<b>548</b>
South	579	751	<b>1,330</b>	144	233	<b>377</b>
South West	523	583	<b>1,106</b>	220	342	<b>562</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>11,203</b>	<b>14,810</b>	<b>26,013</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>4,083</b>

**Source:** MINESEC

**402-** The 26,013 orphaned students and 4,083 with disability represent 1.23% and 0.19% of the 2,108,279 students in GSE and TVSE, representing an overall vulnerability threshold of about 1.43%.

## §2: Improving Secondary Education Quality

**403-** To improve secondary education quality, emphasis was laid on curriculum reform, teacher training and human resource management, and continued extracurricular activities.

### A: Curriculum Reform

**404-** Curriculum reform that began in 2013 with professionalization of education continued in 2015. It consisted either of curriculum revision (general education) or redesign (teacher training education and technical and vocational education) in order to provide effective responses to the demands of the modern world and technological and technical development.

**405-** Reform in technical and vocational education focused on the institution of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year syllabuses and the implementation of 21 training standards of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle of Secondary Technical and Industrial

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Vocational Education (STVE) validated in 2014, the drawing up of industrial CAP draft regulation for institutional and technical validation of 8 specialization programmes in Economic and Social Sciences and Business Action.

**406-** These programmes cover the following disciplines: Economic and Social Sciences, Corporate Economics, Applied Mathematics, Applied Economics IT, Sales, Trade, Commercial Techniques and Professional Practice.

**407-** Teacher training reform focused on implementation of the new programmes of Teacher Training syllabus with the organization of 5 regional seminars on learning management according to the Competence-based Approach and the drawing up of practical training guides for Government Teacher Training College students.

**408-** A Convention was signed on 17 September 2015 between the NGO *AFLATOUN International* and MINESEC to introduce social, financial and entrepreneurial education in Teacher Training Colleges.

## **B: Teacher Training and Human Resource Management**

**409-** To strengthen human resource capacity, teachers continued to receive ongoing training. Their working conditions and standard of living were improved.

### **1) Teacher Training**

**410-** A total of 795 teachers awaiting absorption into the Public Service received educational support.

**411-** In addition, to improve the quality of teaching and learning, 13,280 teachers were evaluated through inspection-counselling and the number inspections carried out, 2,552 staff were trained in explicit teaching (National Pedagogic Inspectors, Regional Coordination Inspectors,

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Regional Pedagogic Inspectors and teachers) and 480 education days were organized during which 21,987 more teachers were trained.

**412-** Furthermore, the pedagogic work was supported by the production and editing of various endogenous educational resources, as well as giving teachers the incentive to carry out research through the implementation of Pedagogic Innovation Projects. Similarly, the capacity of 154 instructors and officials of Multimedia Resource Centres was developed through seminars organized in the 10 Regions.

**413-** In addition, MTN Cameroon, through its activity dubbed "21 days", trained some 50 teachers in inclusive education.

## 2) Human Resource Management

**414-** Several activities were carried out to ensure better human resources management. These comprised the processing of 809 acts for the payment of dues, effective support for 10,068 staff and the identification of 56,146 staff on MINESEC's payroll. Some 65 staff received a total of CFAF35,270,000<sup>233</sup> as aid and assistance as part of the Education Solidarity and Promotion Fund.

**415-** In terms of career management, some 7,384 graduates of the Higher Teacher Training College (ENS) and the Higher Technical Teacher Training College (ENSET) were assigned to their duty posts on the day of graduation. In addition, 21,000 advancement files were produced and 14,076 acts signed. Likewise, 2,010 absorption files and 4,849 applications for rapid support were sent to MINFOPRA, while 173 files were sent to the Grand Chancellor of the National Orders for the award of honours to staff.

**416-** Furthermore, pursuant to the provisions of the Special Rules and Regulations of the Education Corps and after the holding of the first

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<sup>233</sup> About 53,847.33 Euros

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National Council for the Award of Academic Excellence, 1,217 teachers were conferred the rank of Knight of Academic Excellence during the 1st Edition held on 5 October 2015 at the celebration of the World Teachers' Day. More so, 10 prizes offered by MTN Cameroon were given to 10 teachers who were the best users of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to encourage them to teach by using ICTs.

**417-** Most of these measures aim at reducing the movement of staff and maintaining them at their work station. However, the major problem remains the lack of teachers, with a shortfall estimated at just over 60,000.

**418-** Finally, all the steps taken ensured an overall programme coverage and student attendance rate of around 90%.

### 3) Extracurricular Activities

**419-** To improve the quality of school life, MINESEC began intensifying extracurricular activities, improving health, sport and the quality of educational and vocational guidance.

**420-** In the same vein, it is worthy to mention the celebration, Arts Training Institute of Mbalmayo, the International Day of Mother Language coupled with the Arts School Day on the topic: *"Inclusive education through and by language: Language Matters"*

### §3: Effectiveness of Secondary Education

**421-** The organization of examinations and competitions and the results obtained helped highlight the effectiveness of secondary education.

#### 1) Organization of Examinations and Competitions

**422-** Organization of examinations and competitions was marked by the incorporation of some examination centres of the Far North Region to more

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secure centres but also through the introduction of innovations for the examinations of the OBC and DECC.

## a) Connection to more Secure Centres in the Far North Region

**423-** To ensure the orderly conduct of examinations in the Far North Region, 3,453 students from 11 schools of the Region<sup>234</sup> were displaced and 10 examination centres attached to more secure centres as follows:

- 5 schools (GHS, Kerawa, GHS, Kolofata, GHS, Limami, and Gouvernement Secondary School (GSS), Goundjimdele Tolkomari) attached to GHS, Mora;
- 2 schools (GSS, Ashigashia, Government bilingual Secondary School (GBSS), Zeleved) attached respectively to GHS, Mozogo and GHS, Koza;
- 1 school (GHS, Fotokol) attached to GHS, Makary;
- 1 school (GHS, Tourou) attached respectively to *Lycée classic* and GBSS Mokolo; and
- 1 school (GTC, Fotokol) attached to GTHS, Mora.

## b) Innovations

**424-** Innovations were introduced in examinations of the OBC and DECC in 2015 in order to improve their development, training and secure the staff.

**425-** For examinations of the OBC, innovations focused on changing the timetable. Subjects for the day ended at 4 p.m. for General Secondary Education (instead of 5:30 p.m.) and 4:30 p.m. for Professional Technical Secondary Education (and not 6:30 p.m.). This measure was to provide security for candidates and examiners during the course of writing.

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<sup>234</sup> The following institutions are concerned: GHS Fotokol, GHS Waza, GHS Kerawa, GHS Kolofata GHS Limami, GHS Tourou, CETI Kolofata, GSS Goundjimdele, GSS Tolkomari, GSS Ashigashia and GBSS Zeleved).

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**426-** In addition, an auxiliary was appointed to assist the *Chargé de mission* with a view to reducing fraud by replacement of scripts observed during the 2014 session. Furthermore, the Bilingual A Series was introduced at the Probatoire examination at the level of General Secondary Education.

**427-** DECC examinations stakeholders were paid their dues upon availability of same and trained in understanding texts governing official examinations.

## 2) Results

**428-** Some 1,070,294 candidates in 2015 as against 992,201 in 2014 registered for 27 official examinations organized by MINESEC in 2015 representing an increase of 7.29% with an overall attendance rate of 96.77% in 2015 as against 96.76% in 2014. Statistics of results thereof are shown in the tables below:

**Table 3: Examinations under the DECC**

Examinations	Enrolled	Absent	Present	Passed	Success rate in 2015 (%)	Success rate in 2014 (%)	Gap
<b>Bilingual BEPC</b>	1,274	4	1,270	839	66.06%	49.9%	16.16%
<b>Ordinary BEPC</b>	223,592	3,432	220,160	89,857	40.82%	75.30%	-34.48%
<b>CAP STT</b>	41,323	420	40,903	19,386	40.06%	38.14%	1.92%
<b>CAP Industrial</b>	13,233	173	13,060	5,846	49.64%	40.21%	9.43%
<b>CAPIEMP</b>	15,458	88	15,370	14,446	93-99	88.24%	5.75%
<b>CAPIET</b>	1,757	10	1,747	1,622	92.84%	91.13%	1.71%
<b>Entrance examination 1<sup>st</sup> year (Technical)</b>	50,678	1,069	49,609	37,395	75.38%	76.99%	-1.61%
<b>Common Entrance Examination into Form I</b>	178,655	2,988	175,667	109,294	62.22%	68.52%	-6.3%
<b>ENIEG Competitive Entrance Examination</b>	10,059	262	9,797	7,987	81.52%	73.96%	-7.56%

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Examinations	Enrolled	Absent	Present	Passed	Success rate in 2015 (%)	Success rate in 2014 (%)	Gap
<i>ENIET Competitive Entrance Examination</i>	5,263	233	5,030	2,794	55.55%	46.93%	8.62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>541,292</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>532,613</b>	<b>289,486</b>	<b>54.40%</b>	<b>64 (19)</b>	<b>-9.79%</b>

Source: MINESEC

**Table 3: Examinations Organized by the OBC**

Examinations	Enrolled	Absent	Present	Passed	Success rate in 2015 (%)	Success rate in 2014 (%)	Gap
<b>General Baccalaureat</b>	90,726	2,086	88,640	50,144	56.57%	55.12%	1.45%
<b>Industrial Technical Baccalaureat</b>	6,749	167	6,582	3,897	59.20%	49.62%	9.58%
<b>Baccalaureat Business Techniques</b>	8,722	104	8,618	4,786	55.53%	63.72%	-8.19%
<i>Brevets de Techniciens Industriels</i>	4,807	77	4,730	2,483	52.49%	36.22%	16.27%
<i>Brevets de Techniciens Commerciaux</i>	2,226	32	2,194	1,467	66.86%	53.58%	13.28%
<i>Brevets Professionnels Commerciaux</i>	54	0	54	14	25.93%	28.30%	-2.37%
<i>Brevets Professionnels Industriels</i>	408	20	388	244	62.88%	64.89%	-2.01%
<i>Probatoires STT</i>	14,517	79	14,438	5,644	39.09%	42.97%	-3.88%
<i>Probatoires ESG</i>	187,513	6,986	180,527	67,935	37.63%	30.41%	7.22%
<i>Probatoires Industriels</i>	18,117	237	17,880	5,616	31.40%	23-25	8.15%
<i>Probatoires de brevets de Techniciens Industriels</i>	11,267	187	11,080	2,552	23.03%	21.50%	1.53%
<i>Probatoires de brevets de Techniciens Commerciaux</i>	3,648	70	3,578	1,525	42.62%	43.93%	-1.31%
<i>BEP Industriels</i>	17	0	17	7	41.17%	36.36%	4.81%
<i>BEP Commercial</i>	0	0	0	0	0	00	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>348,771</b>	<b>10,045</b>	<b>338,726</b>	<b>146,314</b>	<b>43.19%</b>	<b>53.68%</b>	<b>-10.49%</b>

Source: MINESEC

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**Table 4: Examinations organized by the GCE Board (*General Certificate of Education Board*)**

Examinations	Enrolled	Absent	Present	Passed	Success rate in 2015 (%)	Success rate in 2014 (%)	Gap
<b>Advanced Level General</b>	48,142	82	48,058	29,031	60.41%	62.35%	-1.94%
<b>Advanced Level Technical</b>	5,492	30	5,462	3,509	64.24%	51 (18)	13 :06
<b>Technical Baccalaureat</b>	108,204	15443	92,761	41,681	44.93%	64.33%	-19.4%
<b>General Ordinary Level</b>	9,157	181	8,976	4,033	45%	38.14%	6.86%
<b>Ordinary Level Technical</b>	1,665	15	1,650	1,161	70.36%	29:49	40.87%
<i>Probatoire de Brevet de Technicien</i>	3,989	41	3,948	956	24.21%	34.28%	-10.07%
<i>Probatoire Technique</i>	1,353	17	1,336	650	48.65%	24/06	24.59%
<i>Brevet de Technicien</i>	2,229	35	2,194	809	36.87%	50.37%	-13.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>180,231</b>	<b>15,846</b>	<b>164,385</b>	81,830	49.78%	<b>44.27%</b>	<b>5.51%</b>

**Source:** MINESEC

**429-** Given these results, 97,393 graduates, including 34,351 from the English-speaking sub-System and 63,042 from the French-speaking sub-System were eligible for Higher Education.

### SECTION 3: PROMOTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**430-** The Ministry of Higher Education, with an increased budget of CFAF51.944, 000,000<sup>235</sup> in 2015 as against CFAF49,200,000,000<sup>236</sup> in 2014, continued to improve the quality, efficiency and accessibility of higher education.

<sup>235</sup> About 79,303,816.79 Euros

<sup>236</sup> About 751,14,503.82 Euros

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## §1: Accessibility to Higher Education

**431-** The university map was expanded and demand remained relatively stable.

### A: University Map

**432-** New institutions were set up and buildings constructed and rehabilitated. Despite such infrastructure development, lack of critical mass in terms of number of teachers continues to affect proper supervision of students.

#### 1) New Institutions

**433-** New institutions such as The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) were set up at the transnational level.

**434-** At bilateral level, the Cameroon-Congo Inter-State University, situated at Sangmelima, opened its doors with the appointment of its maiden officials<sup>237</sup>.

**435-** Internally, the Faculties of Law and Political Science, and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Management of the University of Bamenda were set up, as well as 22 Private Institutions of Higher Education (IPES), bringing their total to 185 throughout the country. The Faculties of Law and Political Sciences of Bertoua, Garoua and Ebolowa have been operational since October 2015.

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<sup>237</sup> Students will be admitted in September 2016 through competitive examination. The training areas are Information and Communication Technology at Sangmelima, Cameroon and Agroforestry at Ouessou, Congo. Cameroon, appointed the Coordinator and his Deputy respectively in the persons of Professors **NDJODO** and **ETOA**.

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## 2) Built and Rehabilitated Infrastructure

**436-** Infrastructure were built and rehabilitated in various universities including the:

- Faculty of Medicine, University of Yaounde 1, with the completion and equipment of a block for continuous training, completion of lecture halls and the paths and utility networks (VRD);
- Higher Teacher Training College, University of Maroua, with the construction of lecture halls, an administrative block, classrooms, offices for lecturers, a 500-seat amphitheatre, a restaurant of 640 seats and a sick bay;
- Faculty of Industrial Engineering, University of Douala, with the construction of an administrative block, lecture halls, a library, purchase of movable and fixed equipment;
- Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Douala with the construction and equipment of a block of laboratories and specialized classrooms and lecture halls of 1,800 seats underway. Similarly, the amendment of the VRD was signed;
- Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Buea, with the construction of 2 auditoriums, one with a restaurant; and
- Higher Teacher Training College, University of Bamenda, with the construction of a water tower, continuation of the construction of the VRD and 2 halls of residence of 140 beds each.

## 3) Insufficient Number of Teachers

**437-** In 2014, the number and quality of teachers was low<sup>238</sup> with a ratio of 1 lecturer to 93 students. This already small number was compounded by cases of retirement without replacement. To avoid aggravating this insufficiency, the Minister of Higher Education took a transitional measure to recall, as part-time lecturers, some professors who were already on retirement. Overall, in 2015, the number of lecturers of all ranks in all

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<sup>238</sup> See Report by the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights 2014 §367.

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State Universities added to those of IPES, stood at 5,020 giving a ratio of 1 lecturer to 70 students<sup>239</sup>.

## B: Relative Demand Stability

**438-** Student population in public and private educational institutions in 2015 was estimated at 351,000 as against 375,504 in 2014.

**439-** Moreover, support and assistance continued to be provided to students. To this end, 118 scholarships were granted students in 11 countries, while 221 others received various forms of assistance.

**440-** Finally, as in the previous year, 100,000 students from State Universities and IPES received the academic excellence award worth CFAF50,000<sup>240</sup> giving a total of CFAF5,000,000,000<sup>241</sup>.

## §2: Improving Higher Education Quality and Efficiency

**441-** Steps were taken to improve higher education quality and efficiency.

### A: Higher Education Quality

**442-** Professionalization of education, payment of academic research allowance and consolidation of governance contributed in improving higher education quality.

#### Professionalization of Education

**443-** To consolidate professionalization of education, the National Steering and Monitoring Committee for the Effective Functioning of the Bachelors

<sup>239</sup> Source MINESUP

<sup>240</sup> About 763.35 Euros

<sup>241</sup> About 7,633,587Euros

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Master PhD System was set up in Higher Education Institutions. What is more, Accreditation to provide Professional and Technological Education (HDEPT) was implemented. It aims at breaking down university barriers with a view to turning it into a social institution able to assist Cameroon in its ambitious project of becoming an emerging country by 2035.

## Payment of Academic Research Allowance

**444-** Some 5,000 lecturers received CFAF9,800,000,000<sup>242</sup> under the Special Allocation Account for the modernization of university research. Likewise, 9 teachers received mobility grant or were on internship abroad.

### 1) Consolidation of University Governance

**445-** Emphasis was placed on promotion of ethics and fraud control to strengthen university governance. As such, 140 students were punished for academic fraud and indiscipline while 14 lecturers and 10 support staff were punished for breach of discipline and ethics.

**446-** Apart from sanctions, student organizations were also prominent. To this end, a Forum for University Students of Cameroon (FETUC) was set up. This is a framework for promotion, facilitation, dialogue, exchange and discussions among students on relevant topics related to their training, socio-professional integration and academic ambitions.

## B: Improving Higher Education Efficiency

**447-** Within the framework of the improvement of higher education, the following results were obtained at examinations:

- Specialized Professional Education Diploma (DSEP) : 1,034 out of 1,671 candidates passed;

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<sup>242</sup> About 149,618,320.61 Euros

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- *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur* (BTS): 8,985 out of 13,477 candidates passed;
- Higher National Diploma (HND): 4,123 out of 5,107 candidates passed; and
- Higher Professional Diploma (HPD): 317 out of 373 candidates passed.

**448-** Meanwhile, certification of examinations continued with the issuance of certificates and diplomas and the granting of 1,001 equivalences during the reference year which were added to the 833 others granted in 2014.

**449-** Promotion of the right to education has made significant progress. Thus, the implementation of the Support Programme for the Development of Nursery Education, infrastructure expansion, continued education professionalization through curriculum reform, innovations introduced before and during the conduct of examinations helped increase the success rate in various examinations in 2015.

**450-** However, these achievements should not mask the many challenges that remain, relating to insufficient seats for all pupils, insufficient minimum package, persistence of illegal schools, mismanagement of funds allocated to computer education and inadequate teaching staff in universities.

**Chapter** 2

RIGHT TO HEALTH



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**451-** In 2015, Government continued to guarantee the right to health by rendering the health system more efficient and more effective. In this connection, it took actions geared towards health district servicing, maternal, adolescent and child health, disease control, health promotion, and governance. A budget of CFAF207,066,000,000 was allocated to the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE) to achieve its objectives<sup>243</sup>.

## SECTION 1: HEALTH DISTRICT SERVICING AND ACCESSIBILITY TO HEALTHCARE

**452-** Government improved availability and accessibility of health facilities and healthcare to the public. The strategy was to build new health facilities, refurbish old ones, train staff and improve affordability to cost of treatment.

### §1: Enhancing Availability

**453-** Government strove to improve on the quantity and quality of health facilities and health personnel.

#### A: Availability of Care Facilities

**454-** In 2015, some new health facilities were opened to the public, amongst them a number of first class hospitals, imaging centres and laboratories.

**455-** The Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Paediatric Hospital, Douala which is the fruit of China-Cameroon cooperation was officially commissioned on 17 November 2015. It costs CFAF13,000,000,000<sup>244</sup> and has 300 beds and cutting edge equipment. The Referral Hospital, Sangmelima worth CFAF17,000,000,000<sup>245</sup> was officially opened on 23 July 2015. It has modern technical facilities, a medical imaging unit and a scanner. It also

<sup>243</sup> About 315,568,584 Euros representing 5.53% which is still below the minimum of 15% of the total State budget provided for in the Abuja Declaration on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases as well as the Priority Action Plan of MINSANTE.

<sup>244</sup> About 19,812,000 Euros

<sup>245</sup> About 25,908,000 Euros

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has an emergency service, a modern theatre and a heliport. The Yaounde Emergency Centre, built with the support of the Republic of Korea was inaugurated on 18 August 2015. Furnished with quality equipment, the Centre caters for victims of accidents and other emergencies.

**456-** Furthermore, the Medical Imaging Centre, Bamenda, estimated at CFAF700,000,000<sup>246</sup> was inaugurated on 21 April 2015. The specialized Centre of the Regional Hospital, Bamenda is equipped with a scanner, 2 X-ray machines, a dental scan, mammography and ultrasound machines. The Imaging Centre, Ngaoundere worth FCFA 700,000,000<sup>247</sup> and the Imaging Centre, Garoua were respectively inaugurated on 2 and 3 June 2015. In addition, a Laboratory to serve as a polio monitoring unit was inaugurated at the *Centre Pasteur*, Yaounde on 16 April 2015. The Laboratory was set up to diagnose and treat poliomyelitis and other infections like Yellow-fever, measles and common cold.

**457-** The above-mentioned new structures helped to push forward Government's goal of providing a health facility within every 5km nationwide.

**458-** A good number of computer equipment was also acquired and distributed to health districts as part of the drive to step up the health information system.

**459-** The public investment budget of MINSANTE stood at CFAF6,548,942,000 for 364 health facilities broken down as follows; 45 Subdivisional Medical Centres (SMCs)<sup>248</sup>; 268 Integrated Health Centres (IHC)<sup>249</sup>; 26 District Hospitals<sup>250</sup>; 2 Regional Hospitals<sup>251</sup>; 1 house for a nurse of an SMC; 11 houses for nurses of IHCs<sup>252</sup>; 2 mother and child wards of SMCs<sup>253</sup>; 6 houses for medical doctors of SMCs<sup>254</sup>; 1 house for a medical doctor of IHC<sup>255</sup>; 1 mother and child ward at a District Hospital;<sup>256</sup> and 1 District Health Service<sup>257</sup>

<sup>246</sup> About 1,066,800 Euros

<sup>247</sup> About 1,066,800 Euros

<sup>248</sup> CFAF4,556,090,000  
(about 6,970,817 Euros)

<sup>249</sup> CFAF4,575,150,000  
(about 6,999,979 Euros)

<sup>250</sup> CFAF636,692,000 (about

974,138 Euros)

<sup>251</sup> CFAF29,950,000 (about  
45,823 Euros)

<sup>252</sup> CFAF373,350,000 (about  
571,225 Euros)

<sup>253</sup> CFAF60,000,000 (about  
91,800 Euros)

<sup>254</sup> CFAF6,200,000,000

(about 9,486,000 Euros)

<sup>255</sup> CFAF35,000,000 (about  
53,550 Euros)

<sup>256</sup> CFAF50,000,000 ( about  
76,500 Euros)

<sup>257</sup> CFAF2,900,000 (about

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**460-** The sum of CFAF6,000,000,000<sup>258</sup> from the budget of MINSANTE was transferred to councils for the construction of SMCs and IHCs.

## B: Human Resources

**461-** Steps were taken to improve the quality and quantity of health staff. New medical doctors, pharmacists, dentists, midwives, nurses and other health professionals graduated from school, increasing the number of practitioners already on the field.

**462-** In all 4,801 nurses, medico-sanitary and obstetrics personnel were trained. They included the second batch of 213 midwives, 88 nursing aides specialized in community health and 15 medico-sanitary technicians in optics and refraction, as well as the first batch of dental surgeons trained in Cameroon<sup>259</sup>.

**463-** During the reference year, 145 general practitioners and medical specialists alike, 5 pharmacists, 185 nurses and 185 medico-sanitary technicians and sanitary engineers were recruited by MINFOPRA. In addition, 115 general practitioners and 115 medical specialists, 21 pharmacists and 32 dentists of the last batch of the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Yaounde 1 were absorbed by MINSANTE.

**464-** A total of 291 health professionals were posted to work in 105 of the most personnel deficient health facilities in the Adamawa, North, Far-North and South-West Regions as part of the Pilot Project on retention of health workers in remote areas. This helped to reduce the imbalance in the distribution of personnel in Health Districts and at the close of the year, 39 on 191 functional Health Districts had at least 50% of vital staff, representing an increase rate of 20.41%.

<sup>258</sup> About 9,144,000 Euros

<sup>259</sup> These dental surgeons who took oath on 10 December 2015, were trained in Cameroon at University of Yaounde 1, Centre Region and at the *Université des Montagnes*, West Region.

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**465-** In an effort to improve the quality of medical professionals trained in both public and private sectors of the country, the Minister of Higher Education on 8 October 2015, handed to heads of public and private medical training institutions, the harmonized curriculum in the field of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry.

**466-** The key innovations of the harmonized curriculum are:

- introduction of a single national competitive entrance examination for doctors, pharmacists and dentists into private and public schools;
- establishment of a national clinical synthesis examination at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> year of study;
- harmonization of training programmes in private and public institutions; and
- introduction of a national examination for medical specialties.

**467-** The new curriculum has standardized the training of medical staff.

## §2: Improving Accessibility to Care

**468-** Some of the ways Government used to improve accessibility to care were to reduce the number of stock out days for tracer drugs and the cost of treatment of some diseases.

**469-** Government took action to improve the availability of drugs, reagents and essential material. The objective was to make drugs available in all health districts through the improvement of stocks. Progress was made in achieving this objective as the average number of days of stock-out for tracer drugs reduced from 15 to 13.69 days. Steps were taken and partnership agreements signed to render more accessible, scarce and very expensive drugs and treatment, especially for viral hepatitis and cancer.

**470-** Stocks of street drugs worth CFAF554,969,708<sup>260</sup> were seized and destroyed to protect the health of the people.

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<sup>260</sup> About 845,773 Euros

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## SECTION 2: MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT AND CHILD HEALTH

**471-** In order to reduce maternal, neonatal and infant mortality and improve adolescent health, Government focused on maternal, adolescent and child health. (Madam, could you look closely at this introductory sentence?) (Look at this: Government took a number of measures in the areas of maternal adolescent and child health aimed at reducing maternal, neonatal and infant mortality and enhancing adolescent health.

### §1 : Maternal Health

**472-** Maternal mortality remained a challenge; therefore policy documents were drafted to improve on the situation namely, the Operational Plan for Family Planning (2015 and 2020)<sup>261</sup>. Government continued to enhance maternal health by improving availability and accessibility to care through provision of infrastructure, reduction of cost associated with pregnancy, child birth and family planning, and the enhancement of the skills of personnel. An important indicator for the improvement of maternal and neonatal health was the number of deliveries assisted by a skilled attendant.

#### A : Improving on Availability

**473-** Measures were taken to improve on infrastructure and skills of personnel.

##### 1) Care Facilities

**474-** Six new mother and infant wards were built and 13 others equipped. In addition, the maternities of many health facilities were rehabilitated and equipped.

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<sup>261</sup> The Operational Plan falls within the framework of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (2014-2020).

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**475-** In July 2015, Cameroon was selected amongst 10 countries<sup>262</sup> in the world to benefit from the Global Financial Facility (GFF) “In support of Every Woman and Every Child” Initiative<sup>263</sup>. Consequently, a 2-day national consultation workshop was opened in Yaounde on 26 October 2015 in a bid to have stakeholders understand the key issues Cameroon could resolve within the GFF. The Initiative will among other things help Cameroon better coordinate actions in the area of maternal and child health, improve health facilities and get more funding.

## 2) Capacity Development

**476-** The skills of 4,455 health personnel were developed in reproductive health and the first batch of 183 midwives, who graduated from the 10 existing training schools, was recruited and posted to different areas in the field.

**477-** A manual on maternal and child health was officially launched on 12 September 2015. Its goal is to improve on maternal health and reduce the rate of infant mortality in Cameroon. In the same month, the manual was distributed to 42 of the 189 health districts in the country.

**478-** Furthermore, in order to improve the quality of training on maternal health, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the MTN Foundation donated specialized equipment for the training of midwives to the Midwifery School, Garoua on 16 April 2015. The equipment comprised among other things delivery tables, tables for medical examination, incubators, medication carts, anatomical models of the female genitalia and full human skeletons.

**479-** Efforts made resulted in a slight increase in child delivery by qualified staff. Indeed, 286,049 births were attended by skilled health personnel out of the expected 749,306, representing an assistance rate of 38.17%<sup>264</sup>.

<sup>262</sup> Cameroon was selected due to the commendable progress made in maternal and neonatal healthcare.

<sup>263</sup> This new financial mechanism which is supported by the World Bank and UN agencies provides additional fund to developing countries to help them make more efforts in improving maternal and neonatal healthcare.

<sup>264</sup> This is still far below the 90% targeted in the priority Action Plan of the Ministry of Public Health (2014-2018) by 2018.

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## B : Accessibility to Care

**480-** A strategy to improve accessibility of care was to enhance access to goods and services at affordable prices. This was done mainly through the continuous repositioning of obstetrics kits and repositioning of family planning.

**481-** Obstetric kits continued to be repositioned and eventually the 10 Regions of the country were covered in 2015. Obstetric kits for uncomplicated delivery cost CFAF 6000<sup>265</sup>. Kits were also repositioned for caesarean deliveries. These kits enabled women get access to affordable maternity care.

**482-** The “Health Voucher” programme which was officially launched on 2 June 2015 at the Regional Hospital, Ngaoundere will last for 3 years. This initiative of the Cameroon Government which France and Germany are supporting financially provides a mechanism for payment, thereby enabling pregnant women to be monitored throughout their period of pregnancy and delivery, and post partum care is available for a period of 6 weeks. The cost of the Voucher is CFAF6,000<sup>266</sup> and it is valid for 365 days. The programme was effective in 26 accredited health facilities and there were 19,956 prenatal consultations, 7,974 natural deliveries and 479 caesarean sections performed in within 6 months from the start of the initiative. The programme had been gradually introduced in some health districts in the Adamawa, North and the Far North Regions before its official launching.

**483-** In 2015, 650,238 out of the 845,048 expected pregnant women attended their first prenatal consultation representing 76.9%. This was an improvement of 7.4% compared to the attendance rate of 69.5% in 2014.

**484-** Family planning is one of the strategies Government has embarked on to reduce unwanted pregnancies, maternal mortality and unhealthy children. Consequently, Government intends to increase contraceptive pre-

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<sup>265</sup> 9,144 Euros

<sup>266</sup> 9,144 Euros

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valence from 17.66% in 2014 to 30.56% in 2020 for modern methods amongst women aged 15-49. Thus, on 25 February 2015 in Yaounde, the Minister of Public Health launched the week of repositioning of family planning in Cameroon under the theme: *"Your Future, Your Choice, Your Contraception"*.

**485-** Some 496 health personnel were trained on Postpartum family planning (PPFP) in the North (77), South (29), Centre (36), Littoral (100) South West (96) West (56), Adamawa (95), East (72) and Centre (56) Regions.

**486-** Furthermore, the "Access to Reproductive Health Services" initiative which had existed for 4 years was officially launched on 14 September 2015 in Yaounde. It aims to reduce maternal mortality through the provision of quality birth control products at affordable rates to women of child-bearing age. This initiative is the result of German-Cameroon cooperation and primarily concerns the population of the Adamawa, Far North, North, and East Regions.

**487-** Accordingly, the prices of contraceptives that were reduced by decision of the Minister of Public Health in August 2014 were maintained which should encourage the people to resort to methods of birth control<sup>267</sup>.

## §2: Adolescent Health

**488-** Efforts continued to be made to improve on Adolescent health with actions taken especially in the field of reproductive health.

**489-** Despite their need for information, counsel and medical care, teenagers are afraid to go to conventional health facilities. That is why the "Youth-Friendly Services" project was initiated by the UNFPA. Therefore,

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<sup>267</sup> As per Circular No. 3672//LCMINSANTE/SG/DSF of 14 August 2014, contraceptives were sold to the public at medical facilities as follows, CFAF125 for oral progestins, combined oral contraceptives and emergency contraception pill, CFAF225 per injectable progestins (including consumables), CFAF2,140 for contraceptive implant (including consumables), CFAF1,000 for insertion of intra-uterine device (including commodities), CFAF50 for 10 male condoms and CFAF100 for 10 female condoms.

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3 reproductive health units for youths and adolescents were opened at the Regional Hospital, Bertoua, and the District Hospital, Abong-Mbang (East Region), and the Regional Hospital, Ngaoundere (Adamawa Region). These adolescent-specific health units should help improve access of adolescents to health services.

**490-** Government also trained 80 health personnel in the Adamawa, East, Far North and North Regions on adolescent reproductive health.

**491-** In order to raise awareness amongst youths on HIV and reduce the prevalence rate amongst them, the 13th edition of the AIDS-free holidays campaign was launched on 24 July 2015. The campaign which mobilized 600 peer educators aimed at sensitizing 700,000 youths and screening 4,000 of them for HIV.

**492-** Within the framework of the "All In to End Adolescent AIDS" project, in the first half of 2015, UNICEF, UNAIDS and its partners provided technical assistance to Cameroon to help it conduct rapid assessments on adolescent HIV programming which led to the development of Cameroon's national action plan to strengthen the adolescent HIV response. This Plan integrated the findings of the rapid assessment. All In is a platform for action and collaboration to better take into account issues concerning adolescents aged 10 to 19 in programmes and policies in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Project aims to reduce new AIDS-related deaths by 65% and new HIV infections by 75% among adolescents by 2020.

## §3: Child Health

**493-** In this area, the main objective continued to be the reduction of neonatal and infant mortality as defined in the Priority Action Plan of MINSANTE (2014-2018). Actions on prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child, vaccination and treatment of diseases were undertaken.

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## A: Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV

**494-** Some of the actions aimed at achieving the goal of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) include provision of inputs for PMTCT such as antiretroviral, cotrimoxazole, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and capacity development of providers in PMTCT/Maternal neonatal and infant health, and improving the use of maternal and infant health services.

**495-** In line with this action, the joint efforts of Government and its technical and financial partners ensured the availability of inputs and laboratory equipment for PMTCT. However, the year was marked by difficulties in achieving PCR for early diagnosis of HIV in children between 6-8 weeks due to a stock out of inputs. Furthermore, Government and its partners like the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief enhanced the capacity of 308 healthcare providers on PMTCT.

**496-** Civil Society Organizations like African Action on AIDS (AAA) also worked to improve on PMTCT. Thus, in January 2015, AAA organized a workshop in Ngaoundere as part of its "Training Community Leaders on HIV/AIDS and PMTCT" project funded by UNAIDS. This workshop brought together 100 participants (65 women and 35 men), representing stakeholders like traditional birth attendants, traditional and religious authorities, staff of community radio stations, healthcare staff in rural areas and those at the regional level. The objective of this training was to enhance the understanding of community leaders on the need for PMTCT and help them own same.

**497-** The number of health facilities offering PMTCT services increased from 3,466 in 2014 to 3,587 in 2015 on 4,420 functional health facilities in the country. The number of health facilities that practised PMTCT under Option B positive<sup>268</sup> as required by the World Health Organization PMTCT guidelines rose from 570 in 2014 to 1,462 in 2015. The guidelines not-

<sup>268</sup> It is an approach whereby all pregnant women living with HIV are offered life-long Antiretroviral therapy, regardless of their CD4 count.

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withstanding, 2,005 health facilities still practised PMTCT under Option<sup>269</sup> A. A total of 3,418 health staff were trained on the Option B PMTCT. Of the 48,771 pregnant women who tested HIV positive, 29,458 received treatment representing a rate of 60.4%.

## B: Access to Vaccines

**498-** Some 680,350 children received the Penta 3 vaccine out of 861,203 expected, representing a coverage rate of 79%.

**499-** The Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV) was successfully introduced in the calendar of vaccination in July 2015. Cameroon maintained its status of a “non-polio exporting country” which was reached in April 2015 as no new polio cases were reported throughout the year. However, a proportion of 5.2% of children were not vaccinated against polio.

**500-** A vaccination exercise against measles was launched on 25 August 2015 and targeted 72,000 children aged from 9 months to 10 years. The campaign was launched following a measles outbreak in the North West Region in July 2015.

**501-** These efforts led to an immunization of 375,792 children with a coverage rate of 90%.

**502-** In addition to preventing diseases, steps were taken to treat sick children.

## C: Treatment of Diseases

**503-** A little over half of the children aged between 0 and 5 years with uncomplicated and severe malaria were treated free of charge.

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<sup>269</sup> The pregnant woman with a CD4 count above 350 cells/ml takes zidovudine prophylaxis instead of taking live long triple ARV drugs, beginning from 14 weeks of gestation continued throughout the pregnancy and 7 days postpartum and daily nevirapine for the infant until 1 week after the cessation of breastfeeding.

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**504-** The Pediatric Association of Cameroon and the Shisong Cardiac Centre Foundation partnered to sponsor the treatment of indigent children suffering from heart diseases. Between July and November 2015, 19 of such children received free heart surgery at the St. Elizabeth Catholic General Hospital, Shisong Cardiac Centre.

## SECTION 3: DESEASE CONTROL AND HEALTH PROMOTION

**505-** Disease control and health promotion were major concerns of Government in 2015

### § 1: Disease Control

**506-** Actions were taken on Transmissible Diseases, Chronic Non Transmissible Diseases (CNTDs) and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD).

#### A: Transmissible Diseases

##### 1) Tuberculoses Control

**507-** Treatment for tuberculoses continued to be free. Ten information and education campaigns on tuberculoses took place in schools to improve the level of knowledge of students on attitudes and practices about tuberculoses. The cure rate for new pulmonary smear positive tuberculoses (PTB +) was 82.9% in 2015 as against 82% in 2014.

##### 2) Ebola Trials

**508-** Though Cameroon was yet to experience any case of the dreaded killer disease, Ebola, Government did not take things for granted. Thus, two clinical trials for the possible development of a vaccine against the Ebola Virus began in the country in October 2015 and are to last till October 2016. However, Government indefinitely suspended the trials on 19 November 2015.

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## 3) Malaria

**509-** To check this disease that is estimated to be the leading cause of mortality in Cameroon, Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) were distributed. The East, South, North West and South West Regions received 2,5000,000 nets.

**510-** Partners of the Government helped distribute LLINs. In the context of activities marking the celebration of World Malaria Day on 24 April 2015, *Association Camerounaise de Marketing Social (ACMS)* distributed LLINs in some hospitals in Yaounde, Douala, Ebolowa and Garoua.

**511-** The Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria signed an agreement on 17 February 2015 in Yaounde to finance malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis control. In the wake of this agreement, a grant of some CFAF51,000,000,000<sup>270</sup> was signed between MINSANTE, a representative from the civil society, the Chairperson of the national coordinating body and the representative of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

## 4) HIV/AIDS Control

### a) Prevention

**512-** Crowd pulling events like the AIDS-Free Holidays, Cameroon Week for AIDS control, World Day against AIDS, University Games, International Women's Day and Mount Cameroon Race of Hope were occasions to raise the awareness of millions of people. During the International Women's Day and Rural Women's Day, for example, some 1,200,000 women were sensitized on the promotion of voluntary testing and the correct and consistent use of condoms during high-risk sexual intercourse. During these events, condoms and awareness raising material were distributed.

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<sup>270</sup> About 77,724,000 Euros

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## b) Treatment of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)

**513-** In 2015, 167,850 PLWHA were on antiretroviral treatment, representing more than half of the 302,312 targeted for 2017. A total of 39,867 PLWHA started treatment in 2015. Compared to 2014 when there were 145,038 PLWHA on treatment, there was an increase of 15.7% in 2015.

**514-** There was an increase in the number of persons diagnosed and treated for opportunistic diseases. In 2015, some 6,334 PLWHA were treated for cerebral toxoplasmosis as against 1,074 in 2014, 969 for cerebral cryptococcosis as against 256 in 2014, and 4,528 for oropharyngeal candidiasis pharyngo-esophageal as against 3521 in 2014.

## B: Chronic Non Transmissible Diseases (CNTDs)

**515-** Some of the CNTDs on which Government focused were epilepsy, diabetes and cancer.

### 1) Epilepsy

**516-** The agreement between MINSANTE, the medical laboratory Sanofi and the Organization for Coordination in the Fight Against Endemic Diseases in Central Africa (OCEAC), signed on 20 October 2015, provides funding worth CFAF515,000,000<sup>271</sup> to control epilepsy. Over 3 years, this partnership will raise awareness of the population, develop capacity of medical staff and facilitate access to care for epilepsy patients. The intervention centres include 7 health districts in the Centre and Adamawa Regions where the disease is rampant. Treatment for one year per person will cost between CFAF1,311 and CFAF1,967<sup>272</sup>.

<sup>271</sup> About 784,860 Euros

<sup>272</sup> Between 2 and 3 Euros

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## 2) Diabetes

**517-** On 19 May 2015, medical equipment was handed over to 4 entirely renovated diabetes clinics in the Littoral and South West Regions. The ceremony which took place at the *Ad Lucem* Hospital, Bali in Douala fell within the implementation framework of the tripartite agreement signed between the State, Sanofi and MTN to control diabetes and high blood pressure through the Project dubbed "Health Alert". The aim of the partnership agreement is to step up the level of sensitization of the population and contribute towards efficient follow-up of diagnosed patients. Three diabetes clinics in the Centre Region had earlier received similar gifts within this context. "Health Alert" aims to sensitize 4,000,000 people on diabetes and hypertension through educative SMS as well as to support the screening and follow-up of some 1,000 new cases of diabetes a month.

**518-** Prior to the World Diabetes Day 2015, a 3-day free screening exercise for diabetes and eye diseases was organized at the Central Hospital, Yaounde during which more than 600 people were screened for diabetes, hypertension and eye problems. They were counselled and prescribed drugs where necessary.

## 3) Cancer

**519-** For one week in the month of June 2015, the Michael and Mauritia Patcha Foundation in collaboration with the National Cancer Control Committee and other partners carried out free screening, diagnosis and treatment of breast, cervical and prostate cancer at the Regional Hospital, Edea and the Mpuma Nwet Medical Centre, Kribi. Consultations were also offered in ophthalmology and for cardiovascular diseases. Over 3,000 patients were consulted and given treatment.

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## C : Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)<sup>273</sup>

**520-** Some of the strategies used during the year to control NTDs included the integrated preventive chemotherapy, sensitization on improved hygiene and disinfecting risk zones throughout Cameroon.

### 1) Blindness Control

**521-** The National Strategic Eye Health Plan (2015-2019) which was approved in October 2015 has as overall objective: reduction of the prevalence of avoidable blindness by 25% by 2019. During the year, a number of activities were undertaken to reduce blindness.

**522-** Activities to mark the World Sight Day on 8 October 2015 included free eye screening by MINSANTE of some 420 Pupils of the Government Central Bilingual Primary School, Yaounde. Health officials further trained teachers on how to identify eye problems in pupils.

**523-** Thanks to cooperation between the State and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ophthalmologists from the latter carried out a one week campaign at the Islamic Complex, Tsinga in Yaounde in August 2015, during which the public benefitted from free eye care. The following week, the team moved to the Regional Hospital, Garoua for another one week where 2,500 patients with eye defects benefitted from free treatment, including 500 surgeries.

**524-** The efforts of Government in eye health yielded the following results: surgery on 2,700 persons with trichiasis in the Far North Region; 21,010 children under 6 months received tetracycline; 1,079,852 children and adults were treated with azithromycin and 17,000 surgeries for cataract.

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<sup>273</sup> Examples are leprosy, trypanosomiasis, Buruli ulcer, Onchocerciasis and Schistosomiasis

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## 2) Onchocerciasis, Intestinal Worms and Schistosomiasis Control.

**525-** As in previous years, deworming campaigns were carried out. More than 14 million treatment doses were distributed in 2015 to communities and schools to control onchocerciasis, intestinal worms and schistosomiasis.

**526-** Moreover, on 9 October 2015, the project to Control and Eliminate the 5 Recurrent NTDs in Cameroon was launched. The Project dubbed "Countdown" is a UK-funded research programme.

### § 2: Health promotion

#### A: Sensitization

**527-** Sensitization campaigns were carried out to educate the population on disease prevention. In September 2015, for example, a five-day sensitization campaign on hygiene and sanitation was launched in the Mayo Sava Division, Far-North Region. This came in the wake of a case of cholera detected in the area. A consignment of sanitation kits donated by Plan Cameroon was distributed to the population.

#### B: Improvement of Hospital Hygiene

**528-** Hospital hygiene committees were present in more than half of public health facilities and were gradually becoming functional.

#### C: High Impact Nutrition Interventions

**529-** The Document on National Nutrition Policy was updated and validated. Moreover, a nutritional health survey was carried out to follow-up women and children of 0-5 years in the Adamawa, North, Far North and East Regions. This survey revealed a worsening by 2.2% of the nutritional deficiency in the Far North Region and indicated that urgent response was required.

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**530-** A total of 60,748 Cameroon and refugee children suffering from severe malnutrition were cared for.

## **D: Narcotics Control**

**531-** A number of measures both at the national and local levels were taken to circumscribe the use of drugs.

**532-** The Minister of Sports and Physical Education issued Circular No. 3/MINSEP/SG/DDSHN/SDMS of 13 March 2015 to national sports federations and organizers of sports events prohibiting sponsorship of socio-cultural and sports events by tobacco manufacturing and sales enterprises.

**533-** In order to increase cost and discourage the consumption of tobacco products, the 2015 Finance Law subjected their importation to a specific tax whose baseline was CFAF3,500 for 1,000 sticks of cigarette. Tobacco products seem to be highly taxed in Cameroon but taxes represent only 19% of the unit selling price as against 70% recommended by the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which has been ratified by Cameroon.

**534-** Furthermore, by Decision No. 327/MINSANTE of 12 October 2015, the Multisectoral Anti-tobacco Commission was formed. It is a consultation structure on the implementation of anti-tobacco measures in application of the FCTC and new international Directives on tobacco control.

**535-** At the local level, the Divisional officer for Bamenda I Subdivision signed Decision No. 06/SPD/BLPA/2015 of 26 March 2015 prohibiting smoking in public places in Bamenda I Subdivision. This is a measure worth emulating nationally. Also, on 24 February 2015, mayors and municipal councillors of the Centre Region attended a workshop on information and experience sharing on tobacco control at the local level. They were sensitized on the risks of tobacco consumption and passive smoking.

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## SECTION 4: ENHANCING GOVERNANCE

**536-** Government continued to improve on governance in the Health sector through a number of actions.

**537-** In terms of the coordination and monitoring of activities, 50 coordination meetings for central services and 4 quarterly coordination meetings to assess the implementation of the Road map in Regional Delegations of Public Health were held. A total of 117 more hospitals were enrolled in the PBF being tested in the East, Littoral, North West and South West Regions.

**538-** As part of control and audit through the Rapid Results Initiatives in hospitals, 116 staff were sanctioned following 290 investigations.

**539-** A total of 9 out of 10 Regional Funds for Health Promotion were operational for better community participation in the management of health facilities.

**540-** The User Guide was distributed. It contains information on the procedures concerning services available and necessary requirements. In addition, the Guide provides timelines for every procedure, and is therefore, an instrument to measure the performance of the Cameroon Public Service.

**541-** In 2015, Government continued to provide Health Facilities and commodities. Efforts were also made to enhance accessibility to health care, for example, by reducing the cost of some treatment. However, the setting up of a universal health care system remained a big challenge.



**Chapter**

**3**

**RIGHT TO ADEQUATE  
STANDARD OF LIVING**



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**542-** In 2015, Government took a series of measures to guarantee the right to adequate food, water, energy and decent housing.

## SECTION 1: RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD

**543-** In order to preserve food security and realize the fundamental right<sup>274</sup> of every person to adequate food, Cameroon continued efforts to ensure food availability, acceptability and accessibility by all segments of the population.

### § 1: Measures to Consolidate Food Supply

**544-** To draw up an inventory of the agricultural sector, a National Census of Agriculture and Livestock in Cameroon (RGAE) was prescribed for a period of 36 months. Pending its results, emphasis was laid on streamlining production factors and sector development.

#### A: National Census of Agriculture and Livestock

**545-** Decree No. 2015/292 of 29 June 2015 on the organization of a National Census of Agriculture and Livestock in Cameroon sets the objectives of the Census and the institutional framework for its implementation.

#### 1) Objectives of RGAE

**546-** Designed to provide an accurate map of Cameroon's agro-pastoral sector, RGAE aims at producing reliable structural statistics that are relevant and sufficiently disaggregated on all livestock farms and their environment, strengthening the operational capacities of executives of Ministries in charge of agriculture, livestock and fisheries and setting up a data

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<sup>274</sup> According to General Comment No. 12 adopted by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right to adequate food is inseparable from the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the realization of other fundamental rights enshrined in the International Charter on Human Rights.

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archiving system. The purport of this Census is to have data at both individual and community level across Regions, Divisions, Subdivisions and Villages, especially on agro-pastoral and fish farms.

## 2) Institutional Mechanism of RGAE

**547-** The Decree to set up RGAE lays down the following bodies to coordinate, monitor and implement its operations:

- National Technical Committee;
- Regional Supervision Commissions;
- Divisional Supervision Committees; and
- Sub-Divisional Counting Commissions.

**548-** The RGAE's funds will come from the State budget, external funding, donations and bequests.

**549-** The RGAE is under the responsibility of a National Coordinator and his Deputy appointed by Order of the Prime Minister on the joint proposal of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and the Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA).

**550-** The RGAE will therefore provide reliable national statistics on agriculture and animal husbandry, to better target and streamline inputs on factors of production.

## B: Streamlining Factors of Production

**551-** Besides capacity building, the State focused on funding, constituting land reserves, developing agricultural machinery, motivating seed policy and making available inputs.

### 1) Funding Sources

**552-** Additional funds were mobilized to supplement the State's budgetary resources.

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## a) Funding from the State Budget

**553-** During the 2015 Financial Year, on an overall budget of CFAF3,746,600,000,000<sup>275</sup>, MINADER received CFAF108,771,070,000<sup>276</sup> while MINEPIA received CFAF29,923,127,000<sup>277</sup>. Both cumulative amounts represent 3.70% of the general budget, which does not bring Cameroon close to achieving its commitments under the Comprehensive Development Programme for African Agriculture (CDPAA)<sup>278</sup>. In this context, the State undertook to allocate 10% of budgetary resources to the agro-pastoral sector, with a view to attaining an agricultural growth rate of at least 6% per year.

**554-** As part of the implementation of the Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Growth (PLANUT)<sup>279</sup>, CFAF59,190,302,473<sup>280</sup> was allocated to agriculture and CFAF19,321,040,775<sup>281</sup> (that is CFAF11,296,040,775<sup>282</sup> in the first phase and CFAF8,025,000,000<sup>283</sup> in the second phase) to livestock, for an overall amount of CFAF925,000,000,000<sup>284</sup>.

## b) Mobilization of Funds

**555-** Given insufficient budgetary resources, the State mobilized funds through plans, programmes and projects.

<sup>275</sup> About 5,720,000,000 Euros

<sup>276</sup> About 166,062,702.29 Euros

<sup>277</sup> About 45,684,163.36Euros

<sup>278</sup> In order to reverse the decline of agriculture in Africa, Heads of State and Government adopted CAADP in 2003 during the Maputo Summit. NAIP that is CAADP's operationalization framework in Cameroon has been effective since 2011. It aims at making the rural sector the driving force of the national economy, with outputs as the creation of wealth and jobs, and ensuring food security for the country.

<sup>279</sup> PLANUT was adopted at the Council of Ministers of 9 December 2014.

<sup>280</sup> About 90,366,874 Euros

<sup>281</sup> About 29,497,772.17 Euros

<sup>282</sup> About 17,245,863.78Euros

<sup>283</sup> About 12,251,908.40 Euros.

<sup>284</sup> About1,412,213 740.45 Euros

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## i) National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP)

**556-** To implement NAIP in Cameroon that ensues from CDPAA and covers the period 2014-2020, funding needs were estimated at CFAF3,550,000,000,000<sup>285</sup>. Some CFAF2,042,000,000 000<sup>286</sup> of this amount, corresponding to domestic and external commitments, has already been acquired. In order to fill the gap, a Resource Mobilization Conference to finance NAIP was held on 14 and 15 September 2015 in Yaounde. This helped mobilize the additional sum of CFAF1,331,000,000,000<sup>287</sup> with the State pledging CFAF300,000,000<sup>288</sup>.

## ii) Project for Investment and Development of Agricultural Markets (PIDMA)

**557-** The objective of PIDMA, designed for a period of 5 years (2015-2019) and launched on 28 January 2015, is to transform low-yield subsistence farming of corn, cassava and sorghum to a competitive agriculture geared towards commercialization and industrialization, by directly linking up producers and buyers. This is a joint Government/World Bank initiative for which this donor has provided funding of CFAF50,000,000,000<sup>289</sup>. This funding, that targets 34 production basins distributed in 5 agro-ecological zones of Cameroon will increase productive partnerships between cooperatives and agro-industries for the improvement of the seed production and distribution system and to set up core public infrastructures.

## iii) Programme for the Improvement of the Competitiveness of Agropastoral Small Holdings (ACEFA)

**558-** Particular attention was paid to small holdings that constitute 80% of farms. To this end, the ACEFA programme seeks to modernize such holdings by strengthening the technical and economic capacity of small producers. Some CFAF6,500,000,000<sup>290</sup> was allocated for the financing of new projects in 2015.

<sup>285</sup> About 5,419,847 328.24 Euros

<sup>286</sup> About 3,117,557 251.90 Euros

<sup>287</sup> About 2,032,061,068.70 Euros

<sup>288</sup> About 458,015.27 Euros

<sup>289</sup> About 76,335,877.86 Euros

<sup>290</sup> About 9923,664.12 Euros

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## 2) Constitution of Land Reserves

**559-** In 2015, sites were chosen and Public Utility Declarations signed for the constitution of agro-industry land reserves in the Adamawa (600 000 ha), East (400 000 ha), North West (100 000 ha) and Centre (200 000 ha) Regions.

## 3) Capacity Building of Agro-pastoral Stakeholders

**560-** Training of stakeholders is one of the factors of modernization of the agro-pastoral sector, hence the establishment of institutions devoted to this goal, such as the Limbe Nautical Arts and Fisheries Institute, set up by Decree No. 2015/374 of 12 August 2015 for training in the different fishing trades<sup>291</sup>.

**561-** Under the ACEFA Programme, 577 regional counsellors and managers were trained, while 9,917 producer groups and 203 agro-business organizations were supported by Counsellors.

## 4) Development of Agricultural Machinery

**562-** Prominent among measures to lift constraints off Cameroon's agriculture are the development of agricultural machinery that will facilitate the exploitation of large areas, reduction of the drudgery of farmers' work and increase production. This justified the holding in Yaounde from 15 to 20 December 2015 of the First International Exhibition for Agricultural Machinery (SIMAC). This Exhibition organized by the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Forestry (CAPEF), brought together public administrations, entrepreneurs, agro-industries and research firms, which had discussions on the theme "*Stakes and Challenges of a Competitive and Sustainable Agriculture*". Various agricultural machinery, the fruit of technological developments were exhibited.

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<sup>291</sup> Staff were also appointed during the year under review.

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**563-** This Exhibition was merely the tip of the iceberg of several projects underway as part of the mechanization and transformation of agriculture namely, the construction of an assembly plant for tractors in Ebolowa of which 95% of work has been carried out, the building of a cassava processing plant in Sangmélima of which 90% of work has been completed and the awarding of a contract to build a sugar agro-industrial complex in Bertoua, of which the site of 32,000 hectares has already been mapped out.

## 5) Seed Policy Incentives

**564-** State action was directed to seed and animal semen development.

### a) Seed

**565-** To increase production, Government focused on optimizing seed quality and free distribution of same to rural stakeholders. In this vein, a processing and packaging plant of improved seed was set up in the South West Region.

**566-** Moreover, under the MINADER - Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) Partnership, IRAD focused on research to disseminate improved quality seed. IRAD continued the development of seed fields or Farmer Field Schools, for training farmers in farming techniques.

**567-** The Centre for Research and Innovation, Ngaoundere, for example, carried out 5 speculative experiments in Farmer Field Schools, Meiganga, on maize, cassava, beans, sweet potatoes and soybeans. Cassava Types 4115, TME 419 and 96/0057 experimented on 5 hectares had high productivity of 25 to 30 tons per hectare.

**568-** In addition, 80% of the project to produce 5,000,000 plantain buds, signed in 2013 between IRAD and MINADER was realized.

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**569-** Similarly, 5 new bean varieties, including *DOR-701*, *BG*, *PNN*, *NUA-99* and *NUV-109-2* were presented to the public in March 2015 at Foubot, during a ceremony chaired by the Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation.

**570-** Moreover, 30 tons of improved corn seed of the PANNAT 12 variety, which is a hybrid seed imported from South Africa was handed by PIDMA to 266 farmers of the Cooperative *AGORAH Coop-Ca* at Mbouda. This seed lasts 2 years if it is properly preserved and has a minimum yield of 5 tons per hectare unlike the 3 tons per hectare so far achieved.

**571-** This variety is distributed free of charge to farmers in cooperatives. Therefore, producer awareness on the usefulness of grouping themselves into agricultural cooperatives continued. Overall, free distribution of more than 1,100 tons of potatoes, 4,000 yam seeds, 2,500,000 pre-germinated palm tree grains and over 1,000 fruit tree seedlings was envisaged.

## b) Animal and Aaqua-culture Semen

**572-** To obtain quality aquaculture semen, FAO agreed to provide financial support of CFAF238,000,000<sup>292</sup> to Cameroon, for the project "*Supporting the Development of Tilapia Farming in Cages in Cameroon*". The production of fry in cages is an essential input for fish production.

**573-** In the beef sector, 300 doses of white-blue-beige breed semen were imported. This provided stakeholders high-quality semen.

## 6) Availability of Inputs

**574-** The unavailability of inputs remains one of the weaknesses of Cameroon's agriculture. In order to obviate low soil productivity due to

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<sup>292</sup> About 363,358.78 Euros

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this factor, the State took steps to make available pesticides and fertilizers. This measure was accompanied by the publication of Cameroon's Phytosanitary Index, with a list of 808 approved pesticides and 19 certified processors, in order to educate farmers on the types of fertilizer to be used based on crop and terrain.

**575-** In addition, a Regional Workshop on inspection and phytosanitary certification took place in Douala from 3 to 7 August 2015 and brought together professionals from Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, the Central African Republic (CAR), The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Chad, to review international plant protection conventions and strengthen the capacity of participants on tools necessary for the implementation of routine inspection, certification and quarantine border-based management risks operations.

**576-** On this occasion, 34 Phytosanitary Police Posts were registered in the national territory, as well as a national laboratory in charge of analysing agricultural products and inputs.

**577-** Furthermore, to promote above ground intensive aquaculture, breeding inputs worth CFAF50,000,000<sup>293</sup> were acquired for the development of this sector.

## **C: Development of Sectors through the Promotion of Second Generation Agriculture**

**578-** Besides seed research and dissemination, government policy centred on migrating to second generation agriculture, supported by mechanization, improved seeds, pesticides and many other forms of support for modernization. The proliferation of Agropoles and sector development actions are in line with this drive.

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<sup>293</sup> About 76,335.88 Euros

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## 1) Proliferation of Agropoles

**579-** The modernization of agriculture that is a lever of economic growth was a Government priority action as per the Ministerial Council Resolutions of 15 October 2015. Therefore, to encourage the emergence of second-generation production units, the Economic Regional Development Programme for the Promotion of Medium and Big Businesses in the Rural Sector dubbed “*Agropoles*” entered its operational phase, after a pilot phase of two years.

**580-** In 2015, the Programme focused on seed multiplication, production, processing and marketing of agropastoral products in the plant, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors. In order to reduce imports and give local products added value through processing, grain production projects (rice, corn, soya etc), tubers (potatoes, cassava), fish (freshwater fish), short-cycle livestock (pork, chicken) were primarily selected in this Programme. Project Owners must mobilize 60% of funding while the Programme provides the remaining 40% in the form of inputs, infrastructure, equipment and roads. Thus, the objective was to launch 15 new Agropoles including 3 related to the Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Growth, thereby increasing their number to 34.

**581-** In 2015, for example, the Agropole for the multiplication, production and processing of potato seed at Mbouda in the West Region was set up and received 7 tractors from Government to increase the production of this tuber from 14,840 tons to 46,800 tons. The Agropole of Kaigame Nganke in the East Region for the production and processing of corn, also received 7 tractors. A new Agropole for the production of freshwater fish was also set up in the Dja and Lobo. It will allow its 32 constituent fish farmers increase production from 182.47 tons to 1,727.47 tons, with State contribution comprising a cold room, water wells, solar panels, roads and tricycles equipped with insulated devices.

**582-** In all, as at 30 November 2015, there were 26 Agropoles throughout the national territory. In addition, the end-of-year speculative inventory exceeded expectations. In this light, while the Mogodé soybean production

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Agropole in the Far North Region was expected to produce 800 tons of this legume per year, 8,500 tons were produced; similarly, the Mayo Oulo corn production Agropole achieved its production target of 95%; the Agropole in Baleng for the production of table eggs in the West Region exceeded expectations and allowed 60% of national demand to be covered. However, the rice production Agropole at Galim, West Region had a rather mixed outcome, because of structural problems including inadequate husking facilities, warehouses and governance issues.

## 2) Sector Development Policies

**583-** Besides the programmes and projects mentioned above, the State also developed the agriculture, animal, dairy, fisheries and beekeeping sectors to ensure food security.

### a) Agricultural Sectors

**584-** The following steps were taken in various agricultural sectors:

- **in the maize sector**, more than 4,462 tons of improved maize seed were distributed;
- **regarding the plantain sector**, 1,600,000 plantain suckers were distributed;
- **for the rice sector**, 21,750 kg of improved rice seeds were distributed;
- **in the root and tuber sector**, 25,000,000 improved cassava cuttings were made available to producers; and
- **in the cocoa-coffee sector** and within the framework of the New Generation Programme<sup>294</sup> launched in 2014, 50 young cocoa farmers received donations worth CFAF14,000,000<sup>295</sup> from the World Cocoa Foundation in pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Interprofessional Cocoa and Coffee Council(CICC) for a total amount of CFAF62,500,000<sup>296</sup>, to encourage

<sup>294</sup> See 2014 Report §467

<sup>295</sup> About 21,374.04 Euros

<sup>296</sup> About 95,419.85 Euros

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revitalization of the sector. In addition, MINADER launched a major domestic cocoa/coffee orchard treatment operation, at Atok, East Region in May 2015 aimed at doubling national production.

## b) Animal Sectors

**585-** The following steps were taken in the different animal sectors:

- **The small ruminant sector:** to modernize small ruminant breeding that remains traditional, focus was placed on building the capacity of 35 producers on *community-base breeding of small Lougguéré ruminants*.
- **The poultry sector** was marked by the issuance of 107 permits to set up poultry farms, 3 permits for hatcheries and 3 import authorizations for 630,000 parent stocks, 360,000 day-old chicks and 1,030,000 hatching eggs as well as a technical opinion for poultry export. In addition, 256 projects are being implemented in the poultry sector, as part of the Support Project for the Improvement of Agricultural Competitiveness (PACA).
- **In the pig sector**, Government provided piglets as support in kind. In fact, 1,212 piglets were given to 71 producers' groups and 60 authorizations to set up hog farms were issued.

## c) Fishing Sector

**586-** Besides the acquisition of fishing equipment worth CFAF40,000,000<sup>297</sup>, the implementation of fishing activities in the context of the Contract-based Plan with « *la Mission de Développement de la Pêche au Cameroun* » (MIDEPECAM) constituted the core action in this sector. Likewise, the control of illegal fishing, the Agreement signed on 20 December 2013 between MINEPIA and MINDEF helped intensify the control and surveillance of fishing activities on the coastline and in the high seas. During 3 patrols carried out in the course of the year, 12 illegal fishing vessels were arrested and their owners paid fines and penalties amounting to CFAF3,830,000<sup>298</sup>.

<sup>297</sup> About 61,068.70 Euros

<sup>298</sup> About 58,473.28 Euros

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**587-** Given the above, Cameroon successfully achieved one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by reducing the proportion of people suffering from undernourishment from a relative value of 38.8% in 1990-1992 to 15.4% in 2010-2012, while the threshold set by the United Nations was 19.4% in 2015, and reduced by half the absolute number of the undernourished as requested by the World Food Summit. In recognition of these efforts, Cameroon received an award in June 2015 from the FAO in Rome, Italy. Cameroon deserved its prize by ensuring the acceptability of food.

## § 2: Guarantee of Food Acceptability

**588-** The commemoration of the World Day of Consumer Rights on 15 March 2015, on the theme *"The Right of Consumers to Healthy Food"*, reiterated once more their fundamental rights contained in the Consumer Protection Charter adopted by the UN General Assembly<sup>299</sup>. The State took measures to guarantee food safety, food quality control and certification as well as fraud control to ensure quality food.

### A: Guarantee of Food Safety

**589-** The State protected food quality through the enhancement of infrastructure for receiving same and sanitary control.

#### 1) Enhancement of Infrastructure

**590-** Under the PLANUT, construction and equipment of a refrigerated warehouse of 6,000m<sup>3</sup> and with a capacity of preserving 10,000 carcasses weighing 200 kg each was initiated in Yaounde, while an industrial slaughterhouse is envisaged in Ngaoundere, and refrigeration centres in Ebolowa and Kribi, all worth CFAF10,000,000,000<sup>300</sup>. These

<sup>299</sup> It was adopted on 9 April 1985 and it is based on eight pillars: the right to safety, the right to information, the right to choose, the right to be heard, the right to satisfaction of basic needs, the right to compensation, the right to education and the right to a healthy environment.

<sup>300</sup> About 15,267,175.57 Euros

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refrigeration centres will preserve meat after it leaves the slaughterhouse and also provide reserves in case of shortages or infections while providing consumers healthy meat products.

**591-** In the same vein, 5 insulated refrigerated trucks were given to City Councils<sup>301</sup> to transport meat under hygienic conditions. As part of the transfer of skills, CFAF998,500,000<sup>302</sup> was allocated to Councils for the construction, rehabilitation and equipment of animal health facilities such as Zoo-technical centres, vaccination parks and cattle and pig quarantine parks.

**592-** The construction of cattle slaughterhouses at Ntui, Wum, Santa, Koutaba, Dziguilao, Buea and the improvement of slaughter areas at Doumou, Djoum, Batcham-town, Mbang-Bouhari, Nyambaka and Zoetele have improved slaughter conditions for quality meat.

## 2) Control of Foodstuff of Animal Origin

**593-** The safety of food of animal origin is assured by livestock health coverage and zoonoses control to warrant increased livestock productivity. More so, veterinary health inspection is a means of control.

**594-** Livestock health coverage was reinforced by preventing and controlling the most dreaded animal diseases (Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), African Swine Fever (ASF), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, African Animal Trypanosome, Small Ruminants Pest (SRP), Newcastle Disease (NCD)), notably through vaccination. Vaccines against FMD were acquired by the National Veterinary Laboratory (LANAVET) for CFAF145,000,000<sup>303</sup> with the constitution of a buffer stock of 5,000 doses.

**595-** A workshop was held in Bertoua from 4 to 7 March 2015, to assess ASF and NCD control activities. During this workshop, which brought together MINEPIA executives, PACA and LANAVET officials, the

<sup>301</sup> They are the City Councils and Councils, Ngaoundere, Bertoua, Edea, Bafoussam and Buea

<sup>302</sup> About 1,524,427.48 Euros

<sup>303</sup> About 221,374.04 Euros

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results of field monitoring of ASF and NCD were reviewed, challenges identified and solutions proposed.

**596-** Veterinary health inspection activities were intensified around slaughterhouses, farms, sales points and borders. It was fruitful because inedible animal carcasses were seized and destroyed, especially in Douala in July 2015 with the seizure and disposal in the municipal dump of tens of cachexia and cadaveric cattle and the forced slaughtering of pigs infested with ASF in March 2015 in the Far North Region. Material and equipment worth CFAF30,000,000<sup>304</sup> were bought to render inspection more effective.

## B: Food Control and Certification

**597-** Beyond its economic trade impact, food standardization is a tool that protects the safety and health of consumers. It is achieved through the certification of the compliance of products with standards at import and export.

**598-** During the year under review, certification activities by the Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR) were used to control, through laboratory analyses, about 5,000 imported and local products. Likewise, 52 standards were approved in different sectors, bringing to 1,752 the number of standards used in Cameroon.

**599-** Concerning food standards in particular, guidelines and the International Code of *Codex Alimentarius*<sup>305</sup> were adapted to the national context. This was one of the objectives of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa on Food Safety, held in Yaounde from 27 to 30 January 2015. On the sidelines of this Session, a workshop organized by MINADER under the theme *"The Drawing up and Implementation of Cameroon's Food Safety Policy and Strategy"*,

<sup>304</sup> About 45,801.53 Euros

<sup>305</sup> World Food Code, a body responsible for validating the quality of products as regards international market norms and standards.

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was an opportunity to present to the Committee a new activity for the establishment of regional standards for 4 African products (dried meat, fermented and cooked cassava products, shea butter and “okok” (*Gnetum africanum*) leaf). During the Session, participants were interested in 2 local foods, “*bâton de manioc*<sup>306</sup>” and “okok” in view of their certification.

**600-** During that same year, Cameroon was confronted with the acute problem of uncertified vegetable oils sold in the local market. In fact, the controversy arose around the soybean oil “*Jadida*” made in Tunisia by the Medoil Company and imported in Cameroon by COPPEQ Sarl. The *Association des Raffineurs d’Oléagineux du Cameroun (ASROC)* decried the non-compliance of this oil to the NC 77: 2002-03 Standard for certifying vegetable oils, particularly with regard to their enrichment with Vitamin A and their fatty acid content, despite the compliance certificate issued by the ANOR.

**601-** ANOR made clarifications about vegetable oils sold in Cameroon that it certified. It stated that the oil in dispute is fit for consumption, despite some minor non-compliance issues related to marking (labelling). In all, 6 brands of vegetable oils were granted ANOR’s compliance certificate: 2 locally produced (*Mayor and Azur*) and 4 imported (*Jadida GBA, Messidor, Jadida COPPEQ Sarl and Solior*).

**602-** Furthermore, awareness-raising campaigns were organized in the South, East and South West Regions on the importance of standards. All identified non-certified products were seized.

## C: Punishment of Fraud

**603-** Government action, through the National Fraud Control and Repression Brigade (BNCRF), cleaned up the food market of products of dubious quality.

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<sup>306</sup> Fermented ground cassava cooked in leaves.

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**604-** Thus, from 13 to 31 January 2015, wine, refreshing soft drinks, spirits and labelling of pre-packaged food were monitored for compliance with Standards NC 209 2003-02. Likewise, during a similar operation conducted in 6 markets in Yaounde in May 2015, 50 cans and 100 bottles of non-certified vegetable oils were seized.

**605-** During the world Metrology Day, held each 20 May and celebrated in Cameroon in June 2015 under the theme "*Measures and Lights*", traders were reminded that their measuring instruments must be inspected by Employees of the Ministry of Trade mandated for that purpose.

**606-** During many fraud control operations, 48,867 traders were found guilty and punished because fraud is likely to hamper access to consumer goods.

### **§3: Guarantee of Access to Food**

**607-** In order to enable every citizen to have access to food, the legal and institutional framework thereof was reviewed, infrastructure enhanced and operational distribution channels revitalized.

#### **A: Tidying up the Legal and Institutional Framework**

**608-**The legal framework will be analysed before relevant institutional measures taken.

##### **1) Legal Framework**

**609-**A new Law namely, Law No. 2015/18 of 21 December 2015, governing commercial activity in Cameroon was enacted to take into account all modern requirements relating to trade in goods and services. It aims, among others, at cleaning up the distribution channels and protecting consumers, notably by providing information on the conditions for organizing trade events, the terms of distribution, sales and pricing of products.

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**610-** Also, the Minister of Trade by Order No. 101/MINCOM-MERCE/CAB of 22 May 2015, established the list of goods and services (including water and related services, domestic, industrial and medical gas, sugar, milk, crude palm oil, imported frozen fish, wheat flour, corn flour, imported rice, cooking salt and edible oils), the prices and tariffs of which are subject to the prior approval process,.

## 2) Institutional Framework of Food Distribution

**611-** Adverse weather conditions and insecurity related to abuses of the terrorist group *Boko Haram* aggravated food shortage in the Far North Region, already estimated at 150,000 tons in 2014. Therefore, by Order No. 020/CAB/PM of 26 February 2015, a Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of Urgent Food Security Measures in the Far North Region was set up. The Committee is a strategic body for monitoring the implementation of projects and actions included in Government's strategy and plan of activities, in response to the food crises threat in the Far North Region and nearby areas. Under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Committee distributed food in 3 phases.

**612-** In the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, launched in Maroua in November 2015, the special gift worth CFAF1,050,000,000<sup>307</sup> consisted of staple food, animal feed and 7 pick-up vehicles to transport products in the most remote areas.

### B: Increase of Infrastructure

**613-** Roads, markets and warehouses were built to structure distribution channels.

**614-** The construction of new roads and rehabilitation of existing ones increased offer in this area and opened up production areas as follows:

- surface coating asphaltting of the 20km long Bamenda-Mbengwi road in the Mezam and Momo Divisions;

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<sup>307</sup> About 1,603,053.44 Euros

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- surface coating asphaltting of Inter Road No. 4 (Bandjoun Fly over) Baham Market -Bangou Town, the Baham-Baham Palace-Baham Town ramp, of 18.5 km long in the Koung-khi and Hauts-Plateaux Divisions;
- maintenance of the Campo-Nyabisan road in the Ocean Division;
- maintenance of the 48km long Nkoloveng-Ekombitie-Ebeba II; Tikong (Catholic Mission)-Etilbibegue; Ngoumou-Nkolmessi-Noudougou; and Ebeba-Otele Road in the Mefou-and-Akono Division, Centre Region.

**615-** In addition, a construction project of shops for packing and storing agricultural products to prevent post harvest crop losses was launched in June 2015. The pilot phase targets Kye-Ossi, Foubot and Mbouda.

**616-** Periodic and border markets were also built. During the reference year, CFAF620,000,000<sup>308</sup> was disbursed by MINCOMMERCE to Councils for the construction of 30 periodic markets in the 10 Regions. Moreover, 2 border markets were built, namely the Doumo Market in the North Region and the Orokoba Market in the South West Region.

## C: Revitalization of Distribution Channels

**617-** In order to ensure availability of consumer goods for all, emphasis was placed on promotional sales and proximity supplies.

**618-** The organization of promotional sales campaigns helped to anticipate possible malfunctions related to an explosion in demand and more than 700 tons of refined palm oil produced by small-scale farmers were sold. These campaigns were intensified during major popular festivals and/or periods of high consumption (religious feasts, going back to school and end- of-year festivities).

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<sup>308</sup> About 946,564.89 Euros

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**619-** Proximity supplies were mainly the work of the Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority through Roving Markets (RM) and Periodical Model Markets (PMM).

**620-** Besides RM to facilitate supplies in the 2 most densely populated cities, Douala and Yaounde, PMMs are organized each month end in regional headquarters and in some Divisions to control high prices.

**621-** Moreover, MIRAP introduced a new concept, the Special Model Markets (SMM), which emerged in Belabo and Foubot, that are pioneer production basins: it is a collection, packaging, storage and market supply mechanism of consumer goods.

**622-** Likewise, the MIRAP has networked the SMMs with the PMMs of Yaounde and Douala to enhance supplies of these cities in vegetable products from SMMs in Foubot and plantain, cocoyam, sweet potato from PMMs in Ngaoundere, Garoua and Guider and banana from Belabo.

**623-** At the end of all these operations, the following results were obtained:

- some 25,441 tons of consumer products were supplied to MIRAP markets comprising 3,452 tons in SMMs, 15,202 tons in PMMs and 6,787 tons in RMS;
- supply level of products on MIRAP markets, divided into 3 major families, with the following transaction values:
  - plant products: 23,274 tons; CFAF2,125,147,000<sup>309</sup>;
  - animal products: 1,364 tons; CFAF1,760,002,000<sup>310</sup>; and
  - manufactured products: 803 tons; CFAF472 526 000<sup>311</sup>.

**624-** Producer's organizations and economic partners had a turnover of CFAF4,357,676,000, with an average product price reduction of 18%, which helped to cope with the effects of inflation rate that stood at 3.4% in the first quarter of 2015<sup>312</sup>.

<sup>309</sup> About 3,244,499.24 Euros

<sup>310</sup> About 2,687,025.95 Euros

<sup>311</sup> About 721,413.74 Euros

<sup>312</sup> According to the National Institute of Statistics (2015)

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**625-** These measures designed to ensure the right to adequate food were supplemented by measures aimed at improving water and electricity supply.

## SECTION 2: WATER AND ENERGY SUPPLY

**626-** Government actions to promote equal access to water and energy are in line with previous years.

### §1: Access to Water

**627-** Government actions to supply drinking water were consolidated in 2015. To this end, some projects started in previous years were completed while others were continued and steps taken to mobilize financial resources.

#### A: Completed Projects

**628-** Projects were completed in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

#### 1) Urban and Peri-urban Areas

**629-** Significant advances were made through extension of distribution networks, social connection campaigns and rehabilitation of some stations.

##### a) Extension of Distribution Networks

**630-** Under the Urban Areas Development and Water Supply Project funded with World Bank support to the tune of US \$ 52,300,000, of which one component is the production and distribution of drinking water in urban and peri-urban areas, network extensions were carried out of which 216 km in Yaounde, 36 km in Douala and 215 km in secondary centres. These extensions take into account rapid population growth in urban and peri-urban areas.

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**631-** Moreover, *Camerounaise des Eaux* (CDE) and Camwater executed 14,991 connections at end-October 2015 out of a contractual commitment of 15,333 envisaged for late December, representing a completion rate of 98%.

**632-** Some 192 km of water pipes of all sizes and types comprising 113 km of cast iron with a diameter of 100mm were laid, representing 95% of the contractual commitment over a period of 7 years of leasing. In all, 175.5 km of all types and sizes of pipes were laid, representing an achievement rate of 73% over a period of 7 years of leasing. The laying of the remaining pipes is ongoing.

**633-** CAMWATER delivered 72,300 subscriber metres at end-2015.

## b) Social Connections

**634-** The social connections campaign, started in previous years, through which 50,000 social connections were installed, came to an end. The grant reduced connection cost to 10% of the normal price paid by the consumer and the outstanding 90% was borne by partners including Global Partnership on Output Based Aid, the UK Department of International Development (DFID) and the World Bank<sup>313</sup>.

**635-** Part of the works was handed over at Yaounde on 27 August 2015, thereby increasing the distribution capacity for Yaounde to over 80,000m<sup>3</sup>/d, for an estimated demand of 300, 000m<sup>3</sup>/d. Current distribution capacity stands at 190,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d.

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<sup>313</sup> The subsidy was estimated at 40,000 in grant by the World Bank and 10,000 as a loan between 2010 and 2015.

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## c) Rehabilitation Works

**636-** During 2015, rehabilitation of the water catchment plant over the Mefou River was completed. The plant produces 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of additional water per day, bringing beneficiaries of water produced and distributed in Yaounde to 100,000 persons.

**637-** Regarding Douala, the first operational phase of the Yato Plant was completed. It added some 50,000 m<sup>3</sup>/ day.

**638-** In all, increasing the distribution network and installing social connections required CFAF7,000,000,000<sup>314</sup> and allowed an increase of around 5% service rate, bringing to 80,000 the number of households connected to the network for 800,000 people supplied with drinking water throughout the country.

**Table 1: Status of Projects Completed During 2015 in Urban and Peri-urban Areas**

No.	Title	Location	Funding	Realization rate	Disbursement rate
1	Urban Areas Development and Water Supply Project (PDUE) ended on 31 August 2015	Douala Yaounde	State and World Bank	100%	103%
2	Project for the strengthening and improvement of Water Supply to the city of Douala Phase II	Douala	State and Eximbank China	100%	100%
3	Urgent Transitional measures in Douala and Yaounde	Douala Yaounde	CAMWATER	100%	100%

**Source:** CAMWATER

## 2) Rural Area

**639-** In the Far North Region, the Mindif drinking water supply project was realized for CFAF980,000,000<sup>315</sup>. It includes a water tower with a

<sup>314</sup> About 10,687,022.90 Euros

<sup>315</sup> About 1,496,183.21 Euros

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capacity of 150m<sup>3</sup>, 44 taps and a solar pumping system of 26,000 watts. The distribution network extends over 13,900 linear metres through the streets of this area. Moreover, in Soulédé-Roua, the connection to the drinking water distribution system was carried from Gouzda Village on the Mokolo-Mora pipeline, representing a distance of 27 km. Some 30 taps serve groups of this locality. Moreso, with the support of the mobile phone company Orange Cameroon, 3 boreholes for village water supply were constructed in Fotokol, Waza and Mozogo.

**640-** In the West Region, the support of GIZ, a German cooperation body guaranteed, within the framework of the Support Project for Decentralization and Local Development (PADDL), the rehabilitation of 10 boreholes and 10 wells in Koutaba. The same applies to Nkong-Zem that now has 73 functional water points rehabilitated under this project.

## B: Current Projects

**641-** Two projects to increase drinking water supply to Yaounde are ongoing. The first ensues from a CFAF50,000,000,000<sup>316</sup> loan agreement, signed on 18 March 2015 between the State of Cameroon represented by Cameroon Water Utilities (CAMWATER) and Eximbank USA. Accordingly, water treatment equipment from the United States was installed at the Akomnyada treatment plant. These compact units will provide additional production of 50,000m<sup>3</sup>/d per membrane system.

**642-** The second project, supported and funded by CAMWATER for CFAF9,000,000,000<sup>317</sup>, envisages the installation of a carbon filtering system for an additional production capacity of 35,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d.

**643-** These 2 projects will increase the water capacity produced in Yaounde and its environs to 240,000m<sup>3</sup>/d. Apart from the Akomnyada Plant that already produces 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d, that of Mefou also supplies households with 50,000m<sup>3</sup>/d.

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<sup>316</sup> About 13,740,458.02 Euros

<sup>317</sup> About 13,740,458 Euros

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**644-** In Douala, the second phase of the commissioning of the Yato Plant is being completed with construction of the hose bridge. It will provide 100,000m<sup>3</sup> of additional water.

**645-** Under the Triennial Emergency Plan, a first construction phase of 1,000 boreholes in the 10 Regions representing 100/Region and 19 mini Drinking Water Supply (DWS) in the North West Region, is ongoing. The second phase includes the construction of 3,000 wells in the 3 Northern Regions.

**646-** The ongoing projects are summarized below:

**Table 2: Status of Ongoing Projects**

No.	Title	Location	Funding	Implementation rate	Disbursement rate
1	Drinking water supply and sanitation project in semi-urban areas of 18 secondary centres, funded by the African Development Bank	Nkongsamba, Manjo, Loum, Mbanga, Kumba, Mamfe, Akono, Bafia, Ngoumou, Kousseri, Ebolowa, Sangmelima, Bangangte, Bafang, Bana, Bangou, Bansa, Fouban	African Development Bank	66%	60%
2	Rehabilitation, enhancement, and extension of DWS water supply systems Project in 52 T5 Tranche centres	Moloundou, Dschang, Yoko, Lomié, Obala, Mbalam, Bangoua, Djoum, Tibati, Batouri, Akonolinga Sa'a, Mbalmayo, Yokadouma, Monatélé, Bandjoun	State Belfius Bank of Belgium	35%	30.5%
3	Rehabilitation, enhancement, and extension of AEP water supply systems Project in 52 C1 Tranche centres	Yaounde, Douala, Garoua, Bafoussam, Maroua, Makalingaï, Nkongsamba, Mamfe, Bamenda, Buea, Limbe	State Belfius Bank of Belgium	63%	67.34%
4	Drinking water supply project in Yaounde and 3 secondary towns	Yaounde, Bertoua, Edea	State AFD BEI	60%	59.68%
5	Drinking water supply project to 9 towns, 1 Tranche	Sangmelima, Kribi, Bamenda, Bafoussam <sup>318</sup>	State Eximbank China	40%	47.74%
6	Akomnyada Plant expansion project of 55,000 m <sup>3</sup> /Additional days	Yaounde	State EximBank USA	30%	23.98%

**Source: CAMWATER**

<sup>318</sup> Originally designed for 9 towns, the Project is being implemented in 4 towns, including Sangmélima, Kribi Bamenda and Bafoussam that have benefited from other fundings and selection of replacement towns is ongoing.

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## C: Pooling Financial Resources

**647-** On 29 January 2015, Government and Eximbank China signed a Financial Agreement of some CFAF400,000,000,000<sup>319</sup> for the project to supply drinking water in Yaounde and its environs from the River Sana-ga. The project will be carried out by the Chinese company Sinomach, at the end of which Yaounde and its neighbouring towns are expected to receive 300,000m<sup>3</sup>/day that may be increased to 400,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day.

**648-** Furthermore, on 27 October 2015, Government and Belfus Bank, Belgium signed a loan agreement of CFAF40,000,000,000<sup>320</sup> to finance a project to enhance and extend drinking water supply systems in 13 communities in the country<sup>321</sup>. The loan will be used to conduct feasibility studies and surveys, supply equipment, material and water supply systems, construction and installation works, and train staff.

**649-** The partnership with Belfus Bank further includes the provision of CFAF29,052,000,000<sup>322</sup> to finance a drinking water supply project to the new Kribi town and port complex.

**650-** All these actions aimed at easing access to drinking water are hampered by difficulties relating to rapid growing urbanization.

## §2: Energy Supply

**651-** The Cameroon energy policy targets sufficient, efficient, reliable, clean power supply, and developing and guaranteeing sustainable access of the people to modern power services. The policy further focuses on launching and speeding up development of the national energy heritage through increase in power supply and better access to same by all classes of the society.

<sup>319</sup> About 610,687,022.90 Euros

<sup>320</sup> About 61,068,702.29 Euros

<sup>321</sup> Bankim, Banyo, Mbe, Pitoa, Mayo-Oulo, Figuil, Mbalmayo, Dimako, Djoum, Lomie, Yoko and Makalingai.

<sup>322</sup> About 44,354,198.47 Euros

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## A: Increase in Energy Supply

**652-** In order to increase energy supply, measures were taken to step up traditional energy sources and search for new ones.

### 1) Stepping up Traditional Energy Sources

**653-** In order to provide electric energy, Government continued to strengthen the existing potential and set up an energy transporting company.

#### a) Strengthening Electricity Potential

**654-** Electricity potential was increased by transferring the shares held by the British Investment Fund (*Actis*), strengthening partnership and continuing the construction of energy production infrastructure. Such actions are still insufficient to satisfy existing demand.

#### i) Sale of Actis Shares

**655-** On 14 September 2015, *Actis*, holder of 56% of shares in The Energy of Cameroon (ENE) transferred its shares from the Kribi Development Company (KPDC) and Dibamba Power Development Corporation (DPDC) to the consortium controlled by *Nordfund* (Norwegian Fund) and the British Financing Institution (Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC)) for CFAF 125,000,000,000<sup>323</sup>.

**656-** The operation marked the entry of a new international investor in the Cameroon electricity sector and developed the investment capacity of the 2 independent energy producers referred to above.

#### ii) Consolidating Partnership in the Energy Sector

**657-** On 7 March 2015, Cameroon and Congo-Brazzaville signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the organization and functioning of

<sup>323</sup> About 190,839,694.656 Euros

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the Inter-States Steering Committee of the Chollet Hydroelectric Power Plant Project. The Plant which is situated at the border between Cameroon and Congo, 150km from Ouessou (Congo) and 126km from Mouloundou (Cameroon) is a common project for the 2 countries. It will produce 600MW of energy and supply communities in Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon, and the mining and industrial areas near the site of the Project.

**658-** On 3 November 2015, an electricity purchasing contract was signed between the State, ENEO, *Electricité de France* (EDF), International Finance Cooperation, and RTA, all partners to the Upper Nachtigal Hydroelectric Dam project. The Plant with a capacity of 420MW situated on the River Sanaga is one of the second generation priority projects. It aims to provide a huge additional and stable source of energy production from 2020 and satisfy up to 30% of demand in electricity within the South Interconnected Network.

### iii) Construction of Electricity Production Infrastructure

**659-** In 2015, weather vagaries marked by insufficient rainfall caused a reduction of water flow in the River Sanaga and significantly affected electricity supply. Due to lack of water, the Song-loulou and Edea Dams did not produce enough electricity which resulted in power shed of up to 100MW especially during peak hours.

**660-** In order to address this situation, construction of electricity production infrastructure was hastened up with a view to guaranteeing short-and long-term electricity supply. That is why the following actions are underway:

- construction of the Lom Pangar dam with a completion rate of 88%. Part impoundment was successful from 26 September 2015 with a volume of 3,000,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water stored;
- construction of the Memve'ele hydroelectric plant on the River Ntem with a completion rate of 74%; and
- construction of the Mekin hydroelectric Plant with a completion rate of 90%; and 5MW already available.

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**661-** Besides, on 10 June 2015, the Ahala Thermal Plant with a capacity of 40MW went operational. It will gradually reduce the rate and duration of power shed in Yaounde and enable efficient electricity transportation.

**662-** In all, the current national electricity production capacity stands at 4,425.1GWh compared to 4,256.1GWh in 2013 to 4,372.7GWh in 2014.

#### iv) Gap between Demand and Supply

**663-** The growth index is not in consonance with connections and subscriptions. New electricity connections increased from 62,673 in 2013 to 76,380 in 2014 and 76,470 in 2015. The slight increase in connections in 2015 simply highlights the rate of power shed and explains the disaffection of households for electricity and the large number of generators found in the country. The table below is quite illustrative.

**Table 3: Operational Electricity Capacity in 2015**

Type of Energy	Estimated operational capacity
Hydroelectric power	31.46%
Thermal energy	26.71%
Offshore thermal energy	0.89%
Onshore thermal energy	40.83%
Renewable energy	0.11%

**Source:** ENEO, EDC, KPDC, DPDC, main dealers in generators, some renewable energy companies, Calculations (MINEE)

**664-** Furthermore, contrary to the unsteady increase in the number of connections, the number of ENEO subscribers increased steadily and in a linear manner. This reflects the dire need of electricity by consumers. The Littoral, Centre and West Regions respectively have the highest number of subscribers.

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665- The table below explains such increase in 2013, 2014, and 2015:

**Table 4: Increase in the Number of Subscribers to Electricity per Region from 2013 to 2015**

Year Region	2013	2014	2015
Adamawa	27,625	30,093	32,477
Centre	212,275	231,223	245,950
East	19,484	21,221	25,544
Far North	36,734	40,008	43,921
Littoral	233,743	254,560	269,706
North	26,602	28,973	31,769
North West	57,116	62,214	69,122
West	112,141	122,145	131,231
South	30,893	33,651	35,658
South West	59,456	64,756	68,122
<b>Total</b>	<b>816,069</b>	<b>888,844</b>	<b>953,500</b>

**Source:** ENEO

666- Although there has been a steady increase in energy over the years through the operation of some energy production infrastructure such as the Thermal Plant at Yassa, the thermal plants of the Emergency Thermal Programme and the Gas Plant in Kribi, and the rehabilitation of other hydroelectric plants like the one in Edea, the power installed has not yet produced the desired effects for the consumer due to the outdated electricity distribution network.

667- Consideration of such concern was one of the factors behind the establishment of a National Electricity Transportation Company.

## b) The Electricity Transportation Company

668- By Decree No. 2015/454 of 8 October 2015, the National Electricity Transportation Company (SONATREL) was established. Its missions include:

- maintenance, renewal and compliance of electricity transportation structures in the country;

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- oversee that the assumptions underlying the preparation of the development of the transportation structures tie in with the multi-planning of electricity production investments;
- ensure connection and access of all applicants to the public electricity transportation network as per the regulatory and technical prescriptions; and
- oversee the balance and stability of the electricity sector.

**669-** The activities of the Company are expected to result in proper coordination between production and supply to consumers through efficient distribution of electricity that may be supplemented by renewable energy.

## 2) Diversifying Energy Sources

**670-** In the area of renewable energy, Cameroon consolidated its determination to control climate change by promoting clean energy. This was reflected by its membership of the UN initiative "Sustainable Energy for All" (SE4ALL), for which the UNDP and AfDB helped recruit a Consultant who will guide Cameroon in drawing up an action agenda and investment prospectus. Another major action was the signing on 7 December 2015, of a Joint Declaration by Cameroon, France and the European Union on close cooperation in the area of sustainable energy. The Declaration was signed on the sidelines of the COP 21 and the energies referred to include solar energy, gas, and biogas.

### a) Solar Energy

**671-** The exploitation of Cameroon's potential due to its position in the tropics led Government to focus on the production and distribution of solar energy. In this connection, many actions were taken to harness solar energy and make it more available and accessible to areas not covered by the electricity network.

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**672-** The Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL) and the European Union initiated the *Invest'Elec* project that resulted, after a non exhaustive census, in identifying more than 260 Small Hydro Electric Power Plants sites in the country.

**673-** In addition, on 7 June 2015, a Solar Energy Project was initiated by Cameroon and Germany. An initial experiment was conducted in Betare-Oya, East Region with the supply of photovoltaic material after the signing of an Agreement between Cameroon and the German firm *Psg Solar*.

**674-** Besides, ENEO undertook to build hybrid solar and thermal plants in Abong-Mbang, Yokadouma, Ngaoundal, and Bertoua. Thus, in combining solar energy during the day and thermal energy at night, production costs will be reduced while energy production will increase thereby reducing the cost of access by households.

**675-** The development of the rural solar electrification project in 166 communities is ongoing.

**676-** In 2015, 4 solar plants<sup>324</sup> were installed in different towns while 8 communities<sup>325</sup> were provided with solar street lights. In this connection, the Solar Plant at Mvomeka'a was inaugurated on 27 August 2015.

**677-** In all, the photovoltaic solar capacity in kilo Watts-peak (kWp) installed in Cameroon stands at 1,683.47 Wc<sup>326</sup>. The East Region that does not have an interconnected electricity network is provided with more solar energy, followed by the South and Centre Regions respectively. The Far North, North and Adamawa Regions enjoy only 33.7% of the photovoltaic solar capacity installed in Cameroon. The table below is quite illustrative:

<sup>324</sup> Solar Plants: Nkolandom, Biwong-Bulu, Mengong and Meyos Yemvan, Yaounde (Ekoudoum).

<sup>325</sup> Solar street lights: Nkolbisson road, water treatment station at Mefou, Minta, Ngoumou, Ngouso, Mban-komo, Yaounde, Akono, Nkondougou, Awae towards Akonolinga, Nkolfong, and Bengbis.

<sup>326</sup> Street lights are not taken into account.

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**Table 5: Photovoltaic Solar Capacities in kWp Installed per Region**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Power Installed</b>
<b>Adamawa</b>	223.45
<b>Centre</b>	207.01
<b>East</b>	350.68
<b>Far North</b>	193.25
<b>Littoral</b>	125.35
<b>North</b>	212.22
<b>North West</b>	76.61
<b>West</b>	36.26
<b>South</b>	237.63
<b>South West</b>	21.02

**Source:** MINEE

## **b) Gas**

**678-** In order to help Government consolidate energy production from gas, the gas station, Logbaba was opened on 28 April 2015 in addition to the one in Kribi operated by KPDC, bringing total production to 216 MW. The new station increased the production capacity of ENEO by 50 MW for Douala and its environs.

## **c) Biogas**

**679-** One of the goals of Government is to produce gas from waste. In this connection, Government and the Dutch Development Organization (SNV) started a National Cooking Biogas Promotion and Development Programme launched in the Adamawa Region. It has the following 2 objectives:

- search and analyze the characteristics of households that invest in biogas systems; and
- build and oversee the use of biodigesters bought by households.

**680-** At the end of the experimental phase, 164 biodigesters were built in 57 villages that impact on the lives of some 1,028 persons in rural areas in the Adamawa Region.

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**681-** Private initiatives followed Government action. An example is the construction of the HYSACAM biogas capture and treatment plants in Yaounde and Douala with more than 5,000 tonnes of waste collected daily that helps transform methane into carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a gas that is 25 times less polluting.

**682-** Another initiative led by Mr. Claude Sango-Agho was selected for *Challenge Climat*, a competition launched by the *Agence Française de Développement*. It is a project to build some 100 biodigesters that are expected to supply 4 villages with biogas in the West Region.

## B: Access to Energy

**683-** In order to make electricity accessible to all consumers, cost was stabilized and rural areas connected to the network.

### 1) Stabilization of Cost of Electricity

**684-** Prices vary according to the categories of consumers or according to the quantity of energy consumed per month. Thus, there are 3 categories of consumers. First, there are consumers known as “low tension” customers who are mostly households with consumption of between 110 and 2,000 KWH costing CFAF50- 90<sup>227</sup> per KWH. Second, there are “average tension” customers whose price is fixed in relation to the time energy is used. Lastly, there are “high tension” customers who are generally factories. Their prices are fixed following a contract signed with the energy distributor.

**685-** Nevertheless, in rural areas, households generally pay CFAF500<sup>328</sup> for the same kilowatt where they are not connected to the public network.

**686-** In 2015, the role of ARSEL was to oversee stable prices. Complaints made by consumers led to the opening of a call centre (Tel : 222 20 60

<sup>227</sup> About 0.07 to 0.14 Euros

<sup>228</sup> About 0.76 Euros

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64/222 20 60 71/222 20 60 70/222 20 60 72) for reports. Thus, 1,685 cases were examined following reports filed by consumers.

**687-** Besides, ARSEL set up a conciliation organ that delivers judgments that are endorsed by the law courts. The filing of a complaint by the consumer to ARSEL challenging a bill results in suspending payment. Thus, the conciliation organ examined 587 complaints amongst which 484 in Yaounde and 103 in Douala.

## 2) Connecting Rural Areas to the Electricity Network

**688-** The strategy to extend the electricity network to rural areas is of great concern to Government. That is why in 2015, 15 communities in 6 Regions<sup>329</sup> of the country were connected to the national electricity network at the cost of CFAF446,486,189<sup>330</sup> from the funds of the Rural Electrification Agency.

**689-** In addition, as part of the Decentralized Rural Electrification (ERD)-Rumpi, construction of the small hydroelectric plant-Hydro Falls 210 with a production capacity of 2.9MW in the South West Region was completed. The cost of construction stands at CFAF5,787,700,707<sup>331</sup>, and the plant has enabled the achievement of the following projects in the Rumpi area, South West Region:

- construction of average and low tension networks in 18 communities in the South West Region<sup>332</sup> resulting in 4,154 connections out of the 4,154 envisaged (100% connection rate). The cost stands at CFAF1,858,065,039<sup>333</sup>;
- construction of average and low tension networks with 1,281 connections in 8 communities of hydro clusters, Meme Division at the cost of CFAF746,439,720<sup>334</sup>;

<sup>329</sup> Sadol Calmet, Nyambaka (Adamawa), Ebolmongo, NioBaboute (Centre), Tchifel and Barkehi, Mayel Doumsi, Wouro Gadjji (North), Chikau Babungo, Chieh, Faakui, Tsenka (North West, Soh Mopi, NgahNka, Bakoua and Koba (West) Regions.

<sup>330</sup> About 681,658, 30 Euros

<sup>331</sup> About 8,836, 184,28 Euros

<sup>332</sup> Marumba 1, Marumba 2, Bai Bikom, Bai Metoko, Bai Many, New Town Barombi, Kotto Barombi, Kotto Island, Bai Longe, Three Corners Foe, Munyegue, Lilale and Lykoko Mile 14.

<sup>333</sup> About 2,836, 740,52 Euros

<sup>334</sup> About 1, 139,602,62 Euros

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- provision and installation of photovoltaic solar kits and after-sales service for community infrastructure in 32 communities in the Rumpi area at the cost of CFAF220,185,197<sup>335</sup>; and
- financing in Ekombe Mbonji, South West Region, of an HTA/HTA delivery centre with a capacity of 30KV at the cost of CFAF110,011,829<sup>336</sup> for the connection of structures to the existing ENEO network.

**690-** The electricity sector in Cameroon still faces many challenges. The gaps between installed capacity, available quantity and the quantity provided to consumers, supply and increasing demand (between 5 and 7% per year) are still very wide. Completion of construction of electricity production works and extension of the use of sources of renewable energy are expected to guarantee medium- and long-term access of consumers to energy.

**691-** Just like the energy sector, the water sector also depends not only on the completion of water production works but also on the multiplication of boreholes in rural areas.

**692-** The gap between demand and supply is equally obvious in the area of adequate housing.

## SECTION 3: RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

**693-** The following measures were taken to ensure the right to adequate housing: the development of sites for the production of plots, construction of low-cost houses, marketing of houses built by the State, facilitating access to construction materials and cleaning up the living environment of the population.

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<sup>335</sup> About 336,160,60 Euros

<sup>336</sup> About 167,956,99 Euros

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## §1: Production of Building Plots

**694-** The development of the first phase of 1,104 building plots in Yaounde, (Olembe and Mbalngong) and Douala (Bwang Bakoko 1 and 2) have been substantially completed. The second phase of works on the installation of water, electricity and telephone networks, as well as tarring of the main roads are ongoing.

**695-** Moreover, studies undertaken by MAETUR to improve the living conditions of the population of Nkondom 1 and 2 (Mfou), Talla (Kribi) and Gbebo (Bertoua) have been completed. The works to be undertaken are centred on urban road works, drainage of rainwater and wastewater, drinking water and public lighting, as reflected in the following table:

**Table 6: State of the Development of Plots**

No.	Heading	Administration	Location	Type of work	Execution Rate
1	Experimental programme for the production of housing accessible to low-income households, 1000ha of land secured, 1000 units built, 5,000 developed plots	MINEPAT MAETUR	Nkondom 2 Mfou	Studies	95%
			Logbessou TV	Works	95%
				Studies	100%
Talla Kribi	Works	90%			
	Works	53%			
2	Yaounde-Nsimalen highway project (Resettlement of evicted people)	MINDCAF MINHDU MAETUR	Ekoko 2	Studies	95%
				Works	80%

**Source:** MAETUR

**696-** During the year, community facilities and Roads and main services were developed as reflected in the table below:

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**Table 7: Development of Roads and Basic Services**

NETWORKS						
Lots	Highways	Rain water drainage	Waste water treatment	Drinking water supply	Electricity supply	Public lighting
Nkondom I Mfou	Coated: 5,160m	Coated gutters: 10,320 m	Separation system: 2 treatment plants	Connected to public network: 8,250 m	Connected to public network: 6,192 m	685 candelabras
Nkondom II Mfou	3,400m	6,800 m	Separation system: 2 treatment plants	5,440 m	Connected to the public network: 4080 m	400 candelabras
Tala (Kribi)	18,875m	Coated gutters: 37,752 m	Separation system: 3 treatment plants	Connected to public network: 30,200 m	Connected to public network: 22,650 m	1,255 candelabras
Gbebo (Bertoua)	11,710m	Coated gutters: 23,420 m	Separation system: 2 treatment plants	Connected to public network: 18,735 m	Connected to public network: 14,050 m	780 candelabras

**Source:** MAETUR

## §2: Low-Cost Houses

**697-** Actions taken in previous years were continued in 2015. However, the mixed progress of the construction of low-cost houses as part of Government's Programme compared to projections at the start-up phase is not conducive for the peoples' support.

**698-** The table below shows the execution rate of the Government's Programme<sup>337</sup>.

**Table 8: State of Execution of Government's Programme of the Construction of 10,000 Low-cost Houses**

Service Providers	Location	Number of Planned Housing	Realization Rate
Cameroonian SMEs	Yaounde (Olembe)	500	72%
	Douala	1,175	60%
COFFOR	Yaounde	640	24.12%
China National Company for International, Economic and Technical Corporation, SHENYANG	Yaounde	660	100%
	Douala	660	75%

**Source:** MINH DU

<sup>337</sup> Government programme includes work done by Cameroonian SMEs, COFFOR and China SHENYANG International Economics and Technical Cooperation Corporation.

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**699-** Measures were taken to facilitate the marketing of low-cost houses and to simplify procurement procedures by setting up a One-Stop-Shop that provided better information to potential buyers. Meanwhile, access to loans eased the conditions for buying houses<sup>338</sup>.

**700-** Thus, under the Government Programme for access to low-cost houses, 29 loans were granted by the Cameroon Housing Loan Fund (CFC) worth CFAF573,000,000<sup>339</sup>.

**Table 9: State of Marketing**

Location	Allocation requests	Selected files	Files eligible for CFC loan		Cash purchases	Number of houses received
			Approved	Pending		
Yaounde	702	260	413	60	170	80
Douala	1,929	1,882	557	1,325	110	260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>2,142</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>340</b>

**Source:** MINHDU

## §4: Control of Prices of Construction Material

**701-** The Ministry of Trade initiated consultations with cement sector operators with a view to standardizing the sale price of this building material due to the competition between the 4 operators in the sector (Cimencam, Dangote Cement, Cimaf and Medcem). These consultations led to setting the ex-factory price of a 50kgs bag at CFAF4,700<sup>340</sup>. This price remains high based on supply and demand<sup>341</sup>.

**702-** This harmonization should lead to a significant decrease in consumer price. The intervention of distributors (hardware), who add to the ex-factory price transportation costs and profit margins affects the final price paid by the consumer which price is determined by the market forces and that is overvalued.

<sup>338</sup> Houses are built pursuant to Order No. 9/ E/2/MINHDU of 21 August 2008 to lay down the standards of low-cost houses. This instrument specifies eligibility criteria for low-cost houses on the basis of which a Commission chaired by the MINHDU allocates houses.

<sup>339</sup> About 874,809.16 Euros

<sup>340</sup> About 7.17 Euros

<sup>341</sup> Supply including imports is estimated at 4,800,000 tons and demand 3,600,000 tons per year.

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**703-** Spot checks were carried out by the Ministry of Trade to avoid uncontrolled inflation of market prices resulting in 2,348 controls and 33,717 illicit cases followed by sanctions.

## §5: Sanitation of the Living Environment

**704-** In order to improve the living conditions of the population, slums were restructured and actions to better control the recurrent phenomenon of floods continued.

### A: Restructuring Slums

**705-** On 19 August 2015, Government launched, with the support of UN-Habitat, Phase 3 of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PPAB) in Nkolbikok, Yaounde. This initiative's main objective is to contribute to improving the health of Nkolbikok inhabitants in general and those of Melen 6, Melen 7B and Melen 9 in particular, through access to water, hygiene and basic sanitation. A specific objective is to improve people's access to basic services with main activity being the compacted filling of the ravine at a place called "End of tar" Melen 7B, and the construction of a channel along the drain to make it practicable. The Programme covers a surface area of 72 ha, including 16 ha liable to flood. To this end, a Community Fund was established to mobilize and strengthen associations and organizations working in the Nkolbikok area through grants. The official launch of the ravine development work took place on 28 December 2015.

### B: Flood Control

**706-** Preventive and repressive measures were taken to control floods.

**707-** Two storm water drainage projects were approved in 2015 for the cities of Yaounde and Douala for CFAF80,000,000<sup>342</sup> and CFAF102,000,000<sup>343</sup> respectively including:

- Phase II of the Yaounde Sanitation Project (PADY 2) with the construction of 14 km of canal in the Mfoundi and its tributaries;
- Storm water drainage in Douala with the construction of 39km of

<sup>342</sup> About 122,137,404.58 Euros

<sup>343</sup> About 155,725,190.84 Euros

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canals following the 9 main natural water courses corresponding to 9 watersheds, recalibration of outfalls over 9 km of earthen canals as well as the paving of 20 km of road on the banks.

**708-** Following flooding in June 2015 in Douala, a major drain release campaign was conducted by the City Council. This consisted in demolishing buildings located within identified drains, cleaning of gutters for over 55 km by young people employed in the "Youth Employment." Programme.

## C: Rehabilitation and Construction of Urban Roads

**709-** The rehabilitation of some urban roads was carried out under the Urban Transport Infrastructure Development Programme and the resources of the Road Fund.

### 1) Urban Transport Infrastructure Development Programme

**710-** Under the Urban Transport Infrastructure Development Programme, 27,155 km of paved urban roads were built and rehabilitated in 10 cities while the operation continued in 30 others. Major sites are indicated in the following table:

**Table 10: Urban Roads Constructed in 2015**

Type of work	Location	Route	Execution rate
Rehabilitation of some roads	Yaounde	Nsimalen Airport -Mvog Mbi- <i>Carrefour Warda</i> , Police Academy- Sub-Divisional Office- <i>Tsinga-Carrefour Ahala-Carrefour Nsam- Trois Statue-Sonel Central- Officers Mess- French Embassy loop</i>	76%
		Mvog- Atangana Mballa-Mvog Mbi- Access road- War College, Simbock	18.10%
		Main roads of Mvog Ada-Essos neighborhoods	
		Yaounde-Nsimalen Highway (country side section)	23%
		Cross-over works, Olembé	100%

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Type of work	Location	Route	Execution rate
Development of urban roads	Limbe	National Comprehensive College junction-Middle Farm	100%
Development of urban roads (2km) including a storm drainage	Maroua	Lougouo Ouro Loupe	85%
Rehabilitation of overarching and proximity roads (1,635 km)	Maroua	Doualaré and Lowoldiga neighborhoods	100%

**Source:** MINDHU

## 2) Work done by the Road Fund

711- In 2015, with finances from the Road Fund released in 2014, 19,069 km of urban roads were constructed and rehabilitation of 30 secondary towns started.

712- Works executed with Road Fund financing are shown in the table below:

**Table 11: State of works Financed by the Road Fund**

Cities	Funding Amount	Execution Rate
<b>Yaounde-Cité Verte and Mfandena (482 ml)</b>	CFAF138,392,558 <sup>344</sup> (TF) CFAF 138,352,558 <sup>345</sup> (TF)	24%
<b>Yaoundé-Oyom Abang (810 ml)</b>	CFAF240,418,200 <sup>346</sup> (TF)	30%
<b>Monaté (340 ml)</b>	CFAF147,442,475 <sup>347</sup> (TF)	5%
<b>Ntui (1233 ml)</b>	CFAF128,631,179 <sup>348</sup> (TF)	29%
<b>Mfou (1037 ml)</b>	CFAF247,128,344 <sup>349</sup> (TF)	0% <sup>350</sup>
<b>Akonolinga (875 ml)</b>	CFAF141,556,808 <sup>351</sup> (TF)	0%
<b>Soa (769 ml)</b>	CFAF125,853,680 <sup>352</sup> (TF)	35%
<b>Batouri (1110 ml)</b>	CFAF149,113,667 <sup>353</sup> (TF)	0% <sup>354</sup>
<b>Doume (935 ml)</b>	CFAF162,005,957 <sup>355</sup> (TF)	40%

<sup>344</sup> About 211,286.35 Euros

<sup>345</sup> About 211,225.28 Euros

<sup>346</sup> About 36,705.69 Euros

<sup>347</sup> About 225,103.01 Euros

<sup>348</sup> About 196,383.47 Euros

<sup>349</sup> About 377,295.18 Euros

<sup>350</sup> Postponement of the resumption date to 15 April 2016

<sup>351</sup> About 216,117.26 Euros

<sup>352</sup> About 192,143.02 Euros

<sup>353</sup> About 227,654.45 Euros

<sup>354</sup> Company not mobilized despite two formal notices

<sup>355</sup> About 247,337.34 Euros

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Cities	Funding Amount	Execution Rate
<b>Meyomessi (1950 ml)</b>	CFAF76,227,968 <sup>356</sup> (TF)	10%
<b>Bamenda (1486 ml)</b>	CFAF222,764,963 <sup>357</sup> (TF)	0% <sup>358</sup>
<b>Misaje (1114 ml)</b>	CFAF129,890,294 <sup>359</sup> (TF)	30%
<b>Jakiri (ml)</b>	CFAF62,914,430 <sup>360</sup> (TF)	16%
<b>Douala (310 ml)</b>	CFAF 300,902,350 <sup>361</sup> ( TF)	10.14%
<b>Nkongsamba (560 ml)</b>	CFAF89,465,070 <sup>362</sup> (TF)	100%
<b>Mombo (3566 ml)</b>	CFAF77,180,922 <sup>363</sup> (TF)	90%
<b>Bangem (1550 ml)</b>	CFAF167,534,244 <sup>364</sup> (TF)	35%
<b>Menji (1750 ml)</b>	CFAF 198,580,704 <sup>365</sup> (TF)	84.33%
<b>Idenau (1750 ml)</b>	CFAF158,952,480 <sup>366</sup> (TF)	28%
<b>Bassamba (1400 ml)</b>	CFAF133,842,938 <sup>367</sup> (TF)	0%
<b>Koutaba (1015 ml)</b>	CFAF153,418,720 <sup>368</sup> (TF)	15%
<b>Tonga (475 ml)</b>	CFAF43,945,964 <sup>369</sup> (TF)	90%
<b>Meiganga Section 1 (ml) Section 2 (ml)</b>	CFAF168,450,404 <sup>370</sup> (IT)	38%
<b>Bankim</b>	CFAF202,725,000 <sup>371</sup> (IT)	39%
<b>Ngaoundere Section 1 (450 ml) Section 2 (350 ml) Section 3 (2 700 ml)</b>	CFAF 398,122,088 <sup>372</sup> (IT)	73%
<b>Ngaoui (ml)</b>	CFAF 95,400,000 <sup>373</sup> (IT)	35%
<b>Ngaoundal (ml)</b>	CFAF156,907,693 <sup>374</sup> (IT)	36%
<b>Kolofata (ml)</b>	CFAF 235,500,000 <sup>375</sup> (IT)	62%
<b>Maroua (ml)</b>	CFAF 317,111,683 <sup>376</sup> (IT)	44%
<b>Koza (ml)</b>	CFAF 238,342,843 <sup>377</sup> (IT)	99%

**Source:** MINHDU

**713-** Cameroon continued its efforts to ensure its population adequate standard of living, including the prescription of a RGAE for a more rational structure of food production and distribution circuit. The same applies for access to water and electricity, through increasing the energy potential of the country that should be more efficiently transported by the

<sup>356</sup> About 116,378.58 Euros

<sup>357</sup> About 340,099.18 Euros

<sup>358</sup> Amendment transmitted to MINMAP. The company and the Design Office were suspended.

<sup>359</sup> About 198,305.79 Euros

<sup>360</sup> About 96,052.56 Euros

<sup>361</sup> About 459,392.90 Euros

<sup>362</sup> About 136,587.89 Euros

<sup>363</sup> About 117,833.47 Euros

<sup>364</sup> About 255,777.47 Euros

<sup>365</sup> About 303,176.65 Euros

<sup>366</sup> About 242,675.54 Euros

<sup>367</sup> About 204 or 340.36 Euros

<sup>368</sup> About 234,227.05 Euros

<sup>369</sup> About 67,093.07 Euros

<sup>370</sup> About 257,176.18 Euros

<sup>371</sup> About 309,503.82 Euros

<sup>372</sup> About 607,819.98 Euros

<sup>373</sup> About 145,648.85 Euros

<sup>374</sup> About 239,553.72 Euros

<sup>375</sup> About 359,541.98 Euros

<sup>376</sup> About 484,139.97 Euros

<sup>377</sup> About 363,882.20 Euros

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new company SONATREL. The right to decent housing centred on continued development of low-cost houses and cleanliness of the living environment.

**714-** However, these measures still face some bottlenecks, including funding of the agricultural sector, the obsolescence of the electric energy transmission network, persistent disruptions of water supply, the uncertain state of the level of construction of low-cost houses of which it would be desirable to relax affordability conditions. These constraints may be addressed by the launch of the Agricultural Bank, making constructed dams operational or reduction of cement prices.



**Chapter**

**4**

**RIGHT TO WORK AND  
SOCIAL SECURITY**



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**715-** Access to employment is still a major concern to Government. That is why it is at the centre of a short-term development strategy (2010-2020) as a lever for the redistribution of wealth and poverty reduction.

**716-** In this connection, Government took the following 3 key actions to align with the Decent Work Country Programme<sup>378</sup>: increasing decent job opportunities and income-generating activities, enhancing the normative framework and working conditions for all, and consolidating social dialogue.

## SECTION 1: INCREASING DECENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

**717-** In order to reduce the unemployment rate observed in the past year<sup>379</sup>, Government focused on employability and job creation.

### §1: Employability

**718-** The National Employment Fund (NEF) and the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP) took actions to guide job seekers in their search for employment.

#### A: NEF Actions

**719-** NEF provided job-seeking guidelines to 51,330 job seekers in 2015 as against 47,607 in 2014 thereby bringing the total to 540,558. Besides, as part of the National Skills Harnessing Programme (PROCCON) that aims at registering job seekers through Councils in the country to build a skill data,

<sup>378</sup> Framework-document of Cooperation with ILO for the period 2014-2017. As a reminder, by Decision No. 341/D/MINTSS/SG/DINCIT/CCT/CEA1 of 7 November 2014, a Tripartite Steering Committee of Decent Work Country Programme was formed. In this connection, an Ownership Workshop of the said Document was organized for members of the Committee from 19 to 21 August 2015.

<sup>379</sup> As per the new 2013 unemployment indicators of the International Labour Office, unemployment dropped in 2014. The combined rate of unemployment and under employment as per work period dropped from 17.7% in 2010 to 15.7% in 2014, and the combined rate of unemployment of potential workforce dropped from 6.6% in 2010 to 5.96% in 2014, and the average age of job seekers was 27 years.

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NEF registered 51,230 job seekers, bringing the number to 219,340 job seekers. In addition, NEF obtained job positions for 48,124 applicants out of the 51,330 registered bringing the total to 372,635. NEF further trained 429 job seekers in 2015 as against 1,461 in 2014, bringing the number of trained persons to 14,563. With regard to on-the-job training, 9,852 youths were trained in 2015 as against 10,318 in 2014, bringing the number of trained persons as at 31 December 2015 to 90,019. The trainings helped youths develop skills in areas such as carpentry, hairdressing, bakery, catering, restaurant, dyeing, and computer maintenance.

**720-** As part of the Job Certificate Holder Programme (PED) that aims at providing job positions to youths without professional experience, 573 young certificate holders were offered a one-year pre-employment training in 2015 as against 678 in 2014.

## **B: MINEFOP Actions**

**721-** MINEFOP prepared 4 new training referentials in the following areas: electrical and mechanical maintenance, refrigeration and air conditioning, medical technology, and solar energy technicians. In addition, the construction and equipment of the 3 Vocational Training Centres of Excellence in Douala, Limbe, and Sangmelima was completed while construction of the National Institute for Training of Trainers and Programme Development, Yaounde has started.

## **§2: Job Creation**

**722-** As at 31 December 2015, 369,588 jobs were created through programmes and initiatives of institutions in charge of placing workforce in public or private areas, and as part of independent job creation programme.

**723-** The Public Service also recruited 2,038 persons amongst whom 1,019 from end-of-course examinations, and 1,668 from direct competitive entrance examinations. The table below shows the level of recruitment in the different corps of the civil service in 2015:

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**Table 1: Recruitment into the Public Service**

No.	Corps	Number	
		Male	Female
1	Population and statistics	67	26
2	INJS (physical education, sport, youth and animation)	69	46
3	CENAJES (physical education, sport, youth and animation)	91	63
4	ENAM	286	380
	<b>Total (1,028)</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>515</b>
<b>Direct Competitive Entrance Examinations</b>			
5	Social Welfare	4	13
6	Agriculture	43	27
7	Surveys	31	9
8	Documentation	13	22
9	Water Resources and Forestry	81	19
10	Livestock and Maritime Fishing	33	17
11	Civil and Rural Engineering	94	30
12	Animal Husbandry	17	8
13	Mines and Geology	13	3
14	Computer and remote-access computing	21	11
15	Telecommunication Techniques	16	11
16	Public Health	160	326
17	Industrial Technology	15	2
	<b>Total (1,010)</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>498</b>

**Source:** MINFOPRA

**724-** A further 3,060 persons were recruited in the area of basic education.

**725-** NEF helped job seekers obtain employment through the Self-Employment and Micro-Enterprises Programme (PAME), and the Rural Employment Development Programme (PADER). PAME that aims to promote job creation for individuals and groups financed 8,618 new promoters amongst whom 7,910 in group programmes, while PADER generated 17,294 jobs.

**726-** Furthermore, jobs were created through other projects and programmes. Thus, through the Vocational Training Renovation and Development Support Programme in the sectors of agriculture, livestock and fi-

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sheries (AFOP)<sup>380</sup>, 1,712 job seekers were employed, while 1,600 persons were employed through the MINADER/MINEPIA Competitiveness Enhancement Programme for Small-scale Agropastoral Holdings (ACEFA). Besides, the MINEPAT AGROPOLE Programme helped create 3,474 jobs amongst which 1,400 jobs in 9 Councils in 6 Regions<sup>381</sup>. In addition, 200 micro-projects were funded through Councils for 8,000 direct jobs and 2,400 indirect jobs bringing the total to 3,200 jobs for the Integrated Support Programme for Informal Sector Stakeholders (PIASI).

**727-** In addition to the actions taken to promote vocational integration, measures were also adopted to improve the normative framework and working conditions for all.

## SECTION 2: ENHANCEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR ALL

**728-** In order to enhance the working environment, Government focused on improving the normative framework, promoting health and social security, settling land disputes, and providing social protection to workers.

### §1: Enhancing the Normative Framework

**729-** The normative framework was improved by Decree No. 2015/578 of 16 December 2015 to ratify ILO Convention No. 144 on Tripartite Consultations, and Decree No. 2015/579 of 16 December 2015 to ratify ILO Convention No. 155 on the Security and Health of Workers.

**730-** Convention No. 144 aims to promote tripartite consultations and social dialogue at the national level while ensuring that employers' and workers' organizations are involved at all levels of normative activities

<sup>380</sup> As a joint MINADER/MINEPIA Programme, the goal of AFOP is to modernize the production mechanism, and reduce unemployment through vocational integration of youths.

<sup>3801</sup> The following Councils are involved: City Council, Bertoua, East Region; Meiganga Council, Adamawa Region; Okola and Yaounde VII Councils, Centre Region; Ndobian and Nkongsamba II Councils, Littoral Region; Bangou and Batcham Councils, West Region; and Meyomessala Council, South Region. The Partnership Agreement between MINEPAT and the 9 Councils was signed on 20 August

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of the ILO. Consultations as per the terms of this Convention do not imply that negotiations be undertaken to reach an agreement but require that professional organizations provide Government with clarifications on the following issues:

- responses to aspects relating to items on the agenda of the Conference of State Parties;
- newly adopted ILO conventions or recommendations so they be ratified or implemented;
- re-examination of unratified ILO conventions or recommendations;
- examination of Periodic Reports on the implementation of ratified Conventions, to be presented before the ILO; and
- recommendations on reporting ratified conventions.

**731-** The form and procedures of consultation are left to the sovereign discretion of State Parties who may choose to form a Specialized Commission on ILO activities, an ad hoc Committee, meetings or written communications between the stakeholders.

**732-** Convention No. 155 guarantees the worker protection in terms of health and security at work by enabling the State to complete its normative mechanism and re-examine, in consultation with the most representative employers' and workers' organizations, policies designed in the said areas of health and security at work.

## §2: Promoting Health and Security at Work

**733-** In spite of the low-keyed activities of the National Commission on Health and Security at Work in 2015 due to lack of financial resources, vocational risk prevention was guaranteed through the formation of Committees on Hygiene and Security in Companies, capacity development of Labour Inspectors, and the VCT@Work initiative.

**734-** In 2015, 87 Committees on Hygiene and Security in Companies were formed thereby bringing their total number to 396. They are platforms for internal dialogue within companies, and their goal is to enable the employer

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draw up in collaboration with the workers, measures to guarantee health and security at work.

**735-** The VCT@Work initiative launched in 2014 came to an end on 31 December 2015. It was a joint UNAIDS/ILO initiative aimed at encouraging 5,000,000 workers worldwide amongst whom 50,000 in Cameroon, to undertake voluntary and confidential screening by 2015. As per the operation, 85,472 workers were counselled and screened as at 31 December 2015, representing an achievement rate of 171%.

**736-** Nevertheless, 2,791 industrial injuries including 315 cases of incapacitation were recorded in 2015.

### §3: Settling Disputes

**737-** Disputes were brought before judicial and administrative courts.

**738-** Most of the disputes brought before judicial courts concerned unfair dismissal as can be seen in the table below:

**Table 2: Judicial Court Settlement of Disputes on Unfair Dismissal**

Unfair dismissal	Matters filed by employers	Matters filed by workers	Judgments		Remarks
			In favour of the worker	In favour of the employer	
CFI	54	1,463	827	336	
HC	9	907	377	111	
CA	212	140	63	42	
SC	176	100	124	86	2 decisions of lack of jurisdiction

**Source:** Legal Department of courts

**739-** Analysis shows that most of the matters were brought before the courts by former workers. A case in point is Judgment No. 21/SOC of 6 July 2015 delivered by the Court of Appeal, Adamawa Region in a matter pitting

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the *Secrétariat à l'Éducation de l'Église Évangélique et Luthérienne du Cameroun* (SEDUC-EELC) against **ADAMOU SILAS**. In upholding Judgment No. 9/SOC of 23 April 2013 delivered by the High Court, Vina, Ngaoundere by which the employer was ordered to pay damages to the employee for unfair dismissal and issue him a labour certificate, the said Court of Appeal reasoned its judgment as follows:

" ...

*Considering that the letter served on ADAMOU SILAS on 28 July 2010 informing him that he "is no longer a member of staff of the education department" was duly established letter of dismissal; that given that the letter was served in violation of legal provisions, in particular section 34 of the Labour Code, the employer shall bear full responsibility as per the spirit of section 39 of the Labour Code as being unfair dismissal; that the reintegration letter of 6 October 2010 that the employer brandishes and that was signed by the same person who signed the dismissal letter is just a form of active remorse that can no longer re-establish a proper working climate that had already been tarnished, and the serenity and confidence he needs for the proper running of the company; that the employee is not a toy in the hands of the employer; that since the dismissal was unfair and is the main ground for damages claimed, the application is legitimate and the trial Judge rightly allowed and examined it in this light; that since the judgment of the trial Judge complies with the spirit of the law and particulars of the case file, it is, therefore, free of any criticism and deserves to be upheld ..."*<sup>382</sup>.

**740-** Ten matters on dismissal of civil servants were filed before administrative courts. Amongst them, 8 were disallowed while 2 were allowed.

## §4: Improving the Social Protection System

**741-** The right to social security was consolidated through enhancement of the legal framework, enjoyment of the said right, and management of disputes.

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<sup>382</sup> The Court of Appeal, Adamawa Region reasoned its Judgment No. 22/SOC of 6 July 2015 on the same ground in the matter YAKOUBOU Paul v Secrétariat à l'Éducation de l'Église Évangélique et Luthérienne du Cameroun (SEDUC-EELC).

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## A: Enhancing the Social Security Legal Framework

**742-** The legal framework was enriched with the signing of Decree No. 2015/2517/PM of 16 July 2015 to lay down the enabling instrument of Law No. 2001/17 of 18 December 2001 to amend the recovery procedures of social insurance contributions.

**743-** The said Decree lays down:

- rules on affiliation, registration, declaration and payment;
- terms and conditions of checking employers bound by the obligation to make declarations and payment of social insurance contributions; and
- rules governing pre-disputes, disputes, and forced recovery of social insurance contributions.

## B: Enjoyment of the Right to Social Security

**744-** Like in the past, guaranteeing the right to social security included registration of newly insured persons and payment of social benefits.

### 1) Newly Insured Persons

**745-** The National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF) registered 165,316 newly insured persons amongst whom 72,992 in 2015 as against 82,054 in 2014 under the compulsory scheme, and 92,324 in 2015 as against 250 in 2014 under the voluntary scheme. Such increase was due to an outreach of the voluntary insurance scheme to workers in the informal sector.

**746-** Conversely, the shortcomings of the legal framework on social security were underscored by the Court of Appeal, North Region in the matter **AHMADOU SIDIKI V YAYA SADOU** filed before it for failure to register a worker with NSIF. The Court reasoned its Judgment No. 4/SOC of 21 May 2015 as follows:

*“Considering that failure to register a worker with NSIF likely to be attributed to the employer may not, in the absence of an instrument, be the*

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*subject of pecuniary award by a Judge determining a labour matter; that it is equally proper for the Court to declare its lack of jurisdiction.”*

**747-** Generally, where the employer fails to register an employee with NSIF within 8 days following his recruitment, NSIF may on its own initiative or at the request of the said employee, register him. However, the legislator did not provide for pecuniary award to the employee who has not been registered by his employer, but provided for a fine of from CFAF5,000<sup>383</sup> to CFAF50,000<sup>384</sup> to be paid by any defaulting employer, and a civil claim by the unregistered employee as per section 1382 of the Civil Code.

## 2) Payment of Social Insurance Contributions

**748-** In 2015, payment of social insurance contributions stood at CFAF75,000,000,000<sup>385</sup> as against CFAF62,000,000,000<sup>386</sup> in 2014. The increase was due to the integration of new beneficiaries into the system, and relieving measures taken to enable employees pay the contributions on behalf of their defaulting employers. This helped increase the number of pensioners.

## 3) Social Security Disputes

**749-** In 2015, the Permanent Secretariat of the Appeals Committee received 307 complaints, with 71 on recovery of social insurance contributions and 236 on benefits.

**750-** During the Committee’s 6 sessions, 3 of which were on recovery and 3 on benefits, 126 files were examined, 105 decisions delivered, and 21 sessions adjourned for additional information.

**751-** A look at the decisions shows that 101 of them were delivered in favour of NSIF and 4 against it, 3 of which were in favour of employers

<sup>383</sup> About 7.63 Euros

<sup>384</sup> About 76.33 Euros

<sup>385</sup> About 114,503,816.79 Euros

<sup>386</sup> About 94,656,488.55 Euros

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and 1 in favour of an insured person. Such low rate of success of applications against NSIF shows the poor mastery of procedures by applicants.

752- Government further geared its actions towards social dialogue.

## SECTION 3: ACTIONS ON SOCIAL DIALOGUE

753- In order to give a sustainable impetus to social dialogue, new trade unions and professional groups were registered, while collective disputes were settled.

### §1: New Trade Unions and Professional Groups

754- The table below shows the new trade unions and professional groups registered:

**Table 3: New Trade Unions and Professional Groups registered in 2015**

No.	Region	Denomination	Business	Chair	Registration No.	Date of Registration	Address and Location
1	Littoral	<i>Syndicat Départemental des Employés du Commerce du Wouri (SYNDECOW)</i>	Commerce	<b>KITCHAMI Jean Roger</b>	SD/220	29/5/2015	Douala P.O. Box 12613 P.O. Box 5362 Tel : 694076172
2		<i>Syndicat National des Entreprises des Télécommunications du Cameroun (Sales-Assembly-Maintenance of Telecommunications) (SYNECIVMET)</i>	Telecommunications	<b>FOUMANE ABADA</b>	SN/1/226	17/03/2015	Douala P.O. Box: Tel: 677683282/ 650052962 Fax: 243724186
3		<i>Syndicat d'Alliance des Transporteurs Routiers et des Métiers Auxiliaires du Cameroun(ATROMAC)</i>	Transport	...	SN/203	13/03/2015	P.O. Box: 4998 Tel : 696209751 Email : <a href="mailto:atromac@yahoo.fr">atromac@yahoo.fr</a>
4		<i>Syndicat National des Employés des Ports et Assimilés du Cameroun(SNEPC)</i>	Handling	<b>Benjamin DJOUMESSI</b>	N/5 DU 12/12/1972	29/05/2015	Douala P.O. Box 4020
5		<i>Syndicat Camerounais des Fondateurs des Ecoles Privées et Consultants en Education de Base(SCFEPCEB)</i>	Basic Education	<b>BIDIM ANDRE</b>	SN/213	28/01/2015	Douala Cameroun P.O. Box 3751 Email: <a href="mailto:syndicat2012@yahoo.fr">syndicat2012@yahoo.fr</a>
6		<i>Syndicat Autonome des Travailleurs de l'Agriculture et Activités Connexes de Sanaga Maritime (SATASM)</i>	Agriculture	<b>ESSOMBE Emmanuel</b>	SD/219	30/03/2015	Edea P.O. Box: C/O 2794 Tel: 650545642/ 677823292/ 679334064/69927 2282/696043385
7		<i>Syndicat National des Travailleurs du Transport Aérien Catering et Activités Connexes du Cameroun (SNTTAAC)</i>	Air Transport	<b>ESSOMBA ONANA Charles</b>	SN/228	4/8/2015	Douala P.O. Box 14010 Tel: 696 34 68 35

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No.	Region	Denomination	Business	Chair	Registration No.	Date of Registration	Address and Location
8	Littoral	<i>Syndicat National des Travailleurs des Industries, des Mines et Assimilées du Cameroun (SYNTIMAC)</i>	Mines	<b>MOUSSI NOLLA André</b>	SN/1/223	17/9/2015	Tel: 699998957
9		<i>Syndicat des Opérateurs Economiques Chargeurs Filière Bois du Cameroun (SOPEC)</i>	Transit	<b>TAGUENANG Polycarpe</b>	SN/1/233	17/9/2015	Douala P.O. Box 2780 Bonanjo Tel: 670102066 / 697579850
10		<i>Syndicat National des Chauffeurs Camions et Motors-boys du Cameroun (SYNCCAMBOCAM)</i>	Transport	<b>BENIGUE MBONDO SADRAIC Patrick</b>	SN/209	17/9/2015	P.O. Box 1159 Douala Tel: 672425107
11		<i>Syndicat National des Cinéastes Camerounais(SNCC)</i>	Art and Leisure	...	SN/234	14/10/2015	Douala P.O. Box 978 Tel: 697384881/67677 7598
12		<i>Syndicat des Echanges du Wouri (SYNDAW)</i>	Trade	<b>NOMSI Jaqueline</b>	SD/54	25/9/2015	P.O. Box 5360 Tel : 234227236/69996 7296/677732180
13		National Syndicate of Professional Photographers in Cameroon (NSPPC)	Art and Leisure	<b>MUMA ZUFUNYUI John</b>	E4/85 du 29/02/1996	14/10/2015	Tel:677602970/6 97639418/624342 4927
14		<i>Fédération des Syndicats Autonomes des Travailleurs(FESATAPEC)</i>		<b>MAKON Innocent</b>	FED/12	14/10/2015	TEL.699638034/ 674409422
15	Centre	<i>Syndicat Libre des Bois et Scieries du Mfoundi (SYLBOSM)</i>	Trade	<b>KEDE HENRI Romuald</b>	SD/220	13/3/2015	Yaounde: Tel: 690445141 /679104855
16		<i>Syndicat National Autonome des Travailleurs du Commerce(SYNATRAC)</i>	Trade	<b>MIKOU Joseph</b>	SN/120	29/5/2015	Yaounde: S/C CSAC P.O. Box 2062 TEL: 699116614/67305 6452
17		<i>Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables(S.E.R.S)</i>	Renewable Energy	<b>NGUEGUM DJIKENG</b>	SN/226	5/2/2015	Yaounde: P.O. Box 16623 TEL: 22166111/337037 14/97502930
18		<i>Syndicat des Employés en Métier pour la sante du Mfoundi (SYNEMESAM)</i>	Health	<b>DJANGUI Abraham</b>	SID/118	17/3/2015	Yaounde: P.O. Box 11352 TEL: 22051170 /77824357
19		<i>Syndicat National des Travailleurs des Industries Alimentaires(SYNATYA)</i>	Agro-industry	<b>MME NGO BIMAI</b>	SN/225	28/1/2015	Yaounde: c/o P.O. Box 13415 TEL: 77743867/750552 68/97502930
20		<i>Syndicat de Délégués et Commerciaux Distributeurs des Produits de Télécommunications au Cameroun(SYDEC DIPROTE C)</i>	Telecommunications	<b>BABAYAK Jean Pierre</b>	SN/217	29/5/2015	TEL: 677218468 /699815651
21		<i>Syndicat National Autonome des travailleurs des Bâtiments Travaux publics et Activités connexes du Cameroun (SYNATBT PAC)</i>	Building and Construction	<b>ETELE EBI</b>	SN/229	4/8/2015	P.O. Box 2794. Tel: 679 78 19 50/ 691 69 99 85

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No.	Region	Denomination	Business	Chair	Registration No.	Date of Registration	Address and Location
22	Centre	<i>Syndicat National Entente des Enseignants Publics Contractuels du Cameroun (SYNAEPCAM)</i>	Education	<b>Daniel ETCHU OJONG</b>	SN/227	4/8/2015	P.O. Box 998 Tel: 655895475/67190 0363
23		<i>Syndicat National des Motos-Taxi Cameroun (SYNAMOTAC)</i>	Transport	<b>CHIEF NTONEFOR GUIMO K. René</b>	E4/139	17/9/2015	697161604/67712 8663/696164252 Email:synamotac 2000@yahoo.fr
24		<i>Syndicat National Entente des Artistes, Musiciens et Activités connexes du Cameroun (SYNEAMAC)</i>	Art and Leisure	<b>Etienne MPON à NYOUNG</b>	SN/I/231	17/9/2015	E-mail: etimp2000@yahoo.fr
25		<i>Syndicat National des Propriétaires Professionnels des Auto-Ecoles du Cameroun (SYNAPPROAECAM)</i>	Education	<b>KENGNE LECHE Cyrille</b>	SN/I/230	17/9/2015	P.O. Box 6167 Tel: 237 670102066/ 697579850
26	North	<i>Union Départementale des Syndicats Libres de la Bénoué</i>	...	<b>NDJIDDA BOUBA</b>	UD/34	5/2/2015	697 72 79 59/ 696 12 27 42
27	South West	<i>Kumba-Mamfe Highway Drivers' Union (KUMAHIDU)</i>	Transport	<b>BASUA AYUK Robert</b>	SID/116	9/ 2/2015	Kumba Tel: 675589154
28	Far North	<i>Syndicat des Transporteurs Routiers du Département du Mayo-Danay (STRDMD)</i>	Transport	<b>OUMAROU MAMOUDOU</b>	SD/117	28/1/2015	Yagoua P.O. Box 178 Tel: 772839492/ 99742221

**Source:** MINTSS

755- The table shows that 28 trade unions were established, bringing the number to 586 as at October 2015. Registration of the trade unions was suspended in October 2015 for an update of the unions and proper monitoring by the Administration.

756- Nevertheless, the issue of the legal void on the supervision of activities of the *Syndicale des Artistes de l'art musical ou littéraire* was brought before the ILO Freedom of Association Committee. The matter was referred to the supervisory authority to fill the legal void by considering the specific rules and regulations governing the Artist.

## §2: Settlement of Collective Disputes

757- In 2015, 21 cases of attempted strikes in the public and private sectors most of which requested the payment of salary arrears, annual leave, overtime, and social insurance contributions to NSIF<sup>387</sup>. In order to address

<sup>387</sup> Cases of attempted strikes reported alluded to claims by workers of the Cameroon Postal Services (CAM-POST), Memve'ele and Lom Pangar Hydroelectric Dams, Cameroon Ship Building Company, *Compagnie de Commerce et de Transport, SATRAM, Moore Paragon, "CUAN YUAN"* and representatives of *syndicats des Délégués et Commerciaux des Distributeurs des Produits de Télécommunication au Cameroun and the Collectif des syndicats des auto-écoles du Cameroun.*

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the issue, social dialogue through the involvement and arbitration of the Minister of Labour and Social Security helped suspend the strikes.

**758-** In conclusion, actions were taken in the areas of employment and decent work to create jobs, settle collective disputes, and reduce social tensions. Nevertheless, it is hoped that an update of the trade unions card-index will help properly guide their activities.



**Chapter**

**5**

**RIGHT TO CULTURE  
AND LEISURE**



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**759-** In 2015, Government continued to focus on cultural artifacts and services and protection of the interests of copyright owners to improve on the right to culture. In line with this, activities were carried out on preservation of artistic and cultural heritage, access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage, and the protection of the financial and moral interest of artists. Promoting and developing leisure was also of major interest to Government.

## SECTION 1: PRESERVATION OF ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

**760-** These actions aimed to safeguard and where necessary, restore cultural heritage for a hand down to future generations.

### §1: The Reopening of the National Museum

**761-** On 16 January 2015, the National Museum was officially reopened to the public after closure in 2008 for refurbishing. The opening gala which was attended by some 400 guests from in and out of the country saw the performance of Cameroonian, African and American artists.

**762-** Three Open door days were organized, the first at the National Museum in January as a prelude to the reopening, the second in February on the occasion of the National Youth Day and the third in May on the occasion of the National Day. All these days permitted the public to learn about important moments of the history of Cameroon since independence. In 2015, more than 15,000 Cameroonians and foreigners visited the National Museum. With the reopening of the National Museum, 40 Cameroonian guides trained by the Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC) were recruited to welcome and take visitors around. A training session was organized to boost the technical capacity of those recruited.

### §2: Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**763-** The inventory of artistic and cultural artifacts continued and focused on intangible cultural goods. This operation was launched in the South

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Region, where more than 200 elements of such heritage were identified. The launching consisted of a 2-day workshop organized by MINAC in Ebolowa to sensitize and train traditional rulers from the Centre, East and South Regions on the importance of the inventory and techniques of collecting information.

## §3: Capacity Development of Professionals

**764-** A training seminar was organized for librarians of Councils in April 2015 at the Public Reading Centre in Yaounde. This training which concerned 16 library attendants of municipal councils had as objective enhancing their capacity on the management of libraries. Another training workshop for cultural guides for staff of technical departments of MINAC and those of regional delegations took place at the same venue. Furthermore, a capacity building seminar was held from 29 to 31 December 2015 for staff and support staff of central services simultaneously at MINAC and the National Museum. Its goal was to build staff capacity on administrative techniques and practices in order to improve on their work performance.

**765-** A major thrust of Government was the promotion of access to and enjoyment of cultural heritage.

## SECTION 2: ACCESS TO AND ENJOYMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

**766-** As in previous years, Government did not relent in its efforts to provide financial assistance for the organization of cultural activities. Furthermore, cinema was revamped, the reading culture was promoted and children were immersed in cultural activities.

## §1: Financial Support for the Organization of Cultural Events

**767-** MINAC disbursed the sum of CFAF42,465,000<sup>388</sup> as support for the organization of diverse cultural activities. Hence, a total of

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<sup>388</sup> About 64,823.06 Euros

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CFAF19,500,000<sup>389</sup> was provided for festivals<sup>390</sup>, CFAF5,500,000<sup>391</sup> for cultural enterprises and associations<sup>392</sup> and CFAF17,465,000<sup>393</sup> for cultural events<sup>394</sup>.

**768-** Moreover, during the celebration of the International Music Festival on 21 June 2015, MINAC provided substantial material and financial support in organizing the concert dedicated to Cameroon's Defence Forces in the fight against *Boko Haram* that took place in Yaounde. This activity came as a booster to popular support to the Cameroon Army<sup>395</sup>.

**769-** In 2015, MINAC also sponsored (transportation, accommodation, follow up) a group of 6 Baka Pigmy dancers from Djoum to the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the "*Lo Spirito de pianeta*" (The Spirit of the Planet) Festival in Chuidono, Bergamo, Italy from 29 May to 14 June 2015.

## §2: Revamping the Cinema

**770-** The Cameroon Cultural Centre was renovated and equipped with state of the art material. Alongside other cultural events organized at the Centre, the promotion of Cameroonian cinema was done through the screening of more than 50 Cameroonian films in the *Sita Bella* Cinema Hall. This was a booster in the cinema industry as there was hardly any cinema hall left in the country.

**771-** In the Centre, Littoral, West and South West Regions, following the agreement signed between MINAC and *Cinema Numérique Ambulant* within the framework of the C2D Culture programme and with the aim of

<sup>389</sup> About 29,770.99 Euros

<sup>390</sup> For instance the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Muntangari Festival in Douala, the Festival for Forest People in Bertoua, the Swela Festival in Kumba and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Economic, Cultural and Touristic Festival of Guider

<sup>391</sup> About 8,770.99 euros

<sup>392</sup> For example, the construction of a cultural hall in Bonaléa, Abo Nord

<sup>393</sup> About 26,664.12 Euros

<sup>394</sup> The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Cameroon Student Challenge in Dschang, YAFE 2015, the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of BIFTY (Be Involved for the Youth), the Musical Concert "Noel de l'Etoile" amongst others.

<sup>395</sup> See chapter on Human Rights and Combatting Terrorism, § 874 and seq

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bringing cinema closer to the people, over 100 films were screened free of charge as a first step. This helped bring cinema closer to the people in these Regions.

### §3: Promotion of a Reading Culture

**772-** On 26 November 2015, under the C2D Culture programme, MINAC signed an agreement with Libraries Without Borders, for the acquisition of a mobile bus in order to bring books and reading closer to people in remote areas of Cameroon. The pilot phase concerned rural people in divisions of the Centre Region, within a radius of 100 kilometres from Yaounde.

### §4: Promotion of Cultural Activities amongst Youths

**773-** The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the holiday workshop at the Cameroon Cultural Centre in Yaounde organized between July and August 2015 by MINAC lasted one month. A total of 80 children were trained on different aspects of Cameroon's cultural heritage. They were involved in activities such as speaking their mother tongue, reciting stories, traditional dances, playing traditional instruments and cooking local dishes. The children also acquired skills in pottery, decoration and fine arts, making the holiday period worthwhile.

**774-** In 2015, Government strove to improve on the protection of the interests of artists.

## SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF THE MORAL AND MATERIAL INTERESTS OF ARTISTS<sup>396</sup>

**775-** Several actions were taken to continue the process of reforming collective management of copyright and related rights, and the completion of the normalization of copyright and related rights in the music sector. Apart from this, royalties were paid to artists and some received awards.

<sup>396</sup> See article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR).

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## §1: Restructuring the Music Sector

**776-** Persistent difficulties<sup>397</sup> in the collective management of musical art led Government to take a certain number of long term measures aimed at effective reform of this sector.

**777-** It is in consonance with this that the *Société Camerounaise Civile de la Musique* (SOCACIM) set up on 28 April 2015, saw its authorization cancelled by the Prime Minister, Head of Government on 22 May 2015, as it was established on the side lines of the reform and normalization process in the Prime Minister's Office. SOCACIM was set up in violation of section 75 of Law No. 2000/011 of 19 December 2000 which provides for the establishment of management bodies by artists in the area concerned and only one such body is allowed per category of art. In the Music sector, there were already 2, namely the Cameroon Music Corporation (CMC) and Cameroon Civil Society for Musical Arts (SOCAM) and the *ad hoc* Committee in charge of restructuring the music sector was examining their legality. In the same vein, on 4 August 2015, the *Syndicat Camerounais des Artistes Musiciens* (SYCAMU) was suspended for a period of 6 months renewable by decision of the Minister of Labour and Social Security, for violation of its statutory objective, and abetting the infringement of Law No. 93/053 of 19 December 1993 on freedom of association in Cameroon and the 2000 Law on copyright and related rights<sup>398</sup>.

**778-** Continuing efforts to reform the music sector led to the signing of a number of legal instruments.

**779-** On 8 July 2015, Decree No. 58/PM/CAB on the establishment, organization and functioning of the Copyright Monitoring and Management Committee of the Music Sector was signed. The role of this

<sup>397</sup> See Report by the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2014. §638-639.

<sup>398</sup> This litigation was brought before the Committee on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organization. The suspension was later lifted by the minister.

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committee was to make concrete proposals for the restructuring of the sector. Following the work of this Committee, the Prime Minister issued 3 legal instruments namely:

- Decree No. 2015/3978 / PM of 25 September 2015 on the organization and functioning of the Arbitration Commission established by Law No. 2000/011 of 19 December 2000 relating to copyright and related rights ;
- Decree No. 2015/3979 / PM of 25 September 2015 on modalities for the implementation of Law No. 2000/011 of 19 December 2000 relating to copyright and related rights;
- Order No. 90/CAB/PM of 29 September 2015 on the organization and functioning of the Control Commission for Collective Management Bodies.

**780-** The Minister of Arts and Culture further signed Decision No. 123/MINAC/CAB of 26 October 2015 on the composition of the Commission of Arts and Letters. This commission is responsible for examining and issuing opinions on requests for financial support to the Minister of Arts and Culture by authors, artists, cultural associations and enterprises, professional mutual aid associations, and spouses and ascendants of deceased artists under the Trust account.

## **§2: Awards and Distribution of Copyright Royalties in the Music Sector**

**781-** As a means of promoting the moral and financial interests of artists, Government gave some awards to them and paid royalties owed to those in the music sector.

### **A: Awards**

**782-** In recognition of their contribution in promoting culture, on 15 December 2015, awards were presented on behalf of the Head of State by the Minister of Arts and Culture, to the musician **EYOU M MOUANGUE Adolphe (Ben Decca)** and plastic artist **ONDIGUI ONANA Theodore (Otheo)**. The first was elevated exceptionally to the

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rank of Knight of the National Order of Valour and the second to the rank of Officer of the National Order of Merit.

## B: Distribution of Copyright Royalties in the Music Sector

**783-** The distribution of copyright royalties which had for some time been a burning issue took place on 28 September 2015. More than 1,300 musicians benefited from this distribution as well as over 200 beneficiaries of deceased musicians. The amounts ranged from CFAF100,000 to CFAF1,000,000<sup>399</sup>. This distribution, which was done in the absence of a functional collective copyright management body in the music sector is commendable. However, these payments concerned only the period 2012 and 2013. Royalties for 2014 and 2015 were yet to be paid.

## SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEISURE

**784-** Government continued to work to enhance visibility, promote delivery of quality services, organize leisure activities and build more leisure infrastructure.

### §1: Enhancing Visibility

**785-** In line with its 2015 road map, the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL) focused its activities on enhancing visibility both at the national and international levels.

**786-** At the national level, MINTOUL took part in fairs, workshops, exhibitions and other events, including the International Trade Fair for the Development of Tourism held in Douala in March 2015, the Mbog-Yanga Festival held in Edea in Avril 2015, the Student's Forum in Buea in October 2015, the Transborder CEMAC Fair in Kye-Ossi in June 2015, the Kanga Festival in Ayos in November 2015, the Ngondo

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<sup>399</sup> From about 152.67 to 1,526072 Euros

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Festival in Douala in December 2015, and the Baka Dreams Days in Djoum in December 2015. During such events, MINTOUL showcased the touristic and leisure potentials of the country.

**787-** The year 2015 also witnessed the effective opening of the Tourist Information Office for Asia based in Beijing, China and that of Washington DC, USA. These 2 came to add to the Tourist Information Office for Europe at the Cameroon Embassy in Paris, France which was already operational. The goal of these Offices is to showcase Cameroon's touristic potential and maintain it as a tourist destination.

**788-** One of the strategies to maintain the country as a tourist destination was participation at international fora to showcase its touristic potential. Hence, Cameroon participated at a number of such events in 2015.

## §2: Service Delivery

**789-** For Cameroon to keep its status as a tourist destination, and improve on its leisure attraction, constant effort was made to enhance service delivery.

**790-** One of the strategies used to achieve this goal was the development of standards. Thus, on 27 March 2015, MINTOUL and the Standards and Quality Agency signed a partnership agreement for the standardization of tourist products to improve same. Consequently, a document was drawn up on standards in the sectors of hotel, catering, travel agency and amusement/theme and leisure parks. The implementation of the Convention provides a framework for transforming the tourism potential of Cameroon into a real growth sector.

**791-** Capacity building was also embarked upon to improve on quality. Thus, the organization of the workshop on the harmonization of training programmes and validation of acquired experience in the tourism, hospitality and leisure industry at the Conference Centre in Yaounde from 12 to 15 May 2015, as well as the workshop in Garoua from 22 to 23 Decem-

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ber 2015 for hotel and leisure promoters of tourist infrastructure and civil society on the safety of tourists, hospitality and quality of services in hotels.

**792-** Moreover, a strategic plan was also developed to improve on the safety of tourists. This Plan mainly deals with:

- the establishment of a secure computer system in tourism and recreational facilities;
- raising awareness on security measures in tourism and recreational facilities;
- enhancement of the tourist guide profession;
- drafting of a procedure manual and a user's guide;
- reorganization of tourism and leisure facilities by holding regular sessions of the Classification, Reclassification and decommissioning Commission in order to enhance field inspections and control activities;
- strict application of administrative sanctions (suspension or withdrawal of authorizations, approvals or licenses) in case of lack of insurance and non-compliance with health, safety, sanitation or operating rules; and
- improving the conditions of entry and stay of tourists.

**793-** The strive for performance led to more quality service control offered in the hotel, catering and leisure sectors.

### §3: Organization of Leisure Activities

**794-** In July 2015, a holiday camp was organized by MINTOUL in Buea for 200 children from different Regions. The aim was to promote healthy and educational leisure activities for youths.

**795-** MINTOUL initiated leisure activities at work through Leisure Clubs. The aim of Leisure Clubs is to promote leisure and develop tourism in Cameroon, to promote a healthy social climate amongst workers and reduce stress in the world of work. The first edition of the Leisure Club

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which was launched at MINTOUL on 25 April 2015, featured ball games like table tennis, board games such as ludo, draft and scrabble, video games and fitness exercises.

## §4: Improving Leisure Infrastructure

**796-** The simplification of procedures for the construction, opening and operation of tourism and recreational facilities continued to produce results. Therefore, 107 new permits were issued for the construction of 107 hotels with a capacity of 3,155 rooms, 75 new hotels with a capacity of 1,512 rooms were authorized to operate, 18 restaurants with a capacity of 4,070 persons, 31 leisure institutions with a capacity of 1,150 persons as well as 13 travel agencies and 8 tourist guides were licensed to operate.

**797-** The Refurbishing and modernization of hotels selected by the Committee on the preparations of the hosting of the 2016 Africa Women Cup of Nations and the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations was in progress namely, Atlantic Beach Hotel in Limbe (South West), Mountain Hotel and Parliamentarian Flats in Buea (South West), the *Centre d'Accueil de Kribi* (South), *Les Campements le Flamboyant* in Mokolo (Far North) and *le Buffle Noir* in Tcholliré (Far North).

**798-** Commendable steps were taken in view of improving on the right to culture and leisure. Even though progress was made within the framework of standardization of collective management in the music sector, the absence of a collective management body remained a challenge. Also, challenges in having adequate numbers of qualified trainers in the tourism and leisure sector needs to be addressed.

**Chapter**

**6**

**RIGHT TO LAND  
OWNERSHIP**



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**799-** The need to preserve social peace and the economic importance of land are undeniable conditions for the enjoyment of all other Human Rights. Accordingly, to guarantee the right of persons to land, and protection against unfair eviction, Government took action to ensure legal security of tenure and compensation due to the execution of works of public interest.

## SECTION 1: LEGAL SECURITY OF TENURE

**800-** Legal security of tenure was consolidated by reforming the regulatory framework, realizing a cadastral survey, issuing land certificates and punishing trespass to land.

### §1: Regulatory Framework Reform

**801-** To improve governance of State property, lands and survey, the Prime Minister, Head of Government signed Decree No. 2015/3580/PM of 11 August 2015 to lay down registration conditions and the regime for guarantees and securities applicable to concessions and leases on State land. Pursuant to this instrument, a concession or lease granted to a person or company cannot be enforced against third parties unless it is registered. It is also intended to protect the rights of well-intentioned occupants of the State's property, entitling them to compensation. Furthermore, the Decree ensures transfer of rights from the concession or lease to the beneficiaries of the title holder.

### §2: Cadastral Survey

**802-** In order to enhance credibility of the land certificate, the establishment of a reliable geodetic network continued. Accordingly, within the framework of the Support Project for the Modernization of Cadastral and Business Climate (PAMOCCA), CFAF2,218,000,000<sup>400</sup> was allocated to the general computerization of MINDCAF Services, the expansion of the geodetic network and the design of digital cadastral

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<sup>400</sup> About 338,659.54 Euros

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surveys in Yaounde, Douala, Maroua and Garoua. During Module 1 of the Project implemented in December 2015, computers and office supplies were bought, staff capacity built, and the Consultant's 1st Report on the review of the institutional and legal framework submitted. Module 2 of the Project is underway.

**803-** Moreover, CFAF1,200,000,000<sup>401</sup> was devoted to the realization of National Survey, drawing up of a national land-use diagram as well as an Urban Master Plan in Maroua and Garoua, in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINDHU) and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT). These works are in progress.

**804-** The expansion of geodetic network points continued especially in Kribi (150 points), Campo (40 points), Ambam (80 points), Sangmelima (80 points), Mfou (80 points), Bafia (80 points) and Monatélé (80 points). Some 1,159 points were effectively expanded in 2015 out of the 20,000 to be completed at the end of the project.

**805-** All these actions were supplemented by the recruitment of an Expert Firm for the manufacture of large-scale mapping and the acquisition of 30 complete stations for the technical equipment of Survey Services.

### §3: Land Certificate

**806-** In 2015, 8,712 land certificates were established, of which 4,783 were issued to women. These indicators are significantly higher than those of 2014 (6,411 land certificates including 1 274 for women). This upswing is explained by the efforts of the National Printing Press in the production of land registers and the smooth functioning of One-Stop-Shops in Yaounde and Douala.

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<sup>401</sup> About 1,832,061.07 Euros

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## §4: Punishment of Infringements of Land Rights

**807-** Both Administrative and Judicial Courts entertain litigation on land ownership. In fact, Judicial Courts are seised because the legitimate rights of the owner are infringed, while Administrative Courts tend to redress omissions or fraud in establishing same and attributable to State Employees.

**808-** Overall, 1,754 petitions and 1,652 appeals were handled. Thus, 516 judgments were delivered out of 1,547 applications received, while 1,031 cases are pending; 203 decisions were delivered in favour of the State, and 98 against it.

**809-** Furthermore, 79 land certificates were established either fraudulently in violation of the legal provisions governing issuance or to the detriment of the legitimate owners. This number gives an account of both malfunctions in the establishment process and the determination of Government to make it more reliable.

**810-** These statistics are given in the following table:

**Table 1: Land Litigation before Administrative Courts**

Litigation	Applications Received during the Year	Judgments and Rulings Delivered	Pending Cases	Cases won by the State	Cases lost by the State
Annulment of Land Certificates	937	225	712	126	79
Rectification of Land Certificates	264	50	214	28	9
Suspension of Irregular Land Certificates	346	241	105	49	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>98</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**811-** Concern for protection of the right to land ownership is also illustrated by compensation of people evicted during the execution of public utility projects.

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## SECTION 2: COMPENSATION FOR THE EXECUTION OF PUBLIC UTILITY PROJECTS

**812-** Government stepped up compensation to evicted persons in a bid to boost the national economy through the implementation of construction projects or the rehabilitation of roads, highways, ports, airports and railways. The amount of damage suffered is set following the land survey preparatory and expertise work conducted by the Observation and Evaluation Commission. The compensatory expense of a public utility project is part of the cost of the project and corresponds to the base acquisition cost of the project land. It may be added, where necessary, to the cost of implementing the compensation and relocation plan included in the approved environmental and social management plan. Substantial funds are budgeted by the project promoter from the design phase to avoid the legitimate cost from appearing as additional cost for the proper execution of the project.

**813-** Consequently, the compensatory expense for the 42 public utility projects in 2015 is estimated at CFAF12,570,917,076<sup>402</sup> including CFAF9,742,624,804<sup>403</sup> for Road Projects<sup>404</sup>, CFAF233,453,409<sup>405</sup>

<sup>402</sup> About 19,192,239.81 Euros

<sup>403</sup> About 14,874,236.34 Euros

<sup>404</sup> Construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge over the Wouri (CFAF175,483,104 about 267,521.72 Euros), Kumba-Mamfe Road Project, Kupe Manenguba Division, (CFAF229,962,975, about 351,088.51 Euros), the Olembe-Yaounde stretch (CFAF253,520,624, about 387,054.39 Euros), Kumba-Mamfe Road, Manyu Division (CFAF 418,513,626, about 638,952.10 Euros), Kumba-Mamfe Road, Meme Division (CFAF 91,534,962, about 139,748.03 Euros), improvement of access to basic services, Mezam Division (CFAF12,011,461 about 18,311.32 Euros), Yaounde-Nsimalen Highway : "Open Country" section in the Mfoundi Division (CFAF5,834,012,895 about 8,893,877.17 Euros), rehabilitation of two streets in "Louguéo" and "OuroLoppé" Maroua III, Sub-Division (CFAF6,941,419 about 10,582.10 euros), rehabilitation of secondary roads in the Yaounde III and IV Sub-Divisions, Mfoundi Division, Centre Region (CFAF146,703,980, about 223,975.54 Euros), extension of the Yaounde-Nsimalen highway construction Project, Mefou and Akono Division (CFAF303,700,753, about 463,665.27 Euros), additional work on the second bridge over the Wouri (CFAF945,443,771, about 1,443,425.60 Euros), rehabilitation works on the western access road to the city of Douala (CFAF1,042,021,141, about 1,590,871.97 Euros) and expansion of the Yaounde-Nsimalen highway construction project, Mefou and Afamba Division (CFAF282,774,093, about 431,716.17 Euros).

<sup>405</sup> About 356,417.41 Euros

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for land reserves<sup>406</sup>, CFAF8,768,075<sup>407</sup> for the Triennial Emergency Plan<sup>408</sup>, CFAF478,804,860<sup>409</sup> for electrification projects<sup>410</sup> and CFAF2,107,265,928<sup>411</sup> devoted to other projects<sup>412</sup>.

**814-** In the same vein, the cumulative sum of CFAF137,021,035<sup>413</sup> was paid by the City Council, Yaounde to 31 expropriation victims.

**815-** Ultimately, ongoing reforms in the lands, surveys, and State property sector should establish a land system that guarantees the population the right to effective land ownership. That system should promote coverage of Cameroon by an active geodesic network, making a large-scale map and establishing digital cadastral surveys, producing a database through cadastral surveys in Douala and Yaounde, and the capacity

<sup>406</sup> Allotment of State-owned estates in the Menoua Division (CFAF111,972,737, about 170,950.74 Euros), agro-industry in the Ocean Division (CFAF 6,255,500, about 95,550.38 Euros), land reserves at "Frolina" Maroua II, Sub-Division, Diamaré Division (CFAF 63,711,900, about 97,270.08 Euros), land reserves at "Bourrha", "Kozza Centre", Madanka ", " Mefole "and" Ndelelem", Mayo-Tsanaga Division (CFAF51,513 272, about 78,646.22 Euros).

<sup>407</sup> About 13,386.374 Euros

<sup>408</sup> Construction of a Regional Hospital, at "Kouekong" and low-cost houses at Bafoussam I, Sub-Division (CFAF4,348,825, about 6,639.43 Euros), low-cost houses, at "Latsi" Bafoussam III, Sub-Division (CFAF4,419,250, about 97,270.08 Euros).

<sup>409</sup> About 730,999.78 Euros

<sup>410</sup> Construction of MV/LV networks in Ngo-Ketunjia Division (CFAF22,355,476, about 34,130.50 Euros), Benoue Division (CFAF 28,558,753, about 43,601.15 Euros), Kung-Khi Division (CFAF12,222,100, about 18,659.69 Euros), Donga-Mantung Division (CFAF109,293,953, about 1,666,890.99 Euros) Bamboutos Division (CFAF85,324,451, about 130,266.34 Euros), "OuroMagadji-Ldamang and Mayo-Laddé-Djalingo", Mayo-Tsanaga Division (CFAF1,790,000, about 2,732.82 Euros), Belel, Ngaoundere II, Ngaoundere III and Martap Sub-Divisions, Vina Division (CFAF30,152,643, about 46,034.57 Euros), MV/LV extension networks at "Djunang" and "Larsit-Famkoua" Bafoussam III, Sub-Division, MiFi Division (CFAF6,703,780, about 10,234.78 Euros), MV/LV networks in the Noun Division (CFAF37,372,500, about 57,057.25 Euros) and a 90 kv power line between Mbalmayo and Ebolowa (CFAF145,031,204, about 221,421 Euros).

<sup>411</sup> About 3,217,199.89 Euros

<sup>412</sup> Construction of low-cost houses in Ebolowa, Cluster Bois, "Nkolbisson", a Civil Engineering Laboratory at "Nkolntsam" Mbankomo Sub-Division, a sub-regional laboratory for analyzing highway construction materials, at "Nkolntsam" Mbankomo Sub-Division, rehabilitation of the surroundings of the Minkoameyos water tank, at "Etoud" and "Ozom, Okola and Lobo Sub-Division, development of Mbalmayo, construction of two streets at "Louguéo" and "OuroLoppé" Maroua III, Sub-Division, construction of a photovoltaic plant at "Ekombitié", "Nkolnguet" and "Akometan", Mbalmayo Sub-Division, construction of the council dump, Bafoussam, second phase of sanitation works in Yaounde, construction of a market at "Zamengoe", Okola Sub-Division, Lékié Division.

<sup>413</sup> About 209,192.41 Euros.

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development, especially of cadastral and land affairs services. These objectives are consistent with UN standards to secure land ownership. The implementation of the above-mentioned reforms will lead to a mechanism for more reliable identification and description of funds as a matter of right and ownership, and by so doing, enhance the land certificate to reassure investors. It will make it more difficult for excesses such as duplication of land certificate or dual demarcation on the same piece of land. These reforms will further enhance the credibility of land certificates, reassure investors and also ensure peaceful enjoyment that guarantees lasting social peace as a result of decrease in land disputes and litigation. In addition, the evolution of the system would contribute to increasing tax revenues by exhaustive collection of the property tax and better identification of taxpayers thereby ensuring tax fairness.

**Chapter**

**7**

**RIGHT TO A HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT**



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**816-** In 2015, Government took steps to guarantee biodiversity conservation and management of litigation related to the environment.

## SECTION 1: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

**817-** The main measures to preserve biodiversity were control of desert encroachment and climate change, sustainable forest management and conservation of protected areas, waste management and environmental assessment.

### §1: Desertification and Climate Change Control

**818-** Desertification and climate change control continued with reforestation, the functioning of the National Observatory on Climate Change, attendance of Cameroon at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the drawing up of the REDD+ Strategy.

#### A: Reforestation

**819-** Reforestation activities were conducted within the framework of operation "Green Sahel" and other reforestation initiatives.

#### 1) Operation "*Green Sahel*"

**820-** Operation "*Green Sahel*" continued in the Northern Regions with the planting of 300,000 seedlings in 10 sites of 250 ha each for the restoration of 2,500 ha and the distribution of 13,000 improved stoves to households in the areas concerned. In addition, 62,000 trees were planted in-fill in 8 reforestation sites. Due to insecurity in the Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga and Logone and Chari Divisions, staff response capabilities in monitoring project activities were reduced. These reforestation activities restored 23,500 ha of plants in 2015.

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**821-** The table below shows the number of seedlings planted in the Far North area:

**Table 1: Seedlings Planted in the Far North Region**

Sites	Divisions	Area (ha)	No. of plants
<b>Zidim 3</b>	<b>Mayo-Tsanaga</b>	250	30,000
<b>Kalliao 2</b>	<b>Diamare</b>	250	30,000
<b>Kalliao 3</b>	<b>Diamare</b>	250	30,000
<b>Gouada</b>	<b>Mayo-Kani</b>	250	30,000
<b>Moudouf</b>	<b>Mayo-Kani</b>	250	30,000
<b>Maklingai 2</b>	<b>Mayo-Sava</b>	250	30,000
<b>Uda River</b>	<b>Logone and Chari</b>	250	30,000
<b>Tchadibali</b>	<b>Mayo-Danai</b>	250	30,000
<b>Missiliam</b>	<b>Mayo-Kani</b>	250	30,000
<b>Kousseri</b>	<b>Logone and Chari</b>	250	30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,500</b>	<b>300,000</b>

**Source:** MINEPDED

**822-** As part of the Benoue Watershed Development Project, the following activities were undertaken:

- exclosure of 34 ha of the river bank; and
- installation of a sprinkler and planting mechanism of 14,000 plants for stabilization of the river banks.

## 2) Other Reforestation Initiatives

**823-** In terms of private initiatives, the project "*Appui aux Clubs des Amis de la Nature, volet reboisement*" guaranteed planting of trees in schools and the evaluation of existing town greens in the Adamawa Region.

**824-** Reforestation activities were also launched in Bamenda by 153 stakeholders from associations, Community Interest Groups, Councils and chiefdoms. They received support of CFAF765,000,000<sup>414</sup> for the opening of new plantations and rehabilitation of old ones.

<sup>414</sup> About 1,167,938.93 Euros

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**825-** The table below provides a breakdown of the allocation received for the implementation of these initiatives:

**Table 2: Support for other Reforestation Initiatives**

Stakeholders	Number	Financial support by MINFOF (in CFAF)
<b>Councils</b>	101	441,000,000 <sup>415</sup>
<b>NGOs/CIG/Associations</b>	48	120,000,000 <sup>416</sup>
<b>Chiefdoms</b>	3	4,000,000 <sup>417</sup>
<b>National Agency for Support to Forestry Development (ANAFOR)</b>	1	200,000,000 <sup>418</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>765,000,000<sup>419</sup></b>

**Source:** MINFOF

**826-** A shed was built in the Minawao refugees Camp to protect young plants pending planting. To this end, 5,000 plants were produced and the awareness of refugees was raised to limit excessive cutting of trees for firewood.

## B- National Observatory on Climate Change

**827-** By Decree of the Head of State of 16 November 2015<sup>420</sup>, Officials of the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC) were appointed and installed on 29 December 2015 rendering it operational under the supervision of MINEPDED.

**828-** As a reminder, the mission of ONACC, set up by Decree No. 2009/410 of 10 December 2009 is to monitor and assess the socio-economic and environmental impacts of measures for the prevention, reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation to the adverse effects and risks of these changes<sup>421</sup>.

<sup>415</sup> About 673,282.44 Euros

<sup>416</sup> About 183,206.11 Euros

<sup>417</sup> About 6,106.87 Euros

<sup>418</sup> About 305,343.51 Euros

<sup>419</sup> About 1,167,938.93 Euros

<sup>420</sup> This relates to Decree No. 2015/512 of 16 No-

vember 2015 to appoint the Governing Council of the Observatory on Climate Change and Decree No. 2015/513 of 16 November 2015 to appoint the Director and Deputy Director of ONACC.

<sup>421</sup> See 2009 Report, §569.

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## C- Cameroon's Attendance of the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of States Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21)

**829-** Led by the Head of State, Cameroon attended the COP 21 in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015. This international forum enabled Government to discuss with other State Parties, reduction and adaptation measures to climate change and to reach a legally binding global agreement, dubbed "Paris Agreement", on the issue.

**830-** Based on the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, the Paris Agreement aims at strengthening global response to the climate change threat. Through this Agreement, State Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change commit to:

- contain the rise in average global temperature well below 2° C<sup>422</sup>;
- communicate every 5 years a contribution determined at national level indicating measures to mitigate green house gas emissions and adapt to impacts of climate change;
- provide funding of \$100,000,000 a year to help the most vulnerable countries cope with climate change. These State Parties shall communicate every 2 years, transparent and consistent information on support provided to developing countries; and
- establish a mechanism to facilitate implementation and compliance with the provisions of the Agreement.

**831-** African countries including Cameroon will benefit from opportunities offered by this Agreement such as the submission of projects financed by the Green Climate Fund. Moreover, in its Determined National Contribution, Cameroon committed to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by 32%.

**832-** On the sidelines of COP 21, State Parties also committed to setting up a great green wall consisting of landscape restoration on 170,000 ha

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<sup>422</sup> Warming above 2° C would result in serious consequences such as increase in extreme weather conditions. In Copenhagen in 2009, countries affirmed their commitment to limit global warming to 2° C by 2100.

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extending from Dakar in West Africa to Djibouti in East Africa, that is 15km wide and 7,000km long. Cameroon may also take advantage of this opportunity by setting up a ramp adjacent to its borders.

## D- Drawing up of the REDD+ Strategy

**833-** As part of the drawing up of the REDD+ National Strategy, Cameroon set up the Support Programme to the Technical Secretariat of REDD+ in charge of Developing the National REDD+ Strategy, through the recruitment of the Programme Coordinator and staff.

**834-** The parameters of the National System for the Monitoring of Forest Carbon were validated in July 2015. Similarly, a national communication plan was developed and validated by stakeholders. Furthermore, different stakeholders were trained on the application of *National Guidelines for Obtaining Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)* of indigenous and local communities in drawing up and implementing REDD+ initiatives<sup>423</sup>.

## §2: Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation of Protected Areas

**835-** Initiatives were taken on sustainable forest management and conservation of protected areas.

### A: Sustainable Forest Management

**836-** Measures to guarantee sustainable forest management comprised monitoring community forests management and stakeholder capacity-building activities.

**837-** The budget of the Forestry Development Special Fund (FSDF) for community forests management for 2015 stood at CFAF2,822,514,000<sup>424</sup>

<sup>423</sup> See 2014 Report, §665 et seq.

<sup>424</sup> About 4,309,181.68 Euros

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and it was used to finance the following programmes:

- reforestation and regeneration of forest resources with the participation of ANAFOR; and
- the use of wood, and building the technical, material and financial capacity of carpenters.

**838-** In addition, 34 Forestry Management Units (FMU) representing 1,733,504 ha were classified, bringing the number of classified FMUs to date to 89.

**839-** As part of the monitoring-evaluation of its activities, a joint MIN-FOF/French Development Agency (AFD) mission visited Dimako on 27 and 28 February 2015 to inquire about the status of the Dimako Community Forest covering an area of 16,240 ha of permanent forest estate.

**840-** Moreover, stakeholders' capacity was strengthened during the:

- appropriation Seminar for Mayors organized by MINMIDT with the support of the Technical Centre for Community Forestry, held on 16 January 2015;
- restoration workshop on the Feasibility Study for the Observation of Forests, Wildlife and Forest Products, held on 4 February 2015; and
- workshop on the implementation of a Network for community radios on forest governance and the definition of a collaboration strategy with the Rural Development Fund, held from 5 to 6 February 2015 bringing together community radio journalists of both the written and audio media.

## B: Conservation of Protected Areas

**841-** The number of protected areas increased in 2015 due to the opening of the National Kimbi Fongum Park in the North West Region, with an area of 95,380 ha, bringing the number of protected areas to include 19 national parks, 3 zoos, 4 sanctuaries, 7 wildlife reserves, 47 hunting areas, and 23 community-managed hunting areas.

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**842-** Moreover, securing protected areas was reflected in continued spot checks triggered in 2013<sup>425</sup>. They resulted in the drawing up of 16 Reports on infringement of protected species, destruction of 99 poachers' camps and seizure of 144 elephant tusks and other trophies.

**843-** In addition, for better strategic guidance, the Emergency Action Plan for Securing Protected Areas was revised on 10 February 2015 during the stakeholders' consultation meeting for the inclusion of priority actions during the triennial cycle (2015-2017).

### §3: Waste Management

**844-** Waste management was marked by compliance control operations of plastic packaging of less than 61 microns conducted by environmental Brigades. These actions led to the seizure of 89,135 tons of fraudulent packaging. This significant drop in volume compared to 2014 (332 tons) was due to awareness campaigns and sanctions relating to the ban of plastic packaging of less than 61 microns and the availability of compliant plastic packaging.

**845-** The Committee for the Review of Applications for Environmental Permits held 21 sessions in 2015, after which 122 environmental permits were issued, including 7 on hazardous waste management, 57 on non-hazardous waste management, 57 on import, manufacture and marketing of non-biodegradable packaging and 1 on environmental waste management.

**846-** The table below presents a comparison of non-compliant tonnage of plastic packaging seized in the 10 Regions in 2014 and 2015:

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<sup>425</sup> See 2013 Report, § 612 and seq

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**Table 3: Volume of Plastic Packaging Tonnage of less than 61 Microns Seized**

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Tonnage of plastic packaging seized in 2015</b>	<b>Tonnage of plastic packaging seized in 2014</b>
<b>Adamawa</b>	0,452	3.50
<b>Far North</b>	2.135	21.5
<b>East</b>	0,55391	1.12
<b>Centre</b>	5.202	73.3
<b>Littoral</b>	45	200
<b>North</b>	0,837	07
<b>North West</b>	3.110	3.5
<b>West</b>	2.208	6.75
<b>South</b>	0,320	6.03
<b>South West</b>	28.800	9.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>89.135</b>	<b>332</b>

**Source:** MINEPDED

## §4: Environmental Assessment

**847-** Environmental Impact Assessments were conducted along with environmental inspection missions.

### A: Environmental Impact Studies

**848-** The Interministerial Committee for the Environment, the main mission of which is to assist Government in drawing up, coordinating, implementing and monitoring national environmental and sustainable development policies, held 21 sessions. During these sessions, 95 Impact Assessment Reports and Environmental and Social Audits were validated, resulting in the issuance of 95 Environmental Compliance Certificates. These Reports are accompanied by an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) comprising mitigation or reclamation measures for the project's impacts. It is mandatory for the developer to effectively implement the ESMP during project implementation or execution.

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## B: Environmental Inspection

**849-** Preventive and repressive actions were taken on the score of environmental inspection missions.

**850-** Preventive measures focused on training 122 Environment Inspectors and Controllers from the Central and Decentralized Services in inspection procedures and environmental control. After these training sessions, at least 70% of Inspectors and Controllers were equipped to carry out their joint inspection mission as laid down by regulations.

**851-** As regards repressive measures, 2,012 inspections were carried out in 400 industrial, commercial and classified sub-standard and/or dangerous structures. At its wake, 2,012 Environmental Inspection Reports were drawn up and 134 Official Statement of Offences were drafted. Moreover, CFAF135,808,000<sup>426</sup> was recovered as fines for environmental offences.

**852-** The table below summarizes inspections carried out in the 10 Regions.

**Table 4: Overview of Environmental Inspections and Audits by National and Regional Brigades**

Regions	Inspections	Inspection Reports drawn up	Official Statements of Offences drafted
<b>Adamawa</b>	197	197	5
<b>Centre</b>	239	239	93
<b>East</b>	70	70	0
<b>Far North</b>	56	56	2
<b>Littoral</b>	350	350	15
<b>North</b>	38	38	7
<b>North West</b>	446	446	2
<b>West</b>	241	241	6
<b>South</b>	275	275	1
<b>South West</b>	100	100	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>134</b>

**Source:** MINEPDED

<sup>426</sup> About 207,340.46 Euros

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## §5: Sharing Proceeds from the Exploitation of Resources

**853-** A major event, the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization was carried out in 2015. To this end, Government (MINEPDED), V Mane Fils S.A, a French Company that produces flavours and fragrances, and the chieftom of Magha-Bamumbu in the South West Region, signed on 2 April 2015, Conditions Accepted by Mutual Agreement (CAMA) for the exploitation of a plant species called *Echinops giganteus* that grows in the area.

**854-** Through this Agreement, V Mane Fils S.A. agreed to execute monetary and non-monetary obligations by:

- buying 1,000 kg of Echinops roots in 2015, 1,500 kg in 2016 and 2,000 in 2017;
- paying to the chieftom of Bamumbu royalties amounting to 25% of net profits directly related to Echinops<sup>427</sup>;
- drawing up an Echinops culture guide;
- supporting local development projects; and
- providing scholarships to students, especially women from the Region concerned.

**855-** This achievement serves as model for the study of 7 applications for signing access agreement to genetic resources received by MINEPDED.

**856-** Notwithstanding biodiversity conservation, management of litigation continued.

## SECTION II: MANAGEMENT OF LITIGATION

**857-** Disputes arose and were settled in the forest and wildlife sector.

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<sup>427</sup> These royalties will be deposited in a local community fund managed by the chief who undertook to inform the community of the amount and management of the funds.

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**858-** Forest and poaching control resulted in fines worth CFAF150,100,589<sup>428</sup> for unauthorized logging, fraudulent felling and non-compliance with terms of specification.

**859-** Some 113 cases in the wildlife sector were brought before the Courts for slaughter, possession and marketing of protected species, illegal possession of remains of animals and carcass collection from protected parks in particular.

**860 -** Consequently, in the *The People and ADN SAFARI v Gabriel ZOUA*, the accused and his accomplice **BOUBA** (on the run) poisoned a pool of water from which animals drink. **ZOUA Gabriel** was caught in possession of dead birds and charged with pollution, unauthorized movement in a protected area, hunting without a licence and with the use of toxic products, then convicted and sentenced on 2 June 2015 by the CFI, Garoua, to 3 months imprisonment, with fine of CFAF50,000<sup>429</sup>, costs of CFAF29,820<sup>430</sup> and damages of CFAF700,000<sup>431</sup> to be paid to ADN-SAFARI.

**861** Continuing reforestation, wildlife management activities, conservation of protected areas and attendance of COP 21 Forum that allowed the adoption of a binding agreement on climate change are some of the major factors identified to ensure the right to a healthy environment. After ratification of this instrument, Cameroon could, if it so requests, receive financing for mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change.

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<sup>428</sup> About 229,161.20 Euros

<sup>429</sup> About 76.33 Euros

<sup>430</sup> About 45,801.53 Euros

<sup>431</sup> About 1,068.70 Euros



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## CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

**862-** Secondary Education budget was reduced in 2015 contrary to those of Basic and Higher Education. However, this did not hinder improvement in both public and private education offer. Innovations made especially in the organization of examinations led to satisfactory success rates. However, challenges endure regarding insufficient seats for students and financial resources, inadequate number of teachers and the persistence of illegal schools.

**863-** Apart from the control of communicable and tropical diseases as well as ensuring hospital sanitation, reducing the cost of some medicines was a salutary action. Moreover, measures for the supply of quality food close to the people, the setting up of SONATREL for the transport of electric energy, ease of access to water, and to secure employment and land ownership were key to improving the standard of living of the people.

**864-** Similarly, the State reopened the National Museum and tidied up the copyright management system of artists while participating in negotiations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Climate Conference for the adoption of a binding international agreement on climate change.

**865-** However, the allocation of more financial resources to the agriculture sector, reduction in energy and water cuts, better access of the average citizen to low-cost houses and the drawing up of a survey plan may be envisaged to better ensure the rights of persons.



## Part Three

# CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SPECIFIC RIGHTS



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART THREE

**866-** In 2015, the intensification and multiplication of Boko Haram's modus operandi in Cameroon obliged the State to adjust its response strategy against the terrorist group. However, the multifaceted resources used by the State in this war have not relieved it of the obligation to promote and protect the rights and interests of all social groups, according to a Human Rights inclusive approach.

**867-** Indeed, the adoption of any political measure or programme should take into account the ever increasing flux of refugees in our borders, the resurgence of violence against women and children, increase in prison population due to the multiplication of attacks by *Boko Haram*, persons with disability and the elderly.

**868-** To consolidate the measures that require resources to be generated by a strong and transparent economy, which the performance of Cameroon in the Doing Business classification has not always helped to achieve, the concerns of public authorities were refocused around the improvement of the business climate and curbing corruption, prison overcrowding and the respect for the dignity of detainees, protection of children and indigenous peoples, slowing down discrimination by involving women in governance, combatting violence against women and a holistic humanitarian support of refugees.

**869-** The solutions provided by Government to all these concerns are presented in this Part. Henceforth, it will include the fight against terrorism and Human Rights protection, given the cross-cutting challenges of the fight against terrorism which is at the cross-roads or better still at the centre of all Human Rights. The same applies to the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons due to the universal nature of humanitarian support. This Part is therefore structured as follows:

- Human Rights and Combatting Terrorism;
- Good Governance and Corruption;
- Detention Conditions;
- Rights of Socially Vulnerable Persons;
- Women's Rights; and
- Refugees and Displaced Persons.



**Chapter**

**1**

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
COMBATting TERRORISM**



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**870-** In the asymmetrical warfare waged since 2013 by *Boko Haram* against the State of Cameroon, the terrorist group<sup>432</sup> opted for the permanent movement of its troops and arsenal and change of warfare methods. In 2015, these new criminal methods had quite some consequences. The global threat called for a global response through concerted efforts in combatting terrorism. In this struggle against insecurity, the State of Cameroon has maintained its concern for the respect of Human Rights arising from its international commitments.

## SECTION 1: NEW CRIMINAL METHODS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACTIVITIES OF *BOKO HARAM*

**871-** The activities of *Boko Haram* have been intensified with the diversification of its modus operandi. This insecurity has resulted in a number of consequences.

### §1: Intensification and diversification of *Boko Haram's modus operandi*

**872-** Apart from frontal attacks against the Cameroon defence forces, abuses against civilians and the use of landmines, *Boko Haram* added suicide attacks to its strategy of terror and violence. In most cases, children were recruited for this purpose.

#### A: Suicide Attacks

**873-** *Boko Haram* adopted new murder strategies in Cameroon with the use of suicide attacks consisting in exploding human beings strapped with explosives in public places. The first attack of this kind took place on 12 July 2015 in Fotokol in the Far North Region, with the simultaneous explosion of 2 suicide bombers, resulting in the death of 20 persons. Several other attacks followed, including that in Maroua on 22 July

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<sup>432</sup> Terrorist entity affiliated with Al Qaeda according to the United Nations, now calling itself "Islamic State in West Africa, "*Boko Haram* is on the list of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee against Al Qaeda.

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2015, with the explosion in a market and a nearby neighbourhood of 2 youths carrying bombs. A total of 28 suicide attacks<sup>433</sup> were recorded in 2015. This new war method aggravated the fear of the population of the Region affected by the atrocities of the terrorist group.

**874-** In almost all cases, the procedure was the same, namely the use of young children, particularly young girls to attack public or crowded places in order to have more victims. This child recruitment was done in violation of international law.

## B: Recruitment and Use of Children by *Boko Haram*

**875-** In violation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, concerning the involvement of children in armed conflicts<sup>434</sup> and the Paris Principles and Commitments on children associated with armed forces or armed groups<sup>435</sup> (Item 3.6), the terrorist group recruited many children into its ranks. They were used as human bombs, combatants, messengers, porters, spies or sex objects. Most of these children were kidnapped, hijacked, indoctrinated and armed by this group to commit abuses with them. According to a UNICEF Report<sup>436</sup>, 44 children in all were used in 2015 to carry out terrorist attacks in the Lake Chad Region, with 75% being girls sometimes aged barely 8 years old.

**876-** The recruitment of children with terrorist groups imposes challenges in responding to the phenomenon and the handling of children involved, particularly with respect to the applicable legal framework and judicial

<sup>433</sup> Press Conference of the Minister of Communication of 14 January 2015

<sup>434</sup> The Protocol prohibits the recruitment into armed forces and armed groups of children under 15 years, and the participation of children under 18 years in hostilities. The Protocol was ratified on 4 February 2013. Article 4 (1) of the Protocol provides "*Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not in any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons aged under 18 years.*"

<sup>435</sup> "*Children accused of committing International Law crimes when they were associated with armed forces or armed groups should be considered primarily as victims of violations of international law, and not just as the alleged offender. They must be treated in a manner consistent with International Law, within a framework of restorative justice and social rehabilitation, consistent with International Law, which provides special protection to the child through numerous agreements and principles.*"

<sup>436</sup> Report published by UNICEF in April 2016; see its website [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org).

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proceedings. To strengthen the capacity of stakeholders on the issue, a sub-regional seminar was held in Dakar, Senegal from 13 to 15 October 2015 by the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Representatives from Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad were present.

**877-** The seminar aimed at training participants on international standards and principles of treatment of children associated with armed groups, and at providing a framework for discussions and sharing of experiences in the treatment and care of these children, in connection with the activities of *Boko Haram*.

**878-** At the end of the discussions, it was agreed, in accordance with the Paris Principles and Commitments on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, to consider minors associated with armed groups as victims of international law violation, given that their best interests should guide their treatment and care.

**879-** To enable national stakeholders to properly understand the problem and strengthen national expertise on the issue, a restitution workshop on the discussions of this Subregional Seminar was organized with the support of UNICEF, for 15 Police and 15 Gendarme officers in Mbalmayo from 31 November to 1 December 2015. Participants were selected because they were trainers on children's rights in Police and Gendarmerie Training Schools.

## §2: Atrocities by the Terrorist Group

**880-** The human, material, economic and humanitarian toll of atrocities by the terrorist group in 2015 shows the destructive capacity of these criminals, who largely violated the fundamental rights of the human person.

**881-** In human terms<sup>437</sup>, civilians suffered 116 attacks and abuses of all kinds in 2015. In addition, 6 mine accidents were recorded. Moreover, 402 civilians were kidnapped, bringing to 486 the number of people al-

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<sup>437</sup> The figures in this paragraph are from the DGSN annual security summary.

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ready kidnapped since 2013. Approximately 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing *Boko Haram* abuses were identified in the Far North Region. A total of 1,098 civilians<sup>438</sup>, 67 soldiers, 129 Gendarmes and 3 Cameroon policemen have lost their lives since the conflict began. It is therefore clear that civilians paid the heaviest toll from these criminal attacks.

**882-** At the material level, 4,364 cattle and small ruminants, according to police sources, were stolen by the followers of the terrorist group. In addition, 23 attacks were perpetrated against units of the defence forces, damaging infrastructure. Furthermore, 961 classrooms and homes were burnt during the year, making it even harder for children in the affected communities to be educated.

**883-** Economic activity has slowed down in border areas with Nigeria, which were previously exchange centres that brought in significant resources to the State. Tourist activity was affected in the Far North Region due to insecurity created by *Boko Haram* attacks.

**884-** To ensure efficiency, Government opted for a global response through concerted efforts in combating this armed group.

## SECTION 2: CONCERTED EFFORTS IN COMBATTING *BOKO HARAM*

**885-** The choice of a global response against *Boko Haram* was noticeable through the prevention of terrorism, the regional pooling of efforts and internal popular support.

### §1: Terrorism Prevention Strategies

**886-** To prevent the spread of terrorism within our borders, the State of Cameroon focused on economic prevention solution and capacity building for the detection of terrorist financing.

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<sup>438</sup> Press Conference of the Minister of Communication of 14 January 2015.

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## A: Economic Strategy

**887-** Preventing terrorism requires curbing identified economic causes of this phenomenon. In this vein, to reduce poverty that is likely to push young people to fall prey to the bait of terrorist groups, an Emergency Plan and a Regional Development Programme were established for the Northern Regions of the country. This response plan is a contingency project worth CFAF5,335,032,000<sup>439</sup>.

**888-** The main components of this programme include:

- 2015 Priority Investments Programme;
- Special Youth Employment Programme;
- Emergency Programme to stop Flooding in the Far North Region; and
- Construction of a bridge over the River *Logone* between Yagoua (Cameroon) and Bongor (Chad) and related facilities.

**889-** In addition, the following development projects were accelerated:

- construction of the causeway between Godo and Kousseri; and
- Regional Development Programme for the Adamawa, North and Far North Regions.

**890-** To take into account the inclusive dimension in these development programmes, Government and its partners implemented the "*Emergency Project for the Strengthening of Crisis Prevention Mechanisms and Inclusive Development in the Far North Region of Cameroon*" for women and children.

**891-** The Emergency Plan aims at boosting the economy of the affected areas because of a decline in trade on both sides of the Cameroon-Nigeria border, promoting economic development and improving the living standard of the people. It will allow for the construction of equipped classrooms, latrine blocks, boreholes and road infrastructure in the affected Region.

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<sup>439</sup> About 8,145,087.02 Euros.

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## B: Capacity Building to detect Terrorist Financing

**892-** The context of the fight against terrorism also requires that stakeholders be equipped in detecting financial flows that may constitute sources of financing terrorist networks or products of such activities. That is why the National Agency for Financial Investigation (ANIF) conducted a series of trainings on cybercrime, cyber terrorism and cyber security for Judicial and Legal Officers, Judicial Police Officers, Officials of Intelligence Services and its Analysts in Douala on 6 and 7 May 2015, in Limbe on 15 and 16 October 2015, in Bamenda on 29 and 30 October 2015 and in Garoua on 26 and 27 November 2015.

**893-** In addition, the operational capabilities of ANIF staff were also strengthened, particularly during the following training sessions:

- workshop to curb the financing of terrorism, organized by the National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit of Great Britain (NTFIU) in London from 15 to 19 June 2015;
- Seminar by the " *Cercle des Cellules de renseignements financiers francophones*", held from 3 to 5 November 2015 in Brazzaville, Congo, under the theme "*Combatting Terrorist Financing*"; and
- Meeting on terrorism financing organized by the Nigerian Financing Intelligence Unit (NFIU), from 7 to 9 October 2015 in Abuja<sup>440</sup>.

**894-** The initial results of these trainings were identified, including 2 files relating to terrorist financing transmitted by ANIF to military tribunals during the year.

**895-** This collaboration is aimed at pooling military efforts.

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<sup>440</sup> It aimed at setting up a coordinating body between the Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) of the Lake Chad Basin on the fight against terrorist financing that will be based in Yaounde. This meeting was organized to implement the Resolutions of a previous one held in Yaounde in which the idea of a collaborative platform between the different national Units on the fight against the financing of Boko Haram was adopted.

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## §2: Regional and Multidimensional Efforts in Combatting Terrorism

**896-** Besides the support of the international community through a Special Session of the Human Rights Council held in April 2015, all the countries affected by terrorist attacks including Cameroon, benefited from the mobilization of various regional and subregional organizations during meetings dedicated to the fight against *Boko Haram*. This support was effective with the setting up and running of a Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and through bilateral relationships.

### A: Mobilization of Regional and Subregional Organizations

**897-** Countries affected by the *Boko Haram* insurgency including Cameroon benefited from regional and subregional multilateral mobilization of other countries in combating the terrorist group. Experts or politicians held many technical meetings to adopt a strategy to combat *Boko Haram*.

**898-** On the diplomatic front, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Defence of the States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin met on 20 January 2015 in Niamey, Niger to discuss concrete actions to support the affected countries, including Cameroon, in the fight against *Boko Haram*. They agreed, with the support of the African Union to strengthen security cooperation between the neighbouring States of the Lake Chad Basin and establish the MNJTF.

**899-** The conclusions were endorsed at the regional level during the 484<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union held on 29 January 2015 at Addis Ababa on the terrorist group *Boko Haram*. In addition, the African Organization, in a Declaration, reiterated its support to States affected by *Boko Haram* during the 34<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2015.

**900-** At the subregional level, Member Countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) expressed their willingness

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to unite to defeat this common enemy, which is a security threat to the States of Central Africa, during an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the PSC in Central Africa (COPAX), which took place in Yaounde on 16 February 2015 under the aegis of the Government of Cameroon. This meeting allowed the States to fully appreciate the threat posed by Boko Haram. The Summit resolved to provide an emergency aid of CFAF50,000,000,000<sup>441</sup> and to set up a Multidimensional Support Fund for logistics and humanitarian assistance, communication and political and diplomatic actions. This Summit ended with the Yaounde Declaration that "*strongly condemns the actions of Boko Haram in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger*" and reaffirms the determination "*to rid Africa of terrorism and violent extremism.*" One of the solutions to achieve this goal requires cooperation between ECCAS and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with a view to adopting a common strategy against *Boko Haram*. In addition, the AU was asked to request the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution authorizing the deployment of MNJTF.

**901-** Technically, mention can be made of the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Central Africa Police Chiefs (CAPCCO) held from 15 to 18 September 2015 in Yaounde, which served as a springboard for Delegates of participating States to discuss the different forms of emerging crimes including terrorism in Central Africa. One of the 21 Recommendations taken at the meeting was the need to harmonize legislation in the fight against terrorism in the States of the subregion.

**902-** Besides, several meetings of the COPAX Defence and Security Commission were held to prepare and refine the strategy and functioning of the MNJTF.

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<sup>441</sup> About 76,335,877.86 Euros

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## B: Functioning of MNJTF

**903-** The MNJTF headquartered in N'Djamena, Chad, and with sectors in Mora (Cameroon) and Gambaru (Nigeria) was deployed in 2015. Members of its Command Staff were appointed with a Nigerian as Commander of the Force assisted by a Cameroonian. In addition, the national contingents to constitute the 8,700 strong Force were divided, and funding worth CFAF17,000,000,000<sup>442</sup> envisaged.

**904-** In order to fulfil its commitments, Government deployed 2,450 soldiers to the MNJTF, with 4 Senior Officers assigned to the Command Staff for their supervision.

**905-** The combined regional efforts were supported by the bilateral partners of Cameroon.

## C: Support from Cameroon's Bilateral Partners

**906-** Cameroon received military support from partner countries, including the United States, China, France, Russia and Germany to combat terrorism.

**907-** The military device deployed within Cameroon *Alpha and Emergence 4 operations* has expanded with the coalition of Chadian armed forces alongside Cameroon troops. Indeed, a Chadian contingent of 2,500 men was deployed in the Far North Region from January 2015, with its base at Kousseri, in the framework of Operation "Logone 2015." This contingent was supported by military logistics, and later joined the Cameroon forces at strategic points in the battle field in order to widely combat the followers of the terrorist group.

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<sup>442</sup> Is 25,954,198.47 Euros

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**908-** In addition to 6 armoured personnel carriers, the United States sent 300 soldiers to the northern region of the country to support the defence forces in the forefront intelligence.

**909-** This international mobilization was followed by national popular support to the Defence and Security Forces.

### §3: Popular Support in Combatting Terrorism

**910-** In addition to acknowledging the increase in security alert and awareness campaigns<sup>443</sup>, the People of Cameroon immensely supported Government through a national chain of solidarity and the popular defence within *vigilante* groups.

#### A: National Solidarity

**911-** The war against *Boko Haram* mobilized alongside the defence forces, all segments of the population and the driving forces of the nation. Through a variety of demonstrations of support, Cameroonians expressed their solidarity to the troops through patriotic marches throughout the country. Furthermore, in a spontaneous outpouring of generosity, people made donations in kind and cash to the war effort.

**912-** In order to streamline this popular support and ensure traceability and security, on 6 April 2015, the Head of State ordered the opening of a special account with the Public Treasury for the financial contributions aimed at encouraging our defence forces and assisting the victims of the war. As at 31 December 2015, the account whose number is 450 4137, was credited in the amount of CFAF2,035,000,000,000<sup>444</sup>.

<sup>443</sup> To deal with the security situation, national authorities also decided to increase the level of security alert in the country through searches and checks with metal detectors in public places or amongst large groups of persons; Furthermore, awareness campaigns and controls on main roads were stepped up.

<sup>444</sup>3587 is 786.26 Euros. a

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**913-** In addition, in a bid to ensure proper management of the funds raised, the President of the Republic signed Order No. 209/CAB/PR of 21 April 2015 to set up and lay down the organization and functioning of an *Ad hoc* Ministerial Committee to manage donations destined for the people and the defence forces in the war against *Boko Haram*.

**914-** The Committee is responsible for:

- overseeing the collection and centralization of donations made by the people, foreign countries and international and national humanitarian organizations;
- identifying, in collaboration with local administrative authorities and military hierarchy, foodstuffs and material needs where and whenever necessary;
- overseeing distribution of donations to the people and staff of the defence forces;
- serving as a framework for consultation between Government and national and international donors; and
- performing any other task entrusted to it by Government.

**915-** Chaired by the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, the Committee includes the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of External Relations, the Secretary of State to the Minister of Defence in charge of the National Gendarmerie, the Delegate General for National Security and the Governor of the Far North Region. The Secretariat is headed by the Department of Territorial Organization at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization.

**916-** National solidarity was consolidated with the installation of *vigilante* groups.

## **B: Action of *vigilante* Groups**

**917-** At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Cameroon-Nigeria Border Security Committee held in Yaounde from 18 to 20 February 2015, one of the recommendations was to include local communities in combatting

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terrorism through the involvement of traditional and religious leaders, and the establishment of *vigilante* groups.

**918-** It is relevant to shed light on the legitimacy of *Vigilante* Groups before delving into their actions.

## 1) *Vigilante* Groups

**919-** *Vigilante* Groups, which fall under the overall strategy of popular defence force in Cameroon, especially in wartime, are deployed in reference to Presidential Order No. 16/CAB/PRU of 1 September 1972 fixing the conduct of defence efforts. In compliance with the Order and to provide support that takes into account the different methods of operation, recruitment of followers and invasion of some localities by the terrorist group, Administrative authorities, notably Sub-divisional Officers of the areas concerned, with support of traditional leaders, formed *vigilante* groups. These groups are part of the civil defence structures and a link in civil defence<sup>445</sup>.

**920-** Paragraph 6 of the above Order provides that "*Heads of administrative district shall be directly answerable to the Head of State for passive defence*".

*Vigilante* Groups, which can only function with the approval of the Sub-divisional Officer, shall be in charge of detecting hostile elements and preparing their capture where necessary.

**921-** All villages in the region affected by the atrocities of *Boko Haram* have *vigilante* groups. This is the case of Mayo-Tsanaga Division which shares much of its border with Nigeria, where members *Boko Haram* can infiltrate in Cameroon territory.

**922-** The groups are composed of volunteer citizens of both sexes designated by the competent Sub divisional Officer on the proposal of tra-

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<sup>445</sup> Theorists distinguish 3 types of defence: civil, operational and interior defence.

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ditional leaders. They are identified and subjected to morality clearance before any action. Their action is carried out under the supervision of traditional leaders and the constant monitoring of administrative authorities to whom they report.

## 2) Actions of *Vigilante* Groups

**923-** Actions of vigilante groups helped complement those of the defence forces against the terrorist group *Boko Haram*, through their role as a warning and defence unit. Thus, the strategy of these groups was to control the flow of people on both sides of the border by erecting barriers on roads, night patrols in the villages or provide useful information to the defence forces. During these actions, the identification of intruders was an effective means of detecting followers of the terrorist group.

**924-** Through reports by members of the *vigilante* groups, an improvised explosive device (IED) was neutralized with the help of the defence forces of the North Zone of the *operation Alpha* on 16 May 2015, between Bibi and Blangafe villages on the Kousséri-Fotokol road.

**925-** In order to make the action of *vigilante* groups more effective while preserving the security of their members, Government developed their operational capacities through allocation of materials. In November 2015, the Governor of the Far North Region handed equipment comprising megaphones, mobile phones, flashlights, binoculars, whistles and boots to these groups through the 6 Senior Divisional Officers.

**926-** Moreover, the action of these groups is constantly monitored in order to avoid excesses. Such supervision begins from the time the members are recruited and extends to sanctions in case of violation of the rules and regulations governing them.

**927-** However, respect for Human Rights remains one of the overarching values of Government action in combating terrorism.

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## SECTION 3: RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN COMBATING *BOKO HARAM*

**928-** In the Global Strategy for the Fight against Terrorism adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, respect for Human Rights remains one of the important pillars. In fact, in combating terrorism, the State is bound to respect its commitments under Human Rights Treaties and Agreements<sup>446</sup>. The Government of Cameroon has respected these commitments through the training of stakeholders, court repression, sanctions for misconduct and the treatment of detainees with dignity and without discrimination because of their belonging to *Boko Haram*<sup>447</sup>.

### §1: Training of Defence Forces in Human Rights

**929-** Respect for Human Rights by members of the Armed Forces is driven by pedagogic action comprising the inclusion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in training modules at all levels from ordinary soldiers to senior military officers<sup>448</sup>.

**930-** It is in this connection that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized in Yaounde from 29 to 30 September 2015, a workshop for military judges. The workshop enabled them to tackle issues such as the relevance of teaching IHL: State obligations (universal jurisdiction and the role of punishment in preventing IHL violation); international standards relating to detention; criminal responsibility (individual criminal responsibility and command responsibility); application of IHL by an international court: the case of the ICC.

**931-** Cameroon also received support from its technical partners to develop the capacity of stakeholders in the protection of Human Rights in connection with the fight against terrorism. Thus, at the conclusion of the

<sup>446</sup> See UN Security Council Resolutions 1624 and 1373.

<sup>447</sup> See Chapter on Detention Conditions, § 1059 and seq

<sup>448</sup> See Chapter on the right to life, to physical and moral integrity and the right not to be subjected to torture and the right to liberty, § 58 and seq

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bilateral consultations with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, a multi-sector Technical Assistance Programme for Cameroon was adopted. The first phase which will run for a period of 3 years is about the capacity building of stakeholders in the criminal chain, including legal and judicial officers, judicial police officers and other relevant national authorities in various areas of the fight against terrorism, or in the sanction process. The selected modules focus on investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases related to terrorism, financing of terrorism, international judicial cooperation and the treatment of suspected minors linked to terrorist groups.

**932-** This educational activity comes before punishment.

## §2: Sanctions

**933-** Members of the Defence Forces who violated Human Rights were punished. Indeed, in order to preserve ethics and professional conduct, a detachment of gendarmes who act as military police is assigned to each combat unit. This detachment comprising judicial police officers is responsible for recording offences, gathering evidence and referring the accused soldiers before the competent courts.

**934-** As such, several procedures are underway.<sup>449</sup> In addition to criminal sanctions, administrative and disciplinary measures were taken against members of the defence forces who violated Human Rights. On 15 November 2015, 4 soldiers found guilty of offences against honour were punished. Besides, the Commander of the Gendarmerie Brigade, Darak was relieved of his duties.

**935-** Following the death of 25 persons in custody in the cells of the Maroua Gendarmerie Legion in the fight against the terrorist group<sup>450</sup>, an investigation was opened and an autopsy performed on the bodies to de-

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<sup>449</sup> See infra §939

<sup>450</sup> See 2014 Report, Para. 101 and 102

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termine the cause of death. The Coroner concluded that the cause of the death was *“collective chemical poisoning after ingestion of unidentified chemicals and traditional products with rapid organic cytolysis”*. Following this case, the Commander of the Far North Gendarmerie Legion was removed from office by Decree No. 2015/109 of 28 February 2015, while the judicial procedure is ongoing.

### §3: Prosecution to Suppress Terrorism

**936-** The arrest of the suspected followers of *Boko Haram* resulted in prosecution, pursuant to Law No. 2014/028 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism, and different provisions of the Penal Code.

**937-** The suspects have the same rights as ordinary litigants, including the presumption of innocence, the rights of defence and appeal. Proof of this is that they were prosecuted in compliance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), and not arbitrarily convicted and sentenced.

**938-** A look at the following proceedings and judgments delivered by Military Tribunals as at 31 December 2015 is quite illustrative:

- the Military Tribunal, Yaounde delivered 3 judgments in 2015 in the fight against terrorism, 2 of which were acquittals of aiding and abetting acts of terrorism and acts of cybercrime, particularly with regard to Judgment No. 322/CRIM/15 of 28 December 2015).
- before the Military Court, Garoua, 19 matters were heard while 2 judgments were delivered including one declaring the discontinuance of proceedings ;
- before the Military Court, Maroua, 209 matters were heard and the following judgments were delivered: 133 death sentences, 11 life sentences, 2 sentences of 20 years imprisonment and 63 decisions of discontinuance of proceedings and acquittals. In addition, 98 matters were pending for various offences, either at the level of preliminary inquiry or trial.

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**939-** The above-mentioned judicial data reflect the position of the State of Cameroon on the application of the death penalty.

**940-** Regarding the application of the death penalty, it is provided for by Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 for such offences, not only because of their severity, but also their threat to protected social values. However, this sentence cannot be executed if all remedies have not been exhausted. Hence, even if the convict refrains from applying for clemency, the Legal Department does so systematically. In addition, the right to pardon by the President of the Republic remains open. Moreover, it is important to note that Cameroon is a *de facto* abolitionist country, given that no death sentence has been executed since 1998.

**941-** To stop the attacks of the terrorist group *Boko Haram*, The State of Cameroon deployed its diplomatic and military arsenal, which preserved the right to human security and the integrity of its territory. Furthermore, the involvement of all forces gave a particular resonance to this combined strategy between the army and the nation, with outstanding successes, including the release of many hostages and neutralization of enemy attacks. However, these efforts need to be consolidated into a National Anti-terrorism Strategy.

**942-** In this asymmetric and unconventional warfare, national authorities have been careful to respect Human Rights under their international obligations, which recall that the fight against terrorism and protection of Human Rights are not conflicting but combined objectives.



**Chapter**

**2**

**PROMOTION OF GOOD  
GOVERNANCE AND  
ANTI-CORRUPTION**



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**943-** In 2015, Government, anti-corruption institutions, development partners, CSOs and the private sector mobilized to promote good governance and fight corruption in all sectors of national life.

## SECTION 1: PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

**944-** In its desire to ensure the smooth running of institutions and the development of the country, Government continued the public/private sector dialogue to improve the business environment in Cameroon, strengthened supervision of SMEs, continued checking the payroll, provided incentives to pay taxes and improved governance in the public contracts sector.

### §1: Public/Private Sector Dialogue to Improve the Business Climate<sup>451</sup>

**945-** The 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Cameroon Business Forum<sup>452</sup> (CBF) was held on 9 March 2015 in Douala on the theme: *"Supporting Growth through the Effective Implementation of Reforms."* Recommendations were adopted at this Session. An analysis of these recommendations revealed delays in the implementation of reforms. Besides, other actions were taken to promote investment.

#### A: Assessment of the Implementation of the CBF Recommendations

**946-** During the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the CBF, 20 recommendations covering 11 areas for reforms were adopted including 11 new recommendations and 9 cases of renewal, some of which were amended.

**947-** At the end of 2015<sup>453</sup>, 14 out of 20 recommendations were either implemented or nearing implementation with satisfactory progress in re-

<sup>451</sup> See General Reports by the CBF Permanent Secretary (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Sessions of CBF)

<sup>452</sup> The Cameroon Business Forum is a public/private dialogue mechanism set up to improve the business climate. Set up by Government in 2006, CBF went operational in 2009 to support Government economic growth efforts. In addition, under the authority of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, the CBF was set up by Decree No. 2015/3760 / PM of 9 September 2015 to organize the Cameroon Business Forum.

<sup>453</sup> Exceptionally extended to 31 January 2016 due to the additional time required for the effective implementation of certain reforms.

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lation to fixed-time limit giving a completion rate of about 70% against an average of 50% in 2014.

**948-** The above-mentioned reforms focused on business creation (1 out 2), payment of taxes (3 out 4), commercial disputes or dispute resolution (2 out 5), facilitation of cross-border trade (1 out 6), access to property (0 out 3), building permits (1 out of 3), investment promotion (0 out 2), access to financing and obtaining loans (0 out 5), inspection (1 out 1), licenses and approvals (0 out 1) and, governance and economy (1 out 4)<sup>454</sup>. Only 5 reforms have been completed, namely:

- reduction of corporate tax;
- reduction of administrative documents required for public contracts procedures to the presentation of debt clearance certificate only;
- improvement of the credit access information system; and
- strengthening the protection of minority investors.

## B: Delays in Implementation of Reforms

**949-** The pace of reforms implementation was disturbing because it was below expectations on the real potential of the country. As such, the average duration for the processing and implementation of recommendations adopted was between 2 and 3 years.

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<sup>454</sup> The recommendations implemented focused on: the execution of the pilot phase of the online setting up of businesses in Douala, Yaounde and Garoua with the e-registration Project; the launching of the pilot phase of unique identifier; the extension of Tele-procedures to Tax Centres for Medium-sized Enterprises; the introduction of electronic payment at the NSIF; initiation of Trade and Personal Property Credit Register (RCCM) computerization; the completion of the instrument relating to the organization of the profession of Judicial Receiver and Trustee in Bankruptcy; the completion of the dematerialization process of external trade procedures; the completion of the instrument relating to the modalities for the registration of security regimes on concessions and commercial leases; the finalization of studies on the harmonization of the costs of urban planning acts; the completion of the enabling instrument on factoring (this reform is effective with the entry into force of Decree No. 2016/435 of 11 March 2016 to lay down the procedures for the application of Law No. 2014/6 of 23 April 2014 governing the activity of factoring); the finalization of the instrument on the coordination of inspections and control of ships at the Ports Authority, Douala (PAD); the completion of the process for putting online data on the joint inspections of classified establishments; the drawing up of proposals on youth employment by the private sector; finalization of the rules of procedure of the private sector platform.

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**950-** Delay in the implementation of reforms had a negative impact on the classification of Cameroon in the World Bank's Doing Business index. The country dropped from 168<sup>th</sup> in 2014 to 172<sup>nd</sup> in 2015, out of a total of 189 countries<sup>455</sup>.

**951-** The business community and development partners<sup>456</sup> identified 2 factors that caused this poor performance.

**952-** Firstly, external factors characterized by the change in methodology, constant negative publicity on Central African countries in general and the inconsistency of contributors required to give opinions on Cameroon.

**953-** Secondly, internal factors relating to delays in the implementation of laws, regulations, administrative measures or recommendations; the lack of internal communication or communication to the public of new reforms and their immediate implementation; the lack of regular monitoring of the implementation of reforms, constantly decreasing number of meetings by CBF's Monitoring Committee; field resistance to change in the implementation of directives, and non-implementation of directives because of personal interests.

## C: Investment Incentives

**954-** As part of the public/private sector dialogue, activities carried out by the Investment Promotion Agency (API) focused in particular on investment promotion and collaboration and support of investors by public authorities.

### 1) Investment Promotion

**955-** Within the framework of the implementation of Law No. 2013/4 of 18 April 2013 to lay down incentives for private investment in Cameroon,

<sup>455</sup> See Doing Business Report 2016.

<sup>456</sup> See Comprehensive Report by the CBF Permanent Secretary (7<sup>th</sup> CBF Session). This Report underscores the change of methodology as an external factor of Cameroon's poor performance. This change of methodology stems from the fact that Doing Business partners used opinion polls to classify countries. New criteria have now emerged including the quality of justice rendered (best perception of justice) and transparency (governance).

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the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT) signed some twenty agreements in various sectors, including agribusiness, cement, steel and metallurgy for 14,533 projected jobs, bringing to 59 the number of signed investment agreements, for a total estimated amount of CFAF800,610, 951,201<sup>457</sup> on a projection 26,852 jobs. Similarly, 299 approvals were granted to all classes of establishments.

**956-** The Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, representing the Prime Minister, Head of Government, chaired the first edition of Cameroon Investment Forum (CFI 2015) held in Douala from 25 to 27 November 2015. This Investor's Forum organized by API, with the technical and financial support of MINEPAT and MINFI respectively, had as main theme: *"Emergence through Investment."*

**957-** The main objective of the forum was to attract new investors in the country and raise awareness of economic operators on API.

**958-** About 330 national businesses and thirty foreign delegations were present at this exchange platform on agro-industry, renewable energy, low-cost houses and roads.

**959-** Furthermore, API signed 37 investment agreements with MINMIDT for an estimated amount of CFAF562,025,575,621<sup>458</sup> and a projection of 20,814 jobs.

## 2) Collaboration and Support for Investors

**960-** API hosted and directed more than 200 domestic and foreign investors. It facilitated the visa issuing procedure for over 230 foreign investors<sup>459</sup> out of a target of 500 investors and businesses, and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance 50 applications for approval of investors.

<sup>457</sup> About 1,222,306,795.72 Euros

<sup>458</sup> About 858,054,313.93 Euros

<sup>459</sup> Investors were made up of Americans, English, Belgians, Chinese, Spaniards, Morrocans, South Africans and Tunisians.

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**961-** API collaboration and support are part of an overall strategy marked by the gradual establishment of investors welcome desks at the Douala and Yaounde international airports, allowing investors to easily access the different services they need to know, obtaining visas and appointments with administrative authorities.

**962-** Governance was also improved by strengthening the supervision of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

## §2: Strengthening the Supervision of SMEs

**963-** The supervision of SMEs was strengthened through the setting up of the SME Promotion Agency (APME) and the Cameroon Bank for SME (CB-SME), Cameroon.

### A: Setting up of APME

**964-** The setting up of APME continued in 2015 with the appointment of its key officials including the Managing Director and members of the Board of Directors, the adoption of an organizational chart<sup>460</sup> and recruitment of Management staff and those of Technical Departments especially of the Regional Office, Littoral.

**965-** At the start of its activities, the Agency launched the Support Programme for Small- and Medium-Sized Agricultural and Agri-Food Enterprises (PMEAA) in line, at Government's request, with projects eligible for the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of C2D contracts, with the Ministry of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) as project owner. The overall objective of this programme is to develop activities for the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products through the financial support of PMEAA in rural areas estimated at CFAF3.280,000,000<sup>461</sup>. The amount is intended to

<sup>460</sup> In accordance with the flow chart of the APME, an Investment Incentives One-Stop Shop was opened.

<sup>461</sup> About 5,007,633.59 Euros

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finance the production of technical and economic data, to support Micro-Finance Enterprises, to finance support services and support project management. The Programme effectively started in 2015 with the recruitment of the National Coordination Staff and those of the 2 Regional Offices for the West and Centre.

**966-** Strengthening the supervision of SMEs continued with the setting up of the CB-SMEs.

## **B: Setting up of CB-SME**

**967-** In addition to its mission of financing targeted enterprises including crafts, CB-SME also supervises SMEs.

**968-** After the appointment of officials, the adoption of an organizational chart and the recruitment of staff, BC-SME effectively started its activities with the opening of an office to the public in Yaounde on 16 July 2015 and another in Douala on 3 August 2015. The Bank already has a portfolio of over 1,000 customers whose financial needs are estimated at over CFAF10,000,000,000<sup>462</sup>. The Institution is working with other SME support structures, including APME, the Enterprise Upgrade Bureau and the Business Incorporation Formalities Centre.

**969-** Contributing in settling public expenditure that is a strategic priority for the promotion of good governance has been strengthened through tax incentives.

## **§3: Contribution in Settling Public Expenditure: Tax Incentives**

**970-** In 2015, the tax administration expanded its tax base to include the declaration and payment of property tax owed by proprietors of built and un-built estate. A distribution campaign of pre-filled declaration forms<sup>463</sup> was

<sup>462</sup> About 15,267,175.57 Euros. It should be noted that 2015 was dedicated to customer relationship and the actual start of funding earmarked for 2016.

<sup>463</sup> They help to simplify procedures by sparing the taxpayer the declaratory phase. The campaign also enables the taxpayer to avoid physical movement and hours of waiting at Tax Offices.

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launched in Yaounde and Douala, and extended to the rest of the country to encourage payment of the said tax. In addition to the pre-filled declaration forms, online payment (mobile tax) was also proposed by taxation authorities as an alternative to the first payment method<sup>464</sup>. Furthermore, a device called "Individual Proprietors' Card" was introduced by Tax Offices to ensure that each taxpayer pays the tax.

**971-** In all, 5 SME Tax Offices (CIME) were set up in Bafoussam, Douala, Limbe and Yaounde, increasing the number of SMEs targeted from 1,600 to 11,000.

**972-** The percentage of medium-sized enterprises should be raised to 20 or 25% of the overall tax population in compliance with international standards and to ensure better tax control, optimal management of income tax and the improvement of service quality.

**973-** The improvement of public expenditure also concerned consolidation of the State's payroll.

## §4: Cleaning the State's Payroll

**974-** On 25 February 2015, the Ministry of Finance (MINFI) launched the operation for the identification of pensioners and beneficiaries of deceased state employees. This operation, which took place throughout the national territory for 3 months, was geared towards cleaning the payroll of the State. This measure was aimed at improving public expenditure, including the payment of salaries and pensions and control of the number of pensioners.

**975-** The operation targeted more than 133,000 pensioners, including retired state employees, beneficiaries of deceased State employees, beneficiaries of reversionary pensions and orphans temporary pensions, and

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<sup>464</sup> This measure became effective on 1 June 2016.

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beneficiaries of disability pensions. Beneficiaries and their rightful claimants of pensions of the Railway Pension Fund (FOREC), beneficiaries of Annual Allowances and annuities were also concerned.

**976-** At the end of the first phase of the operation, about 4,000 fictitious pensioners were unearthed. A team, however, was set up to manage potential litigation.

**977-** The second phase of this operation continued abroad and the results are awaited.

**978-** Governance in the public contracts sector was also strengthened during the reference year.

## **§5: Consolidation of Transparency in the Public Contracts Sector<sup>465</sup>**

**979-** Governance of the public contracts system was strengthened through the management of disputes and systematic controls and sanctions imposed against unscrupulous stakeholders.

### **A: Management of Disputes**

**980-** During the reference year, the Minister in charge of Public Contracts received 520 files, including 392 appeals by bidders aggrieved by a contract procedure, 22 arbitration claims relating to persistent disagreements between the Contracting Authority and the Tenders Board, and 77 petitions filed by various stakeholders of the system including the Public Contracts Regulatory Agency. After consideration by the Appeals and Disputes Review Committee, 37 appeals were allowed.

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<sup>465</sup> The innovations introduced by the reform of the public contracts sector, aimed at correcting the flaws and cumbersome procedures of the old system. These dysfunctions mainly concerned the involvement, in Public Contracts Award, of a multitude of Project Owners and Delegated Project Managers, the increase in the number of Tenders Boards, lengthy procedural deadlines and the inappropriate juxtaposition of some stages.

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## B: Systematic Controls of the Execution of Public Contracts and Services

**981-** Public contracts control and execution operations were intensified to ensure that projects awarded and funded were actually executed on time and complied with laid down standards. These controls helped improve the quality of services. During the reference year, out of the 3,406 contracts controlled by the central services of the Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP), 2,868 were executed in accordance with the Public Contracts Code, while 538 were non-compliant. These control operations allowed the Public Treasury to benefit from adjustments worth approximately CFAF18,610,186,000.<sup>466</sup>

## C: Sanctions against Unscrupulous Stakeholders

**982-** More than 74 companies were excluded from contracting due to various fraudulent practices. In the same vein, about 150 companies inadequately executed their contracts throughout the national territory. Apart from businesses, some MINMAP officials were relieved of their duties by Order of the President of the Republic for compromising the values that the reform sought to promote in this sector.

**983-** To encourage reporting by citizens and users, of all cases of corruption and improper practices observed in the award and execution of public contracts, the fight against fraud and corruption was intensified through the proliferation of hotlines such as: CAMTEL (288 20 06 06); MTN (673 20 57 25); NEXTTEL (663 49 28 21); and ORANGE (699 37 07 48).

**984-** MINMAP received 988 requests for authorization of mutually agreed contracts in 2015. More than 762 authorizations were granted and notified to 202 Project Owners or Delegate Project Managers. These authorizations represent 9% of the 7,785 contracts identified in 2015.

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<sup>466</sup> About 28,412,497.71 Euros

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**985-** Both good governance and the control of corruption and embezzlement of public property are government's priorities to boost the country's socio-economic development through the return of growth.

## SECTION 3: CURBING CORRUPTION AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

**986-** Punishment of corruption and misappropriation of public property did not hinder the intensification of prevention, control and detection in the various institutions.

### §1: Emphasis on Prevention

**987-** Prevention initiatives were marked by raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of CSOs.

#### A: Raising Awareness

**988-** As part of monitoring-evaluation of the implementation of the National Education Programme on Integrity (PNEI), the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) organized a major youth awareness anti-corruption campaign during the national finals of FENASSCO Games<sup>467</sup> A and B, held respectively in Nkongsamba and Bafoussam, from 5 to 17 April 2015. During the Games, an official classification of Regions was prepared by the National Executive Bureau of the FENASSCO B League and published with the Littoral and Adamawa Regions ranking first and last respectively. NACC then participated at the FENASU Games<sup>468</sup> in Yaounde from 23 to 30 April 2015.

**989-** Furthermore, NACC continued to broadcast its programme "*Espace CONAC*" in both official languages<sup>469</sup>.

<sup>467</sup> National Federation of School Games.

<sup>468</sup> National Federation of University Games.

<sup>469</sup> This programme is broadcast on Saturdays at 9:45 a.m. and Mondays at 18:30. p.m. over the Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV) Radio and rebroadcast on Thursdays at 14:30 p.m. over CRTV television to publicize anti-corruption actions and raise the awareness of citizens on best practices on integrity.

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## B: Capacity Development of CSOs

**990-** In 2015, NACC organized 9 national workshops that brought together 630 persons to build the capacity of CSOs in the fight against corruption. The goal was to set up a critical mass of positive stakeholders in the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (SNLCC).

**991-** Control activities were also conducted.

### §2: Control Activities

**992-** The analysis of the deployment of NACC, the Supreme State Audit Office (CONSUPE) Control Services and the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court shows an intensification of control activities.

## A: NACC Actions

**993-** As part of the collection of evidence relating to corruption, NACC conducted investigations, monitored court proceedings, examined complaints, apportioning blame after control activities and the implementation of the SNLCC.

### 1) Investigation and Control

**994-** Investigation and control activities included physical and financial controls of projects financed with public funds, monitoring the execution of the State Budget and evaluating the conditions of the award of public contracts.

**995-** NACC received 3,268 corruption denunciations in 2015 against 3,064 in 2014, 2,758 in 2013, 2,089 in 2012, 1,247 in 2011 and 482 in 2010. This exponential increase over 6 years of the number of denunciations is a visible indicator of the level of trust that citizens have in this Institution.

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**996-** The deployment of NACC through its Rapid Intervention Unit on the basis of denunciations by the population and users revealed instances of *flagrante delicto*, scamming and corruption of users and even some State employees in several areas. In 2015, about 30 rapid interventions were carried out on the field as against 22 in 2014.

## 2) Cases Investigated by NACC and Transmitted to the Competent Courts

**997-** NACC instituted 20 proceedings before the competent courts as regards cases of: production of forged computerized driving licences, embezzlement of public property, usurpation of qualification, false pretences, corruption and scamming of users, forgery, illegal use of emblems and the Seal of the Republic, etc.

## 3) Implementation of the SNLCC

**998-** NACC continued the implementation of the SNLCC by launching the 8th series of the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) with the participation of 32 Administrations and public institutions out of the 50 invited, namely 19 Ministries and other Administrations, 12 public or semi-public enterprises, and 1 development project, giving a participation rate of 64%. The presentation of each RRI was followed by cross-cutting discussions on the problem, the objective of the performance and planned activities.

**999-** Moreover, NACC evaluated the implementation of Annual Regional Anti-Corruption Plans of Action in 2014 and 2015 for the 10 Regions that produced the following results: The East and North Regions came first and tenth respectively with a variation rate of +2.34 and -6.30 respectively. The table below summarizes the execution and variation rates of Regional Anti-Corruption Plans of Action in 2014 and 2015.

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**Table 1: Synthesis of the Implementation and Variation rates of Regional Anti-Corruption Plans of Action in 2014 and 2015**

Regions	Implementation rate in 2014	Ranking	Implementation rate in 2015	Ranking	Variations 2015-2014	Ranking
Adamawa	32.99%	2 <sup>nd</sup>	28.31%	4 <sup>th</sup>	-4.68	8 <sup>th</sup>
Centre	28.64%	6 <sup>th</sup>	24.98%	6 <sup>th</sup>	-3.66	6 <sup>th</sup>
East	29.04%	5 <sup>th</sup>	31.38%	1 <sup>st</sup>	2.34	1 <sup>st</sup>
Far North	31.78%	3 <sup>rd</sup>	28.55%	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-3.23	5 <sup>th</sup>
Littoral	22.24%	8 <sup>th</sup>	23.97%	7 <sup>th</sup>	1.73	2 <sup>th</sup>
North	37.40%	1 <sup>st</sup>	31.10%	2 <sup>th</sup>	-6.30	10 <sup>th</sup>
North West	20.90%	9 <sup>th</sup>	17.00%	10 <sup>th</sup>	-3.90	7 <sup>th</sup>
West	20.48%	10 <sup>th</sup>	21.77%	8 <sup>th</sup>	1.29	3 <sup>th</sup>
South	25.90%	7 <sup>th</sup>	19.65%	9 <sup>th</sup>	-6.25	9 <sup>th</sup>
South West	29.84%	4 <sup>th</sup>	27.90%	5 <sup>th</sup>	-1.94	4 <sup>th</sup>

**Source:** NACC

**1000-** Control activities were also carried out by CONSUPE's specialized services to track down embezzlers of public property.

## **B: Activities of the Supreme State Audit**

**1001-** During the 2015 Financial Year, CONSUPE received and treated denunciations and carried out verification missions. The Permanent Secretariat of the Budgetary and Financial Disciplinary Board (CDBF) also received files and instituted proceedings against some managers.

### **1) Denunciations**

**1002-** Several denunciations were received and examined by CONSUPE's Operational Units. Some were taken into account within the framework of mobile control missions.

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## a) Denunciations Treated by the Department of Legal Affairs and Exploitation of Information (DAJEI)

**1003-** The DAJEI received 156 denunciations in 2015. The details of this information are listed in the table below:

**Table 2: Statistics on Denunciations Received and Treated by the DAJEI in**

No.	Targets	Number
1	Councils	23
2	Public Establishments	12
3	Public and Semi-public Enterprises	10
4	Health Centres	5
5	Projects	3
6	Individuals	28
7	Public Administrations	60
8	Trade Unions	2
9	Private Companies and Enterprises	11
10	Traditional rulers	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>158</b>

**2015**

**Source:** CONSUPE

## b) Denunciations Examined by the Inspection and Control Divisions

**1004-** CONSUPE's Inspection and Control Divisions received 146 denunciations in 2015. The approach consisted essentially in examining these denunciations some of which gave rise to special missions mandated by the President of the Republic, while others led to cross-checking missions.

**1005-** Furthermore, supervisory authorities were seised for cross-checking, investigation and/or further information. The table below contains denunciations received and treated.

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**Table 3: Denunciations Received and Treated by the Inspections and Control Divisions in 2015**

Operating Units	Number of denunciations received	Number of denunciations treated	Denunciations that led to special missions	Denunciations that led to a cross-checking mission	Pending cases
DIAP	109	109	3	3	0
DIEPOS	37	31	1	0	6
DICTD	120	120	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

**Source:** CONSUPE

## Legend

**DIAP:** Public Administrations Inspections and Control Division

**DIEPOS:** Public Establishments and Specific Bodies Inspections and Control Division

**DICTD:** Council Inspections and Control Division

## 2) Control Missions

**1006-** CONSUPE's Inspection and Control Divisions conducted several inspection missions<sup>470</sup> to Public and Semi-public Enterprises, specific Institutions and Public Administrations in the context of the implementation of the Public Investment Budget. The table below summarizes these different missions.

**Table 4: Control Missions Conducted by the Inspection and Control Divisions during the 2015 Financial Year**

Operating Units	Missions Initiated	Missions Completed	Pending Missions	Number of Reports forwarded to the Presidency of the Republic in 2015
DIAP	11	11	0	0 <sup>471</sup>
DIEPOS	6	1	5	4
DICTD	1	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

**Source:** DIC/CONSUPE

<sup>470</sup> According to its Organic Decree No. 2013/287 of 4 December 2013, CONSUPE conducts 4 types of control missions: compliance and regularity control; financial control; environmental control; and information systems control .

<sup>471</sup> Ongoing drafting of Reports

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## 3) Activities of the CDBF Permanent Secretariat

1007- The CDBF received and treated files during its various sessions. It delivered judgments some of which were subject to appeal. It also transmitted files to other institutions.

### a) Files Received and Investigated

1008- The CDBF received 9 files<sup>472</sup> for implementation of disciplinary action. These were essentially Mission Reports most of which are still under study, and which led to the summoning of 18 unscrupulous managers or public employees before this body, as stated in the table below:

**Table 5: Files received and investigated by the CDBF in 2015**

Cases investigated	Year	
	2014	2015
<b>Number of files received</b>	7	9
<b>Number of files of persons summoned</b>	5	18
<b>Number of sessions organized</b>	23	9
<b>Number of cases examined</b>	41	25
<b>Number of decisions delivered and published<sup>473</sup></b>	35	18

**Source:** CDBF

### b) Appeals against CDBF Decisions

1009- Appeals against CDBF decisions are another significant element of the rights of persons brought before this Institution. As an illustration, 9 appeals for annulment of the decisions of CDBF and stay of their effects were submitted to the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court, Yaounde. Out of the files presented before the said Court, 3 decisions were taken in favour of the State while 6 cases are pending judgment.

<sup>472</sup> These include 2 files from the President of the Republic, 5 from the Minister of Finance, 1 from the Minister of Secondary Education and 1 from the Minister of Public Contracts

<sup>473</sup> Charges against 7 persons were partially or fully dropped and 11 decisions made for financial payments.

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## c) Files Transmitted to other Institutions

**1010-** The CDBF forwarded 2 files to MINJUSTICE as complaints on behalf of the State, and 2 others to the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court.

### C: Control of the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

**1011-** The activities of the Audit Bench concerned, as in previous years, judicial and administrative controls, and assistance and advice to Government.

#### 1) Judicial Control

**1012-** Judicial review involved 4,749 accounts of public accountants including those of previous years that were not produced on 31 December 2014. These accounts were split among the Main Treasury Accountants (13), Accounting Officers of Public Administrative Institutions (574) and Municipal Treasurers (4,162).

**1013-** The court received 158 financial accounts and delivered 49 final judgments including 26 decisions to pay fines<sup>474</sup> for a total of CFAF12,796,000<sup>475</sup> and 10 judgments on debit balance owed by public accountants who had to pay the sum of CFAF475,540,071<sup>476</sup>. The irregularities that led to the debit balance above mainly concerned non-compliance with regulatory provisions on budget management.

**1014-** Another aspect of judicial activity of the Audit Bench in 2015 concerned the examination by the Joint Divisions, of retrials against final judgments on some accounts, and files forwarded to the financial court for opinion by the Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of the Supreme State Audit.

<sup>474</sup> Fines sanction delay or failure to produce management accounts while debit balance relates to irregularities in the payment of expenses or non-collection of revenue causing financial loss to the State, the Council or the Public Administrative Establishment.

<sup>475</sup> About 19,535.88 Euros

<sup>476</sup> About 726,015.38 Euros

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**1015-** Retrial is proof that litigants before this Bench have the opportunity to have their rights restored if they prove that such rights have not been respected. In this regard, three applications for review of final judgments received by the Audit Bench were examined and declared inadmissible.

**1016-** The same Bench examined on the merits, 5 cases referred to it by CONSUPE. These cases resulted in a total debit balance of CFAF80,076,137<sup>477</sup> to be paid by accountants and an accounting advance of CFAF2,768,478<sup>478</sup>.

**1017-** Furthermore, 2 accountants were acquitted for management in 2 separate proceedings.

## 2) Administrative Control

**1018-** The jurisdiction of the Audit Bench to control public and semi-public enterprises in 2015 concerned about 67 entities. The controls over this period resulted in 2 final Observation Reports<sup>479</sup> on corporate accounts, including the *Société Nationale des Transports et Transit du Cameroun (CAMTAINER SA)* for the period 2004-2009 and the *Société Hôtelière du Littoral* for the Financial Years 2007-2009.

**1019-** The observations made in the 2 Reports reflect various irregularities deriving mostly from non-compliance of the statutes of these companies with the legal provisions governing them, including the lack and/or malfunctioning of the organs ensuring good corporate governance (General Assembly, Board of Directors and Auditor).

**1020-** Other irregularities relate to failure to respect the Public Contracts Code, laxity in loan recovery, dire financial situation characterized by negative personal equity that is therefore less than half of the capital, a threshold below which dissolution is prescribed, and a negative working capital (*CAMTAINER S.A.*).

<sup>477</sup> About 122,253.64 Euros

<sup>478</sup> About 4226.68 Euros

<sup>479</sup> It is not a judgment as there is no public accounting in this structure.

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## 3) Assistance and Advice

**1021-** The Audit Bench continued its assistance and advisory activities both to the Executive and Parliament.

### a) Assistance to the Executive

**1022-** The Audit Bench's assistance to the Executive was made in 2015 in the following areas: the certification of the General Account of the State and the discussions of the Permanent Consultation MINFI-Audit Bench Framework.

#### i) Certification of the State's General Account

**1023-** The Audit Bench certified the General Account of the State for the 2014 Financial Year on an experimental basis<sup>480</sup>. All relevant aspects of accrual accounting, that is, the standard for the production of the General Account of the State, were not taken into account such as estate inventory and evaluation, constitution of amortization and provisions on some asset elements, deferral of balances of estate accounts, counting of revenue collected by compensation, and information on some income and expenditure accounts. These lapses limit thoroughness in accounting and does not allow for proper verification of the State's assets and financial situation.

#### ii) MINFI Audit Bench Permanent Consultation Framework

**1024-** The MINFI-Audit Bench Permanent Consultation Framework held 3 sessions in 2015 and its discussions focused on the deficits of accounting items, the inclusion of special accounts in the Settlement Bill, production of corporate accounts from the public and semi-public sector,

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<sup>480</sup> It should be noted that pursuant to the provisions of Article 128 of Decree No. 2013/160 of 15 May 2013 on the General Regulations of Public Accounting, the date of production of the Audit Bench's Report on the certification of public accounts prescribed by Article 125 (3) of the same Decree is slated for 2019.

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and the personal and financial liability of public accountants (current shortcomings and desirable changes for a system that ensures more fair and equitable liability).

**1025-** Furthermore, in 2015, the Audit Bench prepared the 2014 Annual Public Report, pursuant to Law No. 2003/5 of 21 April 2003 that lays down the duties, organization and functioning of the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court, reports to the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the President of the Senate, the general results of its work and the comments it deems necessary to make with a view to reforming and improving the keeping of accounts and the discipline of accountants.

## **b) Assistance and Advice to Parliament**

**1026-** In addition to its opinion on the 2014 Settlement Bill, the Audit Bench held exchange forums with the National Assembly and the Senate.

### **i) Opinion on the Settlement Bill of the 2014 Financial Year**

**1027-** The Audit Bench presented Opinion No. 2/2015/CSC/CDC of 17 November 2015 on the Settlement Bill of the 2014 Financial Year in which it commented on the following shortcomings and irregularities in the accounts of public accountants:

- failure to carry over, as input balance for the Financial Year, the closing balances of estate accounts for the Financial Year n-1, violates the principle of the intangibility of the opening balance sheet;
- transactions imputed in 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 charges to the following Financial Year and give an incorrect budget balance;
- lack of control of the use of accounts Item 45 "Administrations Deposits" that undermines the principles of service rendered and the budgetary principle of annuality. Budget allocations are transformed into deposits managed as cash advances with expenditures made before a service is rendered;

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- final allocations of credits included in the Settlement Bill are higher than those allowed by the Finance Law without a Decree to grant an advance, pursuant to section 54 (1) of Law No. 2007/6 of 26 December 2007 on the financial regime, that should have been taken to indicate cancelled appropriations or new revenues;
- excess spending on some budget chapters in violation of Section 16 (2) of Law No. 2007/6 of 26 December 2007 referred to above;
- changes in credit evaluation without presentation of decisions authorising chapter-to-chapter transfer of credit by the Prime Minister or, in case of an emergency, Decrees to grant an advance issued by the President of the Republic, in accordance with Sections 53 and 54 of the Law mentioned above; and
- poor management of some programmes and some special accounts.

**1028-** It is regrettable that these views are not always taken into account to improve budget management.

## ii) Exchange Forums

**1029-** The Audit Bench held 3 exchange forums respectively on 6 July 2015 with the Finance Committee of the Senate, 7 July and 9 December 2015 with that of the National Assembly. It aimed at building the capacity of Parliamentarians on assessing the Finance Law and Settlement Bill in order to improve the quality of parliamentary control and understand the canons of budget management.

## §3 Detection Actions

**1030-** Although the control of terrorism financing significantly impacted the activities of ANIF<sup>481</sup>, the institution has not departed from its traditional mission of detecting other financial crimes. In this connection, it conduc-

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<sup>481</sup> See supra, Chapter on Human Rights and Combatting of Terrorism

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ted capacity building activities for its staff in order to increase the efficiency of operations of institutions in charge of financial crime control. The desire to consolidate cooperation between institutions was further strengthened during the reference year.

## **A: Capacity Building**

**1031-** Staff of public establishments including ANIF participated in training and capacity building seminars, notably the training organized from 13 June to 5 July 2015 by the National School of Administration, Paris, France on the theme "Corruption Control in 2015".

## **B: Financial Crime Control Institutions**

**1032-** ANIF received 468 reports on suspicious cases from controlled professions and forwarded 69 files to competent courts. The files submitted were related to money laundering, misappropriation of public property, corruption, false pretences, fraud and misuse of company assets.

## **C: Cooperation in Corruption Control**

**1033-** In 2015, NACC continued cooperation with institutions at the national and international levels.

**1034-** At the national level, on 15 July 2015, NACC signed a collaboration agreement with the ARMP and a Cooperation Agreement with the Business Coalition against Corruption (BCAC).

**1035-** Moreover, the effectiveness of the National Anti-Corruption Coalition (CNLCC) was enhanced with support from NACC through field verification of works financed by public funds.

**1036-** In the same vein, ANIF exchanged information with the services of the Supreme State Audit Office and NACC on money laundering, corruption and misappropriation of public property.

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**1037-** At the international level, cooperation activities undertaken by NACC included capacity building<sup>482</sup> of its staff on specific themes.

**1038-** This cooperation was expressed through sharing information on corruption control.

**1039-** Furthermore, ANIF participated in the activities of the Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa (GABAC), Egmont Group, *Cercle des cellules de renseignements financiers francophones* and exchanged information with various financial intelligence units abroad, to control money laundering. These activities were related to the work of the Egmont Group devoted to the Working group and a special session of the Heads of Financial Intelligence Units, held from 25 January to 4 February 2015 in Berlin, Germany, and those of the GABAC Technical Commission, held on 14 and 15 September 2015.

**1040-** The courts also stepped up punishment of perpetrators of corruption and misappropriation of public property.

## §4: Stepping up Punishment

**1041-** Punishment of perpetrators of corruption and misappropriation of public property was marked by increased litigation before specialized courts that reinforced the drive already started by other criminal courts.

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<sup>482</sup> - training on financial crimes and the recovery of property, organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Interpol, participation at the 6th Annual Conference of Interpol on the recovery of assets in New Delhi, India, from 15 to 22 November 2015;

- training session on Leadership and Management, Ethics and Integrity at the Commonwealth Centre, Gaborone from 31 October to 7 November 2015 and from 7 to 19 November 2015 respectively;

- participation in several international meetings in Africa, Europe and Asia, including participation in the 5th Commonwealth Regional Conference for Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Africa from 25 to 29 May 2015, the participation of NACC at the Crans Montana Forum, from 14 to 16 October 2015, participation of NACC in the 8th Annual Conference and the General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities held in Saint Petersburg, Russia, from 30 October to 1 November 2015;

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## A: Increased Litigation before Specialized Courts

**1042-** The volume of cases registered in the Special Criminal Court (SCC) in 2015 increased compared to the previous year. Consequently, the number of cases increased from 34 to 51 at the level of police investigation, while the number of enlisted cases increased from 62 to 54 as illustrated in the table below:

**Table 6: Comparative statement of rulings by Examining Magistrates of the SCC in 2014 and 2015**

Year	Number of files at preliminary inquiry	Number of closed files	Number of persons committed for trial to the SCC	Number of beneficiaries of no-case rulings
2014	31	23	69	22
2015	51	22	91	12

**Source:** SCC

**1043-** Nonetheless, it is very difficult to recover the amounts claimed (costs and damages) due to concealment by the accused persons of their property upon initiation of the procedure. That is why it is important to build the capacity of Judicial Police Officers and Judicial and Legal Officers of the SCC in detecting and punishing money laundering.

**1044-** Furthermore, the number of cases heard and determined rose from 25 in 2014 to 43 in 2015 and the number of persons convicted from 38 in 2014 to 65 in 2015. The Court discharged and acquitted 31 accused persons and delivered 25 *nolle pro se qui* decisions. The table below compares SCC decisions in 2014 and 2015:

**Table 7: Comparison of decisions delivered by the SCC in 2014 and 2015**

Year	Number of enlisted cases	Number of judgments	Number of convictions	Number of acquittals	Number of <i>nolle pro se qui</i>
2014	62	25	38	22	22
2015	54	43	65	31	25

**Source:** SCC

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**1045-** Despite this momentum, the amount of money returned decreased compared to previous years. The following table reflects the comparative situation of the number and profile of those prosecuted, the amounts of the sums claimed and amounts returned or recovered in 2014 and 2015:

**Table 8: Comparative statement of the number and profiles of persons prosecuted, the amounts of the sums claimed and returned or recovered in 2014 and 2015**

Year	Number of persons prosecuted	M	W	Amounts of sums claimed			Amounts of money returned	Amounts recovered	Cameroonians	Other nationalities
				Fines	Costs	Damages				
2014	117	90	27	CFAF 1,000,000 <sup>483</sup>	CFAF 432,338,533 <sup>484</sup>	CFAF 8,826,186 803.94 <sup>485</sup>	CFAF2,142,872,110	...	117	00
2015	144	105	39	0	CFAF2,146,631,629 <sup>486</sup>	CFAF 28,441,125,029 <sup>487</sup>	CFAF 552,588,642	...	143	01

**Source:** SCC

**1046-** In addition, some decisions of the SCC were appealed before the Specialized Division of the Supreme Court<sup>488</sup> that received 38 cases and delivered 19 decisions. These resulted in 14 convictions and 2 acquittals. Furthermore, the Division received 2 applications for release which were rejected.

**1047-** Likewise, the State claimed CFAF30,587,756,658<sup>489</sup> in 2015 and CFAF9,259,525 336,94<sup>490</sup> in 2014 from persons who misappropriated public property. Some CFAF552,588,642<sup>491</sup> were refunded in 2015 and

<sup>483</sup> About 1,526.2 Euros

<sup>484</sup> About 660.058.83 Euros

<sup>485</sup> About 13,475,094.36 Euros

<sup>486</sup> About 3,277,300, 20 Euros

<sup>487</sup> About 43,421,564, 93 Euros

<sup>488</sup> All information relating to corruption and misappropriation of public property are based on the decisions of the Specialized Division and the Inquiry Control Chamber of the Supreme Court.

<sup>489</sup> About 46,698,865.13 Euros

<sup>490</sup> About 14,136,679.90 Euros

<sup>491</sup> About 843 646, 78 Euros

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CFAF2,142,872,110 in 2014. The claim increased significantly by CFAF21,328,231,321<sup>492</sup>, representing an increase of 30% in 2015 compared to 2014 and the amount of money returned declined by CFAF1,590,283,468<sup>493</sup>, representing a rate of about 75% in 2015 compared to 2014.

**1048-** The Inquiry Control Chamber of the Specialized Division of the Supreme Court received 13 appeals concerning inquiry. Some 10 decisions were delivered: 3 matters were declared inadmissible while 7 were declared admissible.

**1049-** Other criminal courts also entertained litigations.

## B: Punishment by Other Courts

**1050-** Apart from the SCC and the Specialized Division of the Supreme Court, other ordinary courts took sanctions against authors of corruption and misappropriation of public property.

**1051-** Regarding misappropriation of public property, 263 Judicial Police investigations were opened, 72 cases were at the level of preliminary inquiry, 167 cases at the trial phase while 76 persons were convicted and 17 others acquitted.

**1052-** The amount claimed<sup>494</sup> before these courts is estimated at CFAF307,260,020<sup>495</sup>.

**1053-** In terms of corruption, 42 Judicial Police investigations were initiated, 3 files were at the level of preliminary inquiry, 21 cases were tried while 7 persons were convicted and 7 others acquitted.

<sup>492</sup> About 32,562,185.22 Euros

<sup>493</sup> About 2,427,913, 69 Euros

<sup>494</sup> The total sum of the misappropriation of public property revealed above concerns only 5 jurisdictions of Courts of Appeal (Courts of Appeal of Adamawa, Centre, East, Far North and the North Regions).

<sup>495</sup> About 469,099.27 Euros

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**1054-** Overall, in 2015, the State continued to promote good governance through actions aimed at consolidating public/private sector dialogue to improve the business environment, strengthening the supervision of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, enhancing participation in public offices through incentives to pay taxes, and improving public expenditure through the cleaning up of the payroll of the State, consolidation of transparency in public contracts and corruption control.

**1055-** Given that corruption is a scourge that undermines good governance, Government took measures to eradicate same notwithstanding some pockets of resistance.



**Chapter**

**3**

**DETENTION CONDITIONS**



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**1056-** In 2015, Government stepped up efforts in humanising the treatment of detainees. The significant increase in prison population required more efforts from the State to ensure the improvement of detention conditions. Emphasis was laid on strengthening the capacity of prison staff, construction of prison infrastructure, improvement of detention conditions and preparation of inmates for social reinsertion. To better monitor and evaluate these actions, controls and visits were carried out.

## SECTION 1: MAPPING PRISON POPULATION

**1057-** In 2015, the prison population was heterogeneous and can be analyzed through various criteria. The mapping of prison population involves giving statistics on awaiting trials and convicts, gender, the aged and the nationality of inmates. This population was not static throughout the year due to the dynamics of the prosecution of cases of detainees. The intensification of the fight against terrorism and armed robbery in the Far North, East and South West Regions led to a rise in the number of inmates in some prisons. This resulted in an increase in the number of persons remanded in prison custody.

### §1: Mapping of Awaiting trials and Convicts

**1058-** Overall, prison population statistics indicated that persons remanded in custody awaiting trial outnumbered convicts, with the notable exception of prisons in the North West (626 awaiting trials as against 827 convicts, about 43.08%) and the North (1,103 awaiting trials as against 1,669 convicts, about 39.8%) Regions. Therefore, out of 28,120 prisoners, 15,699 were remanded in custody awaiting trial, about 55.8% while 12,421 were convicts.

**1059-** Among persons remanded in custody, 13,675 were men, 431 women, 678 minors and 915 foreigners, while convicted persons comprised 11,414 men, 266 women, 145 minors and 596 foreigners. The fight against terrorism has led to a tremendous increase in the number of detainees in the Far North Region with about 800 detainees who are suspected members of the terrorist group Boko Haram registered in the Maroua Central Prison. The table below illustrates prison statistics by Region of pre-trial detentions and convicts.

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**Table 1: Prison Statistics by Region as at 31 December 2015**

No.	Region	Accommodation Capacity	Suspects	Convicts	Total	Occupancy rate (%)
1	Adamawa	1,070	970	802	1,772	165.6
2	Centre	4,270	4,719	2,411	7,130	166.9
3	East	1,475	801	702	1,503	101.8
4	Far North	1,970	1,902	1,753	3,655	185.5
5	Littoral	1,550	2,644	1,757	4,401	283.9
6	North	1,300	1,103	1,669	2,772	213.2
7	North West	1,650	626	827	1,453	88.1
8	West	2,720	1,324	1,108	2,432	89.4
9	South	1100	638	586	1,224	111.2
10	South West	1,010	972	806	1,778	176.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,815</b>	<b>15,699</b>	<b>12,421</b>	<b>28,120</b>	
<b>Average occupancy rate</b>						<b>157.8</b>

**Source:** DAPEN

## §2: Distribution of Detainees according to Gender, Age and Nationality

1060- Main specific categories in prisons in 2015 included women, minors and foreigners.

### A- Female Detainees

1061- A total of 697 female detainees were recorded amongst whom 266 convicts and 431 awaiting trials. The majority of female inmates was found in the Centre (266) and Littoral (104) Regions, while the least number of female inmates was found in the Adamawa (19), North (27) and East (28) Regions.

**Table 2: Women in Prison as at 31 December 2015**

No.	Region	Awaiting Trials	Convicts	Total	Percentage
1	Adamawa	13	6	19	2.7%
2	Centre	177	89	266	38.2%
3	East	11	17	28	4.01%
4	Far North	55	34	89	12.8%
5	Littoral	64	40	104	14.9%
6	North	15	12	27	3.9%
7	North West	11	23	34	4.9%

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No.	Region	Awaiting Trials	Convicts	Total	Percentage
8	West	38	19	57	8.2%
9	South	21	15	36	5.2%
10	South West	26	11	37	5.3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>431</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>697</b>	

**Source:** DAPEN

**1062-** The disturbing situation of female detainees with babies and pregnant inmates was observed in some prisons such as the Maroua Central Prison<sup>496</sup>. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that some female inmates with children refuse to hand them over to their families or benevolent persons as wished by prison authorities while some get into prison already pregnant.

## B- Imprisoned Minors

**1063-** Out of 823 minors imprisoned, only 145 were convicted while 678 were awaiting trial. Principles of juvenile justice which are centred on re-education, reducing recidivism and ensuring social reinsertion were major concerns of Government<sup>497</sup>. Imprisoned minors were unequally distributed in all the Regions, with the Centre having the highest number as indicated in the table below:

<sup>496</sup> On 25 April 2016, there were 23 children living with their detained mothers in the Maroua Central Prison

<sup>497</sup> See chapter on the Promotion and Protection of the Socially Vulnerable, Section on children in conflict with the law, §1156 and seq

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**Table 3: Imprisoned Minors as at 31 December 2015**

No.	Region	Awaiting Trials	Convicts	Total	Percentage
1	Adamawa	47	9	56	6.8%
2	Centre	223	28	251	30.5%
3	East	68	7	75	9.1%
4	Far North	69	12	81	9.8%
5	Littoral	41	13	54	6.6%
6	North	42	18	60	7.3%
7	North West	21	15	36	4.4%
8	West	75	19	94	11.4%
9	South	34	3	37	4.5%
10	South West	58	21	79	5.3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>678</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>823</b>	

Source: DAPEN

## C- Foreigners

**1064-** Apart from the peculiarity of women and minors, the situation of foreign detainees is of interest in the analysis of prison statistics. Foreigners constituted a significant proportion of detainees in some Cameroon prisons as seen from the statistics on Table 4 below.

**1065-** Foreign detainees were recorded in all Regions with 915 awaiting trials and 596 convicts. The largest number of foreign inmates was found in the Far North, East, North and South West Regions. This is due to the fact that these are zones where cross-border crimes have intensified lately. It is worth mentioning here that the rights of foreign detainees are respected. Each time a foreigner is detained, the first step taken by the prison authorities is to inform their respective consular officials. The reaction of these officials in most cases is positive as they endeavour to assist and take care of their nationals, while closely following up court proceedings thereof.

**1066-** A summary of the prison statistics as at 31 December 2015 is shown in the table below.

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**Table 4: Men, women, minors and foreigners in prisons as at 31 December 2015**

No.	Region	Accused				Convicts				Total
		Men	Women	Minors	Foreigners	Men	Women	Minors	Foreigners	
1	Adamawa	865	13	47	45	724	6	9	63	1,772
2	Centre	4,223	177	223	96	2,272	89	28	22	7,130
3	East	608	11	68	114	607	17	7	71	1,503
4	Far North	1,439	55	69	339	1,603	34	12	104	3,655
5	Littoral	2,477	64	41	62	1,669	40	13	35	4,401
6	North	948	15	42	98	1,457	12	18	182	2,772
7	North West	591	11	21	3	786	23	15	3	1,453
8	West	1,195	38	75	16	1,058	19	19	12	2,432
9	South	544	21	34	39	548	15	3	20	1,224
10	South West	785	26	58	103	690	11	21	84	1,778
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,675</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>11,414</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>596</b>	
<b>General Total</b>		<b>15,699</b>				<b>12,421</b>				<b>28,120</b>

**Source:** DAPEN

### §3: Controlling Prison Overcrowding

**1067-** During the Cabinet Meeting of 28 August 2015, the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals made a presentation on the implementation of the penitentiary policy in which he highlighted efforts that were made to humanise the treatment of detainees through the improvement of detention conditions. Pursuant to this presentation, the Prime Minister, Head of Government prescribed the decongestion of prisons and insisted on pushing forward necessary action in order to significantly reduce overcrowding in prisons.

**1068-** In the same light, during the Annual Meeting of Heads of Courts of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration held on 17 and 18 September 2015, the following were identified as causes of prison overcrowding:

- insufficient number of prisons, limited accommodation capacity, non-adaptability of prisons to international standards and insufficient equipment and transportation facilities for detainees;
- insufficient number of court halls and offices for judicial authorities;
- limited number of judicial and penitentiary staff; and

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- judicial delays due especially to procedural bottlenecks, (appeals against interlocutory judgments, preparing appeal proceedings and the management of panels for the hearing of cases).

**1069-** As solutions to the phenomenon of prison overcrowding, participants proposed the following:

- construction of new prisons and the rehabilitation of existing ones;
- construction, rehabilitation and equipment of court halls;
- review of certain provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code seen as the root cause of judicial delays;
- mastery by Magistrates of provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code relating to granting bail to accused persons, suspended sentences and release on licence;
- transfer of detainees from overcrowded prisons to less crowded ones;
- provision of more human resources in prisons and Courts; and
- improvement of the organisation of work.

**1070-** At the end of the meeting, the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, in a bid to reduce prison overcrowding gave the following directives:

- handling of criminal procedures within a reasonable time;
- training of Prison Registrars for a better management of penitentiary files;
- revamping *flagrant delicto* sessions which require immediate appearance of the suspects before Magistrates;
- monitoring of activities of Examining Magistrates by Presidents of Courts for better management of liberties of accused persons; and
- preparing forms on bail, stay of execution and release on licence by Heads of Court of Appeal, and the organisation by the latter of seminars on the mastery of the provisions of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code relating to these forms.

**1071-** One of the measures taken to improve working conditions in prisons was staff enhancement.

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## SECTION 2: STAFF ENHANCEMENT

**1072-** Staff enhancement was characterised by the increase in staff strength through recruitment, staff capacity building especially through training and the improvement of their working conditions.

### §1: Increase in Staff Strength

**1073-** Direct competitive entrance examinations for the recruitment of personnel into different grades of the Penitentiary Administration were organized in June 2015. Some 488 candidates were declared successful on 21 October 2015 and started training at the National School of Penitentiary Administration, Buea on 7 November 2015. The number of candidates recruited in 2015 increased by 183 from that of 2014 which stood at 305. These candidates included for the grade of Prison Administrators Category A: 1 civil engineer, 3 civil servants and 19 external non-specialists; for Prison Superintendents Category B: 10 nurses, 10 civil servants, and 40 external non-specialists; for Chief Warders Category C: 20 Nurse Aids, 10 civil servants, and 75 external non-specialists; while 300 candidates were admitted into the grade of warders Category D.

**1074-** The total number of penitentiary staff as at 31 December 2015 is presented in the tables below.

**Table 5: Penitentiary staff by grade as at 31 December 2015**

No.	Grades	Number
1	Prison Administrators	175
2	Prison Superintendents	390
3	Chief Warders	803
4	Warders	2,789
<b>Total number</b>		<b>4,157</b>

**Source:** DAPEN

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**Table 6: Specialised penitentiary staff as at 31 December 2015**

No.	Nature of staff	Number
1	Computer experts	4
2	Sports and Civic Education Teachers	10
3	Youth and Animation Counsellors	3
4	Social Welfare personnel (MINAS)	23
5	Engineers	5
6	Architects	1
7	Medical Doctors	23
8	Nurses	48
9	Nurse-Aids	119
10	Medico-Sanitary Laboratory Technicians	35
<b>Total Number</b>		<b>271</b>

**Source:** DAPEN

**1075-** The above staff reinforcement measures maintained the national warder/inmate ratio at 1:10 as in 2014<sup>498</sup>. However, the Baham Main Prison, Messamena, Buea Upper-Farms and Bavenga Secondary Prisons had a warder/inmate ratio of 1:2, while that of the Bazou and Djoum Secondary Prisons was 1:3. Overcrowded prisons such as the Garoua Central Prison and Kribi Main Prison had a warder/inmate ratio of 1:16, while that of the Douala Central Prison was estimated at 1:15.

## §2: Staff Capacity Building

**1076-** In a bid to assist Government in its continuous efforts to improve detention conditions, the Cameroon branch of the Italian NGO, *Associazione Centro Orientamento Educativo (COECAM)* otherwise known as the *Centre for Educative Orientation* in its "Project on the humanisation of detention conditions and the protection of the rights of detainees" (PPUE) in the Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Garoua and Mbalmayo prisons, organised training workshops which targeted Magistrates, Court Registrars, Penitentiary staff, auxiliaries of Justice and Judicial Police Officers. The trainings that took place in May and October 2015 permitted them to update and enhance their knowledge on criminal law, criminal procedure and human rights especially those of detainees.

<sup>498</sup> The ratio has not changed due to the increase in the number of detainees and the fact that some staff went on retirement.

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**1077-** Capacity building workshops were organised by UNICEF from 25 to 27 May 2015 and from 24 to 26 June 2015 in Maroua for stakeholders involved in the administration of juvenile justice and the protection of the rights of the child in the Far North Region. Participants included Magistrates, Social workers, Assessors, Probation Officers, Judicial Officers of the Police and Gendarmerie corps and Penitentiary Administration staff of the Far North Region. Some of the key papers were on “alternative measures to the detention of minors: principles and practical modalities and collaboration between stakeholders in order to accelerate procedures involving minors”<sup>499</sup>.

### §3: Staff Working Conditions

**1078-** The capacity building of prison staff was accompanied by the improvement of their working conditions. The following activities were carried out to improve the working conditions of Penitentiary Administration staff:

- construction of an administrative building at the Betare-Oya Secondary Prison;
- construction of an administrative building at the Bamenda Central Prison;
- purchase of 1,150 pairs of handcuffs;
- acquisition of 3 service vehicles for the Centre, North and Far North Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration; and
- acquisition of 9 service vehicles for Superintendents of the Douala, Bertoua, Maroua and Yaounde Central Prisons, the Tchollire II, Yaounde, Yoko and Yagoua Main Prisons.

**1079-** Notwithstanding the above efforts, there were still some challenges related to the regular provision of uniforms and the social security of prison staff especially as regards appropriate measures to handle occupational diseases or industrial accidents.

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<sup>499</sup> See chapter on Promotion and Protection of Socially Vulnerable persons, § 1120 - 1163.

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**1080-** Besides staff enhancement, Government embarked on the building of infrastructure in order to decongest prisons and improve detention conditions.

## SECTION 3: IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

**1081-** In a bid to improve prison infrastructure and decongest prisons, the State focused its strategy on construction, rehabilitation and equipment of prisons which had an impact on the treatment of inmates with dignity.

### §1: Building, Rehabilitation and Equipment of Prisons

**1082-** In 2015, the construction of new prisons and rehabilitation of old ones continued. In this regard, the Bali Secondary Prison<sup>500</sup> for example, was constructed. The following 7 prisons were rehabilitated: Edea, Wum, Kumbo, Dschang and Foumban Main Prisons, and Lomié and Buea Upper Farms Secondary Prisons. Some 19 generators were acquired for the Maroua, Ngaoundere, Bertoua, Ebolowa, Buea, Garoua and Bamenda Central Prisons, and Yoko, Tcholliré II, Monatélé, Nanga Eboko, Batouri, Bangangté, Sangmelima, Kribi and Nkongsamba Main Prisons. A grinding mill was acquired for the Mbalmayo Main Prison while 3 trucks for the transportation of detainees and 2 mini buses were obtained for the transportation of inmates in the Yaounde Central and Main Prisons, and the Yoko Main Prison. There was a little setback in infrastructure as the fire outbreak at the Douala Central Prison on 12 September 2015 engulfed 5 cells, a chapel and the main kitchen. However, all hopes were not lost for improvement as the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice in charge of Penitentiary Administration on 22 September 2015 during a visit to the said prison announced the construction of a building with 16 cells to sustainably solve the problem of inmates without cells or cells constructed with temporary material which was at the origin of the New Bell Prison fire incident. The fire also led to the death of one inmate while 4 others suffered second degree burns.

<sup>500</sup> The newly constructed prisons (Bali, Ntui, Ngoumou, Baham) respected international standards and effectively considered the rigorous separation of the different components of inmates; that is, adults from minors and women from men. Space was equally provided for education, training, handicraft and agro pastoral activities.

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## §2: Prison Intake Capacity and Occupation Rate

**1083-** The highest number of detainees was found in the Centre (7,130), Littoral (4,401) and Far North (3,655) Regions while the least number of inmates was found in the South (1,224) and the North West (1,453) Regions. The Centre Region had the highest accommodation capacity of 4,700 beds while the South Region (800 beds) and the South West Region (1,010beds) had the lowest.

**1084-** Prison overcrowding was still significant in the Yaounde and Douala Central Prisons with 4,149 inmates for 1,500 beds and 3,135 for 800 beds respectively. The Maroua Central Prison registered a significant increase in the number of detainees (1,516 inmates for 400 beds compared to 1,180 inmates for 400 beds in 2014. This was due to the intensification in the fight against insecurity in the Far North Region that led to the arrest and detention of several suspects and *Boko Haram* fighters that constituted a total of 990 detainees. The Main Prison, Yoko with a capacity of 500 beds had only 77 inmates since it hosts only convicts. Some newly set up prisons like Bandjoun, Touboro, Bali, Batibo, Bengbis, Mundemba, Menji, Tombel, Mbankomo and Bangem were still to go operational. As soon as these prisons become operational, prison overcrowding should reduce.

**1085-** The building of infrastructure was to improve the living conditions in prisons.

## SECTION 4: IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN PRISONS

**1086-** To humanise the treatment of inmates, their feeding and health coverage were guaranteed. Socio-cultural activities were equally carried out as indicated in the previous Report<sup>501</sup>.

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<sup>501</sup> See 2014 Report, § 830

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## §1: Feeding of Prisoners

**1087-** Just like the preceding year, the budget allocated for feeding of prisoners increased. The budget for 2015 stood at CFAF2,747,520,000<sup>502</sup> as against CFAF2,313,799,000<sup>503</sup> in 2014. The increase raised the general average rate per detainee per day to CFAF313<sup>504</sup> compared to CFAF 236<sup>505</sup> FCFA in 2014. However, reports from all prisons indicated that this package remained very insufficient especially coupled with persistent increase in prices of foodstuff.

**1088-** It is important to note here that the high degree of insecurity registered in the Far North Region of Cameroon as a result of terrorist attacks has led to drastic drops in food production and importation especially from neighbouring Nigeria. This phenomenon resulted in a sharp increase in the prices of food items while the budget for feeding of prisoners has not increased commensurately.

**1089-** After the fire accident that consumed some cells of the Douala Central Prison, the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice in charge of Penitentiary Administration in synergy with the Cameroon branch of the Italian NGO, COECAM offered 50 bags of rice alongside 700 mats, 100 mattresses and 15 cartons of laundry soap to the inmates. Such gestures to improve on the feeding of detainees were registered in most prisons during the visits of NGOs and the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms.

**1090-** Feeding concerns were carried out alongside measures that were taken to enhance the health of inmates and treat the sick.

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<sup>502</sup> About 4,194,687 Euros

<sup>503</sup> About 3,532,517 Euros

<sup>504</sup> About 0.5 Euros

<sup>505</sup> About 0.4 Euros

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## §2: Health Coverage

**1091-** A slight improvement was noticed in 2015 in the health coverage of prisoners. Even though the budget allocated for the health of prisoners in 2015 stood at CFAF157,740,000<sup>506</sup> same as that of 2014, the annual rate per detainee increased from CFAF6,235 to CFAF6,572<sup>507</sup>, due to the reduction in the number of sick detainees. New infirmaries were established and equipped, and trained nurses appointed in Central Prisons. The total number of medico-sanitary staff in 2015 stood at 225 distributed as follows: 23 doctors, 48 nurses, 119 nurse's aides and 35 medical laboratory technicians. These staff monitored the health of persons remanded in custody, with a doctor/detainee ratio of 1:1,160, nurse/detainee ratio of 1:557, nurse aid/detainee ratio of 1:225 and assistant laboratory technician/detainee ratio of 1:762.

**1092-** The Kaele Main Prison received a stock of drugs from the *Justice and Peace Commission, CODAS CARITAS Committee*<sup>508</sup>. The drugs increased the stock available for inmates.

**1093-** The committee's available statistics on transmissible diseases in 2015 indicate that out of 5,246 (19%) detainees screened for HIV/AIDS, 736 (14.02%) tested positive with a total of 2,458 inmates living with HIV/AIDS while 292 (11.87%) of them were under antiretroviral drugs. As concerns tuberculosis, 851 suspected cases were registered with 490 of them testing positive amongst whom 415 were under treatment. Cases of sexually transmissible diseases went up to 811. Key non-transmissible illnesses recorded included the following: Malaria (12,233 cases), scabies (5,982 cases), respiratory infection (4,623 cases), skin and testicular mycosis (4,106 cases), diabetes (176 cases) and mental disorders (114 cases). It is worth mentioning here that serious health cases are generally referred to public hospitals. Unfortunately, due to insufficient

<sup>506</sup> About 240,824 Euros

<sup>507</sup> About 10 Euros

<sup>508</sup> This is a Committee of the Catholic Church implanted in the Yagoua Diocese the objective of which is the integral development of man according to the social doctrine of the Catholic Church.

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financial resources to take care of referred sick inmates in hospital by the State, the resulting bills are incurred by the inmates, their families or charitable organisations.

**1094-** A total of 184 deaths were registered with 36 cases as a result of non-detected illnesses. Other deaths emanated from infectious syndrome, anaemia, heart failure, lung infections amongst others.

## **§3: Leisure and Socio-Cultural Activities**

**1095-** In order to relax and relieve themselves from detention stress, inmates participated in socio-cultural activities such as sports (football, volleyball, table tennis, handball), choral singing, dance competitions and other games such as cards. Church or religious activities were equally carried out with the respect of the different religious beliefs of inmates. Socio-cultural activities were generally carried out under the guidance and supervision of social welfare officials that remained very limited in number. It should be noted that the stigmatisation of detainees in some regions has greatly limited the scope of socio-cultural activities in prisons as several people hardly ever want to have anything to do with prisoners. The actions of CSOs could go a long way in curbing this problem which is limited and even absent in most prisons.

## **§4: Hygiene and sanitation**

**1096-** Most prisons have pipe borne water and/or bore holes, even though some are in a highly dilapidating state. Some prisons especially secondary prisons lack appropriate toilet facilities and a proper sewage disposal system. The existing toilets and sewage disposal systems in most cases are obsolete and require serious and urgent rehabilitation.

**1097-** In order to improve detention conditions, electric energy (Eneo network) was connected to the Ngoumou, Ntui and Djoum prisons.

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**1098-** COECAM within their PPUE programme in Mbalmayo, Yaounde, Douala, Garoua and Bafoussam cleaned and disinfected prisons in these towns. They further contributed to the institution of weekly clean-up campaigns in prisons.

**1099-** In spite of the above efforts, hygiene and sanitation of inmates remain a major concern as water is generally not enough due to constant water shortage and very low water capacity of available boreholes.

## SECTION 5: SOCIAL REINSERTION

**1100-** In a bid to ensure the social reinsertion of detainees, education and training in production activities were carried out.

### §1: Training in Production Activities

**1101-** As in the previous years, emphasis was laid on training in production activities such as the manufacture of bags, craft works, sewing, manufacture of jewelleryes, agriculture and animal husbandry. In this domain, *CODAS CARITAS* trained inmates of the Kaele Main Prison in tailoring, weaving, reading and writing.

### §2: Education

**1102-** Although most prisons lack educational facilities, in the Maroua and Yaounde Central Prisons education was compulsory for all minors while a few others provided formal learning facilities and registered candidates for official examinations in 2015. The Yaounde Central Prison had 125 minors in class 1 (SIL), 4 in class 6 (CM2) with a success rate of 50% at the FSLC, 3 out of 4 succeeded in the *Probatoire* examinations, 1 out of 3 passed the GCE Ordinary Level and 3 passed the GCE Advanced Level; the Douala Central Prison had 52 students, 2 benevolent teachers and registered 3 candidates at the official examinations with a success rate of 33.33%. Other prisons with formal education facilities included: the Bamenda Central Prison that had 40 students and 6

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teachers (5 from the Higher Teacher Training College), the Buea Central Prison that had 18 students, the Sangmelima Main Prison with 5 students and 100% score at the FSLC examinations, the Kribi Main Prison that had 2 students and a 50% score in official exams, the Garoua Central Prison which had 69 students, the Mokolo, Mora and Kaele Main Prisons. Apart from the Bamenda Central Prison that benefited from the services of trained teachers from the Higher Teacher Training College, the existing schools functioned with the help of other benevolent inmates.

**1103-** It must be noted here that social reinsertion activities are not always easily implemented as a result of societal stigmatisation of inmates. Most people including family members of detainees hardly want to have anything to do with them.

**1104-** From what precedes, it is important to indicate that more efforts could still be made to post qualified teachers, youth and animation counsellors, social workers and other professionals for the education, leisure, socio-cultural guidance and social reinsertion of inmates.

**1105-** In order to evaluate the significance of these actions and detention conditions in general, control missions and visits to prisons were carried out by different stakeholders.

## SECTION 6: CHECKS AND VISITS TO PRISONS

**1106-** In principle, control activities in prisons are supposed to be carried out regularly by the State Counsel which is the judicial control and some officials from the Ministry of Justice which is administrative control. To strengthen the control mechanism of detention facilities, a reflection was carried out on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention in relation with the institution of a National Preventive Mechanism.

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## §1: Judicial and Administrative Controls

### A: Judicial Supervision

**1107-** After the numerous checks carried out in the Central Prison, Yaounde by the State Counsel's chambers of the Court of First Instance, Yaounde, Centre Administratif amongst others, as well as multiple complaints received by the State Counsel, it was noticed that numerous convicts remained in prison despite the fact that they had fully served their prison terms. This unfortunate situation that resulted from administrative bottlenecks and bureaucracy constituted illegal detention. Some 54 convicts were released from the Central Prison, Yaounde on 23 December 2015 under the instructions of the State Counsel, since they had already served their prison terms. It appeared that about 250 inmates in this prison were supposed to have been released. Investigations were then opened to identify persons who had fulfilled all conditions to be released but were still detained. The table below shows the number of controls carried in some prisons.

**Table 7: No. of controls carried out in prisons in 2014 and 2015**

N°	PRISONS	2014	2015
1	Bafoussam Central Prison	4	4
2	Bamenda Central Prison	3	3
3	Bertoua Central Prison	4	3
4	Buea Central Prison	2	2
5	Douala Central Prison	1	2
6	Ebolowa Central Prison	3	4
7	Garoua Central Prison	4	4
8	Maroua Central Prison	4	4
9	Ngaoundere Central Prison	4	4
10	Yaounde Central Prison	1	2
11	Yaounde Main Prison	0	0

**Source:** DAPEN

**1108-** From what precedes, it is obvious that there is need to multiply controls of prisons to prevent some of the above-mentioned irregularities resulting in the violation of the rights of detainees.

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## B: Administrative Supervision

**1109-** The Inspectorate General of Penitentiary Administration carried out controls in penitentiary centres as follows:

- Yaounde Central Prison from 14 to 22 July 2015;
- Mbalmayo and Ngoumou Main Prisons from 13 to 16 August 2015; and
- Bafia, Monatele and Sa` a Main Prisons from 4 to 13 August 2015.

**1110-** At the end of the control mission in the Yaounde Central Prison, 75 inmates were transferred to other prisons of the Centre Region to decongest this detention centre whereas about 50 others unduly detained after serving their prison term were released following the instructions of the Procureur General. The control of the Yaounde Central Prison equally brought to the limelight cases concerning inmates whose report of the court hearing were being awaited to update their files at the level of the prison registry and inmates who claimed to have completed their prison terms but were still in detention. The matter was referred to the Legal Department for appropriate action and detainees concerned were later freed.

## C: Implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture

**1111-** A workshop in view of the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) was organized by MINJUSTICE in Yaounde on 17 December 2015. Participants included stakeholders from other Ministries, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, NGOs and the forces of law and order. The main objective was to reflect on a National Preventive Mechanism against Torture in places of detention in Cameroon. Such a preventive mechanism provided for in OPCAT aims at establishing a system of regular visits undertaken by independent international and national bodies to detention places, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It was indicated during this workshop that most CSOs complain of difficult access to

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prisons since the prior authorization of the Minister of Justice is required. According to the CSOs, the procedure to obtain this authorization is not only cumbersome but slow. At the end of the workshop, participants overwhelmingly proposed the creation of an independent mechanism for the prevention of torture in places of detention in Cameroon.

## §2: Visits by the DDHCI, NCHRF and NGOs

**1112-** As part of its mandate to monitor and evaluate Human Rights in the country, officials of the Department of Human Rights and International Co-operation (DDHCI) carried out visits to prisons in the country, alongside visits by the NCHRF and some NGOs.

### A: Visits by the DDHCI

**1113-** Officials and staff of the DDHCI of MINJUSTICE visited detention centres in all regional headquarters. These visits enabled them to appreciate first-hand detention conditions. At the end of the visits, suggestions on the improvement of detention conditions were forwarded to hierarchy, some of them being:

- multiplication of alternative measures to the imprisonment of minors;
- separation of convicts from awaiting trials;
- enhancement of the airing and lighting systems in prisons;
- regular capacity development of penitentiary staff on Human Rights;
- computerisation of prison registries for the efficient management of detainees' files;
- improvement of sleeping facilities in prisons; and
- regular disinfection of prisons.

### B: Visits by NCHRF

**1114-** The NCHRF carried out visits to some prisons in 2015. The Commission visited the Douala Central Prison and the Sangmelima Main Prison in December 2015. In its Report after these visits, the NCHRF observed general problems such as prison overcrowding, insufficient

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feeding and health coverage. It highlighted the non-respect of the right to fair trial marked by slow judicial proceedings, insufficient prison staff and the non-respect of economic, social and cultural rights of detainees. Besides, members of the NCHRF visited other detention structures such as police and gendarmerie cells. The main objective of the visits was to evaluate the general detention conditions in line with the treatment in a dignified manner of persons remanded in custody.

**1115-** The Commission, however, observed a significant improvement in the management of detention cells by the competent authorities and went forward to offer rice, laundry soap and other basic necessities to inmates.

## C: Visits by NGOs

**1116-** Apart from the NCHRF, NGOs like the Cameroon branch of the Italian NGO COECAM embarked on a project of the humanization of detention conditions and the protection of Human Rights of detainees in prisons in Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Garoua and Mbalmayo. This Campaign which effectively started on 12 June 2015 in the Yaounde Central Prison aimed at sensitizing the population to have better consideration for detainees, assist them to benefit from legal aid and encourage the training of detainees especially minors and women. COECAM went ahead to encourage activities such as the cleaning and disinfection of prison environments. This NGO instituted the clean-up campaign, sports and leisure days in prisons with the objective of presenting the detainees as persons capable of doing positive things in the society. This project was co-financed by COECAM and the European Union. Visits carried out by church authorities equally comforted and consoled inmates as was the case with the thanksgiving mass celebrated in the Central Prison, Yaounde by the representative of the Archbishop of Yaounde on 25 October 2015. The visit was an opportunity for inmates to channel their grievances which centred on improving detention conditions, acceleration of judicial and administrative procedures and the improvement of release from prison procedures. On 24 December 2015, the Archbishop of Douala also visited and celebrated a thanksgiving mass in the Central Prison, Douala.

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**1117-** The Justice and Peace Commission of the Roman Catholic Church also visited some prisons in the North West and West Regions while the High Commissioner for Refugees in Yaounde visited some Prisons in the East Region.

**1118-** Despite consistent efforts made by Government with the support of its partners to improve detention conditions in Cameroon, much remains to be done to align feeding, health, hygiene and sanitation in prisons with international standards. Prison overcrowding, enhancement of prison staff, acquisition of transport logistics and the availability of water and electricity still remain major issues to be handled by competent authorities. The concentration of detainees remanded in prison custody following terrorist activities in some prisons in the Far North Region presents further insecurity risks. It was observed that these detainees become more radical while in prison, as they preach violence as a means of achieving their objectives and try to get more followers. Therefore, appropriate action needs to be taken to tackle radicalization and rioting in these prisons. It is hoped that the completion and effective functioning of newly set up prisons will go a long way to reduce overcrowding in prisons.



**Chapter**

**4**

**PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF THE  
RIGHTS OF SOCIALLY  
VULNERABLE PERSONS**



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**1119-** In 2015, Government continued to promote and protect the rights of socially vulnerable persons comprising children, persons with disability, elderly and indigenous peoples.

## SECTION 1: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

**1120-** With respect to the promotion and protection of children's rights, this section focuses on civil rights and freedoms, protection of children against violence and special protection measures to enhance the rights of this vulnerable group while children's right to education and right to health are discussed in relevant chapters.

### §1: Civil Rights and Freedoms

**1121-** The promotion and protection of Children's civil rights and freedoms was centred on citizenship, participation non-discrimination and alternative care.

#### A: Right to Citizenship

**1122-** The population has often faced challenges in obtaining civil status certificates due to shortcomings in the civil status registration system, for instance, insufficient qualified staff, documentation errors, short supply of civil status registers and poor keeping of archives. These problems coupled with the negligence of parents and some hospitals in referring to competent authorities had an impact on the issuance of birth certificates. This led to a good number of children of school-going age not having same. Government was thus prompted through the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD) to continue to modernize the Civil Status Registration system.

**1123-** An important step in this modernization effort was a target of 6,000 civil status registrars and secretaries of civil status services to be trained in 2015. The first of these training seminars was launched by the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization on 21 September 2015 in Yaounde.

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**1124-** At the institutional level, the Board Chair, the General Manager and the Assistant General Manager of the National Civil Status Office (BUNEC) were appointed and installed by the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization in 2015.

**1125-** Actions of some Civil Society Organizations are worth mentioning. In an effort to resolve the plight of children of school-going age without birth certificates, Women's Peace Initiatives, an NGO, helped some 1,706 of the 27,000 of such children in the Littoral Region to obtain the said birth certificates. The NGO worked with Basic Education Inspectors, Headmasters and Headmistresses of primary schools and nurseries, and Parents/Teachers Association (PTA) in collaboration with the Douala V Council to design a simplified process for issuing the said documents. The process which entailed taking the lists of children with no birth certificates to the President of the Court of Appeal, Littoral Region who signed a memo requesting stakeholders to facilitate the issuance of the documents, effectively took place from 11 to 15 June 2015.

## B: Participation

**1126-** It is the child's right to be involved in decisions on critical issues especially when such issues concern them. In 2015, this principle was guaranteed through the organization of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Children's Parliament with all the 180 junior parliamentarians from the 10 Regions attending especially during the question and answer phase with Government Ministers. The Session coincided with the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Day of the Child under the theme: *"25 years after the adoption of the African Charter and the welfare of the child: let us accelerate our efforts to eliminate child marriages in Africa"*.

## C: Non-Discrimination

**1127-** The principle of non-discrimination requires that all children be treated on the same basis irrespective of the child or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, ethnic colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, and social origin, fortune birth or other status.

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An instance where this principle was applied is in Judgment No. 7/DL of 16 October 2015 of the Court of Appeal, South Region. In this case, the inheritance of children was challenged by their siblings of the same father on grounds that they were illegitimate children.

**1128-** The Court of Appeal in applying article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that all actions or decisions taken must be for the best interest of the child, considered that “...*in the instant case, the higher interest of the children requires that their affiliation with respect to their father be recognized and that they benefit from the legal effects ensuing thereof...*”. The Court thus declared the children co-heirs of their late father.

## D: Alternative Care: Adoption

**1129-** The process of adoption is carried out in the best interest of the child. In 2015, within the jurisdiction of Courts of Appeal in the country with the exception of the Far North Region, 281 applications were granted to nationals seeking to adopt children while 54 applications were granted to foreigners.

## §2: Protection of Children against Violence and Exploitation

**1130-** Physical or mental violence on children such as early and forced marriages especially of young girls, child labour and trafficking in children were important items on Government agenda and the courts applied repressive measures on perpetrators of violence on children.

## A: Early and Forced Marriages

**1131-** Government through MINPROFF lobbied local administrative and municipal authorities and raised the awareness of traditional and religious leaders in the Far North Region<sup>509</sup> and Mfoundi Division on the negative

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<sup>509</sup> See chapter on Promotion and Protection of Women’s Rights.

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effect of harmful traditional practices especially early and forced marriages of young girls.

**1132-** Also MINPROFF organized forums in the Mfoundi Division in 2015 to raise the awareness of 800 adolescents and parents on the economic autonomy of girls and on how to abandon socio-cultural practices harmful to the girl child. Also, 27,985 families were sensitized on the respect of the rights of the child.

**1133-** Furthermore, during the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Day of the Child which coincided with the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Children's Parliament, the junior parliamentarians addressed the crucial issue of early marriages of girls during oral questions with members of Government. The Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family used the occasion to sensitize them on early and forced marriages and progress made by Government on the issue. The junior parliamentarians expressed their wish to see the minimum age of marriage set at 18 years for both boys and girls contrary to 15 for the girls and 18 for boys as is the case.

## **B: Reducing Child Labour**

**1134-** A survey of the National Institute of Statistics in 2010 indicates that about 2,000,000 children between the ages of 5 and 17 are exploited in the agricultural, fishing and mining sectors notably in the rural areas. Thus, Government continued to reinforce the capacity of stakeholders on the fight against child labour in 2015. From 8 to 10 April 2015 under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS), for instance, a training workshop to develop the capacities of members of the National Committee against Child Labour was organized in Yaounde. Participants from the administration, workers' unions and CSOs were drilled for 2 days by experts from MINTSS, and the International Labour Office on techniques to fight child labour and to propose concrete measures to Government to eradicate the phenomenon.

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**1135-** Members of the Committee met on 18 December 2015 to examine the implementation of the recommendations of the workshop and set new guidelines for the practical implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst forms of Child Labour (PANETEC). At the end of the meeting, participants recommended that PANETEC be adopted by Government after proofreading, and Cameroon implement the basics of social protection while defining their contents.

**1136-** According to UNICEF, about 50% of Cameroonians are less than 18 years of age and are the major consumers of goods and services yet the activities of some companies violate their rights. This was the focus of a workshop organized by UNICEF on 26 October 2015 in Douala in collaboration with Global Compact and Save the Children during which companies were urged to consider children's rights in their activities. UNICEF and the above NGOs came up with 10 rules dubbed, "Children's Rights Business Principles," by which they encouraged companies to consider children's rights when drawing up policies on corporate social responsibility.

**1137-** Similarly, UNICEF published a 4-year advocacy plan for children and women in Cameroon, entitled "*Advocacy for Women and Children of Cameroon: UNICEF 2013-2017*". The 36 page document largely pictorial outlines intended outcomes from 2013-2017 in 7 priority areas notably child protection and social inclusion, education, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, health, water and HIV/AIDS. Its aim is to highlight challenges and appeal to the national and international community on the need to address them in order to allow children and women in Cameroon to fully enjoy their rights to development without restrictions.

**1138-** Furthermore, the National Communication Council organized a national seminar on 1 and 2 September 2015 in Yaounde on the theme: Child Protection in the Media. Taking part at the seminar were junior parliamentarians, educators, journalists and CSOs. Recommendations of the participants included the drafting of a guide for child protection in the media in Cameroon by the Council.

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## C: Controlling Child Trafficking

**1139-** Government's focus was on capacity building of stakeholders in charge of fighting the phenomenon of trafficking in children and on carrying out repressive measures. In this wise, the Regional Task Force on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons in the North West Region attended a capacity building seminar organized in Bamenda from 2 to 4 September 2015 within the framework of the Project to fight trafficking in persons in 5 countries<sup>510</sup> in the Gulf of Guinea, funded by the French Cooperation. In order to meet the challenges related to the cross-border dimension of trafficking in persons and experience sharing, Judicial and Legal Officers and Investigators from Cameroon and Benin visited the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons of Nigeria in September 2015.

**1140-** All these concerted actions produced results at the repressive level with the courts registering 23 cases. Eleven of the cases are pending before the trial courts and 5 persons convicted, 2 acquitted and 5 were at the level of preliminary inquiry in 2015.

**1141-** Some Civil Society Organizations also contributed to the fight against this scourge. In this light, *Nkumu Fed Fed*, a women's based NGO working in the fight against trafficking in persons carried out activities amongst which bringing back to Cameroon victims of international trafficking, sensitization and rehabilitation of victims. Between June and July 2015, *Nkumu Fed Fed* working with foreign embassies brought back to Cameroon, 33 young girls trafficked to Eastern Europe and Asian countries for purposes of exploitation as domestic servants and sexual abuse. Moreover, the said NGO with the support of African Women's Development Fund, established a Human Rights Advocacy Centre in Bamenda in November 2015 for the training and psychosocial care of girls withdrawn from international human trafficking. Hence, 8 victims of trafficking and 33 vulnerable children were trained on ICTs at the Centre.

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<sup>510</sup> Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Benin

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**1142-** Action by *Association Enfants Jeunes et Avenir* (ASSEJA) can also be highlighted. This organisation has rehabilitated/reinserted 90% out of identified 180 child victims of trafficking and slavery; that is, 164 children (128 girls and 36 boys). These children were trained in auto mechanics, welding, electricity and sewing in Maroua (47), Bamenda (27), Bertoua (53) and Yaounde (37).

## D: Repressive Measures on violent Offences against Children

**1143-** Statistics<sup>511</sup> from some courts<sup>512</sup> in the country indicated that about 1,648 children (335 boys and 1,313 girls) were victims of violence and other related offences<sup>513</sup> in 2015 and about 3,532 persons were convicted for these offences. The offence with the highest number of children victims was indecency to child under 16 with 840 cases followed by rape with 221 children as victims. The offence with the least number of children as victims was torture with 1 victim, followed by assault occasioning death and false arrest with 7 victims each.

### §3: Special Protection Measures

**1144-** Government and partners took special protection measures to curb the phenomenon of street children and children in conflict with the law in 2015.

#### A: Curbing the Phenomenon of Street Children

**1145-** In 2015, Government continued fighting the phenomenon of street children. The Regional Delegations of Social Affairs for the Littoral and Centre Regions, for example, designed activities to be carried out by the Mobile Mixed Brigades of Street Children (B2MEDR) in Yaounde and Douala. These activities included capacity development of social workers, identification and reintegration of street children.

<sup>511</sup> Statistics exclude men and female victims of violent offences and take into consideration only child victims.

<sup>512</sup> Courts of First Instance, High Courts and Courts of Appeal.

<sup>513</sup> Rape, indecency to child under 16, murder, unintentional homicide, kidnapping of minor, kidnapping by fraud or violence, trafficking in children, simple harm etc.

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## 1) Capacity Development of Social Workers

**1146-** In 2015, MINAS organized 4 workshops as planned in Yaounde and Douala aimed at either building the capacities of social workers of B2MEDR or mobilizing the community to draft a life project for street children. At the end of these workshops, recommendations were geared towards building the capacities of social workers in councils in order to support street children and providing resources for micro projects in support of street children who have been reintegrated.

## 2) Identification of Street Children and their Location

**1147-** The B2MEDR target was to identify the number of street children, their location and the holding of educative talks with the said children.

**1148-** For the identification of street children in Yaounde and Douala, the target was 300; that is, 150 in Yaounde and 150 in Douala. A total of 295 were effectively identified; that is, 144 in Yaounde and 151 in Douala, giving a 98.33 % success rate as at 31 December 2015. At least 24 sites usually occupied by street children were to be identified; that is, 10 in Yaounde and 14 in Douala. As at 31 December 2015, 45 sites were effectively identified, 14 in Yaounde and 31 in Douala, giving a success rate of 225%.

**1149-** In 2015, Government envisaged at least 50 sessions of educative discussions with street children in Yaounde and 45 in Douala. At the end of these discussions, 138 sessions were carried out, 84 in Douala and 54 in Yaounde, giving an achievement rate of about 113.68%.

## 3) Reintegration of Street Children

**1150-** Reintegration focused on reuniting street children with their families and support by institutions of re-education.

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## a) Reuniting Children in their Families

**1151-** The target of the Government was to search for at least 50 families of street children in Yaounde and Douala. As at 31 December 2015, 96 families were found, 28 in Yaounde and 68 in Douala representing a success rate of 96%. A total of 83 street children were reintegrated into their families, 55 in Douala and 28 in Yaounde from a target of 100 representing a score of 83%. Also, the B2MEDR targeted at least 120 street children to be monitored by social workers; that is, 60 in Yaounde and 60 in Douala. As at 31 December 2015, B2MEDR achieved more than the target; 118 former and new street children returned to families were regularly monitored by social workers in Yaounde (50 children) and Douala (68 children). Social workers from MINAS monitored the relationship between the children and their parents and got teachers in public schools to pay special attention to these children.

## b) Support of Street Children by Re-education Institutions

**1152-** Government aimed at placing in re-education centres in Douala and Yaounde at least 10 street children in each town in 2015. At the end of the year, 26 street children were placed in re-education centres in the two towns, 14 in "Foyer de l'Espérance" in Yaounde and 12 in Douala, giving a 130% achievement rate.

## B: Juvenile Justice

**1153-** The main goal of juvenile justice is the re-education/rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. Statistics from DAPEN indicated that 823 minors were in prison in 2015<sup>514</sup>. Of this number, awaiting trials were higher (678) than convicts (145).

**1154-** Moreover Statistics indicated that in 2015 only 18 minors were placed in public institutions supervising and rehabilitating these children as shown in the table below.

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<sup>514</sup> In 2014, there were 793 minors in the prisons

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**Table 1: Synoptic presentation of Public Institutions supervising and rehabilitating socially vulnerable minors**

No	Name	Region	Town	Number of minors Supervised in 2015	Number of Judicial Placement in 2015	Accommodation	Seating / operational beds
1	<i>Institution Camerounaise de l'Enfance (ICE) de Betamba</i>	Centre	Bétamba (Ntui)	21	0	120	50
2	<i>Centre d'Accueil des Mineurs (CAM) de Bertoua</i>	Est	Bertoua	11	8	40	40
3	<i>Institution Camerounaise de l'Enfance (ICE) de Maroua</i>	Far-North	Maroua	22	3	60	60
4	<i>Centre d'Accueil et d'observation (CAO) de Bepanda</i>	Littoral	Douala	41	0	120	120
5	<i>Homme-Ateliers de Bali</i>	Littoral	Douala	142	0	180	/
6	<i>Centre d'Accueil et d'observation (CAO) de Bafoussam</i>	Ouest	Bafoussam	24	3	46	24
7	Borstal Institute	South-West	Buea	28	4	120	65

**Source:** MINAS

**1155-** The relatively low number of placements of minors in rehabilitation centres sends a strong signal to stakeholders in the juvenile justice system regarding the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment.

**1156-** Government therefore, through MINAS and its partners especially UNICEF, organized workshops to discuss alternatives to imprisonment of minors and the administration of juvenile justice.

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**1157-** In November 2015, MINAS organized a workshop on the evaluation of the implementation of sections 700 to 745<sup>515</sup> of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) relating to juvenile justice. The main objective of the workshop was to ensure the application of the above provisions of the CPC by the courts to avoid increase in the number of minors in prisons. Stakeholders representing the administration, NGOs and CSOs also discussed instances where minors are remanded in custody for minor offences. The stakeholders recommended that alternative measures to imprisonment such as probation, community service and judicial review be explored.

**1158-** They further called on MINPROFF to raise awareness on parents' responsibility and involve them in the process of re-integration of their children and recommended among others that MINAS construct new centres for re-education, and rehabilitate existing ones.

**1159-** Also, within the framework of improving the living conditions of minors in prisons, MINAS held a seminar at the Conference Centre, Yaounde on 12 May 2015. Participants at the seminar adopted a draft of 3 Circulars relating to the allocation of Social Welfare Services in the Courts, the Penitentiary Administration and Police Stations.

**1160-** In the same vein was launched in Bamenda on 9 April 2015, the project *"Juvenile Justice Reform: Diversion; Alternatives to detention; humane incarceration and reintegration of children in Bamenda"* funded by the European Union and executed by the Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy (CHRAPA), in partnership with Health Development Consultancy Services and the Bamenda City Council. This project with a life span of 2 years has as objective increasing the protection of children-in-conflict-with-the-law in Bamenda during pre-trial, at trial, incarceration and post incarceration to give such children a chance to be reformed instead of being imprisoned.

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<sup>515</sup> Sections 700 to 745 deal with the prosecution and trial of minors.

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**1161-** Activities carried out within the context of the project included seminars organized in Bamenda between May and August 2015 for Social workers, NGOs, Police, Gendarme officials, penitentiary officers, magistrates, lawyers and traditional authorities. Furthermore, legal representation was provided to children and in cases of minor offences discussions were held with victims which led to the withdrawal of cases from Court. Between April and December 2015 the project succeeded in having 40 children acquitted, 20 released on bail during trial, 2 sent to the Borstal Institute in Buea. A major challenge faced in the execution of the Project was that there was a centre in Bamenda where children could be rehabilitated after leaving prison so that they do not get involved again in crime commission. Consequently 6 children released were rearrested for offences.

**1162-** To strengthen the juvenile justice system, the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with UNICEF organized 2 workshops from 25 to 27 May 2015 and from 24 to 26 June 2015 in Maroua to build the capacity of stakeholders on juvenile justice in the Far North Region. Topics discussed at the workshops included: *the specificities of juvenile justice; the protection of children in conflict with the law under Cameroon Legislation, the treatment of children in conflict with the law; the chain of action and the role of stakeholders* amongst others. At the end of these workshops, stakeholders recommended the need to build the capacity of stakeholders in the juvenile justice system; the dissemination of legal instruments on children's rights amongst stakeholders in the juvenile justice system and enhancing their effective implementation, and strengthening the capacities of stakeholders in the chain of Juvenile Justice through intersector training by professional bodies: police, gendarmerie and the Judiciary.

**1163-** Apart from the foregoing, Government equally focused on promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disability.

## SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

**1164-** In 2015, Government and its partners continued to promote and protect the rights of persons with disability. Through this partnership, in-

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clusive education, socio-economic empowerment, health projects, awareness raising and participation in leisure activities were carried out.

## §1: Inclusive Education

**1165-** In 2015, the accessibility of students with disability to education was guaranteed. As such, 4,083 students with disability were admitted in public schools representing 0.19% of the 2,108,279 students in both Public General and Technical Education as indicated in the table below.

**Table 2: Number of Students with Disability**

Region	Girls	Boys	Total
Adamawa	52	84	136
Centre	229	274	503
East	34	67	101
Far-North	163	330	493
Littoral	264	278	542
North	116	176	292
North-West	273	256	529
South	144	233	377
South-West	220	342	562
West	274	274	548
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>4,083</b>

**Source:** MINESEC

**1166-** At the Government High School, Nkol-Eton, Yaounde, for instance, 2 blind students, 2 students on wheelchairs and over 30 deaf and dumb students, studying alongside other students were admitted. The blind students copied their notes in Braille and their examination papers were translated from Braille before being corrected. Students with disability are exempted from fees or any other obligatory payment. Although these students had little or no major problems in the school milieu, the deaf and the dumb faced difficulties in studying because of lack of sign language teachers. However, the Department of Examinations and Certification (DECC) in the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC) urged those in charge of organizing Official Exams to always indicate these difficulties so that they could be taken into consideration when organizing official

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examinations. Teachers on their part are advised to stand in front of the classroom when giving lectures so that these students can understand and take down notes from the reading of their lips.

**1167-** Also, SHILO, a private Inclusive Bilingual Teacher Training Institute, opened in September 2014 continued to train teachers to cater for children with different forms of disability in 2015. There were about 30 trainees, 5 with visual disability and 2 with hearing impairment.

**1168-** Furthermore, in launching the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of its programme, “21 days of Y’ello Care” on 1 June 2015 under the theme: *Investing in inclusive education, MTN-Cameroon constructed 4 classrooms each in the Centre de formation et productivité des aveugles et malvoyants au Cameroun (CEF-PAMAVOC) in Douala and l’école Philippe Braille du club des jeunes aveugles réhabilités du Cameroun (CJARC) in Yaounde for the visually impaired to study in a conducive atmosphere during the 2015/2016 academic year.*

## §2: Socio-Economic empowerment

**1169-** Statistics from MINAS indicated that persons with disability had a lower rate of (46.5%) of economic activities especially in agriculture, hunting and fishing. In order to remedy the situation, MINAS drafted a Guide on all professions and trades that are accessible to persons with disability depending on the disability<sup>516</sup>. The Guide serves as a lobbying instrument to raise the awareness of social workers, employers, business persons and other stakeholders in the economic sector on the professional capacities of persons with disability with due respect of their dignity and equality with others.

**1170-** In 2015, MINAS issued 2,000 National Invalidity Cards to persons with disability. The Cards enable the bearers to benefit from some measures of protection, assistance and social reinsertion. Indeed, persons

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<sup>516</sup> This Guide is available on the website of MINAS on <http://www.minas.cm/>

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with disability who are holders of the Cards benefit from tax exoneration, partial or total exemptions from education fees and first professional training, reduction in public transport fares and medical charges, access to sports and leisure at reduced prices, as well as housing aid. During the celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disability, they were sensitized on the advantages of having a National Invalidity Card throughout the national territory.

**1171-** On 2 January 2015, the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services showcased projects to empower persons with disability during the launching of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SEEPD) Programme that will end on 31 December 2018. SEEPD which is funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (Australian AID) and Christoffer Blinden Mission Australia is a development Programme focusing on the well-being of Persons with Disability in the North West Region. These are projects conceived by the CBC to ensure that persons with disability are socially and economically empowered to be able to exploit their full potential in mainstream settings. Indeed, the SEEPD Programme inspires hope for persons with disability.

**1172-** Also on 21 to 24 July 2015 in Yaounde, persons with disability were honoured in the first *“National Exchange Forum”* organized by Cameroon Organization for the Development of the Deaf (OCDS) under the theme: *Peace and solidarity for the support of small investors with disability within the framework of sustainable development and eradication of poverty in an emergent Cameroon by 2035*. During the Forum, persons with disability showcased their know-how through the exhibition of works of art, clothes, potted flowers and painting.

### §3: Right to Health

**1173-** On the occasion of the celebrations to mark the World Clubfoot Day, the CBC Health Services organized a workshop to raise awareness on clubfoot deformity under the theme: *“Together, let’s prevent disabilities by influencing the treatment of all children with clubfeet in our communi-*

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*ties*". The CBC Clubfoot Project has corrected the feet of over 100 club-foot victims within a year from its establishment. Furthermore, the Project provides health care at the Mbingo, Banso and Mutengene Baptist Hospitals and Saint Joseph's Children and Adult Home (SAJOCAH) in Bafut.

## **§4: Right to Full and Effective Participation and Inclusion in Society: Sport and Leisure**

**1174-** Disability does not prevent persons with disability from full inclusion and equal participation in all aspects of community life including sports competitions. Hence, Government, through the Ministry of Sports and Physical Education (MINSEP) provided an enabling environment to these categories of persons to have access to sports infrastructure and buildings, and take part in national and international competitions.

### **A. Access to Sports Infrastructure and Buildings**

**1175-** In 2015 the National Programme for the Development of Sports Infrastructure took into consideration the disability approach in the construction of football stadia by providing hand rails and banisters in the Yaounde, Bafoussam, Limbe stadia and all the sites that will host the 2016 African Women's Football Competition to enable persons with disability to have access thereto.

### **B. Participation in National and International Competitions**

**1176-** Persons with disability took part in the 2015 edition of the university games and other competitions organized by the National Federation of University Sports (FENASU).

**1177-** At the international level, MINSEP in collaboration with technical structures organized from 19 to 25 October in Douala, the African Cup of Nations for the Visually Impaired (CECIFOOT). The Indomitable Lions (visually impaired) came 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the 6 teams that took part in the competition.

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## §5: Awareness Raising

**1178-** Through the actions of the National Union of Associations of and for Persons with Disability of Cameroon (UNAPHAC), awareness on rights of persons with disability was raised through the dissemination of Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 on the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disability, translated into some local national languages. From 19 to 20 January 2015 at the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger National Centre for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disability (CNRPH), UNAPHAC organized a workshop on Awareness and free distribution of audio visual materials of law translated into fang-beti. Similar workshops were organized in Ebolowa from 8 to 9 July 2015 and in Mbalmayo on 2 December 2015. Moreover, in July 2015, UNAPHAC distributed 200 audio-visual aids of the said Law translated into the *Ghoma'la* language to pupils and teachers at the *Foyer Bamendjou of Tsinga*, Yaounde.

**1179-** The awareness of persons with disability was also raised on their rights of access to information through seminars organized by the National Communication Council<sup>517</sup>.

**1180-** It is worth mentioning that Mr. **TEZANOU Paul**, a visually impaired person was elected at the head of *l'Union Francophone des Aveugles* during its November 2015 General Assembly held in Yaounde.

**1181-** Government was also concerned with enhancing the promotion and protection of the rights of the elderly.

### SECTION 3: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE ELDERLY

**1182-** It was estimated by the National Office for Population and Housing Census (BUCREP) that in 2015 about 1,143,691 persons above 60 years of age, 52% of whom were women, lived in Cameroon. A total of

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<sup>517</sup> See chapter on Freedom of Expression and Communication.

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317,610 were living with their families while 826,081 were believed to be living alone and taking care of themselves. Consequently, MINAS and Government's partners drafted a National Protection Policy Paper for the elderly, strove to improve on the socio-economic rights of the elderly, and participated in cultural festivities, aimed at improving the protection of their rights.

## §1: National Protection Policy Paper

**1183** - The National Protection Policy Paper which was launched by MINAS on 23 September 2015 in Yaounde is a document that brings more visibility to the action of Government for the elderly. It makes a diagnosis of the problems of this group of people in the country and advocates the effective consideration of their concerns in sector-based development programmes and projects.

## §2: Socio-Economic Rights

**1184**- In order to enhance the right to adequate standard of living of the elderly, MINAS lobbied and advocated funding from financial institutions for projects for the elderly or any economic activity that could generate income so as to improve on their living standards. Also, within the framework of decentralization, the elderly benefited from the assistance of councils.

**1185**- Again, MINAS organized educative discussions in the 10 Regional Delegations of Social Affairs on the preparation of retirement, active and sound old age and on the different illnesses that usually come with age.

**1186**- Taking care of the elderly during old age or after retirement is problematic and needs lasting solutions. It is against this backdrop that the *Centre de Recherche en Sciences Sociales* (CRES) organized a workshop on the theme "*social policy and ageing in Cameroon*" on 14 April 2015 in Bertoua. Stakeholders came together to brainstorm on ways of improving policies on promotion and protection of the rights of elderly persons in the East Region in particular and Cameroon in general. Participants were

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urged to educate the public on the negative effects of the marginalization of elderly persons and define partnership areas with all multisector stakeholders involved in the protection of elderly persons. In the same vein, Living Alternatives for the Ageing (LAFTA) on 25 August 2015 in Bamenda, organized an awareness raising seminar to enhance the living conditions of the ever increasing population of *senior citizens* mostly made up of the elderly or retired persons. Experts drilled participants on improving the psycho-social quality of life for the elderly and lessons on physical exercises, and pathologies linked with ageing.

### §3: Participation in Cultural Festivities

**1187-** The celebration of the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October is always an opportunity for the elderly to demonstrate what they can still offer to the society. During the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition in 2015 under the theme: *“sustainability and inclusiveness in urban development”*, MINAS organized festivities at the Yaounde Sports Complex. The elderly drilled their audience with songs and dances. MINAS used the occasion to reiterate its commitment to work to achieve social inclusion policy as encouraged by the Head of State.

**1188-** On the same occasion, LAFTA also organized similar festivities at its headquarters in Bamenda with the elderly.

**1189-** Promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples was equally a concern for Government in 2015.

## SECTION4: GUARANTEEING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**1190-** In 2015, Government and its partners continued to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples through education and professional training, awareness-raising through workshops and development.

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## §1: Education and Professional Training

**1191-** Statistics jointly published by MINEDUB and UNICEF in 2014 indicated that 81% of indigenous people of Baka are not educated and only 17.7% have access to primary education. The situation is the same at the secondary school level and professional schools. Consequently, in 2015, Government supported by its partners continued the schooling project of the Bakas.

### A: Education of Indigenous Children

**1192-** Due to the poor level of education of the Baka, Plan Cameroon<sup>518</sup>, continued to carry out the Baka schooling project adopted in 2013 called *"inter-cultural and multilingual education"*. The Project entails teaching Baka children to read and write in their native language first, before being initiated into the 2 official languages of Cameroon. This project officially launched on 31 March 2015 at Lomié, East Region concerns 54 primary schools in Haut-Nyong Division and covers 8 Councils, namely, Dimako, Messock, Salapoumbe, Moloundou, Doume, Abong-Mbang, Mindourou and Lomié. It is expected that in the next 3 years 1,554 children (boys and girls) will use Baka as a language of study at the primary school level.

**1193-** In addition, 461 teachers were trained in apprentice technics and reception of Pygmy children and 47 primary schools of pygmy children received furniture and school manuals.

### B: Professional Training

**1194-** At the level of professional training, 12 Pygmies were trained in Professional Training Schools; notably, forestry and water resources in which 3 were trained, 7 in the heath sector with 1 recruited into the Public Service and 2 in the area of education in 2015.

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<sup>518</sup> With the financial assistance from the Government of Finland of CFAF554,495,868

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## §2: Development Plan of Pygmies

**1195-** The development of indigenous people especially Pygmies is carried out by the National Community-Driven Development Programme (PNDP) which includes a Plan for the Development of Pygmies. It takes into consideration their specificities including the right to education and culture. The said Programme focused on citizenship, child health and agriculture of indigenous peoples.

### A: Citizenship

**1196-** Government continued to issue birth certificates to Baka children with the support of its partners<sup>519</sup>. Thus, on 22 February 2015 at Mindourou, 500 children aged between zero and 18 years received their birth certificates through the assistance of the Canadian High Commissioner to Cameroon. On 23 February 2015 at Lomié, more than 1,000 children also received their birth certificates. In all, 1,558 birth certificates were distributed to Baka children between 22 and 23 February 2015 in the East Region. Indeed through the PNDP, about 1,440 national identity cards and about 2,349 birth certificates were established and issued to indigenous people.

**1197-** A total of 81 Civil Status Registries were furnished with materials for registration and the establishment of birth certificates in the area inhabited by indigenous people.

### B: Health

**1198-** In the area of maternal and child health, 198 traditional birth attendants were either trained or attended refresher courses on hygiene and were told that in case of complications they should refer patients to health centres. Children and women were also vaccinated during vaccination campaigns and 101 health centres regularly attended by the pygmies were stocked with essential drugs.

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<sup>519</sup> Financed by Canadian Funds through NGO *Cuso International*

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## C: Food

**1199-** Under the project to improve agricultural competitiveness, 10ha of land were acquired for identified Pygmy leaders for the cultivation of food. Moreover, more funding was granted to 36 groups to set up projects in the areas of agriculture and livestock.

**1200-** Hence, in order to oversee the effective implementation of the PNDP due to the vast terrain occupied by the Baka and Pygmies, on 6 March 2015, Government handed 31 motorcycles to the supervisors of the Social Welfare Services of the above Programme for better coordination.

### §3: Right to Participate in the Management of Public Affairs

**1201-** The right of indigenous peoples to participate in the management of public affairs was guaranteed through the appointment on 22 December 2015 of **EL HADJ JAJI MANU DIDADO** as Secretary General in the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, the first Mbororo to occupy the post of Secretary General of a Ministry. He is also an Alternate Senator of the North-West Region and President of the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA).

### §4: Awareness Raising

**1202-** MBOSCUDA in collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights organized from 15 to 16 December 2015 in Yaounde, an African seminar on the Restitution of the Final Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The seminar brought together 48 participants from African countries, United Nations, public administrations and national and international Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Organizations. The aim of the seminar was not only to inform and raise the awareness of participants on the content of the Final Document, but also to discuss the implementation of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international instruments, to disseminate the said Document in participants' countries and organize dialogue with different stakeholders in view of the implementation of the Final Document at national and local levels.

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**1203-** At the end of the seminar, some recommendations were made including the need for the formal acknowledgment of the existence of indigenous peoples by the Constitution, the enactment of a law on the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples and the adoption of a national plan of action for the implementation of the Final Document in the countries concerned.

**1204-** The situation of the socially vulnerable was improved in 2015. They exercised some of their civil rights such as the right to participate in public management and equal treatment in succession matters was guaranteed by courts of law. Many perpetrators of violent offences against children were prosecuted and convicted. Inclusive education was not only a slogan as many children with disability were admitted into non-disability specific schools and special education teachers trained. Government also continued to sensitize and lobby for the improvement of the conditions of the elderly and indigenous peoples.

**1205-** However, there are still challenges as regards living conditions of the socially vulnerable in areas like transportation of persons with disability and the financing of income-generating activities for retired and old persons.



**Chapter**

**5**

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



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**1206-** As an evaluation year of the Beijing Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)<sup>520</sup>, 2015 was marked by Government's determination to promote Gender and women's rights. Progress was made with regard to gender equality; combating violence against women; empowerment of women; and protection of the family.

## SECTION 1: GENDER AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

**1207-** In 2015, the institutional promotion of Gender, controlling discrimination against women and the increasing participation of women in public life were the main indicators of the promotion of women's rights.

### § 1: Institutional Ownership of Gender

**1208-** Following the adoption of the National Gender Policy (NGP) document in 2014, Government officially launched it in 2015 and drew up a plan of action to implement it.

#### A: Official Launching of the NGP

**1209-** By subscribing to international and regional commitments that target the full empowerment of women through the elimination of gender inequalities, Cameroon accepted to enshrine the Gender approach as one of the overarching values of its development strategies and adopted the NGP in 2014. The policy document was officially launched on 23 January 2015 by the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family, sitting in for the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

**1210-** The document that outlines the strategic thrusts of an inclusive development that streamlines gender equality constitutes a guideline of actions to be carried out with a view to empowering women in all sectors of national life.

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<sup>520</sup> After a mixed assessment, MDGs were replaced by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprising 17 goals. Goal 5 concerns gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

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**1211-** It provides an institutional implementation framework that was designed in 2015.

## **B: Multisector Plan of Action to Implement the NGP**

**1212-** In order to move to the operational phase, a Multisector Plan of Action for the implementation of the NGP was designed in 2015 and examined during a workshop organized by the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family in Mbalmayo from 27 to 28 October 2015. The goal of the workshop that brought together representatives from Government and civil society was to examine and amend the operational framework of the NGP implementation. In fact, it was a matrix of gender-based actions to be carried out by the different Ministries. The actions fall under 6 NGP strategic thrusts<sup>521</sup> and will serve as an anti-discrimination base and framework.

**1213-** This Plan of Action will serve as a framework for the fight against discrimination.

## **§2: Combating Discrimination against Women**

**1214-** Combating discrimination against women was an important step towards promoting the rights of women through actions carried out by the Judicial Power, and guaranteeing the rights of persons living with HIV (PLWHA).

### **A: Actions by the Judicial Power in Combating Discrimination**

**1215-** Access to justice and the equal treatment of litigants were the guiding principles in determining matters that involved women. In 2015, 22 women were granted legal aid.

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<sup>521</sup> See §930, 2014 Report.

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**1216-** In addition, 164 matters on the status of persons and involving women were processed by MINJUSTICE. Out of 78 files on naturalization, 17 concerned women while out of the 54 files on change of name, 15 concerned children.

## **B: Guaranteeing the Rights of PLWHA**

**1217-** In order to stop the exclusion of PLWHA in general and women in particular, especially sex workers, 4 capacity building sessions for networks of associations of women living with HIV were organized to raise their awareness on access to services sensitive to Gender, Human Rights and HIV.

**1218-** Furthermore, a capacity building workshop for 30 Gender Focal Points of Public Administrations was held in Edea from 9 to 10 December 2015 under the theme, *"Health, Planning, HIV/Gender"*. It focused on taking the HIV factor into account in global and sector planning strategies especially during the planning, budgeting, execution and monitoring/evaluation phases.

**1219-** Concurrently with taking into account PLWHA, the participation of women in public life registered a remarkable step forward.

## **§3: Increasing Participation of Women in Governance**

**1220-** The inclusion of women in governance was effected in the areas of political rights and their involvement in public life.

## **A: Guaranteeing the Political Rights of Women**

**1221-** Guaranteeing the political rights of women was supported by their political commitment at the top level of the State. Although there were no elections in 2015, women were still involved in political matters through their capacity building and involvement in political life.

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## 1) Political Commitment at the Top Level

**2122-** During the *“He For She”* advocacy led by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) at the Women In Parliaments Global Forum in October 2015, targeting more representation of women in Parliaments, States were required to opt for a paradigm shift through the commitment of Heads of State and Government to promote women’s leadership. In consonance with the ideals of the campaign, the Cameroon Head of State declared, among his peers, as follows:

*“We want more women in Parliaments and as policy makers, for it is a question of fairness and respect for Gender. The equal access of women to decision-making positions and the fight against all forms of gender discrimination undeniably help in building a more open and fair human society.”*

## 2) Political Capacity Building of Women

**1223-** In a bid to encourage women to be more involved in the process of decentralization and local governance in Cameroon, the Africa Day of Decentralization and Local Development celebrated on 10 August 2015 was used as a discussion forum on how to step up the involvement of women in the policy option of community-driven management. The theme of the celebrations, *“Deepening Decentralization and Local Development through Effective Participation of Women in Local Governance”* helped unveil the obstacles that hinder women from occupying positions of choice given their low political representation. In the absence of an appropriate legal framework that clearly defines representation quotas, it was agreed that a platform be set up for dialogue and cooperation geared towards a better insertion of women in the local development process.

**1224-** In order to achieve such a goal, women should be able to pool themselves together in networks so as to combine efforts to curb the barriers that hinder them from taking part in local development. That is why, logically, the Network for Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) held deliberations on the sidelines of the 7<sup>th</sup> *Africities* Summit organized in South

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Africa in December 2015. During the deliberations, Mrs. **Celestine Ketcha Courtes**, Mayor of Bangante Council, West Region was elected Chair of the organization.

### 3) Progress made by Women in Politics

**1225-** In order to reverse the trend according to which very few women occupy decision-making positions in political parties in Cameroon, a real hunt for such positions by women was observed. Mrs. Alice Sadio Zambou, for example, was elected Chairperson of the Alliance of Progressive Forces (AFP) on 11 December 2015, thereby increasing to 11, the number of women who are Chair or Secretary-General or persons ranking as such of a political party out of a total of 298 political parties.

**1226-** In spite of such progress, a close look at the political representation of women shows that only a very small number occupy leadership positions in political parties. This may be due to a combination of extrinsic and intrinsic factors, especially marginalization and societal conservatism. Of course, more efforts should be made to increase the political representation of women, in particular, the enactment of a law on quotas to supplement section 171 (3) of the Electoral Code. That notwithstanding, female leadership is resolutely on the move just as the involvement of women in public life.

### B: Involvement of Women in Public Life

**1227-** In 2015, there was a sharp rise of women to leadership positions, especially positions they had never held before. Such was the case in public life in general and the army in particular.

#### 1) Rise of Women in Public Life

**1228-** The rise was obvious in the appointments of members of Government, managers of public companies, the Judiciary, and even access to the public service.

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## a) Increase in the Number of Women in Government

**1229-** During the Cabinet reshuffle of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015, the number of female members of Government moved up from 9 to 10 representing a quota of 15.38% on a total of 65 Ministerial positions. However, the quota is still below the 30% fixed by the Beijing Platform of Action or the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP). Such a breakthrough by women should be put into perspective although it falls within the policy drive to promote women in strategic sectors such as governance. That is why it is hoped that more women be appointed into Government with a view to achieving national inclusive development.

## b) Access of Women to Leadership Positions in Public and Semi-public Administration

**1230-** With a view to assessing progress made in Gender promotion, MIN-PROFF published a Public Administrations Gender Awards<sup>522</sup>. One of the criteria of assessment and classification of Administrations was access of women to leadership positions.

**1231-** Thus, 6 women were appointed Secretaries-General of Ministries out of 35 available positions, representing about 17.14%.

**1232-** Cameroon's diplomacy paid off with the appointment of Mrs. Ngakono Marie Thérèse Chantal Mfoula Edjomo as Political and Diplomatic Adviser to the Secretary-General of ECCAS.

**1233-** In addition, women were appointed as follows in the public and semi-public structures set out below:

- General Manager, National Drug Control Laboratory (LANACOME)<sup>523</sup>;

<sup>522</sup> Public Administrations Gender Awards, 2014-2015, by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, December 2015; 63 pages.

<sup>523</sup> Dr. Mrs. **Abondo Rose Ngonu Mballa**

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- General Manager, Civil Aviation Authority (AAC)<sup>524</sup>;
- General Manager, Bilingual Pilot Linguistic Centre, Yaounde (CPY)<sup>525</sup> ;
- Vice-Chancellor, University of Bamenda<sup>526</sup>;
- Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaounde I<sup>527</sup>;
- Head of the Agricultural Research Centre, Nkolbisson<sup>528</sup>; and
- Regional Delegate for MINEPIA, South West Region<sup>529</sup>.

## c) Women in the Judicial and Penitentiary Corps

**1234-** In the corps of Judicial and Legal Officers, Gender promotion was effected with the appointment of Mrs. Justine Aimée Ngounou Tchokontieu as Procureur General at the Special Criminal Court thereby increasing the number of female Procureurs General to 2 out of the 12 Procureurs General in Cameroon. Indeed, Mrs. Régine Esseneme replaced her as Procureur General at the Court of Appeal, North Region. The appointment is a step forward given that in 2014 only one woman was appointed Procureur General.

**1235-** Amongst Court Registrars, more women were appointed Registrars-in-chief while others were maintained in their positions. They were as follows: 21 women at the level of trial courts out of the 90 positions, 2 at the level of the CA out of the 10 positions, and 1 at the SC out of the 4 positions.

**1236-** At the Penitentiary Administration, Mrs. **Haman Elise Nsangou** was appointed Inspector General.

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<sup>524</sup> Mrs. **Koki Paule Avomo Assoumou**

<sup>525</sup> Ms. **Brigitte Vundi Edibi**

<sup>526</sup> Pr. Mrs. **Akenji Nkuo Theresa**

<sup>527</sup> Pr. **Jacqueline Ze Minkande**

<sup>528</sup> Dr. **Pauline Mounjouenpou Limi**

<sup>529</sup> Dr. **Chiawah Cecilia Ebonkeng Mungo**

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## 2) Women in the Defence and Security Forces

**1237-** In the Police Force, for the first time, 2 women, Mrs. **Oyono Cécile Thom** and Mrs. **Ewu Ngeme Jeannette Akenji** were appointed Deputy Director General of the International School for Security Forces (E-FORCES), and Director of Public Security respectively. Both women are Commissioners of Police.

**1238-** In the Defence Forces, the following women were promoted to leadership positions: Colonel **Anne Bella Nkoto** was appointed Legion Commander for the Gendarmerie, South Region; Colonel **Philomène Nga Owona**, Commander of the Command and Support Battalion; Colonel **Pauline Ngaska**, Inspector General of the Armed Forces; and Colonel **Brigitte Biwole**, Major of the Gendarmerie Legion, Centre Region.

**1239-** Rewarding the skills of women as shown in the Armed Forces will get to its peak with the appointment of a woman to the position of General of the Armed Forces.

**1240-** The progress of women would not have been achieved without combating all forms of violence against women.

## SECTION 2: COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

**1241-** Government, with the support of its development partners and civil society continued to combat all forms of violence against women through surveys and research, preventive measures, punishment of offenders and especially support of victims.

### §1: Surveys and Research on Violence against Women and girls

**1242-** Two surveys on violence against women and girls were published in 2015.

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## A: Surveys on Early and/or Forced Marriages

**1243-** The first study on the phenomenon of “Money Woman” was conducted in Akwaya Subdivision, South West Region<sup>530</sup> by MINPROFF and Plan Cameroon. It showed that the phenomenon which is a union in which the *fiancé* or his family has paid excessive dowry in cash or in kind to the family of a young girl aged between 0 and 12 years, concerned some 90% of households. The main determinants of such early marriages are ancient traditions and beliefs, poverty or lack of education. That is why awareness-raising and educative programmes are organized for women and girls.

**1244-** The second survey was conducted by the Association for the Struggle against Violence against Women (ALVF)<sup>531</sup> with the support of the University of Maroua. It showed that early and/or forced marriages were a common phenomenon in Cameroon although in varying degrees. The most affected Regions include the Far North Region (39%), Centre and Adamawa Regions (17%), and the least affected Region is the East Region (1%). The main cause of the phenomenon is socio-cultural. Such marriages are harmful to the health and socio-cultural development of victims. Besides, they are not reported. Therefore, in order to stop the scourge, the national legal framework should be amended to comply with international law, girls should go to school uninterrupted, and traditional and religious authorities should be mobilized.

## B: Study on the Links between HIV/AIDS and Gender-Based Violence in High Prevalence Regions

**1245-** As part of its Project “*Support to the National Response against HIV/AIDS among Women and Girls at Risk, infected or affected in High Prevalence Areas in Cameroon*”, UN Women sponsored a study by the Institute of Demographic Research (IFORD) on the “*Links between*

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<sup>530</sup> Study carried out in 2014 and published in 2015

<sup>531</sup> The study was carried out in 2014

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*HIV/AIDS and Gender-Based Violence in High Prevalence Regions in Cameroon.*" The results of the study were validated during a workshop organized in Yaounde on 26 November 2015, which brought together representatives of public administrations and Civil Society.

**1246-** The study showed a close link between Gender Based Violence (GBV) and HIV/AIDS. In fact, there was a high prevalence of GBV cases among HIV-positive women and substantial GBV contribution to contamination with HIV/AIDS. It was therefore recommended, among others, to intensify control of GBV to prevent new infections, improve psychosocial care and survivors' access to legal protection, advocate the design of primary healthcare support to services related to GBV and HIV/AIDS.

## **§2: Preventive Actions to Combat Violence against Women and Girls**

**1247-** Violence is prevented by raising awareness, outreach of control instruments, capacity building and education.

### **A: Awareness and Advocacy**

**1248-** Violence against women and girls was further controlled through awareness and advocacy sessions for key stakeholders, including parliamentarians, community relays, families, CSO representatives, and school and university officials.

**1249-** International commemoration days also served to step up control. Thus, during the commemoration of the International Day against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which is celebrated each 6 February under the slogan "Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation" and of which the theme of the 8th Edition was "Mobilization and Involvement of Health Staff in speeding up Zero Tolerance to FGM", the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family, the Minister of Public Health, and the National Coordinator of the Cercle des Imams et Dignitaires Musulmans du Cameroon (CIDIMUC) held a joint Press Conference in the presence of the Minister of Communication, on 27 January 2015. These

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personalities reiterated the devastating effects of FGM on women's health and lives, and control measures taken so far.

**1250-** In addition, the control of early and/or forced marriages was a key element of the strategy. To this end, the Day of the African Child was celebrated on 16 June 2015 under the theme *"25 Years after the Adoption of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child: Accelerating our Efforts to eliminate Child Marriages in Africa"* and resulted in numerous outreach activities. The most significant was probably a conference organised for students of the Advanced School of Mass Communication (ASMAC) and a meeting with Journalists on 20 June 2015, that revealed that the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) obliges Cameroon to align its domestic legal framework with the Conventions as regards raising to 18 years, the legal marriage age for girls in accordance with the principle of the primacy of Conventions over domestic laws<sup>532</sup>. This also justified Cameroon's accession to the African Campaign against Child Marriages launched after the celebration of the Day of the Girl Child in November.

**1251-** This awareness was coupled with the organization of 5 workshops for the mobilization and implementation of internal strategies against early and/or forced marriages in the Far North Region (Kar-hay, Moulvoudaye, Moutourwa, Guidiguis Districts and Kousseri), with the installation of *denunciation brigades*.

**1252-** Moreover, during the celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March 2015, the women of the DGNS organized several activities, including a Press Conference at the University of Yaounde II on 4 March 2015, under the theme *"Women and Armed Conflicts"* for female students and staff of that Institution. The effects of armed conflicts on women and the national and international legal framework for the punishment of perpetrators of violations against this vulnerable group were revisited.

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<sup>532</sup> Article 45 of the Constitution

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**1253-** In addition, the traditional campaign dubbed “16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence” was held from 25 November to 10 December 2015 comprising many activities within the national territory, in conjunction with those organized at the international level. The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition celebrated in 2015 was christened “Orange Campaign”, the symbolic colour worn by participants to denounce violence. The Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family published a letter to raise the awareness of families, in the daily, *Cameroon Tribune*<sup>533</sup> in appeal to the public on “the dehumanizing and intolerable nature of multiple forms of violence against women and girls in families and socio-professional milieu”.

## B: Control Instruments

**1254-** The dissemination by MINPROFF of legal instruments on the protection of women's rights amongst parliamentary stakeholders, associations, schools and universities, and community leaders was another priority area. During these campaigns, 703 Community Leaders were reached. Similarly, the National Strategy to combat violence against women and girls continued as well as the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of FGM among social and institutional stakeholders by raising the awareness of 12,310 people in FGM-prone areas.

## C: Capacity Building of Stakeholders

**1255-** Within the context of the project “Provision of Life-saving Integrated GBV Services and Protection for Women and Girl Refugees in the East and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon”, Government and UN Women trained 150 Police Officers in the East and Adamawa Regions in protecting women and children in humanitarian situations during armed and unarmed<sup>534</sup> conflicts. The training aimed at educating participants on the integrated management of vulnerable persons, survivors of GBV, especially in emergency situations.

<sup>533</sup> Edition of 4 December 2015.

<sup>534</sup> The training started in December 2015 in Bertoua and continued in January 2016 in Meiganga.

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**1256-** In the same vein, some 30 GBV communicators' networks met in Douala on 13 and 14 November 2015 during a seminar on GBV and HIV/AIDS, organized by the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP), with the support of UN Women. During the seminar, journalists were made aware of the statistics of GBV in Cameroon, from a study conducted in 2014, which revealed that 66.7% of physical violence and 26.9% of sexual violence were recorded in the Centre, against 58.7% and 17% in the Littoral Region.

**1257-** Similarly, some 30 representatives of public administrations and the civil society attended a workshop in Kribi, from 20 to 23 October 2015, organized by UNFPA to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders involved in the fight against GBV in humanitarian settings. The typology of GBV, their impact on the health, life and rights of victims and support mechanisms were reviewed based on the United Nations Guidelines for Gender based violence intervention in humanitarian settings by the UN on same.

### §3: Punishment of Perpetrators of Violence and Rehabilitation of Victims

**1258-** Perpetrators were prosecuted and punished and victims rehabilitated.

#### A: Prosecution and Punishment of Violence against Women and Girls

**1259-** The analysis of the table on criminal justice response to Human Rights<sup>535</sup> violation reveals that women suffered a great deal from physical and sexual violence in 2015. The most recurrent cases were rape and indecency to child followed by sexual intercourse. The perpetrators were prosecuted, convicted and sentenced.

**1260-** The courts entertained 258 prosecutions while 485 investigations were opened for rape for which 157 convictions were made reflecting an increase in punishment compared to 2014 during which 84 persons

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<sup>535</sup> These violent offences were punished: see Chapter 1 on Right to Life and Physical Integrity, §86

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were prosecuted before 54 courts. In addition, 35 women were victims of grievous harm, 252 simple harm and 492 slight harm.<sup>536</sup> Cases of indecency to child under 16 led to 1,155 investigations and 543 convictions.

**1261-** The case of the young **M.**, aged 7 years deserves some attention. On 28 January 2015, her father, one Mohamed A alleging that she wet her bed, burned her genitals resulting in second degree burns. He was remanded in custody on 3 February 2015 following the institution of criminal proceedings against him for violence against a child. By Judgment No. 423/Cor of 7 May 2015, the CFI, Ngaoundere convicted and sentenced him to 1 year imprisonment and to pay CFAF300,000<sup>537</sup> as damages to the victim, the civil party represented by her mother.

## B: Support and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence

**1262-** Reception and rehabilitation facilities for victims of violence were set up or rehabilitated.

**1263-** Institutional innovation consisted in setting up three gender desks in Police Stations in the East and Adamawa Regions who are staff of the Police Unit specifically dedicated to care for GBV victims. The premises of the Police Units were refurbished and equipped with computers.

**1264-** Besides, a Prevention and GBV Supported Integrated Unit was inaugurated on 12 May 2015 in Maroua by MINPROFF thereby increasing the psychosocial support and the prevention system of victims of violence. The same Units were also set up in the Yaounde V and Douala I Councils, Mokolo, Mora and Bertoua. These Units offer temporary refuge to victims of the most serious forms of violence.

**1265-** In terms of administration, MINPROFF services provided psychosocial support for individuals, couples and families suffering from domestic

<sup>536</sup> Idem

<sup>537</sup> About 458.01 Euros

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and family violence, by listening/counselling, guiding and supporting 1,726 couples and 15 families through family reunion.

**1266-** These attendant measures were enhanced by a system geared towards the promotion of women's economic rights for their empowerment.

## SECTION 3: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

**1267-** Efforts to guarantee women's economic empowerment consisted in building their capacity and providing miscellaneous support for their economic progress.

### §1: Building Women's Capacities

**1268-** Women must be equipped with the required empowerment skills through the increase of capacity building institutions and training.

#### A: Capacity Building Institutions

**1269-** In 2015, the number of institutions dedicated to building women's capacities was increased. In this regard, the Women's Centres (CPFF) of Mbé, Pété and Mbangassina were built, while those in Mbalmayo, Yaounde II and Yaounde V Councils were rehabilitated. Similarly, teaching material and furniture were purchased for CPFF Batouri and Meiganga.

**1270-** Moreover, during the celebration of the Day of the African Woman on 31 July 2015, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and MINPROFF, for the equipment of some CPFFs with computers and their connection to the Internet.

**1271-** In addition, the *Moira N. Nyamsi Vocational Training Centre* was set up in Yabassi with support from the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training. Built by the Association *Africa my Friend*, it trains women and girls for certification courses in Hotel Management, Hairdressing,

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Aesthetics, Catering and Modelling. This should increase the number of institutions dedicated to training women.

## B: Training of Women

**1272-** Many courses were provided to women, especially setting up and managing Income Generating Activities (IGAs). More so, 13,582 women and girls were trained in setting up and managing IGA. On this score, leaders of 10 women's cooperatives composed of refugee women and those of host communities were trained in setting up IGAs. They received 10 economic kits at the end of the training.

## § 2: Multifaceted Support for Women's Economic Progress

**1273-** Women were supported in accessing production resources and conducting IGAs.

### A: Access to Production Resources

**1274-** Women gained access to production resources through training in agricultural entrepreneurship. For this reason, at the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of *Festi Cacao* organized by the Ministry of Trade and the Cocoa and Coffee Interprofessional Council (CICC), from 3 to 5 December 2015, in Douala and Yaounde, women's participation in the development of the cocoa sector was praised, even more so as the first cocoa exporter in Cameroon is a woman<sup>538</sup>. It aimed at encouraging and motivating Cameroon women to invest more in the cocoa sector, which is a promising and wealth-creating sector. Processed cocoa by-products handmade by women were exhibited, and a round table organized on the theme "*The Woman: Essential Lever in the Cocoa Sector*" during which discussions centred on the challenges facing the sector.

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<sup>538</sup> She is called Mrs. Kate Kaniy Tomedi-Fotso.

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**1275-** This enhancement of women was duplicated at the *Festi Coffee* 2015 in Yaounde, during which it was revealed that 50% of coffee farmers in Cameroon are women. Celebrated under the theme “*Cameroon Women in the Coffee Sector*” this 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition portrayed the difficulties Cameroon women face in the sector. In addition, a Cameroon Association of Women in the Coffee Sector (AFECC) saw the light of day.

**1276-** To facilitate the realization of their agro pastoral or real estate ambitions, 4,783 land certificates were issued to women in 2015.

## **B: Support for the Management of IGAs**

**1277-** Multiform support was given to women’s organizations for the development of their activities. As such, 102 women’s groups received farm tools, while 177 of same received grants.

**1278-** Furthermore, the celebration of the International Day of Rural Women under the theme “*Rural Women: Access to Financial Resources in Agribusiness*” on 15 October 2015 was an opportunity to provide agricultural equipment to women living in rural areas, with a view to alleviating the hardship of farm work and increasing productivity. To this end, the Women's Associations Network for Agriculture and Fisheries of the Mbam-and-Inoubou (RAFAMI) received farm tools comprising wheelbarrows, machetes, sprayers and grinding mills from MINPROFF and MINADER.

**1279-** As part of the Project “*Social Cohesion and Rehabilitation of Refugee Women Survivors, Victims of the Conflict in CAR, in the East Region*” MINEPIA handed dismountable improved poultry farms to refugee women in the Gado-Badzéré, Lolo, Bile and Timangolo, Camps to support MINPROFF activities on this project.

**1280-** Similarly, the NGO ASAFRO presented several agricultural equipment to rural women engaged in the cassava sector in Boumnyebel. In all,

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24 women's groups received 12 grinding mills, 24 all purpose trolleys, 24 plastic barrels and 24-80 litre basins, worth CFA7,000,000<sup>539</sup>.

### §3: Women's Empowerment through Sports

**1281-** Sport is an appropriate instrument to discard stereotypes and influence gender bias. This was demonstrated through the sporting prowess of women during the year under review. Through the technical guidance and financial support of public authorities, the fairer sex found a lever for her empowerment in sports.

**1282-** Thus, to create a pool of football players, the Cameroon Association for the Development of Women's Football (ACADEFOOT) organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the tournament called "FESTINOEL" in December 2015, to increase the number and quality of competitions and prepare for future encounters, while encouraging young girls to express their sport talent.

**1283-** In addition, 33 leaders of women's football attended a capacity building workshop organized by FECAFOOT with support from FIFA, from 7 to 11 December 2015. The workshop aimed at training participants in the organization of championships, the management of material and human resources, and the administration and financing of clubs.

**1284-** All these combined efforts by Government and partners contributed to the remarkable success of national women's sports teams. As such, by qualifying for the 8th finals of the Women's World Cup held in 2015 in Canada, the National Women's Football Team became the first ever African team to attain this unprecedented rank. Similarly, the National Women's Basketball Team played the finals at the African Championship (*Afrobasket*) organized in Yaounde in September 2015.

**1285-** Government also focused on the protection of family rights.

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<sup>539</sup> About 10,687.02 Euros

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## SECTION 4: FAMILY RIGHTS

**1286-** In 2015, emphasis was laid on the protection of women's matrimonial rights or same after termination of marriage.

### §1: Promotion and Protection of Matrimonial Rights

**1287-** To protect the family and women's matrimonial rights, Government's strategy emphasized on premarital, matrimonial and family education, and securing unions.

#### A: Premarital, Matrimonial and Family Education

**1288-** The main actions of the education component was to educate couples, young girls and boys to reduce broken families, in particular by raising the awareness of women to establish birth certificates for their children or organizing educational talks on peace and tolerance, for guests, hosts and refugee families in the Far North, East and Adamawa Regions.

**1289-** The celebration of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2015 was also an opportunity to organize round tables and educational talks on the social impacts of excessive dowry in Cameroon, with the aim of reducing the burden of dowry that is a real obstacle to marriage for young people.

#### B: Fostering the Registration of Marriages

**1290-** Support for the regularization of common law marriages allowed MINPROFF to assist 2,647 couples in securing their family life by the collective celebration of 3,015 marriages throughout the country.

### §2: Protection of Matrimonial Rights after Termination of Marriage

**1291-** Women's rights must be protected in case of dissolution of the marriage as a result of divorce or death of her husband.

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## A: Protection of Women's Rights after Divorce

**1292-** In case of dissolution of marriage due to divorce, proceedings are treated in compliance with the rights of spouses. Hence, Judges ensure that the economic rights of divorced women are preserved by ordering for matrimonial property adjustment.

**1293-** By Judgment No.17/PD of 19 January 2015, in **MAMAI MALAKA v NAOUTISSA SADJO Suzanne**, the CFI, Guider, in a traditional law matter, granted divorce, taking full cognizance of the consequences, and ordered sharing of property<sup>540</sup>. Overall, 368 divorce proceedings ended up with an order for sharing of the matrimonial property. Furthermore, 352 decisions granted alimony to women, while 6 men had same<sup>541</sup>.

## B: Promotion and Protection of the Widow

**1294-** Besides advocacy and support, the rights of widows were protected before the Courts.

### 1) Advocacy for and Support to Widows

**1295-** A study on widows in Cameroon conducted by MINPROFF highlighted the tragedy of most widows. They are subjected to both physical and moral persecution such as demeaning rites, forceful wife inheritance and denial of inheritance rights, for "committing the crime of losing their spouse".

**1296-** In response, Government has continued with awareness-raising actions, and put at the disposal of widows, counselling and psychosocial care units. They were also supported in following-up administrative and judicial proceedings and in restoring their rights.

<sup>540</sup> In the same vein, see Judgment No. 23 /CIV of 27 August 2015 of the Court of Appeal, North Region, Re: **ZAMBOU Leonie FENJEP v FENJEP Robert**.

<sup>541</sup> These statistics reflect case-law trends in the lower Courts and Courts of Appeal, excluding the Supreme Court.

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**1297-** Thus, during the celebration of the International Widows' Day (IWD) on 23 June 2015 under the theme "*What Strategies for the Integrated Management of Widows Today?*", awareness was raised through a televised round table broadcast over *CRTV*. Socio-legal clinics were set up in the Mfoundi Division during which 223 widows raised problems relating to:

- discrimination;
- expulsion from the matrimonial home by in-laws;
- ignorance of the value of some documents, like the death certificate or letters of administration;
- recurrent physical and psychological violence;
- difficulty in receiving reversionary pension; and
- sharing of the property.

**1298-** In addition, 50 widows voluntarily participated in listening/counselling sessions on the above-mentioned problems.

**1299-** Furthermore, and with a view to combating terrorism, the association *Cercles des Enfants* came to the aid of 25 widows of soldiers killed at the war front by giving them, during a ceremony organized on 29 November 2015, in Yaounde, sums of money ranging from CFAF300,000<sup>542</sup> to CFAF400,000<sup>543</sup>, to enable them set up businesses and care for their fatherless children.

## 2) Judicial Protection of Widows

**1300-** The Courts delivered judgments to protect widows, particularly through the adjustments of matrimonial property before sharing of the deceased husband's estate taking into account the right of usufruct.

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<sup>542</sup> About 458.01 Euros

<sup>543</sup> About 610.68 Euros

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## a) Adjustment of Matrimonial Property before Sharing of the Estate of the Deceased Spouse

**1301-** Since succession is opened upon death, Judges preserve the rights of surviving spouses on their property at the time of settlement of succession. In this regard, 670 decisions were taken with regard to sharing of the matrimonial property before the sharing the estate of the deceased.

## b) Widows' Inheritance Rights

**1302-** The Courts preserved the right to inheritance of widows and children, especially girls, by taking 1,428 decisions. Judges reaffirmed in some decisions the primacy of the Law over discriminatory cultural practices. In Judgment No. 78/PD of 16 November 2015, the *Tribunal de Premier Degré (TPD)*, Guider rejected a discriminatory cultural practice against women in these terms:

*"Whereas the assessor explained that in compliance with Toupouri custom, only men can inherit and women are considered assets of the estate; That when a person dies intestate, leaving behind women and children, his estate devolves to his brothers, precisely the elder brother who can take the widows as inheritance;*

*Whereas this custom is partly contrary to public policy and morality, and the provisions of Section 745 of the Civil Code which basically provides that all legitimate children succeed their parents regardless of gender or primogeniture, in equal portions and by head...".*

**1303-** In most decisions, Judges grant the widow right of usufruct over a quarter of the estate left by her late husband, pursuant to Section 767 of the Civil Code, even where custom is silent.

**1304-** In Judgment No. 59/PD of 17 August 2015 by the TPD Guider, in **AMINOUDALIL v Succession DALIL**, the Judge found that the omission of the right of usufruct of widows **DOUDOU KAMBA** and **FATOUMATOU SAMBO** is rooted in the Mousgoum custom that does not grant usufruct to the widow. He later decided that *"this, outdated and unfair custom, is*

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*against both public policy and morality and is contrary to Section 767 (3) of the Civil Code that grants under these conditions right of usufruct over a quarter of the assets of the estate of her predeceased husband.”*

**1305-** In 2015, Government commitment to gender promotion and equality was implemented by continuing flagship actions begun in 2014, such as the entry into force of the NGP. Proof of this is established by empirical data collected on the involvement of women in governance, efforts in combating GBV and support for victims and women's empowerment or judicial protection of their rights. These mixed results due to pockets of resistance, highlight the need to further structure the action of both the State, civil society, and development partners, to overcome the obstacles.



**Chapter**

**6**

**PROTECTION OF RIGHTS  
OF REFUGEES AND  
INTERNALLY DISPLACED  
PERSONS**



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**1306-** The persistence of socio-political crises in neighbouring countries in recent years has continued to impose population movements on Cameroon. The increasing attacks by the terrorist group *Boko Haram* in the Far North Region as well as the activities of armed groups in the eastern border have moved waves of refugees into Cameroon and induced internal displacement of persons in the affected areas. Apart from concerns about status and nationality, the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees has forced the State to take up similar challenges in providing a humanitarian response. Accordingly, the reception and settlement of these persons, their health management, education and the improvement of their living standards was organized with the support of partners. The civil and political rights of refugees were also guaranteed.

## SECTION 1: REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND IDPs

**1307-** In 2015, Cameroon hosted a large number of refugees and asylum seekers and recorded an increase in the number of IDPs.

### § 1: Number of Refugees

**1308-** As at 31 December 2015, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had registered a total of 342,973 refugees against 275,880 in 2014 in Cameroon. These refugees, comprising 161,283 men and 181,690 women, came from several countries<sup>544</sup> predominantly the Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria.

#### A: CAR Refugees

**1309-** CAR refugees in Cameroon include those who fled their country between 2006 and 2010 due to rising criminality and those who arrived in December 2013, due to political instability and violence. Although this situation had not been completely stabilized, a new set of 19,000 persons was welcomed in the East and Adamawa Regions. Given the number of

<sup>544</sup> It should be noted that 26 other nationalities were represented among which Chad (1,798); Rwanda (858); Congo (512); and Sudan (145).

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births and persons who obtained refugee status while already in the country, the number of CAR refugees in Cameroon in 2015 increased by 46,761, bringing the total number of registered CAR refugees to 267,463 against 230,106 in 2014.

## B: Nigerian Refugees

**1310-** In 2015, because of incessant atrocities by *Boko Haram*, a new wave<sup>545</sup> of refugees, estimated at 28,992 persons, was welcomed in Cameroon. In addition to the registered births and inflow of new refugees during this period, the number of Nigerian refugees increased to 71,840 in 2015 as against 40,009 in 2014, giving an additional number of 31,831 persons.

### §2: Asylum Seekers

**1311-** During the reporting period, UNHCR registered a total of 5,373 asylum applications, that is 3,138 men and 2,235 women, based on the Individual Procedure for the Determination of Refugee Status. Some 4,349 applicants were received in urban areas. After the examination of these applications and those previously registered, more than 5,200 persons, most of whom are Central Africans, were granted asylum in urban areas while 741 applications were rejected at first instance and 351 on appeal.

### §3: IDPs

**1312-** Besides the massive influx of refugees into the country, the aforementioned crises also led to many movements of persons from the Far North and East Regions, who left their homes to seek refuge in more secured areas. These persons were estimated at about 100,000 as at 31 December 2015.

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<sup>545</sup> Previous waves were welcomed in 2003 because of ethnic conflicts, then in 2014 as a result of fighting between Government forces and the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram.

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## SECTION 2: RECEPTION AND INSTALLATION OF REFUGEES AND IDPs

**1313-** Attention was paid to the reception and installation of refugees and IDPs.

### §1: Reception of Refugees

**1314-** Although monitoring activities organized at the borders by the UNHCR slowed down because of the prevailing security situation in the Far North Region, help from the Cameroon army, however, eased transfer of refugees in convoys into camps by the UNHCR that initially organized screening<sup>546</sup> operations in particular before the registration of the said transferred persons.

### §2: Installation of Refugees and IDPs

**1315-** Central African refugees were mainly hosted in the East, Adamawa and North Regions where they lived in 308 villages (more than 177,000 refugees) and 7 equipped Sites<sup>547</sup> (73,951 refugees), with some placed in urban centres or in other areas of the country. They were placed in family shelters, that is 976 durable shelters and 2,570 semi-durable shelters.

**1316-** Nigerians were also found in urban and rural areas. In the Far North Region, they were settled at Minawao (52,381 persons), or in villages in the Region (approximately 15,852 persons). In the South West Region, there were approximately 3,582 Nigerian refugees.

**1317-** At the Minawao Camp, about 8,514 family shelters were built by Government and partners including International Emergency Development Aid (IEDA), Relief and Public Concern (4,490), while nearly 770 refugee families built their transitional shelters themselves using tarpaulins received from authorities.

<sup>546</sup> Profiling or filtering operation.

<sup>547</sup> The said sites are Ngarissingo, Mbile, Lolo, Timangolo, Gado, and Borgop Ngam.

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**1318-** After settlement, IDPs received from the NGO ADES household goods made of mats, blankets, mosquito nets, tarpaulins, soap, kitchen sets and hundreds of bales of clothing.

**1319-** Due to overcrowding in the host sites, the surface area of the Minawao Camp was increased from 319 ha to 510 ha, even though the norm is 200 ha per camp. Similarly, Government improved health supply.

## SECTION 3: GUARANTEEING REFUGEES' RIGHT TO HEALTH

**1320-** In order to guarantee refugees' right to health, health promotion actions were conducted in addition to actions to revamp health care supply.

### §1: Health Promotion Actions

**1321-** Health promotion centred on hygiene and malnutrition control.

#### A: Hygiene Promotion

**1322-** Since overcrowding, poor sanitation and lack of latrines are the causes of disease, measures were taken to clean up the living environment of refugees. That is why the Emergency Programme set up by the Head of State for refugees, IDPs and people in the Far North Region, focused for example, on the provision of incinerators and the organization of a hand washing with clean water and soap campaign in schools, called Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

**1323-** The State built 68 latrine blocks, 56 boreholes at the Minawao Camp and 3 separate latrines for girls and boys. Furthermore, 3,151 latrines and 1,692 showers were built by UNICEF and the NGOs Public Concern, *Médecins sans Frontières* (MSF) and Plan Cameroon with the assistance of the refugees themselves, while 332 latrine blocks were built by other development partners<sup>548</sup>.

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<sup>548</sup> These are GDP (82), C2D (110), Emergency Response School Plan (87), MTN (3) and Counterpart (50).

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**1324-** The State also provided hygiene kits for women and children. Mrs **Chantal BIYA**, First Lady of Cameroon and Goodwill Ambassador, also offered refugees 2 containers of sanitary products estimated at over CFAF50,000,000<sup>549</sup>, the fruit of international advocacy with *the Chamber of Commerce of Canada-Cameroon and West Africa*, which expressed its support with an additional donation of 44 containers.

**1325-** In terms of the Best Practices Promotion Project launched by UNICEF, awareness took place in 100 villages, with 50 villages in the East Region and 50 in the Adamawa. This project that has improved hygiene in the camps is ongoing and 125 hygiene workers were employed giving a ratio of 379 refugees per hygiene worker for a standard ratio of at least 1 worker for 500 refugees according to the UNHCR.

**1326-** In the same vein, Plan Cameroon raised CFAF122,328,500<sup>550</sup> to improve access to health, water and sanitation for 1,000 children at the sites and in the host communities<sup>551</sup>.

## B: Malnutrition Control

**1327-** UNICEF in partnership with the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC), continued screening for malnutrition among new refugee children and the collection and analysis of nutritional data of same upon their arrival in Cameroon. An average of 8,298 children and 4,243 pregnant and lactating women were covered for malnutrition prevention, and after testing, 2,361 children were diagnosed with Acute Moderate Malnutrition (AMM) and 645 with Acute Severe Malnutrition (ASM) including 10 with oedema out of the 77,702 screened cases.

**1328-** MINSANTE with support from UNICEF conducted 2 health and child and maternal nutrition visits to the Minawao Camp. This activity covered

<sup>549</sup> About 76,335.87 Euros

<sup>550</sup> About 186,761.06 Euros

<sup>551</sup> This gift aimed also at access to education through the construction of ETAPE, Pre-school Education Centres, *Espace Amis d'Enfants* (EAE), offering of toy kits, training of EAE facilitators, teachers and inspectors of basic education and providing a protective environment.

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giving vitamin A supplement to 27,755 children aged 6 to 59 months, deworming of 26,840 children aged 12 to 59 months and screening for malnutrition of 18,706 children.

**1329-** In 2015, about 975 children in the Minawao Camp were received at the Outpatient Nutritional Centre and the Internal Therapeutic Nutrition Centre, Mokolo (CNTI). About 694 children from the Minawao Camp were treated for Acute Moderate Malnutrition. Feeding coverage activities were also conducted for 7,000 children aged 6 to 23 months. Similarly, UNICEF distributed over 5,000 cartons of Plumpy'Nut<sup>552</sup> to Health Districts.

**1330-** The nutritional response for Central African refugees in the East Region was made mainly through support for feeding infants and young children and the supply of inputs and medicines. Following identified need for blankets, intervention targeted 7 equipped Camps in host villages within some 10 km from the Camps. Some 27,121 new malnutrition cases were registered and treated in health facilities Outpatient Nutritional Centres for Moderate Malnutrition, Outpatient Nutritional Centres for Acute Moderate Malnutrition and CNTI in this area. These persons also had access to health care in the different health care facilities supported by health partners, African Humanitarian Action (AHA), the French Red Cross (CRF) and International Medical Corps (IMC). Over 80% of this population were in a radius of less than 5 km from the Health Centre, allowing easy access to care. The supported structures respected the national protocol, and a reference system at secondary and tertiary levels (case-by-case depending on the relevance of the reference) was implemented while respecting the health pyramid in Cameroon. The referrals were made by the 3 UNHCR partners, either at the national or regional level (IMC, at the Regional Hospital, Ngaoundere, CRF and AHA at the Regional Hospital, Bertoua).

**1331-** Improving the provision of care was also envisaged.

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<sup>552</sup> Therapeutic food

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## §2: Health Care

**1332-** The improvement of infrastructure, training of health staff and the provision of care were taken into consideration.

### A: Training Hospital Staff and Availability of Health Facilities

**1333-** UNICEF and WHO supported the training of members of 15 vaccination teams (vaccinators, recorders and mobilizers), while the Regional Delegation of Public Health for the Far North Region organized with the technical support of UNPFA, a training course for Health Providers<sup>553</sup> on the Minimum Emergency Device in Reproductive Health. Furthermore, as part of improving care facilities in the East Region, the staff was trained and nutritional surveillance enhanced.

**1334-** Regarding the availability of health infrastructure, Government took steps to rehabilitate some health centres and build new ones in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East Regions.

### B: Care Provision

**1335-** Government provided both preventive and curative care.

#### 1) Preventive Care

**1336-** In the Far North Region, limited access to water and sanitation expose the refugees and local population to cholera epidemics<sup>554</sup>. In order to prevent such risks, Government, through MINSANTE, with the support of MSF, organized a vaccination campaign for inhabitants of the Region and persons in the Minawao Camp. During the campaign carried

<sup>553</sup> These providers came from the District Hospitals Mokolo and Hina, the Health Post, Minawao Camp, the Integrated Health Centre, Gadala and Midwives, graduates of the School of Nursing, Garoua.

<sup>554</sup> According to statistics from the Regional Delegation of Public Health for the Far North Region, 2,865 cases of cholera and 153 deaths were recorded in 2014.

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out in 4 phases corresponding to the administration of different doses of vaccines, 43,857 refugees were immunized. Children under one year and pregnant women were excluded. The anti-tetanus vaccine was administered to women aged 15 to 49 years. Thus, out of a target of 14,650 women, 9,351 were vaccinated. Besides, water supply and public awareness also contributed to the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases including cholera.

**1337-** MINSANTE also conducted other immunization campaigns, especially against measles, funded by UNICEF, WHO and MSF resulting in the immunization of 166,810 children as follows: 12,224 (6-11 months); 50,351 (12-59 months) and 104,411 (6-15 years) in the Health Districts of Bourha and Mora. Among them, 54,763 IDPs were vaccinated, including 53,221 in the Health District of Mora and 1,542 in the Health District of Bourha.

**1338-** In the East Region, one of the preventive methods used by health authorities and partners like UNICEF, was raising the awareness of Central African refugees and host populations on the need to comply with the requirements of Community-led total Sanitation while going to hospitals. In the same vein, community health activities were also launched with 40 community relays in charge of outreach, home visits and case detection.

## 2) Curative Care

**1339-** Care for refugees received miscellaneous support.

### a) Patient Care

**1340-** Hospitals in Yaounde and Douala worked with the UNHCR and the NGO Catholic Relief Services to ensure access to health care for urban refugees.

**1341-** At the Minawao Camp that in January 2015 had only a health centre run by IMC, the team was reinforced by UNHCR and IMC with 2 doctors, bringing the number of doctors to 5, and a psychiatric nurse for mental health services. MSF provided Nigerian refugees medical and psy-

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chological treatment in addition to many consultations with IMC. The most recurrent diseases identified after consultations largely of children under 5 years were respiratory infections in all the areas, malaria and epilepsy.

**1342-** During the reference period, reinforcement of the multi-sector mechanism ensured holistic medical, psychosocial, material and legal<sup>555</sup> management of survivors of violence. Indeed, cases of abuse were reported at Minawao Camp in the Far North Region, involving 281 GBV, 2 cases of rape, 2 cases of sexual assault, 1 case of FGM, 87 cases of physical assault, 18 cases of early/forced marriages, 76 cases of psychological violence, 91 cases of denial of resources and 4 cases of human trafficking. In the East, North and Adamawa Regions, there were 452 incidents of gender-based sexual violence among refugees including 23 men. The UNHCR incurred 70% of the health costs of victims while victims themselves covered 30% of the cost. Furthermore, UNHCR took charge of all the health costs of vulnerable groups<sup>556</sup>. Similarly, the State, with the technical and financial support of the Japanese Government, United Nations Agencies (UN Women, UNFPA, and UNESCO) initiated a project to provide vital assistance to women and refugee girls in the East and Adamawa, notably everyday support of cases of sexual and sexist violence identified in intervention sites and hosts villages, and facilitation of community activities to build social resilience and prevent new cases of violence.

## b) Support for Patient Care

**1343-** As part of support to Persons with Special Needs (PSN), the NGO IEDA Relief distributed soap and dignity kits to 608 PSN composed of 108 elderly persons, 219 pregnant women, 3 persons with disabilities, 141 nursing mothers, 15 Unaccompanied Children (UC), 6 Separated Children (SC), 54 women family heads, and 2 patients with chronic diseases. Furthermore, 594 PSN comprising 120 elderly persons, 1

<sup>555</sup> Legal aid was offered to survivors of violence, but fear and silence played a big role sometimes preventing victims from considering legal action against perpetrators.

<sup>556</sup> They are GBV victims, the elderly, people with serious illnesses and unaccompanied children.

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mentally ill person, 11 blind persons, 52 pregnant women, 11 persons with disability, 6 deaf-mute, 298 lactating women, 8 UC, 11 SC, 41 women, heads of households, 9 patients with chronic diseases while 26 undetermined cases received soap, sugar, spaghetti, rice and detergent. In all, 6,572 PSN were identified in the Minawao Camp.

**1344-** UNICEF gave the Regional Delegation of Public Health for the Far North Region 125 motorcycles within the framework of the H4+ Project for 30 Health Districts and polio control.

**1345-** The UNHCR made available to refugees kits consisting of mosquito nets, bleach, buckets, cups and blankets as contribution to the support plan for the wounded of the Region and its environs, worth CFAF 2,565,500<sup>557</sup>.

**1346-** To enhance reproductive health services offered to refugees, IDPs and host populations, reproductive health kits were made available to some targeted health facilities<sup>558</sup> to emphasise on the prevention and management of GBV<sup>559</sup>, prevention and management of high maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity in emergency cases.

**1347-** These measures, improved on refugees' health situation especially at the Minawao Camp where the Gross Death Rate for the general population and children less than 5 years dropped. For the overall population, this rate dropped from 1.02 deaths/1,000 persons/month in January 2015 to 0.2 deaths/1,000 persons/month in December of the same year.

<sup>557</sup> About 3916.79 Euros

<sup>558</sup> These donations were made on the sidelines of a training course for 20 health providers on the Minimum Reproductive Health Emergency Device organized by Government from 23 to 25 March 2015 in Garoua, with the technical and financial assistance of UNFPA. These providers were from the District Hospital, Mokolo (4), Hina (2), Minawao Camp Health Post (3) and the Integrated Centre Galdala (1). There were also 10 Midwives, graduates of the School of Nursing, Garoua.

<sup>559</sup> It includes medical care, individual counselling, active listening, group therapy and socio-economic integration.

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## SECTION 4: EDUCATION OF REFUGEES AND IDPs

**1348-** The enhancement of education supply and support on demand led to significant school enrolment.

### §1: Enhancement of Education Offer

**1349-** The enhancement of offer was marked by a rise in the number of facilities and increase in staff strength and training.

#### A: Increase in Infrastructure

**1350-** Government constructed about 208 classrooms for Refugees and IDPs in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East Regions. It constructed 3 classrooms and set up 3 primary schools, 3 nursery schools and 2 pre-school centres at the Minawao Camp in the Far North Region. In the East Region, 7 classrooms were built at the Borgop and Ngam Camps.

**1351-** Moreover, with financial support from the European Union of CFAF300,000,000<sup>560</sup> through the Children of Peace Project, UNICEF built classrooms at the Borgop and Ngam refugee camps in the Adamawa Region and Gado Badzere in the East Region.

#### B: Increase and Training of Teachers

**1352-** To increase the number of teachers, Government organized with the support of UNICEF and Public Concern, a teacher recruitment test at primary and kindergarten levels. Overall, 177 candidates were registered comprising 139 refugees and 38 Cameroonians of which 35 women (18 refugees and 17 Cameroonians). After the test, 25 teachers were selected. UNICEF hired 197 Cameroon teachers in Temporary

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<sup>560</sup> About 458, 015.26 Euros

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Learning Spaces for Children (ETAPE) for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes. These teachers were subsequently transferred by Government to schools in and out of the refugee camps.

**1353-** The capacities of these teachers were later built in several areas, such as child protection, psychosocial support and education for peace, and issues relating to education in emergency situations in the East and Adamawa Regions.

**1354-** Education demand was also taken into account.

## §2: Support for Education Demand

**1355-** Several incentives were given to facilitate access to the largest number of refugees and displaced persons to education. Besides community awareness and upgrading before inclusion in the school system, school supplies and various support had an impact on student enrolment.

### A) Education Incentives

**1356-** Awareness campaigns were organized by the State in refugee sites for the education community and the main stakeholders on the importance of education. In urban areas, Government, in collaboration with UNICEF, developed a psychosocial support programme for students in unsecured areas.

**1357-** To support this initiative, Plan Cameroon equipped the Children-Friendly Spaces (CFS) of 2 kindergartens at the Minawao Camp with slides, swings, jerseys, balls and skipping ropes. In addition, 3 primary schools received significant stock of teaching aids to motivate children to continue their education.

**1358-** It was also necessary to upgrade the students' level for better performance. In this regard, Government, supported by UNICEF, ensured in

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the Far North Region, supervision of students' assessment marking the end of the Fast Track Preparatory Programme for Entrance into Primary School (CAPEP) and the Fast Track Reinsertion Programme for School Drop-Outs (CARED) at the Minawao Camp and host schools. These activities were monitored at Mora and Mokolo. At the end of the socio-educational and recreational activities organized by the *Action Local pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré* (ALDEPA), disaggregated statistics revealing the involvement of children by age group in the camps were prepared as illustrated in the table below:

**Table 1: Children in schools at the Minawao Camp**

<b>Age Gender</b>	<b>3 -5 years</b>	<b>6-9 years</b>	<b>10-14 years</b>	<b>15-17 years</b>
<b>Girls</b>	1,260	1,189	1,169	717
<b>Boys</b>	1,361	1,136	1,213	797
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>1,514</b>

**Source:** UNHCR

1359- Table 2 presents statistics on children in off-site schools.

**Table 2: Children in Off-site schools**

<b>Groups Gender</b>	<b>Host Communities</b>		<b>IDPs</b>	
	<b>CAPEP</b>	<b>CARED</b>	<b>CAPEP</b>	<b>CARED</b>
<b>Girls</b>	106	418	207	861
<b>Boys</b>	48	508	219	1,233
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>2,094</b>

**Source:** UNHCR

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**1360-** In all, 8,841 children on-site and 3,600 children off-site regularly took part in these activities.

**1361-** In the East Region, 13,282 refugee children (5,822 girls and 7,461 boys) were enrolled in primary education in ETAPes in the 6 equipped camps at Ngam, Borgop, Gado-Badzéré, Timangolo, Mbile and Lolo, and were deemed suitable for reinsertion in the formal school system after technical tests.

## **B) Material and Financial Contribution to Education**

**1362-** Refugees were given school supplies and financial support for effective schooling.

### **1) Donation of School Supplies**

**1363-** The State offered refugees an average of 1,000 school kits and teaching aids to teachers consisting of textbooks, chalk, books, notebooks, rulers and squares. Government, for example, offered Timangolo 3 cartons of ballpoint pens, 3 cartons of notebooks, 1 carton of graduated rulers and 1 carton of slates. Similarly, it equipped classrooms with some 6,240 desks and 208 teachers' tables.

**1364-** Plan Cameroon provided primary school children at Minawao Camp 5,000 kits each comprising one (1) bag, notebooks, pencils and Math sets. Meanwhile UNICEF gave school and hygiene kits to the Regional Delegation of Basic Education in Maroua, the Sub-Divisional Inspectorate, Mokolo and the UNHCR for 10,702 refugee pupils (including 4,922 girls) and 17,162 displaced persons and host communities (amongst which 7,894 girls). It also distributed, within the framework of the Project "Children of Peace", 35,000 school bags and 250 sports kits.

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## 2) Financial Assistance to Education

**1365-** In order to offset insufficient financial resources, which hinders access to education, Government paid examination fees for displaced students of the Far North Region. The total cost of this programme<sup>561</sup> was estimated at CFAF3,644,257,000<sup>562</sup> and its implementation rate stood at 98% as at the month of December 2015.

### C: Consolidation of Access to Education

**1366-** All the actions taken fostered the enrolment of a significant number of refugee children during the 2015/2016 Academic Year. As such, at the end of 2015 at the Minawao camp, 16,603 children were enrolled in kindergarten, primary and secondary schools: 1,294 in kindergarten (698 girls and 596 boys), 12,921 in primary education (5,994 girls and 6,927 boys) and 2,388 in secondary education (1,284 girls and 1,104boys,) giving an enrolment rate of 64%.

**1367-** As regards Central African nationals, 20,202 children (11,979 boys and 8,223 girls) enrolled in 275 public primary schools in host villages. In addition, 1,244 refugee children (865 boys and 379 girls) were enrolled in off-site secondary schools giving an enrolment rate of 49% in primary school and 5% in secondary school.

## SECTION 5: IMPROVEMENT OF REFUGEES' LIVING STANDARDS

**1368-** In order to ensure their right to an adequate standard of living, access of refugees to food and water was facilitated and their production capacity enhanced for their economic empowerment.

<sup>561</sup> This relates to the Emergency Programme set up by the State for refugees and IDPs.

<sup>562</sup> About 5,563,751 Euros

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## §1: Food and Water Supply

**1369-** In a bid to control malnutrition of vulnerable people, in particular women<sup>563</sup> and children, measures were taken to supply refugees and IDPs with food and water.

### A: Food Distribution

**1370-** The Government and Development Partners showed solidarity towards refugees through donations.

#### 1) Government Actions

**1371-** In the Far North Region, Government implemented a strategy for mobilizing food kits valued at some CFAF10,000,000,000<sup>564</sup> both for refugees and host communities, to compensate food deficiencies due to lack of farming by the population and its consequences. In addition, refugees at the Minawao Camp received gifts consisting largely of food, worth CFAF 2,000,000<sup>565</sup> and CFAF15,000,000<sup>566</sup> respectively. At the Timangolo Camp, in the East Region, Government offered 153 bags of 50 kg of rice, more than 100 kg cartons of oil and 50 bags of salt.

#### 2) Support of Development Partners

**1372-** Food support was provided through the actions of International Organizations and those based on interstate cooperation.

<sup>563</sup> The vulnerability of women here is envisaged in the humanitarian context.

<sup>564</sup> About 15,267,175.57 Euros

<sup>565</sup> About 3,053.43 Euros

<sup>566</sup> About 22,900.76 Euros

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## a) Contribution by International Organizations

**1373-** The World Food Programme (WFP) distributed food to the CAR refugees provided by the Japanese Ambassador to Cameroon, consisting of rice, vegetables, oil, corn flour and soy.

**1374-** In the Far North, WFP envisaged for newcomers who had not yet been included in the distribution lists, pre-positioned stocks of high energy biscuits as well as hot and cold daily meals. At the Minawao Camp, WFP together with *CARITAS*, engaged in a monthly distribution of about 480 tons of food composed of salt, *Corn-Soya* Blend and vegetable oil. The distribution allowed recipients to have a daily intake of 2,100 kcal. WFP also distributed to canteens of 33 schools in the Region 55,147 tons of food to 10,607 pupils, and 37,529 tons of maize to 1,290 girls in classes 5 and 6 as dry rations.

**1375-** The ICRC continued its weekly food distribution to IDPs in the Mayo-Sava and Mayo Tsanaga Divisions, allowing hundreds of households to receive various kinds of food comprising 75 kg of millet, 25 kg of beans, 10 litres of oil and 1 kg of salt per household.

## b) Interstate Cooperation

**1376-** Russia offered a large stock of food products including 1,500 tons of bottled sunflower oil and 370 tons of wheat flour worth CFAF1,300,000,000<sup>567</sup> to refugees and IDPs in the East and Far North Regions. It also offered food worth over 3,500 bags of wheat flour and 3,900 cartons of refined oil to refugees and local populations in the Adamaoua Region. Russia provided humanitarian aid including 37 tons of food and essential goods, under the Humanitarian Assistance Programme concluded in 2014 with the Government.

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<sup>567</sup> About 1984,732.82 Euros

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**1377-** China donated 30,000<sup>568</sup> dollars. In addition, Central African refugees in the East Region received 50 head of cattle from Turkey during the feast of *the Tabaski* and a Japanese donation of about CFAF10,800,000,000<sup>569</sup> for emergency food and nutrition assistance to host populations<sup>570</sup>.

## B: Water Supply

**1378-** To provide water to refugees, a two-phase strategy was deployed with Water Trucking consisting in distributing water from tankers as well as the construction of wells and boreholes.

**1379-** Thus, the Minawao Camp, regularly supplied by tanker trucks, received 240 KWA generators to increase water pumping capacity and 30 boreholes. This allowed an average of 946 m<sup>3</sup>/ day to be attained, that is 14 litres/person/day, despite the massive influx of refugees. In contrast, in the East Region, the impact was more significant with an average of 18 litres/ person/day obtained, approaching UNHCR standards set at 20 litres/person/day. To consolidate this approach, Germany granted aid estimated at CFAF3,930,000,000<sup>571</sup>, primarily to solving drinking water supply problems faced by refugees and IDPs.

**1380-** In order to find a lasting solution to the water supply problem in the Minawao Camp, a partnership project<sup>572</sup> between Cameroon and the UNHCR was signed at the end of 2015 to construct a drinking water supply system over a distance of 25 km from Mokolo to the said Camp.

**1381-** The financial independence of refugees was considered for better care of their needs.

<sup>568</sup> About CFAF 17,364,000 that is 26,509.92 Euros

<sup>569</sup> About 16,488,549.61 Euros

<sup>570</sup> This gift was also made to: UNICEF for integrated responses to humanitarian emergencies for Central African refugees in the East and Adamawa Regions; UNDP for rapid response, resilience and conflict prevention amongst the population of the Far North and East Regions; UNHCR for protection and assistance to old and new refugees; UN Women for emergency management of GBV survivors and the protection of women/girl refugees and host communities in the East and the Adamawa Regions.

<sup>571</sup> About 6,000,000 Euros

<sup>572</sup> This project will be realized only in 2016.

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## §2: Empowering Refugees

**1382-** To promote the empowerment of refugees, measures taken consisted in supporting the building of their capacities and facilitating their socio-professional integration.

**1383-** Regarding training, Government offered pupils and students, vocational training and literacy programmes as well as scholarships. The *DAFI Foundation*, that operates a German Scholarship Programme, also offered them scholarships.

**1384-** Support for the development of income-generating activities resulted in financial and material support in various sectors such as sewing, hairdressing and bakery. In this regard, 5,171 persons (3,620 refugees and 1,551 nationals) received some form of livelihood support, including support for agricultural production or livestock (81.5%) and for the setting up of micro-enterprises (16.7%). Moreover, the FAO made available to refugees and host populations of the East Region, aid estimated at about CFAF250,000,000<sup>573</sup> consisting of tools, seed and fertilizer for their farming activities. This organization also installed equipped units for the processing of goods in 10 villages to enable refugees and IDPs work and support themselves.

**1385-** These measures enabled refugees to support themselves and their families.

**1386-** Alongside these actions to strengthen refugees' economic and social rights, special attention was also paid to the enjoyment of their civil and political rights.

## SECTION 6: GUARANTEEING CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

**1387-** Although the enjoyment of political rights in the host territory is restricted in principle, CAR refugees participated in elections organized in

<sup>573</sup> About 381,679.38 Euros

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the CAR in 2015. In addition to the enjoyment of political rights, measures were taken to guarantee that refugees enjoy their civil rights.

## §1: Participation of CAR Refugees in Elections

**1388-** To enable CAR refugees participate in parliamentary and presidential elections in CAR, a tripartite agreement was signed on 2 November 2015 between Cameroon, the UNHCR and CAR. Furthermore, Cameroon granted the CAR refugees assistance worth CFAF1,000,000,000<sup>574</sup> for the smooth running of the voting process for refugees in Cameroon. Members of the diplomatic representation of the CAR and the UNHCR raised the awareness of refugees to encourage them to actually participate in the vote, and the administrative authorities of the East and Adamawa Regions encouraged them to facilitate the smooth conduct of the elections.

**1389-** Biometric registration was organized in November 2015. In the East Region, with a strong concentration of refugees, the UNHCR and the National Elections Authority, the Central African body in charge of elections, set up 42 polling stations at 15 sites. For the Central African community living in Douala and surrounding towns, a poll was available at the CAR Consulate in Douala.

**1390-** The first round of elections took place hitch free on 30 December 2015. While some 21,000 CAR refugees participated in the referendum vote of 6 December 2015 on the adoption of a new Constitution, some 30,000 of them took part in the other elections.

**1391-** Efforts were also made to guarantee the protection of refugees' civil rights.

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<sup>574</sup> About 1526717,56 Euros

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## §2: Civil Rights Protection

**1392-** The protection of civil rights focused on civil status and safety.

### A: Issuance of Birth Certificates to Refugees

**1393-** At the Minawao Camp, UNHCR set up with Plan Cameroon, Community mechanisms for the Protection of Children, to identify children at risk and to monitor and educate the community on protection issues. In this vein, raising awareness on birth registration<sup>575</sup> at the Civil Status Registry continued, leading to the issuance of 1,454 birth certificates to Nigerian children born in Cameroon during the reference year. Mechanisms for the search of family and restoration of family ties were also established.

### B: Personal Safety Actions

**1394-** The presence of refugees sometimes resulted in conflicts between same and the host population on the management of natural resources. To this end, Government continued to seek solutions to issues concerning refugee security, humanitarian workers and civilians. Preventive and repressive actions were taken.

#### 1) Preventive Actions

**1395-** Government and its partners set up joint projects between refugees and host communities to prevent certain intercommunal conflicts and strengthen the prevailing peaceful coexistence.

**1396-** The strategies used included mass sensitization (covering inter alia education for peace, sexual violence, family conflicts, the rights of refugees and non-nationals), educational talks and social cohesion activities.

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<sup>575</sup> It was found that refugees have high birth rates. In the Minawao Camp, for example, there were about 55 births/week and CRC experts estimate that there are 500 births per quarter and 2000 births /year.

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**1397-** In addition, community volunteers were recruited to sensitize refugees on their rights and duties in different areas such as protection and child protection. This was the case in Yaounde and Douala where protection mechanisms were implemented following the same strategies.

**1398-** Regarding security reinforcement, the State took steps to protect persons living in areas at risk and in the Camps<sup>576</sup>.

**1399-** Hence, at Garounguel located 4km from the Minawao Camp, a transit centre was set up in July 2015 to check, register and orientate newcomers to the camps.

**1400-** Inside the camps, joint Military-Gendarme patrols ensured safety and regularly conducted searches. Outside the camps, military presence was reassuring to host populations. Refugees were involved in providing their own security through existing vigilante committees in camps. In the Adamawa Region, the Borgop and Ngam camps were surrounded by defence forces.

**1401-** Apart from these precautions, repressive measures were also taken against offenders.

## 2) Repression

**1402-** Refugees were educated on the respect of the laws of the host country, the violation of which is liable to sanctions. Offenders were prosecuted. Hence, in the East Region, 136 legal proceedings were instituted against refugees including a Guinean and 93 decisions were delivered. They were mostly charged with theft, illegal immigration, indecency, grievous harm, murder, illegal possession of weapons, drug, use etc. The sanctions imposed were prison sentences ranging from 1 month to 10 years sometimes with fines. Some 10 persons were acquitted for lack of evidence and 1 no case ruling was delivered.

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<sup>576</sup> For security measures on a global scale, see 2014 Report, Chapter on Human Rights and Control of Terrorism, § 245 et seq.

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**1403-** The table below shows information on prison statistics on refugees and asylum seekers.

**Table 3: Detention of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in 2015**

Prison	Refugee		Asylum Seekers	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Central Prison, Batouri	...	61	...	...
Central Prison, Bertoua	...	20	...	18
Central Prison, Douala	...	...	...	8
Central Prison, Maroua	...	30	...	...
Central Prison, Yaounde	1	29	...	10
Main Prison, Meiganga	1	49	...	8
Main Prison, Mokolo	...	4	...	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>48</b>

**Source:** UNHCR

**1404-** Some 195 refugees and 48 asylum seekers were imprisoned giving a total of 243 persons.

**1405-** The funds required to provide the needs of refugees were estimated in 2015 at USD 145,304 541<sup>577</sup> and only 19% of this amount was mobilized. These amounts combined with Government contributions, helped improve the living conditions of refugees and to support the IDPs as much as possible. Despite these considerable efforts, much remains to be done. Thus, the intention of Government and the Federal Republic of Russia is to set up a working group to fine tune a project in Cameroon for the establishment of a Humanitarian Emergency Centre with a central warehouse for vital goods, equipment and materials to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Cameroon and in the Central Africa Sub region. This is part of the solution and reflects the State's determination to take up these challenges.

<sup>577</sup> About CFAF 84,130,153,786.25 and 12,825,559 264.75 Euros



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## CONCLUSION OF PART III

**1406-** In 2015, the national scene was marked by political, diplomatic, economic and social actions designed to curb terrorism. These actions were backed by all the driving forces of the Nation and underpinned the State's commitment to respect individual rights including those of enemy combatants.

**1407-** Efforts by Government for an inclusive approach to protect and guarantee the Human Rights of specific groups such as women, children, prisoners, indigenous peoples and the elderly, persons with disability, refugees and displaced persons were satisfactory.

**1408-** In this regard, the number of women in Government or at the helm of State entities increased. A Mbororo, for the first time ever, was appointed Secretary-General of a Ministry. The number of street children and child labour rate dropped, and refugees and IDPs enjoyed their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

**1409-** These achievements stem from a series of institutional measures, such as the publication of a Public Administration Gender Award and the drawing up of the NGP implementation plan, establishment of the APME, the adoption of PANETEC or a National Programme for the Protection of the Elderly, the dedication of the holding of the Annual Meeting of the Heads of Court to concerns about overcrowding in prisons, or the signing of a Tripartite Agreement between Cameroon, the CAR and UNHCR for the participation of the CAR refugees in presidential election organized in their country in December 2015.

**1410-** However, these achievements, should not cloud persistent multi-sector challenges, namely the absence of a national strategy for terrorism control, a regulatory framework for the implementation of the rights of persons with disability or the functioning of a national institutional mechanism for the protection of refugees, risks of radicalization in prisons because of contacts between terrorist suspects and other detainees, and the lack of proper organization in GBV control. This means that consolidation of these efforts is ongoing.



**GENERAL**

**CONCLUSION**



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**1411-** The examination of Human Rights in Cameroon in 2015 highlighted progress made in this domain which does not however obscure constraints and prospects.

**1412-** Accordingly, although the intensification and diversification of the strategy used by the terrorist group *Boko Haram* obliged the State to adjust its means and methods used hitherto to fight this group, it served as a catalyst for convergence of efforts through multiform support given to Cameroon, with the benefit of preserving the national territory and the safety of persons and property. The significant humanitarian and socio-economic impact of terrorism did not compromise the strategic options of Government which focused on improving the environment and living conditions of the people.

**1413-** The need to reconcile the prevailing security situation with strategic guidelines that have a Human Rights approach explains the adoption of policies, programmes and projects specifically dedicated to regions most hit by terrorism, notably the Northern Regions Emergency Plan, food distribution to the population, the relocation of ELECAM agencies and the management of refugees and internally displaced persons.

**1414-** Moreover, Cameroon's determination to respect its obligations under its international commitments gave particular resonance to Human Rights protection. Therefore, choices were geared towards the intensification of Cameroon's international commitments, especially through its participation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21). The adherence of Cameroon to the many Recommendations of the Conference was expressed at the internal level by the functioning of the National Observatory on Climate Change. The same applies to the adoption of a law specifically dedicated to audiovisual communication, launching of RGAE, the extension of the school map and the opening of new referral hospitals.

**1415-** Despite the efficiency of the education system measurable through educational outcomes, improved indicators of the right to fair trial, notably the frequency of litigants before administrative courts, or corruption

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control and strengthening the option for decent work, constraints persist. In fact, the low proportion of females appointed to decision-making positions, overcrowding in prison, child recruitment by the terrorist group *Boko Haram*, child marriages, persistent difficulties in water and energy supply or in accessing health care, particularly in terms of cost, equity and quality are challenges that public authorities still have to address. Besides, the drop in mortality resulting from road accidents is due to user awareness and improved road infrastructure.

**1416-** Furthermore, the failure of Law No. 2009/004 of 14 April 2009 to make provision for legal aid before Administrative Courts and the insufficient financial and human resources allocated to the judicial sector have an undeniable impact on the quality of justice rendered.

**1417-** It is thus important to recall the multisectoral nature of measures to be taken by the Government, which measures involve each Stakeholder in his or her own field of competence and requires concerted action for rooting Human Rights Culture and the rule of law.

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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 Lands, 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);
- Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED);
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS);
- Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE);
- Ministry of Defence (MINDEF);

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- Ministry of External Relations (MINREX);
- Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT);
- Ministry of Finance (MINFI);
- Supreme State Audit Office (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).

## Councils and Independent Administrative Services

- National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC);
- Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL);
- Rural Electrification Agency (AER);
- National Financial Investigation Agency (ANIF);
- Cameroon Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA);
- Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART);
- Standard and Quality Agency (ANOR);
- Small and Medium sized Enterprises Promotion Agency (APME);
- Cameroon Bank for Small and Medium sized Enterprises (CBSME);
- National Communication Council (CNC);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC);

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- National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF);
- National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF);
- Yaounde City Council (CUY);
- Douala City Council (CUD);
- Elections Cameroon (ELECAM);
- National Employment Fund (FNE);
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD);
- National Institute of Statistics (NIS);
- Urban and Rural Land Development Authority (MAETUR);
- Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (MIRAP);
- National Governance Programme (PNG);
- Cameroon Housing Corporation (SIC);
- Cameroon Bar Association.

## International Organizations and Civil Society

- African Action on Aids (AAA);
- Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT-Bamenda);
- Association for the Struggle against Violence against Women (ALVF);
- United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA);
- *Confédération Camerounaise du Travail* (CCT);
- Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy (CHRAPA);
- 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);
- Plan Cameroon;
- Network of Human Rights Organizations (RECODH);
- National Union of Associations and Institutions of and for Persons with Disabilities of Cameroon (UNAPHAC).

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