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PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND



**REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN CAMEROON IN 2016**

Yaounde, September 2017



# **REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMEROON IN 2016**

# MINJUSTICE

Report of the Ministry of Justice on  
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2016

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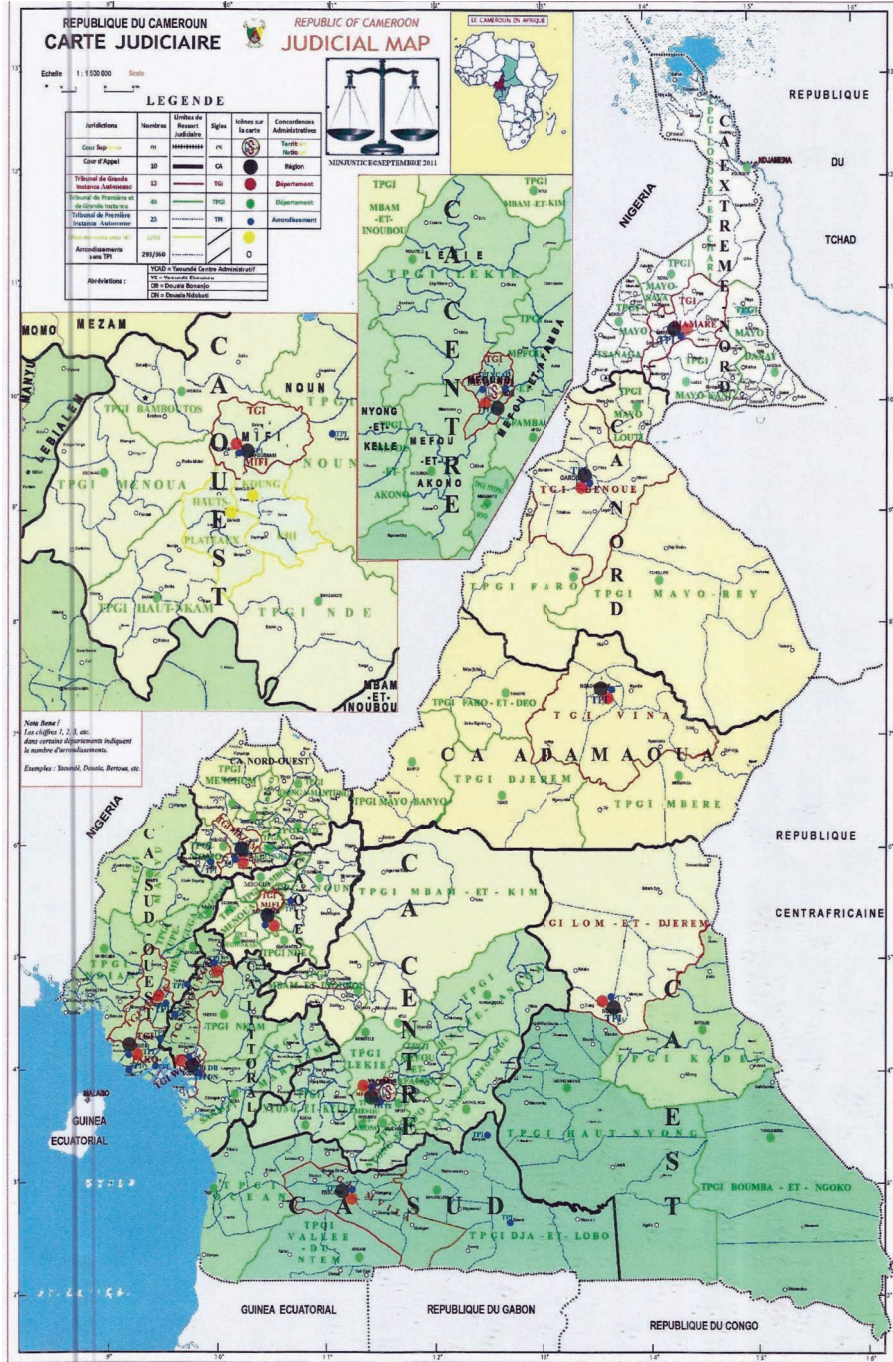
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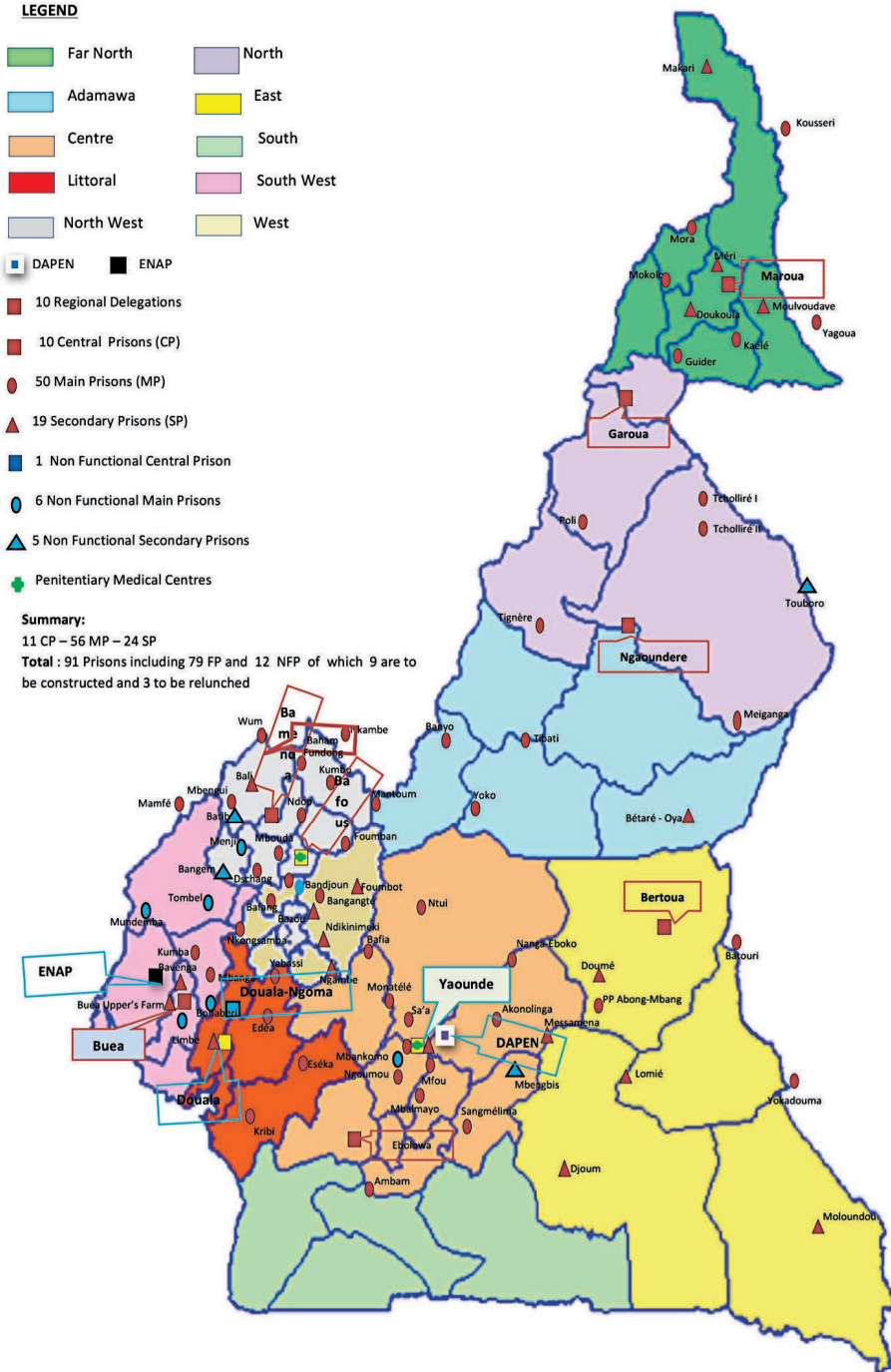
## JUDICIAL MAP OF CAMEROON



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## PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION MAP OF CAMEROON







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## FOREWORD

*« If each and every one accomplishes his task with love for the fatherland,  
we would be a driving force for the progress of our country ».*

**Paul Biya, President of the Republic,  
Address on the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Youth  
Day, 10 February 2016.**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

...	: Result not available
<b>AC</b>	: Administrative Court
<b>ACHPR</b>	: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
<b>ACERWC</b>	: African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>ACMS</b>	: <i>Association Camerounaise de Marketing Social</i>
<b>ACRWC</b>	: African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>AEP</b>	: Project to Strengthen and Extend Drinking Water Supply Systems
<b>AFCON</b>	: African Female Cup of Nations
<b>AFD</b>	: <i>Agence Française de Développement</i>
<b>ALDEPA</b>	: <i>Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré</i>
<b>ANIF</b>	: National Financial Investigation Agency
<b>ANOR</b>	: Standards and Quality Agency
<b>ANTIC</b>	: National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies
<b>APME</b>	: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Promotion Agency
<b>ARSEL</b>	: Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency
<b>ART</b>	: Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
<b>AU</b>	: African Union
<b>BC-PME</b>	: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Bank of Cameroon
<b>BFDC</b>	: Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council
<b>BUNEC</b>	: National Civil Status Office
<b>C2D</b>	: Debt Relief and Development Contract
<b>CA</b>	: Court of Appeal
<b>CAADP</b>	: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
<b>CAfDHP</b>	: African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

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<b>CAMNAFAW</b>	: Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare
<b>CASSPC</b>	: Special Appropriations Account to Support Cultural Policies of Cameroon
<b>CBF</b>	: Cameroon Business Forum
<b>CEMAC</b>	: Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
<b>CERAC</b>	: <i>Cercle des Amis du Cameroun</i>
<b>CFC</b>	: Cameroon Housing Loan Fund
<b>CFCE</b>	: Centre for Business Incorporation
<b>CFI</b>	: Court of First Instance
<b>CFPE</b>	: Vocational Training Centres of Excellence
<b>CNTD</b>	: Chronic Non Transmissible Diseases
<b>COECAM</b>	: <i>Associazione Centro Orientamento Educativo Cameroon</i>
<b>CONAC</b>	: National Anti-Corruption Commission
<b>CONSUPE</b>	: Supreme State Audit
<b>CPC</b>	: Criminal Procedure Code
<b>CRC</b>	: Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRTV</b>	: Cameroon Radio Television
<b>DAJEI</b>	: Department of Legal Affairs and Information Exploitation
<b>DAPEN</b>	: Department of Penitentiary Administration
<b>DDHCI</b>	: Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation
<b>DECC</b>	: Department of Examination and Certification
<b>EDF</b>	: European Development Fund
<b>ENEO</b>	: Energy of Cameroon
<b>ENI</b>	: Teacher Training Colleges
<b>ENIEG</b>	: General Education Grade I Teacher Training Colleges
<b>ENIET</b>	: Technical Education Grade I Teacher Training Colleges
<b>ENS</b>	: Higher Teacher Training Colleges
<b>ENSAP</b>	: <i>Ecole nationale supérieure d'architecture et de paysage de Bordeaux</i>

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<b>ESSACA</b>	: <i>Ecole Supérieure Spéciale d'Architecture du Cameroun</i>
<b>ESSTIC</b>	: Advanced School of Information and Communication Sciences and Techniques
<b>ETAPE</b>	: Temporary Learning Spaces for Children
<b>FEICOM</b>	: Special Council Support Fund
<b>FENAC</b>	: National Festival of Arts and Culture
<b>FENASSCO</b>	: National School Games
<b>FLC</b>	: Functional Literacy Centres
<b>FONIJ</b>	: National Fund for Youth Integration
<b>FSLC</b>	: First School Leaving Certificate
<b>GBV</b>	: Gender Based Violence
<b>GCE</b>	: General Certificate of Education
<b>GESP</b>	: Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
<b>GPE</b>	: Global Partnership for Education
<b>GSE</b>	: General Secondary Education
<b>HC</b>	: High Court
<b>UNHRC</b>	: United Nations Human Rights Council
<b>ICCPR</b>	: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICRC</b>	: International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
<b>IDPs</b>	: Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IFC</b>	: International Finance Corporation
<b>IHC</b>	: Integrated Health Centers
<b>IPES</b>	: Private Institutions of Higher Education
<b>JDE</b>	: Employment Forum
<b>MINAC</b>	: Ministry of Arts and Culture
<b>MINADER</b>	: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MINCOM</b>	: Ministry of Communication
<b>MINCOMMERCE</b>	: Ministry of Trade
<b>MINDCAF</b>	: Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure

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<b>MINDEF</b>	: Ministry of Defence
<b>MINEDUB</b>	: Ministry of Basic Education
<b>MINEE</b>	: Ministry of Water Resources and Energy
<b>MINEFOP</b>	: Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
<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>MINHDU</b>	: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
<b>MINJEC</b>	: Ministry of Youth and Civic Education
<b>MINJUSTICE</b>	: Ministry of Justice
<b>MINMAP</b>	: Ministry of Public Contracts
<b>MINMIDT</b>	: Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development
<b>MINPMEESA</b>	: Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
<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>MINTOUL</b>	: Ministry of Tourism and Leisure
<b>MIRAP</b>	: Consumer Product Supply Regulation Authority
<b>MNJTF</b>	: Multinational Joint Task Force
<b>MW</b>	: megawatts
<b>NAPI</b>	: National Agriculture Investment Plan
<b>NCC</b>	: National Communication Council
<b>NCHRF</b>	: National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms
<b>NEF</b>	: National Employment Fund
<b>NHPC</b>	: Nachtigal Hydro Power Company

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<b>NSIF</b>	: National Social Insurance Fund
<b>NTD</b>	: Neglected Tropical Diseases
<b>NYO</b>	: National Youth Observatory
<b>OBC</b>	: Cameroon Baccalaureate Board
<b>OCEAC</b>	: Organization for the Fight against Great Endemics in Central Africa
<b>ONEFOP</b>	: National Employment and Vocational Training Observatory
<b>PAJER-U</b>	: Rural and Urban Youth Support Programme
<b>PANEJ</b>	: National Plan of Action for Youth Employment
<b>PANEJ</b>	: Special Triennial Youth Plan and a National Youth Plan
<b>PAPA</b>	: Programme for the Improvement of Agricultural Production
<b>PBGE</b>	: Bar-Governance-Rule of Law Project
<b>PC</b>	: Penal Code
<b>PG</b>	: Procureur General
<b>PIB</b>	: Public Investment Budget
<b>PIB</b>	: Public Investment Budget
<b>PIFMAS</b>	: Micro-enterprises for the Manufacture of Sports Equipment
<b>PLANUT</b>	: Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth
<b>PMTCT</b>	: Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
<b>PNDP</b>	: National Programme for Participatory Development
<b>PO</b>	: Producer Organizations
<b>PPAB</b>	: Participatory Programme for the Improvement of Slums
<b>PPEA</b>	: Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Promotion Project
<b>PULCI</b>	: Emergency Flood Control Project
<b>RRI</b>	: Rapid Results Initiatives
<b>SC</b>	: Supreme Court
<b>SCC</b>	: Special Criminal Court
<b>SEMRY</b>	: <i>Société d'Expansion et de Modernisation de la Riziculture de Ya-goua</i>
<b>SME</b>	: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

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- TPD** : *Tribunal de Premier Degré*
- TVSE** : Technical and Vocational Secondary Education
- UNFPA** : United Nations Fund for Population Activities
- UNCHRD-CA** : United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa
- WASH** : Water Sanitation and Hygiene



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## PREFACE

Once again, the Ministry of Justice has respected a decade-long tradition of producing a Report on Human Rights in Cameroon in the course of a year.

Although the Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2016 is produced by Government, it does not reflect a single vision as it contains assessment of other stakeholders and partners who have worked to further guarantee Human Rights in Cameroon.

The Report presents both what has already been achieved and existing challenges. Persistent security challenges with the fight against terrorism have continued to hamper management of large migratory flows. The difficult economic context has not affected optimal deployment of actions aimed at improving the standard of living of the people. Of course, another challenge faced in 2016 is the steady and permanent consolidation of living together. It is hoped that the lessons learned this year will raise the awareness of each and every one in our collective march forward.

All positive contributions are welcome and will help properly guarantee Human Rights in Cameroon.

It is on this hopeful note that I wish everyone a pleasant reading of this Report.

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



**GENERAL**

# INTRODUCTION



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**1-** In 2016, the African Union (AU) highlighted Human Rights as a value shared by the Organization. Therefore, 2016 was declared “*African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women*”.

**2-** In response to this declaration, Cameroon reinforced its commitment to protect the rights of the woman. So, it further streamlined the operational framework of the fight against discrimination of women by launching the Global Campaign *He For She*. Most of the discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code (PC) were equally repealed.

**3-** Apart from women, youths received particular attention with the launching of the Special Triennial Youth Plan and a National Youth Plan of Action (*PANEJ*).

**4-** A national platform for the protection of the child in Cameroon, including children in an emergency situation<sup>1</sup>, as well as a Committee was set up to prepare a Charter on protection of the child online<sup>2</sup>.

**5-** The commitment of Cameroon in 2016 for Human Rights was not hitch-free. The most important of these constraints was combating *Boko Haram*. Although weakened, this group continued its activities, that constituted a challenge for the right to security. The acts of the Group resulted in the displacement of people that increased inflow of refugees and internally displaced persons. Apart from the measures taken by the Government, Cameroon intensified advocacy in sharing the burden of managing the influx of refugees and the creation of an environment conducive to the return of affected persons to their different countries. This concern was further discussed during the second Security Summit held in Abuja on 14 May 2016, the Special Summit on Refugees on 20 September 2016 on the sidelines of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations, opened on 13 September 2016 and of the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to Cameroon on 16 and 17 December 2016.

**6-** With regard to civil rights, the right to life, a fundamental right par excellence, was particularly challenged, because in addition to road ac-

<sup>1</sup> Decision No.2016/98/D/MINAS/SG/DPSE/SDPDE of 20 October 2016 to set up and lay down the organization of the National Platform for the Protection of the Child in Cameroon, including children in emergency situation.

<sup>2</sup> Decision No.117/MINPOSTEL/SG/DSR of 2 June 2016 to set up and lay down the organization and functioning of the Committee in charge of drawing up a national charter on the protection of the child online.

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cidents which cost the lives of some 2,000 people, the country recorded with the Eseka train crash, one of the worst disasters in its history.

**7-** Other violations which are both vertical and horizontal Human Rights violation of the right to life and the physical integrity of persons, the fight against impunity guided corrective actions while awareness and capacity building constituted the main thrusts of preventive action.

**8-** The need to consolidate access to citizenship resulted in assessment of the civil status reform process during the National Civil Status Forum organized on 30 June 2016. Moreover, the regulatory and institutional framework for the identification of persons was laid down<sup>3</sup>.

**9-** With respect to political rights, the decentralization process progressed with the transfer of the latest skills to Councils.

**10-** With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, some overarching projects kicked off and a framework conducive to investment was established. In this regard, the conference *Investing in Cameroon, land of attractions* was a privileged moment to showcase the country's assets to investors.

**11-** The incidents recorded in some hospitals<sup>4</sup>, in particular improvement of health care in general and maternal health in particular, were reminders of the scope of the challenge. Accordingly, Directives on reception of patients were given on 22 April 2016 and support institutions strengthened.

**12-** The institution of a cultural calendar and the organization of a new edition of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (*FENAC*) contributed in improving the guarantee of the right to culture and reform of the institutional framework for the management of copyright.

**13-** The repression of misappropriation of public property continued in order to promote good governance and create a more conducive environment to achievement of Human Rights.

**14-** A major issue of concern to the national community was certainly the

<sup>3</sup> By giving the characteristics and conditions for establishing and issuing the National Identity Card and the setting up of a National Centre for the Production of Identification Documents

<sup>4</sup> General Hospital, Douala and *Hôpital Laquintinie*, Douala

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situation in the North West and South West Regions. The situation that started as claims by Teachers and Lawyers associations threatened the cohesion of the country over time. The incidents recorded during the management of this crisis have not annihilated the common desire for dialogue as the way forward.

**15-** Cameroon's commitment to Human Rights continued with the ratification by Decree No. 2016/320 of 12 July 2016 of the Agreement on Climate Change adopted on 12 December 2015 at the COP 21 at Paris.

**16-** At the national level, the adoption of Law No.2016/7 of 12 July 2016 on the Penal Code allowed for the internalization<sup>5</sup> of some international legal instruments on Human Rights.

**17-** The promotion of the right to leisure was underscored with the promulgation of Law No. 2016/6 of 18 April 2016 governing tourist and leisure activity in Cameroon.

**18-** The improvement of the level of social benefits was consolidated by Decree No.2016/34 of 21 January 2016 to increase family allowance and Decree No.2016/72 of 15 February 2016 to fix social contribution rates and remuneration ceilings applicable to family allowances, old age, disability and death pensions-insurance, occupational injuries and disease managed by the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF).

**19-** Focus was also on the work environment through Order No.22/CAB/PM of 22 February 2016 to set up and lay down the functioning of the technical platform responsible for the management of labour migration and Order No.109/PM of 22 September 2016 relating to the reorganization of the National Employment and Vocational Training Observatory (ONEFOP).

**20-** The desire to strengthen the protection of life on roads was translated by the development of the regulatory framework of which Decree No.2016/4384/PM of 22 September 2016 to amend and supplement some provisions of Decree No.2004/607/PM of 17 March 2004 to lay down access conditions to the professions of road carrier and road transport auxiliary.

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<sup>5</sup> This includes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on all Forms of Discrimination against Women or the UN Convention against Corruption.

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**21-** The institutional framework for consumer protection was enhanced by Decree No. 2016/3/PM of 13 January 2016 to lay down the organization and functioning of the National Consumption Council.

**22-** To improve close control and food safety, Decree No.2016/1248/PM of 23 May 2016 to transfer control and health inspections in manufacturing, packaging, storage and food distribution establishments to Councils was signed.

**23-** To further consolidate Human Rights culture, many capacity building activities were carried out<sup>6</sup>.

**24-** This Report, that reflects the trends observed in the promotion and protection of Human Rights in Cameroon, highlights both progress made and challenges identified in promoting and respecting the rights of persons living in Cameroon in 2016. The structure of previous Reports has been maintained comprising a general introduction, a preliminary chapter followed by 3 parts and a general conclusion. The Report has 17 chapters.

**25-** The Report was drawn up following a participatory approach involving representatives from Public Administrations, Independent Administrative Authorities and Civil Society Organizations a list of which is found in the Appendix.

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<sup>6</sup> Such as the capacity building seminar for Civil and Military Judicial and Legal Officers in Human Rights (38) organised in Garoua on 12 May 2016 by the Ministry of Justice or the Training Seminar on the theme *Application of Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law in Peace-keeping Operations* for 50 Gendarmerie Officers on internship, on 9 September 2016, by the Regional Delegation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (ICRC).



**PRELIMINARY  
Chapter**

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



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**26-** In 2016, Cameroon received and responded to requests for information in the context of its cooperation with the international and regional Human Rights promotion and protection mechanisms. Its representatives participated in sessions of various mechanisms both at the UN<sup>7</sup> and the AU including activities to celebrate 2016 as, “*African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women*”<sup>8</sup> in Banjul in October 2016. On this occasion, Cameroon defended its 1<sup>st</sup> periodic Report, for the period 2011-2014<sup>9</sup>, on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) before the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). The concluding observations were awaited at the end of 2016.

**27-** Besides, the implementation of guarantees of the rights of persons living in Cameroon was examined by both non-judicial and quasi-judicial mechanisms.

## SECTION 1: COOPERATION WITH NON-JUDICIAL MECHANISMS IN PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

**28-** The UN and AU mechanisms exercised their protection mandate by considering both individual and collective situations.

### §1: Individual Situations

**29-** The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the Human Rights Council forwarded 2 new communications to the State relating to allegations of violation of individual rights<sup>10</sup>. On 27 April 2016, this body adopted Opinion No. 22/2016 on the case of **MARAFI HAMIDOU YAYA**. The summary of the Opinion are given below. On the wake of this Opinion, the State made comments which were published on the Website of the Working Group<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Council

<sup>8</sup> The 3 Human Rights organs of this Organization, namely the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), the ACERWC and the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (CAFDHP) that was celebrating its 10th anniversary - synchronized the activities of the celebration. The 3 organs organized a joint opening ceremony on 21 October 2016 and facilitated a Dialogue on Human Rights on 22 October 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Cameroon defended its Report on 25 October 2016 during the 28th Session of ACRWC held from 21 October to 1 November 2016 in Banjul, The Gambia. This Session held simultaneously and in the same City as the 59th Session of the ACHPR organized from 19 October to 4 November 2016. The theme of the Session was “Women’s Rights: Our Collective Responsibility”.

<sup>10</sup> They were under examination at the end of the year.

<sup>11</sup> It was published in February 2017 on the Website of the Working Group: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Factsheet26fr>.

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## A: Opinion on the MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA Case

**30-** The case concerned the detention of Mr. **MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA** following proceedings against him relating to the acquisition, in 2000, of a Boeing Business Jet 2, abbreviated BBJ-2, for trips of the Head of the State.

**31-** On 16 April 2012, the Examining Magistrate of the High Court (HC), Mfoundi, charged and remanded Mr. **MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA** for accessory in misappropriation of public property, provided for and punishable under Sections 74, 96 and 184 of PC.

**32-** Mr. **MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA** was referred to the HC, Mfoundi by Order of 26 June 2012. By Judgment No. 455/crim of 21 and 22 September 2012, he was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. At the time of the Communication, the judgment was on appeal before the Supreme Court<sup>12</sup>.

**33-** The allegations of irregularity were related to the political motivation of the deprivation of liberty and to procedural irregularities concerning the illegality of his arrest and detention, the violation of the rights of the defence, the lack of the independence of Judicial and Legal Officers and his poor detention conditions.

**34-** Based on the Opinion, the Working Group considered that the allegations of detention for political reasons were not sufficiently justified. They were deemed as mere speculations, and for this reason, the Working Group could not conclude that the proceedings against Mr. **MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA** were motivated by his political ambitions, although they considered the said proceedings unjustified.

**35-** However, the Working Group is of the opinion that the detention of Mr. **MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA** is arbitrary because of an “extremely serious violation of his right to fair trial”. For the Working Group, this violation was marked notably by lack of justification of the proceedings as the State had recovered the alleged misappropriated property, continued the matter despite the application for discontinuance by the applicant and finally by the non-diligent communication of some documents of the case

<sup>12</sup> The Supreme Court delivered its judgment on 18 May 2016. Mr. **MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA** was convicted and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

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file before the trial, including exhibits.

## B: Observations of the State on the Opinion

**36-** In November 2016, the State made its observations highlighting the contradicting grounds of the decision and the ambiguity of damages awarded.

**37-** As regards to the first observation, the State holds that the Working Group did not decide on the arbitrary character of the detention based on Category I of its Rules of Procedure<sup>13</sup> but nevertheless held that the detention was unjustified. Without demonstrating the basis, either in national or international law, on which such transaction would extinguish the criminal action at the time of prosecution, the Working Group suggested that the lack of proof of proceedings was characterized by the fact that Government forgot to take a stand on the recovery of funds invested in the purchase of the presidential jet.

**38-** The State further argued that the Working Group also seems to ignore the absence of prescription and the discretionary prosecutorial powers in most criminal justice systems in the world by considering the time of commencement of proceedings in this matter with suspicion<sup>14</sup>.

**39-** While agreeing with the State that some rules of fair trial are only applicable where a person is prosecuted, the Working Group approved the allegations on the recusal filed against a judge before the applicant was charged.

**40-** In addition, whereas the case file had been put at the disposal of the accused who, summoned several times within the framework of preliminary inquiry refused to appear, the Group nevertheless concluded that documents were not communicated.

**41-** The Working Group adopted an ambiguous conclusion. It called for the immediate release of **Mr. MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA** while evoking the possibility of a new trial where all his rights would be fully respected, provided the Legal Department had valid reasons to prosecute him.

<sup>13</sup> These are cases where it is obviously impossible to evoke the legal grounds for detention.

<sup>14</sup> It considers that proceedings were commenced belatedly, some 7 years after the offence and more than 3 years after Mr. **MARAFA HAMIDOU YAYA** was heard during the prosecution of other persons.

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**42-** Since this position did not clearly exclude the possibility of an alleged offence under Cameroon criminal law, and based on the contradicting grounds raised above, the State of Cameroon informed the Working Group of the difficulty to implement the communicated Opinion.

## §2: Collective Situations

**43-** With regard to protection in collective situations, the Human Rights Mechanisms focused primarily on the crisis in the North West and South West Regions.

**44-** In December 2016, the mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the ACHPR informed the State of allegations of Human Rights violations brought to their attention within the framework of this crisis.

**45-** The common concerns emerging from the communications made by the said mandate holders were related to allegations of violation of the right to life<sup>15</sup>, right to equality and non-discrimination, freedom of assembly and peaceful procession<sup>16</sup>. The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders of the ACHPR also mentioned the right to self-determination. These concerns were later the subject of urgent appeals<sup>17</sup>.

**46-** The major guidelines of the response<sup>18</sup> to these concerns were pre-

<sup>15</sup> The Special Rapporteur of the ACHPR mentioned 9 deaths. UN mandate holders on their part did not present any numbers.

<sup>16</sup> The different Rapporteurs mentioned disproportionate use of force during the demonstrations of 28 November and 8 December 2016.

<sup>17</sup> Urgent appeals were made in 2017.

<sup>18</sup> The responses were transmitted in 2017 and will be analysed in detail in the Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017. It should be noted that the crisis that started with claims raised by some teachers' trade unions and a number of lawyers' associations gradually turned into a political upheaval with violent demonstrations such as those of 21 November and 8 December 2016. To ensure appeasement, measures were taken both to respond to some of the claims raised and to restore calm.

Pertaining to claims relating to the Justice Sector, the English version of the OHADA Treaty and Uniform Acts were handed to the President of the Bar and to the Minister of Higher Education by the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals. After the work of the Ad Hoc Committee set up on 22 December 2016 by the Prime Minister, Head of Government and of the Working Group chaired by the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, the President of the Republic gave instructions to reorganize the Supreme Court, redeploy judicial staff taking into account linguistic background, increase English-speaking judicial staff, review institutions and curricula for training in legal subjects leading to judicial careers, and recruit specialized interpreters.

In the education sector, an ad hoc Interministerial Committee was set up by the Prime Minister, Head of Government on 29 November 2016 to examine and propose solutions to concerns raised by English-speaking teachers. In this connection, the Minister of Secondary Education immediately transferred 131 teachers. Out of

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sented by the Head of State in his address to the Nation on 31 December 2016. They include the reaffirmation of the unity and indivisibility of the country, confirmation of the democratic option with effective political freedom and freedom of trade-unions exercised peacefully in compliance with legal requirements, reminder of the obligation of the State to maintain order and security in the country and the disposal of the authorities to dialogue on all the issues, excluding discussions on the form of the State.

## SECTION 2: COOPERATION WITH QUASI-JUDICIAL MECHANISMS ON CONTENTIOUS MATTERS

**47-** The State accepted the jurisdiction of the UN Human Rights Committee and ACHPR to hear and determine matters brought against her and cooperated with them.

### §1: Cooperation with HRC

**48-** In 2016, the HRC received 3 new Communications against Cameroon. At the end of the year, 8 Communications were pending before this body that adopted its views on Communication No. 2388/14, **KINGUE Paul Eric** vs. the State of Cameroon on 3 November 2016. The already published views on this last Communication are examined below.

**49-** The facts brought before the HRC relate to the detention of the applicant from 19 March 2008 to 26 March 2012 in proceedings<sup>19</sup> against him for misappropriation of public property evaluated at CFAF1,400,000<sup>20</sup>. By Judgment of 26 March 2012, the Court of Appeal (CA), Littoral acquitted the accused. In this Communication, the applicant claimed damages for the prejudice caused by the detention. He invoked the absence of the Compensation Commission of victims of illegal detention that is provided for by the Criminal Procedure Code

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this number, 106 English-speaking teachers were transferred to English-speaking areas. More so, the President of the Republic announced the recruitment of 1,000 bilingual teachers and a grant of CFAF2,000,000,000 to lay private education. Discussions on more comprehensive solutions are envisaged during the National Education Forum in 2017.

<sup>19</sup> Two other proceedings had been instituted against Mr. KINGUE. See 2008 Report, §773 for the different proceedings.

<sup>20</sup> About 2,137.40 Euros.

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(CPC)<sup>21</sup> and the lack of proper attention on matters before administrative courts for damages caused by judicial services.

**50-** In order to assess the regularity of the detention of the author of the Communication who had seised the HRC of a single claim, the HRC jointly analyzed the 3 proceedings against him. It concluded that there was a causal and temporal link between them.

**51-** Taking into account the date of his arrest on 29 February 2008 within the context of the first proceedings against him for accessory in depredation by band, the HRC deplored the absence of a warrant of arrest and the extended period of remand, given that the warrant was issued on 19 March 2008 with regard to the proceedings on misappropriation of public property. It established violation of Article 9 (3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on the right of a person arrested or detained to be brought immediately before a judge and the right to be tried within a reasonable time.

**52-** The HRC, having also established that the national courts either acquitted the author of the Communication (Court of Appeal, Littoral Region, 26 March 2012) or annulled the proceedings against him (Supreme Court, 16 July 2015), considered that his arrest and detention were illegal and arbitrary within the meaning of Article 9 (1) of the Covenant.

**53-** Upon these grounds, the HRC considered that the applicant had the right to damages within the meaning of Article 9 (5) of the ICCPR. Pursuant to Article 2 (3) of the Covenant, the HRC held that the State should ensure an effective remedy including adequate compensation corresponding to the injury suffered<sup>22</sup>.

## **§2: Cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**

**54-** Some 3 new Communications were submitted before the ACHPR against Cameroon in 2016. At the end of the year, there were 6 Communications against Cameroon as the body had heard and determined

<sup>21</sup> Law No. 2005/7 of 25 July 2005 entered into force on 1 January 2007.

<sup>22</sup> It should be noted that in accordance with its mandate and its jurisprudence, the Committee did not conduct an injury assessment.



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the matter in **Communication No. 423/12, Samuel MACK-KIT, and MOUKOKO PRISO**. In fact, the ACHPR adopted its findings during its 19<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session held from 16 to 25 February 2016 in Banjul, The Gambia.

**55-** The Communication had been introduced on 23 August 2012 by the UPC-MANIDEM faction led by **Samuel MACK-KIT and MOUKOKO PRISO**. They raised the discriminatory behaviour of the State with respect to UPC in refusing to recognize their political organization and rather lending judicial, administrative and police support to another faction of UPC; that is, UPC-**KODOCK**. They also presented the violation of some rights protected by the provisions of Articles 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 of the Charter on the right to non-discrimination and equality, the right to fair trial, the right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and demonstration and the right to political participation.

**56-** The ACHPR held that there was violation of Articles 2, 3, 7(1)(d), 9, 10, 11, 13 and 26 of the Charter. Consequently, it requested the State to:

- ensure that the complainants fully enjoyed their rights to political participation under the banner of UPC MANIDEM Party duly authorized by Law No. 90/56 of 19 December 1990 on political parties;
- award the complainants fair and appropriate damages for the prejudice caused by the violations; and
- take all legislative measures to eliminate interference of other powers with the Judicial Power and the administration of justice.

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**57-** The State is examining measures to be taken on the recommendations made by the different Mechanisms within the framework of the deliberations of the Interministerial Committee for the Follow-up of the Implementation of the Decisions and/or Recommendations of International and Regional Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.



# PART ONE

# CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART ONE

**58-** In a bid to further guarantee civil and political rights besides prosecution and punishment of law enforcement staff, Government developed the capacity of the said staff to help them better understand issues on respect of the rights of the person.

**59-** More so, focus was on reducing judicial delays characterized by pre-trial challenges, with a view to guaranteeing the right to fair trial. In addition, improving the quality of information through diversification of programmes, infrastructure development especially with enhancement of the postal network and addressing challenges relating to coordination of community radios were some of the major actions taken by Government to promote the right to freedom of expression and communication.

**60-** The last phase of transfer of powers to Councils and consolidation of decentralized international cooperation helped strengthen the right to participate in the management of public affairs.

**61-** These issues that constitute Part One of this Report are discussed in the following 4 chapters:

- Right to Life, Physical and Moral Integrity, Freedom and Security, and the Right not to be subjected to Torture;
- Right to Fair Trial;
- Freedom of Expression and Communication;
- Right to participate in the Management of Public Affairs.



Chapter

1

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





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**62-** The right to life, physical and moral integrity as well as the prohibition of torture were guaranteed by building the capacity of law enforcement officers and sanctions imposed against them. Likewise, statistics on violent crime explained the increase in crime wave and the response to contain it.

**63-** The State continued to take measures to ensure the right to security and to follow-up litigation on freedom.

## SECTION 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

**64-** In order for law enforcement officials to better understand issues related to respect for Human Rights, and apart from training modules on Human Rights included in the curricula of various training schools, capacity building activities were organized for Judicial and Legal Officers, the Police and Gendarmes.

### §1: Training of Judicial and Legal Officers

**65-** A capacity building seminar on Human Rights was organized from 9 to 12 May 2016, in Garoua for 38 Civil and Military Judicial and Legal Officers selected from jurisdictions in CA Adamawa, North and Far North Regions. The overall objective of the seminar organized by the Ministry of Justice was to discuss the impact of the action of judicial services on the international responsibility of the State on Human Rights violation. It also took into account the particular circumstances of the 3 Regions mentioned above facing terrorism and massive displacement of people.

### §2: Training of Police Officers

**66-** Some 5 Senior Superintendents of Police, among others, attended a seminar to build their capacity in International Human Rights Law from 10 to 15 April 2016. The seminar that was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Relations, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA) and the René Cassin Foundation in Strasbourg, aimed at improving a common understanding among participants of both new challenges that affect in-

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ternational Human Rights protection as well as actions that strengthen the protection mechanisms of these rights, the promotion of international criminal law, international humanitarian law, refugee law, transitional justice and prevention of mass Human Rights violations, especially in the context of counter-terrorism.

## §3: Training of Gendarmes and Soldiers

**67-** On 9 September 2016, the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) organized a training seminar for 50 Gendarmerie Officers on internship, on the theme *Enforcement of Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law in Peace keeping Operations*.

**68-** The awareness of Gendarmerie Officers was raised by the distribution of 1,000 pamphlets and brochures on Human Rights as well as teaching aids by Youth for Human Rights, an American-based NGO.

## SECTION 2: SANCTIONS INFLICTED ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

**69-** Law enforcement officers were exposed to disciplinary sanctions and criminal prosecution for violation of the right to life, physical and moral integrity.

### §1: Disciplinary Sanctions

**70-** The following disciplinary sanctions were inflicted on 18 Police agents:

- reprimand of 2 **Senior Police Officers** and 2 **First Scale Police Officers** respectively for assault on a Public Security Officer, assault on a subordinate for the former and assault on a user for the latter;
- layoffs without pay for varying lengths of time, to officers of different scales; 3 Senior Police Inspectors (15 days to one for illegal withdrawal of a user's documents and misuse of a firearm and 20 days to the other two respectively for assault on a law enforcement official and assault on a person in custody); 1 **Second Scale Police Inspector** (10 days for assault on a Superior); 2 **First Scale**

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**Police Inspectors** (15 days for assault on a user); 1 **Senior Police Constable** (14 days for misuse of service weapon); 2 **First Scale Police Constables** (20 days for misuse of firearm and 15 days for assault on a user);

- written warning to 1 **First Scale Police Inspector** for assault on a third party;
- drop in incremental position to 1 **Senior Police Inspector** for misuse of service weapon;
- grade demotion to 1 **First Scale Police Constable** for assault on third parties;
- dismissal of 2 Police Agents, including 1 **Second Scale Police Constable** for misuse of service weapon causing bodily harm to a third party and 1 **First Scale Police Constable** for aggravated theft and murder of a colleague.

**71-** Also, disciplinary and criminal proceedings were brought against Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police **MEZEPO** for alleged involvement in the murder of one **Joseph TALLA** on 9 July 2016 in Mbouda.

## §2: Judicial Proceedings and Sanctions

**72-** The analysis on proceedings will be presented before those on judicial sanctions taken.

### A: Proceedings against Law Enforcement Officers

**73-** The Military Tribunals of Bafoussam, Bamenda, Buea, Douala, Ebolowa, Garoua and Maroua were seised of proceedings against 175 law enforcement officers for offences relating to the right to life, physical and moral integrity, and the prohibition of torture. These include murder (1), capital murder (5), torture (27) false arrest (31), grievous harm (16), assault occasioning grievous harm (8), simple harm (42), slight harm (45).

### B: Convictions

**74-** During the reference year, the Military Tribunal convicted 14 officers of the defence forces for violating the right to life, physical or moral integrity, and torture.

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## SECTION 3: STATISTICS ON VIOLENT CRIME

**75-** These statistics concern the Police, the Gendarmerie and Judicial Services.

### A: Police Data

**76-** In 2016, 2,391 Police Reports were drawn up for violent crimes as stated in the table below:

**Table 1: Statistics on violent crime recorded by the National Police in 2016**

Nature of Offence	Number of Police Reports	Sex of Offender		Victims		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Minor
Capital Murder	164	105	53	87	64	26
Murder	258	174	91	118	84	53
Assault occasioning death	57	41	18	34	25	08
Grievous harm	345	254	98	116	174	62
Assault occasioning grievous harm	217	156	64	88	75	59
Simple harm	458	345	109	154	197	113
Slight harm	724	542	189	288	265	189
False arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trafficking in persons	93	54	47	0	65	38
Slavery	57	41	22	0	36	12
Fraudulent or violent kidnapping	18	18	0	0	7	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>576</b>

Source: DGSN

### B: Gendarmerie Data

**77-** The Gendarmerie drew up 1,595 Reports for various offences, including 69 for capital murder, 170 for murder, 444 for unintentional killing, 12 for grievous harm, 90 for assault occasioning grievous harm, 176 for simple harm, 21 for slight harm, 21 for trafficking in persons, 21 for slavery and assault, 356 for indecency to minor under 16 years old and 3 for indecency to minor between 16 and 21 years old.

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**78-** Violent crime did not spare the defence forces who lost members on duty. They include a Captain, a Chief Major Warrant Officer, 3 Deputy Warrant Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, 2 Staff Sergeants and 1 Gendarme.

## **C: Data from Judicial Services**

**79-** Data obtained from the Courts revealed that 5,295 police investigations were on violent crime. This number is on the rise compared to 2015 that had 5,254 cases, representing an increase of 41 cases.

**80-** These statistics are contained in the table below:

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Table 2: Statistics on violent crime at the Judicial Services in 2016

Offence	Number of proceedings instituted		Number of persons sentenced	Number of acquittal /Discharge	Number of victims			Offenders			
	At preliminary inquiry	Before trial courts			M <sup>23</sup>	B	G	Number of law enforcement officials (Judicial and Police, Gendarmerie officer, Penitentiary Administration staff, Auxiliary of Justice)	Number of persons with authority over the victim (family tie, subordinate relationship)		
			Minor <sup>24</sup>	Number of victims awarded damages							
Capital Murder	273	540	368	45	285	39	15	9	2	7	44
Murder	261	211	130	36	217	40	16	1	4	24	46
Assault occasioning death	162	120	83	24	130	22	7	6	8	1	4
Assault occasioning	99	63	40	5	57	19	5	1	9	1	0

<sup>23</sup>M: Male; F: Female

<sup>24</sup>B: Boy; G: Girl

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grievous harm	8	6	4	2	0	8	7	0	0	0	1	1	
Torture													
Grievous harm	211	54	175	90	25	100	46	2	9	9	1	1	2
Simple harm	1,683	234	1138	697	530	931	561	46	31	174	10	18	
Slight harm	1859	116	1442	901	809	964	757	114	39	133	0	45	
Rape	344	191	264	153	32	23	109	75	127	32	0	47	
False arrest	97	34	99	46	20	38	33	13	5	11	1	9	
Forced labour	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Slavery of persons	8	5	3	1	0	1	7	6	0	3	0	2	
Trafficking in persons	30	30	23	7	1	5	2	23	12	0	1	12	
Kidnapping of minors	145	93	96	49	28	20	22	40	60	14	2	28	
Fraudulent or violent kidnapping	19	17	24	10	3	6	2	1	8	3	0	5	
Indecency to minor - 16	715	598	455	269	47	20	46	99	562	69	0	69	
Indecency to minor of 16-21	191	148	114	83	21	6	44	10	139	12	1	24	
Total	5,295	2,210	4,773	2,929	1,626	2,812	1756	472	1039	483	50	356	

Source: MINJUSTICE

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## SECTION 4: CONSOLIDATION OF RIGHT TO SECURITY

**81-** Right to security is the right granted to each person to require the State to provide protection over his person and property. The high number of injuries and deaths on the road and railway caused the State to take preventive and corrective measures.

### §1: Statistics on Road Accidents

**82-** These statistics take into consideration the road and railway sectors.

**83- In the road sector**<sup>25</sup> there was a net increase in the number of accidents, injured persons and deaths. The number of accidents rose from 1,528 in 2015 to 2,756 in 2016, the number of injured persons increased from 2,305 to 4,000 and the number of deaths from 588 to 1,142. Accident-prone roads remained the Bafoussam-Yaounde-Douala stretch.

**84- In the rail way sector** an accident occurred on 21 October 2016, close to the train station of Eseka, on the Douala-Yaounde line, resulting in 79 deaths and 551 persons injured. Following this accident, the Head of State set up a Commission of Inquiry by Decree No. 2016/424 of 25 October 2016<sup>26</sup>.

### §2: Preventive Measures

**85-** Preventive measures were taken for security of road users, vehicles and railways, and for training in driving.

#### A: Security of Road Users

**86-** Awareness-raising, the first thrust of preventive action, was conducted in schools, along the road and localities bordering the road, travel agencies during high traffic periods, over the media (radio, tele-

<sup>25</sup> Statistics for 2015 do not include the months of April, May, June, July, August and September.

<sup>26</sup> The Report of the Commission of inquiry, published on 23 May 2017 establishes the responsibility of the Company CAMRAIL in concluding that the main cause of the overthrow of the train's cars is excessive speed (90 km/h) in a portion of the track where the speed is drastically limited (40 km/h) and which includes a steep gradient and several sharp curves. The Report also specifies that CAMRAIL did not respect some safety rules including: overload of the convoy and inappropriate extension of the train, use of passenger cars including several with defective brakes, use of a matrix the dynamic braking of which was out of use, lack of careful verification of the continuous braking system of the train before its departure from Yaounde, refusal by CAMRAIL Management to take into account the objections raised by train drivers on the anomalies of the above failures.



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vision, newspapers), as well as by telephone messages.

**87-** Likewise, the Ministry of Transport organized capacity building seminars for Special Judicial Police Officers in the following towns: Ebolowa, from 26 to 27 October 2016; Buea, from 3 to 4 November 2016; Bertoua, from 10 to 11 November 2016; and Yaounde, from 17 to 18 November 2016.

**88-** With respect to clearing off poorly-parked vehicles and other obstacles, that is the second thrust of the action, a pilot operation for their removal was launched in November and December, in partnership with the City Council, Yaounde. More than 200 cars were impounded and discussions were ongoing to extend the measure to other Regions.

**89-** As regards the acquisition of road prevention and safety equipment, the third thrust of the action, the following items were bought: 1,000 strips were worth CFAF17,087,500 ICT<sup>27</sup>, 100,000 Chemical Alcohol tests kits for CFAF79,897,500 ICT<sup>28</sup> and 15 Electronic Alcohol tests kits for the sum of CFAF75,544,875 ICT<sup>29</sup>.

## **B: Security of Vehicles**

**90-** In 2016, the number of vehicle control technical centres increased from 27 to 31 and mention can be made of: installation of Urban GPS to streamline and secure urban transportation by taxi; installation of a geolocalization server at the Ministry of Transport; strengthening security arrangements at travel agencies; issuing licenses to long-distance road haulers; and implementation of mandatory waybill.

## **C: Security of Railways**

**91-** The occurrence of the railway accident of 21 October 2016 led to awareness measures and measures for securing activities of the transportation of persons. The awareness of communities living along railway tracks was raised, especially on the unlawful occupation of

<sup>27</sup> About 26,087.78 Euros

<sup>28</sup> About 121,980.91 Euros

<sup>29</sup> About 115,335.68 Euros

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CAMRAIL's rights-of-way before the execution of work on railway track segments. More so, porticoes and tunnels were acquired for the railway stations of Yaounde, Douala, Belabo and Ngaoundere. Similarly, illegal level crossings set up by the people were closed.

## **D: Training in Driving**

**92-** In 2016, 9 sessions of driving licence examinations were organized on fixed dates nationwide. Moreover, 10 special sessions for motorcycle riders only were organized in 7 Regions. In the first case, 100,899 out of 140,579 registered candidates passed while in the second case 3,242 out of 3,853 registered candidates were successful.

## **§3: Corrective Measures**

**93-** Relating to corrective measures, a technical control centre and 3 driving licences were suspended. Besides, investigations opened for unintentional killing resulted in 836 police investigations and 581 convictions. Out of the 898 victims (620 men, 192 women and 86 children) recorded during these accidents, 117 were awarded damages for injury by the courts.

## **SECTION 5: DISPUTES ON FREEDOM**

**94-** Progress was made in the implementation of legal provisions that guarantee freedom of persons prosecuted before the courts. Compared to 2015 during which 21,135 persons were remanded in custody, 16,439 were remanded in 2016, representing a decrease of 4,696 persons. Besides, 8,559 persons were set free either as of right or with or without bail as against 8,042 during the past year.

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**95-** The fight against illegal detention is ongoing as illustrated by all the cases before HCs on habeas corpus<sup>30</sup> and the incessant reminders of the Inspectorate General of Judicial Services (IGSJ) of the Ministry of Justice to Legal Officers of the need to apply the Circular on biannual checks of detention and weekly controls of cells in Police and Gendarmerie Units.

**96-** Government actions that seek to protect the right to life, physical and moral integrity and the prohibition of torture are welcome but should be reinforced to take into account the strategic directives outlined in the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 2015-2019.

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**97-** The right to security of persons taking into consideration cost in human lives in the wake of accidents such as that at Eseka is adequately catered for and requires further efforts for its promotion.

<sup>30</sup> Two illustrations: Habeas Corpus Ordinance No. 4/OHC/CAB/PTGI/MIFI of 2 June 2016 in **FONKAM Michel** vs. The People. In the first case, **FONKAM Michel** who was released on 17 November 2015 after serving his term following an imprisonment warrant issued a year earlier as per the Judgment of the Court of First Instance, Bafoussam (CFI), was rearrested and imprisoned on the same charge on 19 May 2016. The Court rightly held that: since an initial imprisonment warrant had been executed against him on the same charge, the second that was ongoing was legally baseless.

Ordinance No. 8/OHC/CAB/PTGI/MIFI of 18 November 2016, **PANGHEBEKO KUO Junior** vs. The People. On 10 November 2016, barely 4 months after his imprisonment in the Central Prison, Bafoussam for highway robbery, in enforcement of Order No.66/AP/F.35/SP of 25 July 2016 of the Senior Divisional Officer for MIFI Division, instituting administrative custody, **PANGHEBEKO KUO Junior** filed an action for Habeas Corpus for his immediate release. The Court ordered the immediate release of the applicant based on the non-renewal of this measure by the administrative authority as prescribed by Section 2 of Law No. 90/54 of 19 December 1990 on maintenance of law and order.



Chapter **2**

RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL



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**98-** As part of the promotion of the proper administration of justice, some guarantees of the right to fair trial were implemented through access to justice and proceedings. The implementation of the guarantees granted to litigants was influenced by various factors.

## SECTION 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF GUARANTEES RELATING TO THE COURTS AND PROCEEDINGS

**99-** In 2016, measures to guarantee access to justice were strengthened, although guarantees on courts and proceedings needed some adjustments.

### §1: Guarantees relating to Access to Justice

**100-** During the reference year, there was a slight improvement in access to legal aid, while access to Laws required amelioration.

#### A: Access to Laws

**101-** Access to the law is facilitated by the publication of a multitude of legal reviews and journals while increasingly Administrations publish instruments containing legal rules applicable to their sector of activities.

**102-** However, access to the content of the law presupposes, besides physical access, which on its part, in our context is improved, but above all intellectual access which is incomplete. Government efforts to translate laws of the State into both official languages, English and French, is commendable. Translation contributes in facilitating intellectual access of citizens to the norms that govern them.

#### B: Legal Aid

**103-** An analysis of statistics on judicial activity reveals that there were 297 applications in 2016 compared to 220 in 2015. These applications resulted in 132 decisions, representing 17 partial and 115 full grants, which is an increase over 2015 during which 69 were granted.

**104-** The action of the Bar helped improve this trend. Indeed, within the framework of the Bar-Governance-Rule of Law Project (PBGE) (2016-2018) executed by the Cameroon Bar Association with the support of the European Union, lawyers provided free legal advice to poor litigants in 3,788 cases out of the 4,322 registered nationwide, giving a rate of 87.63%.

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## §2: Guarantees relating to the Courts

**105-** The impartiality of some Judicial and Legal Officers was questioned while variables influencing the independence of judicial staff were contrasting.

### A: Impartiality of Judges

**106-** Guarantees of the impartiality of Judges were both subjective and objective.

**107-** Concerning subjective impartiality, analysis of court data reveals 48 applications for recusal against Judges. On the whole, there is a tendency to reject applications for recusal. However, a few applications were granted. In CFIB/114/15, *The People vs. NDAMUKONG Denis* pending before the CFI, Bamenda, the plaintiff seized the CA of the North West Region of an application for the recusal of a Judge whose impartiality was questionable because of his friendship with the adversary who was his landlord. The CA granted the request of the complainant and the matter was referred to another judge.

**108-** As regards objective impartiality, the principle of separation of the functions of repressive justice was recalled by the SC in Judgment No. 54/P of 19 May 2016 in the matter **NDZOMO MBOUNA Claude vs. The People and DJUIDJA Céline**. In this matter, it was alleged that the CA, Littoral<sup>31</sup> had allowed a member of the Legal Department to sit in the panel while a Judicial Officer served as Prosecutor.

**109-** The SC sanctioned the violation of the aforementioned principle by stating: *in no circumstance whatsoever can a Judicial Officer serve as Legal Officer and similarly a Legal Officer may not be part of a panel...*

### B: Independence of Judicial Staff

**110-** Financial allocations to the Justice sector varied, while capacity building of judicial personnel was ongoing.

#### Financial Allocations to the Justice Sector

**111-** Although the budget of the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE) increased, that of the SC dropped.

<sup>31</sup>Judgment No. 296/P of 24 May 2012 by CA, Littoral.



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**112-** The budget of MINJUSTICE increased from CFAF33,746,600,000<sup>32</sup> in 2015 to CFAF44,810,000,000<sup>33</sup> in 2016, for an overall budget of CFAF4,234,700,000,000<sup>34</sup> representing an increase of CFAF11,634,000,000<sup>35</sup> (26%). CFAF41,750,000,000<sup>36</sup> served as recurrent budget for Judicial services, while CFAF3,000,000,000<sup>37</sup> was allocated to investment.

**113-** The budget of the SC, on the other hand, decreased slightly compared to the 2015 Financial Year. The budget allocated to this Superior Court in 2016 stood at CFAF4,387,000,000<sup>38</sup> as against CFAF4,410,000,000<sup>39</sup> in 2015.

**114-** These Financial allocations to the Justice sector represent 1.16% of the State budget, which is still below international standards, which prescribe a range between 2 and 6%.

## Capacity building of Judicial Staff

**115-** Knowledge of the law is one of the conditions for the independence of Judicial and Legal Officers. For this reason, several capacity building activities were organized to refine the skills of judicial staff in various fields.

**116-** Thus, in the field of business law, 30 Judicial and Legal Officers were equipped in the practice and litigation of OHADA Uniform Acts during a Seminar organized by MINJUSTICE on 14 and 15 March 2016 at Ndonkol in the Meyomessala Subdivision. Moreover, 2 SC Judicial and Legal Officers participated in a civil and commercial law training seminar held in Egypt from 17 to 22 October 2016 with the financial support of the Government of that country.

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<sup>32</sup> About 51,521,526.71 Euros.

<sup>33</sup> About 68,412,213.74 Euros.

<sup>34</sup> About 6,465,190,830.00 Euros.

<sup>35</sup> About 17,761,832.06 Euros.

<sup>36</sup> About 63,740,458.01 Euros.

<sup>37</sup> About 4,580,152.67 Euros.

<sup>38</sup> About 6,697,709.92 Euros.

<sup>39</sup> About 6,732,824.42 Euros.

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**117-** In order to deal with the malicious use of information and communication technologies, 130 Judicial and Legal Officers were trained on cybercrime during a seminar organized in Yaounde from 21 to 23 April 2016 by the National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (*ANTIC*).

**118-** More so, the African Intellectual Property Organization organized a training seminar in Douala for 35 Judicial and Legal Officers on protected geographical indications.

**119-** Non Judicial and Legal staff also received training, notably on the Interministerial Instruction on Administrative and Accounting Control Procedures and the Settlement of Court Claims held in Yaounde from 11 to 12 May 2016, for 34 Court Registrars and from 11 to 12 October 2016 for 24 others. Similarly, an impregnation seminar was organized for Assistant Court Registrars in Garoua from 17 May to 17 June 2016.

## §3: Guarantees relating to Proceedings

**120-** Guarantees relating to proceedings were assessed through continuation of the fight against judicial delays and respect for the principle of public hearings.

### A: Continuation of the fight against Judicial Delay

**121-** The analysis of cases brought against the State before international mechanisms reveals that judicial delay constitutes an important litigation niche<sup>40</sup>.

**122-** It is therefore understandable that the Chief Justice of the SC and the Procureur General (PG) emphasized the issue of judicial delays during the solemn reopening of the SC in 2016.

**123-** More so, during monitoring missions carried out by the *IGSJ* of MINJUSTICE in 2016, Heads of Court were directed to urge Judges to render their decisions within reasonable time limits and to avoid indefinite adjournments. The legal requirement for the drafting of court decisions before their pronouncement was also recalled. Courts equally sanctioned failure to respect time limits<sup>41</sup>.

<sup>40</sup>In Communication No. 2388/14, **Paul Eric KINGUE** vs. The State of Cameroon, for example, brought before the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the right to be tried within a reasonable time limit (Article 9 (3) of the ICCPR) was one of the allegations raised.

<sup>41</sup>The HC, Mifi, in a matter on habeas corpus, ordered the immediate release of **MADJOUFANG NZONGANG Lucienne** for unlawful custody that exceeded time limits. **MADJOUFANG NZONGANG Lucienne** was

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## B: Public Hearings

**124-** Overall, the principle of public hearings was respected by all the courts of the country. However, the number of hearings in camera rose slightly from 1,314 to 1,371 compared to 2015. The number of matters heard in camera on the court's own motion is largely higher than that requested by parties and stands at 1,143 against 362.

**125-** This increase in the number of proceedings heard in camera, may be justified on the one hand by respect for the rights of minors who may be offenders or victims.

## SECTION 2: GUARANTEES GRANTED LITIGANTS

**126-** Difficulties in implementing the right of the defence accounted for recourse to appeals during the reference year.

### §1: Difficulties in implementing the Right of the Defence

**127-** Various factors influenced the implementation of some rights especially the right to counsel and interpreter in 2016.

#### A: Right to Counsel

**128-** The work stoppage observed by lawyers in the jurisdictions of the North West and South West Regions from October 2016 was an obstacle to the realization of the right to counsel. Thus, out of approximately 49,884 proceedings handled by counsel on the roll in the different jurisdictions of the country, with the exception of the SC where the presence of counsel is obligatory, the jurisdictions of the CAs of these 2 Regions recorded only 2,630 and 2,275 matters respectively. The figures (3,254 and 2,835 respectively) recorded in the same Regions in 2015 reflect the impact of this crisis on judicial activity in particular and on the right to fair trial in general.

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remanded in custody at the Regional Division of the Judicial Police of the West from 9 to 17 May 2016, the date on which she filed her complaint against the violation of legal time limits for remand in custody pursuant to Sections 118 et seq. of the CPC.

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## B: Use of ad hoc Interpreters

**129-** The absence of official interpreters encourages resort to ad hoc interpreters. Besides, the problem of the availability of official interpreters in the North West and South West jurisdictions also arose as a result of claims in October 2016 by English-speaking lawyers of the poor mastery of the English language by some Judicial and Legal Officers in this part of the country. An Ad hoc Committee to examine and propose solutions to the concerns of English-speaking Lawyers was set up on 22 December 2016<sup>42</sup> to resolve this problem.

## §2: Guarantee of the Right to Appeal

**130-** This paragraph will deal with concerns on the preparation of appeals and clarifications by the SC on formalities of appeal against decisions by the Inquiry Control Chamber.

### A: Preparation of Appeals

**131-** The Keeper of the Seals talked about the difficulty in preparing appeal files, especially because of the non payment of cost<sup>43</sup> of reproduction of records of proceedings, during the traditional Annual Meeting of Heads of Court and Regional Delegates of the Penitentiary Administration.

**132-** It was observed that the number of non transmitted files for review by the SC had increased from 689 in 2015 to 826 in 2016.

**133-** More so, upon examination of these appeals, the SC revisited some general principles of law to further clarify their meaning. It recalled in particular in Judgment No. 37/P of 17 March 2016 delivered in the matter **TCHAKOUNTE KOUAKAM Georges** vs. The People that the internal dysfunction of services should not be detrimental to the user.

**134-** The appeal filed by **TCHAKOUNTE KOUAKAM Georges** was declared inadmissible for want of proof of statement of appeal. However, it was apparent from the documents in the case file during examination of the appeal that **TCHAKOUNTE KOUAKAM Georges** filed his statement of appeal before the expiry of the legal period of 15 days.

<sup>42</sup> The solutions to this problem will be presented in the 2017 Report.

<sup>43</sup> See 2015 Report, §164.

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The absence of the said statement of appeal in the case file at the CA results from non-transmission by the administration of the Central Prison, Douala. The SC quashed Judgment No. 4/MIL rendered on 1 February 2012 in this case and declared *that want of proof of the transmission of the statement of appeal to the Court cannot be attributable to TCHAKOUNTE KOUAKAM Georges and that the malfunctioning of the public service cannot be at his detriment.*

## **B: Clarifications of the SC on the Formalities of Appeal against the Decisions of the Inquiry Control Chamber**

**135-** The examination of appeals by higher courts resulted in the review of several court decisions in favour of litigants.

**136-** In Judgment No. 50/P of 21 April 2016, *The People vs. NANA Jean Claude*, the SC dismissed the appeal by the PG, Littoral for violation of the provisions<sup>44</sup> of Section 479 of the CPC on the form and time limit of appeal. As regards the form of his appeal against Judgment No. 83/CCI delivered on 16 July 2014, the PG opted for a submission in lieu of an application as required by the above-mentioned section. Moreover, the said submission was filed more than 30 days after notification of the contested judgment, in breach of the above-mentioned provisions. Ruling on this appeal, the SC stated that, *in support of his appeal, (...), the Procureur General of the Court of Appeal of the Littoral, instead of an application addressed to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and filed at the registry of the Court concerned, drafted a submission registered on 1 October 2011, in breach of the mandatory provisions of Section 479 (2) of the aforementioned CPP.*

<sup>44</sup>The section provides: (1) *"The time-limit for lodging an appeal against the ruling of the Inquiry Control Chamber shall be five (5) days with effect from the date of service of the said ruling on the Legal Department and on the parties or their counsel.*

(2) *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".*

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**137-** To conclude, guarantees relating to courts were implemented through the respect of form and time limit of appeal. However, the guarantees of the rights of the defence, in particular the right to be assisted by counsel or an official interpreter, as well as the preparation of appeal files, were real challenges for the realization of the right to fair trial.

Chapter 3

FREEDOM OF  
EXPRESSION AND  
COMMUNICATION





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**138-** The development of communication and telecommunication infrastructure, the optimization of access to information, coupled with the cleaning up of the communications sector, allowed for the assessment of developments in the enjoyment of freedom of expression and communication.

## SECTION 1: DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES

**139-** The development of communication facilities resulted in the increase of postal and telecommunication networks.

### §1: Postal Network

**140-** In order to promote universal access to postal and financial services, emphasis was placed, among others, on the development of the physical infrastructure of the postal network, improved coding and addressing of the postal network.

**141-** As concerns physical infrastructure, 3 post offices were built in Bafoussam, and 1 post office in Kon-Yambetta, while those of Maroua, Mindif and Ngaoundere were rehabilitated within the framework of the implementation of the e-post project<sup>45</sup>.

**142-** With regard to improving codification and addressing of the postal network, the addressing exercise of Ebolowa that started in 2015<sup>46</sup> was completed with funding from the Postal Development Special Fund.

**143-** Moreover, with a view to improving the electronic management of files and hybrid mail<sup>47</sup>, servers were bought and the *e-banking* application installed.

### §2: Telecommunication Networks

**144-** Several long-term actions were carried out to improve the supply of services at affordable prices in the field of telecommunication and ICT.

<sup>45</sup> See 2014 Report, §143

<sup>46</sup> See 2015 Report, §204.

<sup>47</sup> This is a form of virtual mail used by big companies. They send their mail to courier companies in digital form which are later converted into hard copies by the courier companies before transmission to the addressees of the big companies.

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**145-** To this end, Phase III of the national optic-fibre backbone was extended over a distance of 3,950 km in 2016, compared with 5,500 km in 2015, bringing the total length of the optic-fibre already installed in Cameroon to 15,000 km. Six urban optical loops had also been constructed in the Regional Headquarters of Adamawa, East, North, North West, West and South.

**146-** On this score, works were executed in Bafoussam, Ebolowa, Bamenda, Bertoua and Ngaoundere over a distance of 16,367 km, 16,367 km, 26,156 km, 13,495 km, 17,3465 km and 25,1948 km respectively.

**147-** More so, 2 Internet exchange points were built in Douala and Yaounde and the implementation of the National Broadband Network project continued.

**148-** During special events<sup>48</sup>, special measures were taken to improve the provision of telecommunication services by connecting different websites hosting them to the Internet, thus optimizing access to information.

## SECTION 2: ACCESS TO INFORMATION

**149-** Steps were taken to facilitate access to information by media professionals and to improve listening quality.

### §1: Facilitating Access to Information

**150-** The issuance of new press cards, details on obtaining advertising approval and the maintenance of public assistance to the private press media contributed in facilitating access to information.

#### A: Issuance of New Press Cards

**151-** Following the appointment of its members in July 2015<sup>49</sup>, the Commission for the Issuance of Press Cards began its activities in 2016. Thus, of the nearly 1,000 applications for cards received and examined, 400 were granted, while 500 were granted subject to the provision of additional documents and 94 were rejected for non-compliance. The Commission organized a symbolic presentation of the first 400 press cards

<sup>48</sup> Such as the African Female Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2016, the Yaounde International Economic Conference, etc.

<sup>49</sup> See 2015 Report §215.

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during a ceremony held on 28 July 2016.

## B: Advertising Licences

**152-** Prior to updating the list of beneficiaries of advertising licences for the 2016 Financial Year, details on the procedure and conditions for granting them were given to potential candidates by the Chairman of the National Commission for the Issuance of Licences in a press release published on 24 October 2016. Emphasis was placed on the incompatibility between the functions of consulting agency and advertising agency, provided for in Section 11 of Law No. 2006/18 of 28 December 2006 governing advertising in Cameroon.

**153-** The number of licences granted increased slightly. A total of 118 licences were issued to advertising professionals, representing 46 consulting agencies and 72 advertising agencies, compared with 103 for the previous year. However, the distribution of licence beneficiaries was uneven across the country. There are 22 consulting agencies in Douala, while Yaounde has 4 and Limbe 2. The bulk of advertising agencies are concentrated in Douala and Yaounde, 25 and 22 respectively, followed by Garoua (3), Bafoussam and Buea (2 each), Tiko, Bamenda and Nkongsamba (1 each).

## C: Public Aid to Private Communication Companies

**154-** Although Government aid to private communication in 2016 was belated<sup>50</sup>, it stood at CFAF250,000,000<sup>51</sup>, representing a slight increase of CFAF7,000,000<sup>52</sup> as compared to that of 2015.

**155-** In 2016, 114 applications were accepted out of a total of 168 received. This included: 39 community radios, 7 commercial radios, 1 television station, 3 audiovisual producers, 53 print media houses, 3 cybernetic press and 5 professional organizations and printing press. The number of applications rejected for non-compliance (54 applications) also decreased.

**156-** While eligibility conditions have remained the same, the National Union of Cameroon Journalists continued to have reservations about the

<sup>50</sup> Government aid to the private press for the 2016 Financial Year was granted on 16 March 2017.

<sup>51</sup> About 381,679.38 Euros.

<sup>52</sup> About 10,687.02 Euros.

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effectiveness of this support mechanism for the private communication sector. This organization sees it as an operation for the embezzlement of public property and proposes that the money allocated to private communication be used to repay the social debt of private press companies and to set up a printing press or a distribution company. The establishment of the Special Fund for Audiovisual Media would contribute in resolving these problems.

## §2: Improvement of Information Quality

**157-** The improvement of information quality consisted in diversifying the supply of programmes. Furthermore, the issue of the coordination of community radio stations and the extension of their map was raised.

### A: Improvement of Programme Offer and Production

**158-** To improve public communication offer, television and radio programmes were redesigned with new programming and promotion elements. Programmes offered in 2016 by the Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), for example, use virtual background for all television news, live coverage of regional stations has been increased and a significant number of social issues and local serial films introduced. Moreover, production was equally improved with the construction of the FM Radio Station at Yagoua and the purchase of transmitters for the Kribi FM Radio. More so, the African Female Cup of Nations (AFCON) organized in Cameroon in 2016, was transmitted live with the acquisition by CRTV of 2 obivans comprising 20 cameras.

**159-** Finally, the migration to digital television started in June 2015<sup>53</sup> was ongoing. The Douala and Yaounde sites thus switched over to 5kw transmitters against 2 kw in the experimental phase in 2015. As a result of this operation, a new package of 50 television channels was installed at the Mballa II Multiplexing Centre against 12 channels during the experimental phase<sup>54</sup>.

### B: Coordination and Extension of Community Radios

**160-** In order to relay information across the country, including remote

<sup>53</sup> See 2015 Report, §182

<sup>54</sup> See 2015 Report, §184

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communities, 12 new Community Radios were set up and rendered operational by the National Programme for Participatory Development (PNDP). Fifteen additional Community Radios were equipped with the support of the Chinese Government.

**161-** During a seminar organized by MINCOM from 12 to 14 December 2016 in Mbalmayo, with the support of UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO and UNDP, on the theme «*Updating and Validating the Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Community Radio Forum*», the issue of the coordination of community radio stations as well as their roles and capacity building was raised.

**162-** After the deliberations of the seminar, the following recommendations, among others, were made: the setting up of a National Community Radio Coordination Agency, the development of a community and religious radio map and a training plan for professionals of these Radios.

**163-** All these actions did not, however, conceal the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the right to access information, all of which required consolidation of the communication sector.

## SECTION 3: CONSOLIDATION OF THE COMMUNICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATION SECTORS

**164-** Consolidation activities in the communication and telecommunication sectors were carried out both by the regulatory bodies and by the courts.

### §1: Consolidation by Regulatory Bodies

**165-** The Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART) and the National Communication Council (NCC) continued their regulatory activities.

#### A: Activities by ART

**166-** As the telecommunications regulator, ART reminded telecommunications operators of the rules governing the sector. More so, appeals were filed against sanctions imposed.

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## 1) Clarification by ART

**167-** During awareness campaigns organized in 2016, the Telecommunications Regulator brought back mobile operators as well as unlicensed radio operators on track.

**168-** On 3 August 2016, ART issued a Communiqué stating that 16 Audiovisual Communication Companies were irregularly operating radio frequencies<sup>55</sup>. Subsequently, ART sent formal notices to the promoters of these Radios before entering the repressive phase.

**169-** ART decided to put an end to the confusion observed on the offer of 4G services among mobile telephone operators. In this respect, noting that none of the operators in Cameroon had 4G technology equipment, the Telecommunications Regulator asked them to comply with the obligations contained in their respective technical specifications. In particular, ART recommended that mobile telephony operators provide only mobile electronic communications services related to 2G and 3G access technologies in accordance with the provisions of their concession agreements.

## 2) Appeals against Decisions by ART

**170-** In 2016, ART imposed sanctions on promoters of television channels and radios. A few of these decisions were appealed before the Administrative Court (AC), Yaounde. Some of these appeals had already been adjudged. This is the case with the following matters:

- *Société Vision 4 vs. ART*: Vision 4 applied for stay of execution of the Decision of 14 April 2016 that sentenced it to pay the sum of CFAF100,000,000<sup>56</sup> for unauthorized operation of an electric radio network and the provision of sound and television broadcasting services. The AC, Yaounde granted this request through Judgment No.144 of 26 July 2016<sup>57</sup> ;
- *Société RINGO vs. ART*: On 29 June 2011, ART ordered RINGO

<sup>55</sup> These findings derive from a fact finding Mission, carried out from 13 to 14 November 2014, by ART on the recommendation of the Interministerial Committee for the granting of Frequencies.

<sup>56</sup> About 152,671.76 Euros.

<sup>57</sup> ART appealed against this decision on 11 August 2016.

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S.A. to pay the sum of CFAF420,950,150<sup>58</sup> for unauthorized exploitation of frequency bands in the cities of Yaounde, Douala, Limbe and Bafoussam. The application for stay of execution filed by RINGO S.A. on 9 February 2016 was declared inadmissible based on the principle *non bis in idem* pursuant to Judgment No. 122 of 28 June 2016. Ringo had already seized the Administrative Bench of the SC which had rejected the application for stay of execution.

## **B: Activities of the NCC**

**171-** The NCC adopted both an educational and repressive approach in its regulatory mission.

### **1) Educational Activities of the NCC**

**172-** The NCC organized several seminars, such as that held in Yaounde on 24 and 25 February 2016 for media professionals on the theme *Information Management in Time of War*. This seminar, co-organized by the NCC and the MINDEF, brought together some 100 media professionals, about 40 EIFORCES probationers and fifty 3<sup>rd</sup> year journalism students from the Advanced School of Information and Communication Sciences and Techniques. It resulted in the establishment of a consultation framework between the defence and security forces and media professionals.

**173-** Moreover, as part of the permanent dialogue between the NCC and professionals in the mass media sector, 2 working dinners were organized in Douala on 3 May and 10 June 2016. Discussions highlighted the difficulties encountered in the communication sector such as the economic precariousness of private communication companies and the lack of training of communication professionals.

### **2) Sanctions Imposed by the NCC**

**174-** At the end of the various sessions held in 2016, the NCC issued 41 decisions, including 5 warnings, 26 temporary suspensions for no more than 6 months, 6 temporary suspensions for 6 months, 2 bans, 1 decision to confirm the ban and 1 no-case decision.

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<sup>58</sup> About 642,671.98 Euros.

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**175-** Both the audio-visual and on-line media were accused of violation of mass communication professional ethics.

**176-** As in the past, these decisions by the NCC were challenged. Overall, 8 appeals for annulment were filed by the promoters of sanctioned press organs. Their outcome is awaited.

**177-** Some appeals against the NCC decisions stated in the 2015 Report and pending before the AC Yaounde, were delivered in 2016. These are Orders rejecting applications for stay of execution No. 53/OSE/CABPTA/ YDE/2016 of 7 March 2016 (Radio Royal FM and **ATEBA Marcelin vs. NCC**) and No. 194 of 20 September 2015 (*Afrique média vs. NCC*).

## §2: Judicial Proceedings

**178-** Apart from the follow-up proceedings outlined in the previous Report, new proceedings relating to offences against private persons were recorded.

### A: Follow-up of proceedings in the previous Report

**179-** The 3 matters on infringement of privacy mentioned in the 2015 Report were under examination before the courts<sup>59</sup> at end-2016 as well as 4 matters on breach of general interest<sup>60</sup>.

### B: Judicial Proceedings against Media Professionals in 2016

**180-** In 2016, new charges were brought against journalists by individuals for alleged violations of their honour and consideration.

**181-** The following cases can be reported:

<sup>59</sup> These include The People and **CAVAYE YEGUIE DJIBRIL vs. MAGNUS BIAGA** and **KAMI Jefferson** for defamation before the Court of First Instance, *Centre Administratif (CFI-CA)*, Yaounde, The People and **EBANG MVE Urbain Noel vs. Flash Zacharie NDIOMO** prosecuted for conditional threats, defamation and others. **Flash NDIOMO** filed an appeal in this matter that is pending before the Court of Appeal, Centre Region.

<sup>60</sup> The People vs. **AHMED ABBA**: The initial charge of accessory in acts of terrorism was changed to acclamation of acts of terrorism and laundering of proceeds of terrorism at the hearing of 1 March 2017. The Military Tribunal delivered its judgment on 24 April 2017 and convicted **AHMED ABBA** to 10 years imprisonment and costs of CFAF55,726,325. The case against **Rodrigue TONGUE, Félix EBOLE BOLA** and **BABA WAME** prosecuted since 2014 for non- denunciation, that against **Simon ATEBA** for spying before the Military Tribunal as well as that against **François FOGNO FOTSO**, prosecuted for simple uprising before the *CFI-CA*, punishable under sections 74 and 157 of the PC.



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- The People and **KAPTUE Lazare vs. Benjamin ZEBAZE** for refusal to publish or insert the right of reply. In this case, the accused is alleged to have made defamatory statements against Mr **KAPTUE Lazare** in the press and not to have published in full the victim's reply. The CFI Bangangte found the accused guilty of refusing to publish a right of reply in breach of the provisions of Sections 74 of the PC, 53 and 69 of Law No. 90/52 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of mass communication as amended by Law No. 96/4 of 4 January 1996. **Benjamin ZEBAZE** was sentenced to a fine of CFAF200,000<sup>61</sup> and CFAF15,140,000<sup>62</sup> as damages.
- The People and **MEKOULOU MVONDO AKAME Jean Noel vs. MBITA NDZANA Grégoire and TSALA Jean Patient** respectively promoter of the radio *Magic FM* and host of the programme *Electorat* and **ATEBA Hubert Franck**, guest of the said programme. The defendants were prosecuted before the CFI, Ekounou for insult and defamation. The 3 defendants were found not guilty of insult and acquitted for want of evidence. They were on the other hand found guilty of defamation and sentenced to fines of CFAF500,000<sup>63</sup> for the first 2 and 6 months imprisonment and fine of CFAF1,000,000<sup>64</sup> as well as damages<sup>65</sup> for **ATEBA Hubert Franck**;
- **FONKAM SAMUEL AZU'U vs. AMOUGOU BELINGA Jean Pierre** (Television Promoter), **BIHINA Simon Pierre** (Presenter) and **Marcel MOM NANG** (Bureau Head for Mail at Vision 4). The latter were prosecuted before the CFI, Ekounou for defamation, contempt, insult and propagation of false news pursuant to Sections 74, 305, 154, 307, and 113 of the PC respectively. In its Judgment of 28 December 2016, the court found **AMOUGOU BELINGA Jean Pierre** not guilty and acquitted him for want of evidence while the criminal action was declared inadmissible for lack of identification against **BIHINA Simon Pierre** and **Marcel MOM NANG**;

<sup>61</sup> About 305,34 Euros

<sup>62</sup> About 23,114.50 Euros

<sup>63</sup> About 763,36 Euros

<sup>64</sup> About 1,526.72 Euros

<sup>65</sup> The decision was delivered on 22 February 2017 and an appeal was filed against it.

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- **KETCHA Célestine Courtes vs. NDANGA Alain, Malika Océane SHEKINHH SAGAY** and the newspaper *Productive* on the one hand, and **Sobze Jérôme Narcisse** (Newspaper Promoter), **KEMTCHAM Jean Paul** and *Le Ndé à l'écoute* on the other, before the CFI, Bangangte for defamation and abuse pursuant to Sections 74, 305 and 307 of the PC. In the first case, the defendants were accused of having inserted in their publication No. 20 of 16 November 2016, words deemed defamatory and abusive by the complainant, such as: «Bangangte Council: **KETCHA Courtes** crosses Rubicon of immorality; to satisfy her fantasies, she manipulates the Divisional Officer of Bangangte to dislodge a family in Kamna». In the second case, Mrs. **KETCHA** accused the defendants for publishing defamatory articles against her on the front page of the newspaper *Le Ndé à l'écoute* No. 40 of November 2015. These include among others: «*desire for vengeance, Célestine KETCHA COURTES declares war on the President of the Senate and the Senior Divisional Officer of Nde. Why Célestine KETCHA is mad at the Senior Divisional Officer of Nde. The French citizen is now in turmoil and is lost...*». These 2 matters were pending before that court.

## C: Judicial Proceedings against Mobile Telephone Operators

**182-** Mobile telephone operators were prosecuted in 2016. Following the controversy over the offer of 4G services, the Cameroon Consumers League seised CFI, Yaounde, *Centre Administratif* of 2 complaints against Orange and MTN for misleading advertising relating to the launch of 4G and for misrepresentation of subscribers. Both cases that were called up for the first time for hearing on 28 January 2016, were still pending at the end of the year.

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**183-** To conclude, progress has been made in the development of communications and telecommunications infrastructures, notably with the construction of new post offices and ongoing construction of optical loops in several regional headquarters. Improved access to information, however, remains dependent on the implementation of the Recommendations of the General Communication Forum, including the setting up of the Special Trust Fund with a view to rationalizing State support to private communication companies.



**Chapter** **4**

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



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**184-** Participation in the management of public affairs was effected either through access to Public Service or through elective functions. A number of activities were carried out to consolidate the electoral system. Decentralization was also consolidated with the full transfer of powers in 2016.

## SECTION 1: ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE

**185-** In 2016, 340 persons were recruited for 340 vacancies by competitive examination, including 220 men and 120 women. Some 660 persons for 1,475 vacancies were recruited by direct competitive examination representing 456 men and 204 women. There were still 795 vacancies after all the examinations were written.

## SECTION 2: CONSOLIDATION OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

**186-** Although there were no elections in 2016, political parties were supported in the preparations for future elections. ELECAM also polished up preparations for future elections.

### §1: Support to Political Parties

**187-** In addition to the legalization of new political parties, Government disbursed public funds to support political parties that took part in past elections.

#### A: Allocation of Public Funds to Political Parties

**188-** Pursuant to Joint Order No. 284/A/MINFI/MINATD of 24 March 2016 to lay down the distribution of public funds to support political parties in the 2016 financial year, CFAF1,500,000,000<sup>66</sup> was disbursed by the State to 31 political parties based on their results obtained at the last elections. In 2016, the amount and terms and conditions for distribution remained unchanged compared to the 2015 financial year<sup>67</sup>.

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<sup>66</sup> About 2,290,076.34 Euros

<sup>67</sup> See 2015 Report, §247.

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## B: Legalization of new Political Parties

**189-** The number of political parties increased from 298 in 2015 to 303 in 2016. The 5 new political parties are contained in the table below:

**Table 1: Political parties legalized in 2016**

No.	Name	Abbreviation	Date of legalization	Headquarters
1	<i>Union Camerounaise pour la Démocratie</i>	UCD	2 February	Yaounde
2	<i>Mouvement de Lumière du Peuple Camerounais</i>	MLPC	2 February	Yaounde
3	<i>Alliance Plus Pour l'Emergence du Cameroun</i>	APPE	17 October	Yaounde
4	<i>Démocratie d'Union Populaire</i>	DUP	8 November	Yaounde
5	United Peoples Party	UPP	28 December	Bamenda

Source : MINATD

## §2: Operational and institutional Capacity Building

**190-** In addition to the appointment of new members to the Electoral Board, the operational capacities of ELECAM were built. The election card index was also updated.

### A: Appointment of new Members to the Electoral Board

**191-** On 20 April 2016, Mr. **ENOW ABRAMS EGBE**<sup>68</sup> and Mr. **HAMAN DAIROU**<sup>69</sup> were appointed members of the Electoral Board of ELECAM<sup>70</sup>. They were sworn in on 16 July 2016 before the Supreme Court sitting as the Constitutional Council.

### B: Operational Capacity Building

<sup>68</sup> See Presidential Decree No. 2016/203 of 20 April 2016.

<sup>69</sup> See Presidential Decree No. 2016/204 of 20 April 2016.

<sup>70</sup> The appointment of 2 new members to the Electoral Board filled the posts previously held by Mr. **ABDOULAYE BABALE** (Director General of ELECAM) left vacant in July 2015, and the resignation of Mgr. **Dieudonné WATIO**, Bishop of Bafoussam, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2015. It further enabled the institution to have a team of 18 members as provided for by its rules and regulations.



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**192-** Although the budget of ELECAM dropped by CFAF1,060,000,000<sup>71</sup>, falling from CFAF10,636,000,000<sup>72</sup> in 2015 to CFAF9,576,000,000<sup>73</sup> in 2016, the goals of the institution that include the material and human operational capacity building remained the same. Besides, staff performance was commended as well as the reputation of the institution at the international level.

## 1) Increase in Material Resources

**193-** Electoral biometrics continued to be developed to enable regional centres to produce electoral lists and reduce the timeframe for the production of voter's cards.

**194-** Thus, with the support of VERIDOS (a partner), the operational capacities of ELECAM's regional biometric centres were developed. Since 29 December 2016, the regional biometric centre, East Region, was the first centre to launch the production of final electoral lists.

## 2) Capacity Building of ELECAM Staff

**195-** Some ELECAM staff attended an International Seminar on Elections Evaluation in Central Africa held from 25 to 27 March 2016 in Yaounde. The seminar that was organized by the Economic Community of Central African States enabled the 32 representatives from different national election commissions<sup>74</sup> to highlight the importance of building the capacity of election agents.

**196-** Besides, an ELECAM delegation was invited to the United States of America from 3 to 14 November 2016 by the International Foundation for Electoral System, to witness as election observers, the US Presidential Election of 8 November 2016.

## 3) Performance Acknowledgement

**197-** To boost the performance of its regional offices, ELECAM awarded prizes in accordance with their voter registration level. In this connection, the Innovation Prize was awarded ELECAM staff of North West Re-

<sup>71</sup> About 1,618,320.61 Euros

<sup>72</sup> About 16,238,167.93 Euros

<sup>73</sup> About 14,619,847.32 Euros

<sup>74</sup> Cameroon was represented by the Ministry of External Relations and ELECAM.

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gion for successfully organizing registration campaigns for minorities and indigenous peoples. Meanwhile, the Special Youth Awareness-raising Prize was awarded to the West Region for having registered over 9,000 youths in less than 20 days. Furthermore, 13 kit operators from the 10 Regions of the country received certificates to acknowledge their commitment and duty consciousness.

## C: Updating the Electoral Register

**198-** The electoral register was updated through incentive measures, registration and post-registration operations.

### 1) Incentive Measures

**199-** Prior to registration operations, ELECAM organized special registration campaigns for specific groups including women, youths, and persons with disability.

**200-** The operation "*Mois de mars, mois des femmes, mois d'accueil des femmes à ELECAM*" intended to register 30,000 new women, rather registered 39,623 new women in the country, broken down as follows: Far North Region (5,586), Centre Region (5,549), West Region (5,382), Littoral (5,020), North West (4,304), North Region (4,401), Adamawa (3,194), South West (2,592), South Region (1,913), and East Region (1,682).

**201-** As part of the campaign dubbed "*20,000 youths to be registered in 20 days*" conducted from 8 to 28 February 2016, some 46,266 new youths were registered representing an increase of 26,266 newly registered youths in relation to the expected results. The highest number of youths was registered in the West (9,211) and Littoral (5,000) Regions, while the lowest number was registered in East Region (2,553). Urban offices registered more voters than rural offices where a small number of youths had identity card.

**202-** At the end of the special operation dubbed "*The Turn of Persons with Disabilities*"<sup>75</sup> launched during the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the In-

<sup>75</sup> In a bid to guarantee representation of persons with disabilities in decision-making institutions, inclusion in the electoral process may be consolidated by implementing the disability approach to allow ELECAM accept candidate lists and, failing which, appoint a special electoral college with a quota for persons with disabilities.

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clusive Society for Persons with Disabilities Platform”, the Electoral Register included, as at 23 June 2016, some 35,000 persons with disabilities in a context where neither political parties nor the legislation had explicitly integrated the disability approach.

**203-** The “All Inclusive Registration” campaign launched nationwide was conducted from 2 May to 21 June 2016. ELECAM Council Offices and mobile teams targeted 7 socio-professional categories<sup>76</sup> for registration. At the end of the campaign, 95,820 new citizens were registered with the help of trade unions.

## 2) Registration

**204-** Registration of voters was conducted both in and out of the country.

### a) Biometric registration nationwide

**205-** Electoral Registers opened on 2 January 2016 were closed on 31 August 2016 with the registration of 510,362 new voters as against 224,065 voters in 2015.

**Table 2: Distribution of newly registered voters as at 31 August 2016**

Region	Registered voters in 2016	Youths (20-35 years)	Gender distribution	
			Men	Women
Adamawa	28,397	7,320	17,594	10,803
Centre	94,515	68,449	61,610	32,905
East	23,893	16,718	15,886	8,007
Far North	68,080	46,889	39,317	28,763
Littoral	82,946	58,845	53,284	29,662
North	40,829	28,900	24,273	16,556
North West	57,773	48,261	30,832	26,941
West	62,883	49,665	34,305	28,578
South	22,506	22,506	13,363	9,143
South West	28,540	19,882	16,291	12,249
<b>Total</b>	<b>510,362</b>	<b>367,437</b>	<b>306,755</b>	<b>203,607</b>

Source: ELECAM

**206-** Analyses show that newly registered voters include 306,755 men, representing 60.11%, 203,607 women, representing 39.89% and 367,435 youths aged 20 to 35, representing 78%.

<sup>76</sup> The 7 socio-professional categories include farmers, breeders, post office workers, teachers, carriers, health staff, and finance staff.

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**207-** The impact of a progressive return to calm in the Far North Region was an increase in registration of new voters. In this connection, 68,039 new voters were registered as against 50,784 in 2014, and 34,679 in 2015.

## **b) Biometric Registration of Cameroonians living abroad**

**208-** Some 16,576 Cameroonians abroad were registered in the Electoral Register, including 11,068 men and 5,508 women. The highest number of newly registered voters was on the African Continent (7,179 voters) and the country with the highest number of voters was Equatorial Guinea (1,106 voters).

**209-** Challenges continued to be observed in efforts to update the Electoral Register. The low turnout in registration observed in some Continents was due to the lack of registration mechanisms in diplomatic representations. This is the case of the Americas where only 85 voters were registered at the Embassy of Cameroon in Brazil and the High Commission of Cameroon in Ottawa.

## **3: Post-registration Operations**

**210-** Members of the Electoral Board conducted field trips from 15 to 30 March 2016 to oversee the update of Electoral Registers and supervise the distribution of voters' cards.

### **a) Processing the Electoral Register**

**211-** While processing the 6,316,836 registered voters in the Electoral Register, 66,836 improper registrations were cancelled. Thus, as at 31 December 2016, the final biometric Electoral Register included 6,250,000 registered voters comprising 92,683 persons living abroad and 6,157,317 persons living in the country. The table below contains the distribution of voters living in the country by Region and by sex:

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**Table 3: Registered voters as at 31 December 2016**

Region	Men	Women	Total
Adamawa	220,710	179,866	400,576
Centre	581,928	448,996	1,030,924
East	170,381	137,571	307,952
Far North	544,048	541,570	1,085,618
Littoral	475,269	350,287	825,556
North	333,633	305,879	639,512
North West	271,660	313,800	585,460
West	313,202	359,002	672,204
South	134,997	110,440	245,437
South West	196,263	167,815	364,078
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,242,091</b>	<b>2,915,226</b>	<b>6,157,317</b>

**Source:** ELECAM

**212-** As at 31 December 2016, some 32,391 voters with disabilities<sup>77</sup> were registered in the biometric Electoral Register.

### **b) Distribution of Voters' Cards**

**213-** Improvement in the production time of voters' cards was evidenced by the timeframe for the issuance of the voters' cards which significantly dropped from 10 months to 1 month. In this connection, ELECAM conducted a special "My Electoral Card, my Goal" campaign to distribute voters' cards during the AFCON competition organized in Cameroon. The goal was to distribute 18,000 cards in Mfoundi and Fako Divisions (Centre and South West Regions respectively). As at 17 November 2016, some 1,981,439 cards were issued out of the 2,255,324 cards printed, representing an issuance rate of 88%.

## **SECTION 2: CONSOLIDATING DECENTRALIZATION**

**214-** Although 2016 marked the end of transfer of powers to Councils, an inventory of resources to support the decentralization process was incomplete in spite of the fact that decentralized cooperation was consolidated.

<sup>77</sup> Such disabilities include hearing, physical, speech, height, and sight disability.

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## §1: End of Transfer of Skills

**215-** At the end of the reference period, 5 Ministries<sup>78</sup> transferred the last 6 powers to Councils, thereby bringing the rate of effective transfer of powers started in 2010 to 100%.

**216-** MINAC transferred to Councils, the organization of literary and arts competitions as well as the opening and management of public libraries and reading Centres. *MINEE* transferred skills on electrification in areas in need; *MINSANTE* transferred skills on sanitary inspection of manufacturing, processing, storage, and distribution establishments of food products. *MINHDU* transferred skills on land development, and *MINEDUB* transferred skills on adult literacy.

**217-** In a bid to consolidate the powers of Councils in the management of decentralization, and collaboration between Councils and decentralized services of the State, 3 handbooks on management of powers transferred by the State to Councils were edited by the Special Council Support Fund (*FEICOM*) in partnership with the Decentralization and Local Development Support Programme.

**218-** The first handbook concerns powers on drinking water supply while the second focuses on powers on basic education. The third handbook will help every citizen in a beneficiary Council to monitor projects financed by *FEICOM*.

## §2: Transfer of Financial Resources to Councils

**219-** In 2016, Councils benefited from financial resources transferred by the State and the General Decentralization Budget.

### A: Financial Resources transferred to Councils

**220-** In the 2016 financial year, Ministries transferred CFAF45,779,544,000<sup>79</sup> to Councils. In all, from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2016, CFAF238,635,360,000<sup>80</sup> was transferred to Councils.

<sup>78</sup> The Ministries concerned include MINAC, MINEDUB, MINHDU, MINSANTE and MINEE.

<sup>79</sup> About 69,892,433.58 Euros

<sup>80</sup> About 364,328,793.89 Euros

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## B: General Decentralization Budget transferred to Councils

**221-** As per Decree No. 2016/304/PM of 26 January 2016 to lay down the distribution of the General Decentralization Budget for the 2016 financial year, there was a drop of CFAF500,000,000<sup>81</sup> from CFAF10,500,000,000<sup>82</sup> to CFAF10,000,000,000<sup>83</sup>. The drop was observed on the investment budget.

**222-** The table below contains the distribution of CFAF5,000,000,000<sup>84</sup> as the running budget votes for the 2016 financial year.

**Table 5: Distribution of running budget (2016 financial year)**

No.	Description	Amount in CFAF
1	Special or emergency running expenses for some Councils or City Councils	1,100,000,000 <sup>85</sup>
2	Payment of some compulsory expenditure of Councils and their establishments notably salaries of staff and Councillors	3,000,000,000 <sup>86</sup>
3	Running of the National Decentralization Council	170,000,000 <sup>87</sup>
4	Running of the Interministerial Committee of Local Services	190,000,000 <sup>88</sup>
5	Running of the National Local Finance Committee	40,000,000 <sup>89</sup>
6	Running of the Interministerial Decentralized Cooperation Commission	30,000,000 <sup>90</sup>
7	Support to the National Small Urban Jobs Training Programme	40,000,000
8	Regional seminars for decentralization stakeholders	200,000,000 <sup>91</sup>
9	Production and dissemination of the National Decentralization Strategy	20,000,000 <sup>92</sup>
10	Support to Council trade unions	30,000,000
11	Running of State decentralized services supporting Councils and City Councils	180,000,000 <sup>93</sup>
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,000,000,000</b>

**Source:** Prime Minister's Office

<sup>81</sup> About 763,358.77 Euros

<sup>82</sup> About 16,030,534.35 Euros

<sup>83</sup> About 15,267,175.57 Euros

<sup>84</sup> About 7,633,587.78 Euros.

<sup>85</sup> About 1,679,389.31 Euros

<sup>86</sup> About 4,580,152.67 Euros

<sup>87</sup> About 259,541.98 Euros

<sup>88</sup> About 290,076.33 Euros

<sup>89</sup> About 61,068.70 Euros

<sup>90</sup> About 45,801.53 Euros

<sup>91</sup> About 305,343.51 Euros

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**223-** In order to reduce public expenditure, the running budget of the Interministerial Committee for Local Services dropped by CFAF60,000,000<sup>94</sup> from CFAF250,000,000<sup>95</sup> in 2015 to CFAF190,000,000 in 2016.

**224-** The General Decentralization Budget of CFAF5,000,000,000 was used to finance projects approved in 185 Councils<sup>96</sup>. The projects included school infrastructure, health centres, and electrification.

### **§3: Consolidating Decentralized International Cooperation**

**225-** International decentralized cooperation was implemented through the establishment of a discussion platform, and the signing of a partnership agreement.

#### **A: Decentralized Cooperation Platform between Municipalities of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and France**

**226-** The 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of Mayors of political and economic capitals of CEMAC was held from 15 to 16 January 2016 in Yaounde. The goal of the Conference was to step up sub-regional integration through freedom of movement of persons and goods, and the effective implementation of decentralization policies.

**227-** The challenges addressed included the mastery of urbanization in the wake of population growth, and provision of infrastructure and basic social services.

**228-** The 100 Mayors and Councillors discussed best practices and technical solutions to consolidate the financial autonomy of Local Governments. Technical experts in the sectors of street names and management of local finances were also invited to the deliberations.

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<sup>92</sup> About 30,534.35 Euros

<sup>93</sup> About 274,809.16 Euros

<sup>94</sup> About 91,603,05 Euros

<sup>95</sup> About 381,679.38 Euros

<sup>96</sup> The 185 Councils concerned are found in the 10 Regions: Adamawa (11), Centre (32), East (18), Far North (27), Littoral (16), North (9), North West (17), West (20), South (18), and South West (17).



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**229-** Participants recommended the consolidation of the action of local authorities in their determination to support local development<sup>97</sup>, and the computerization of civil status and naming of streets.

## **B: Signing of a Cooperation Agreement between Douala City Council, Bordeaux Métropole and Bordeaux Council**

**230-** A tripartite framework cooperation agreement on “*Douala ville durable*” (Sustainable Douala Township) was signed on 5 October 2016 in Douala between Douala City Council, *Bordeaux Métropole*<sup>98</sup> and Bordeaux Council. The objective is to consolidate relations between Bordeaux Metropolitan, Bordeaux Township and Douala City Council over the period 2016-2019. The agreement further provides for discussions on the economy and town planning<sup>99</sup>.

**231-** Although more recruitment was made into the Public Service, some categories of persons still need to participate directly in the management of public affairs. They include persons with disabilities and indigeneous peoples whose representation in results of public competitive examinations is insignificant.

**232-** Furthermore, though increase in the number of registered voters including areas affected by terrorism, shows the interest the population has in political matters, participation in the management of public affairs will further be consolidated with the full transfer of skills to Councils. However, the comprehensive goals of decentralization can only be achieved with the adoption of the National Decentralization Strategy.

<sup>97</sup> The immediate challenges of the Conference included awareness-raising of stakeholders on the relevance of proper consideration of the concerns and opinions of local authorities in designing public policies that have an impact on the planning and financing of development.

<sup>98</sup> *Bordeaux Métropole* is the capital of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region and comprises 28 municipalities and 740,000 inhabitants. It is one of the most dynamic cities in France with competitiveness poles in the areas of aeronautics, biotechnologies, digital technologies and eco-industries.

<sup>99</sup> The cooperation includes training of young Cameroon entrepreneurs in Bordeaux in 2017, study trips of students from *Ecole Supérieure Spéciale d'Architecture du Cameroun (ESSACA)* to *Ecole nationale supérieure d'architecture et de paysage de Bordeaux (ENSAP)*, and preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Résidence Entrepreneuriale Jeunes Bordeaux-Afrique*. In addition to financing solidarity actions on water and sanitation, experts from Metropolitan Bordeaux will be associated to the “*Mobilize Your City*” operation for urban mobility financed by the *Agence Française de Développement (AFD)*.



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## CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

**233-** On the whole, Government has made another step forward in promoting and protecting civil and political rights. More actions were taken to protect the right to life, physical and moral integrity, and the right not to be subjected to torture through capacity building of law enforcement officials and sanctions imposed on persons found guilty of Human Rights violation.

**234-** With regard to fair trial, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Head of the Judicial Power stressed the need to reduce judicial delays.

**235-** Concerning freedom of expression and communication, access to information was improved with the opening of new community radios in many areas in the country.

**236-** The right to participate in the management of public affairs was consolidated with ELECAM's constant updating of electoral registers, while the last skills were transferred to Councils.



## PART TWO

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



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART TWO

**237-** In guaranteeing economic, social and cultural rights, Government focused on promoting education, enhancing quality health, and ensuring healthy and sufficient diet. It further made efforts to increase production and supply of energy, water, and decent housing.

**238-** Implementation of policies to reduce youth unemployment through promotion of self-employment, the National Plan of Action for Youth Employment (*PANEJ*), consolidation of the legal framework on protection of landed property, continued cultural and artistic activities, and the need to preserve a healthy environment were also among Government priorities.

**239-** This Part examines the following chapters:

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





Chapter

1

RIGHT TO EDUCATION



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**240-** While the 2015/2016 school year was normal and helped promote the right to education at the basic, secondary and higher levels, the enjoyment of this right was disrupted in the North West and South West Regions during the first term of the 2016/2017 Academic Year due to the crisis in these parts of the country<sup>100</sup>.

## SECTION 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AT BASIC EDUCATION LEVEL

**241-** The budget devoted to basic education increased from CFAF188,583,000,000<sup>101</sup> in 2015 to CFAF206,010,000,000<sup>102</sup> in 2016, representing an increase of CFAF17,427, 000,000<sup>103</sup> in absolute terms and of 8.46 % in relative terms. A share of this budget was transferred to Councils<sup>104</sup> as part of the decentralization process. This has improved nursery and primary education in both the English and French language education sub-systems and revitalized literacy and non-formal basic education.

### §1: Improvement of Education at Pre-school Level

**242-** Apart from support for community-based pre-school education, characterized in 2015/2016 by the construction and equipment of 10 community centres, the intensification of infrastructure and equipment in pre-school education has had an impact on pre-school indicators.

**243-** Infrastructure increased with the setting up of 200 new nursery schools, 28 of which in the English-speaking subsystem in the North West and South West Regions, 30 maternal blocks, fence, a block of three latrines, the rehabilitation of 5 nursery schools and the setting up of school gardens.

<sup>100</sup> Relevant presentations will be included in the 2017 Report.

<sup>101</sup> About 287,912,977.10 Euros

<sup>102</sup> About 314,519,083.97 Euros

<sup>103</sup> About 26,606,106.87 Euros

<sup>104</sup> As part of the decentralization process in 2016, Councils received CFAF 9,300, 000,000 (about 14,198,473.28 Euros) for investment especially for the construction, rehabilitation of classrooms and their equipment with desks, as well as the allocation of the sum of CFAF 2,085,553,000 (about 3,184,050.38 Euros) for the supply of teaching aids to public primary schools as Minimum Package.

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**244-** From 2013/2014 to 2015/2016, the number of nursery schools per sub-system stood as follows:

**Table 1: Distribution of nursery schools per subsystem/zone during the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 Academic Years**

No.	Sub-System	Number of schools in 2013/2014	Number of schools in 2014/2015	Number of schools in 2015/2016	Increase from 2013 to 2016	
					Absolute value	Relative value
1	English-Speaking	3,088	3,405	3,660		
2	French-speaking	5,179	5,770	6,000		
<b>Total</b>		8,267 (4,284 in Urban areas and 3,983 in rural areas)	9,175 (4,796 in Urban areas and 4,379 in rural areas)	9,660 (5,053 in Urban areas and 4,607 in rural areas)	1,393	14.42%

**Source:** MINEDUB

**245-** More so, new equipment were acquired, including 1,200 small tables, 4,200 small chairs, and 210 blackboards on easels for 26 classrooms in different nursery schools.

**246-** The distribution of the preschool equipment acquired by subsystem is illustrated in the table below.

**Table 2: Distribution of preschool classroom equipment by subsystem during the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 school years**

No.	Subsystem		Equipment in 2013/2014	Equipment in 2014/2015	Equipment in 2015/2016
1	English-speaking	Number of desks for pupils	155,309	175,791	196,933
		Number of blackboards	8,453	9,650	10,337
		Number of tables and chairs for teachers	9,305	10,383	11,337
2	French-speaking	Number of desks for pupils	336,493	372,405	394,688
		Number of blackboards	14,574	16,146	17,077
		Number of tables and chairs for teachers	14,007	14,998	15,233
<b>Total</b>	Number of desks for pupils		<b>491,802</b>	<b>548,196</b>	<b>591,621</b>
	Number of blackboards		<b>23,027</b>	<b>25,796</b>	<b>27,414</b>
	Number of office chairs for teachers		<b>23,312</b>	<b>25,381</b>	<b>26,890</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

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**247-** In terms of impact, the number of tables and chairs for pupils, for example, rose from 491,802 in 2013/2014 to 591,621 in 2015/2016, an increase of 99,819 tables and chairs in nursery schools, which is sufficient to provide a table and chair for the 555,810 pupils registered in pre-school in Cameroon.

**248-** The number of pre-school teachers also continued to increase from 7,369 in 2014/2015 to 7,780 in 2015/2016 in the French-speaking subsystem. In the English-speaking subsystem, it increased from 2,841 in 2014/2015 to 2,906 in 2015/2016. Overall, the teaching staff in charge of following-up the 555,810 pupils registered in the pre-school system rose from 10,210 teachers in 2014/2015 to 10,686 in 2015/2016. The pupil/teacher ratio in pre-school in 2016 stood at 20.7 pupils per teacher at the national level, representing 19.1 pupils per teacher in public schools, 21.7 pupils per teacher in the private sector and 23.5 pupils per teacher in community schools.

**249-** In addition, in order to guarantee the loyalty of teachers at their workstations, guest houses were built. Overall, in 2016, there were 689 official accommodations, 240 in French-speaking pre-schools and 269 in English-speaking pre-schools. Moreover, based on geographical distribution there were 430 official accommodations in urban areas against 259 in rural areas.

**250-** All these measures helped maintain the gross pre-school enrolment rate at 35% nationwide during the 2015/2016<sup>105</sup> School Year.

**251-** However, as in the previous year, the main problem remains the distribution of these pre-school establishments throughout the country, where almost 70% of pre-school children are in urban areas, compared to 30% in rural areas.

## §2: Consolidation of Primary Education

**252-** In order to provide answers to the growing demand for education, the State and its partners have endeavoured to improve educational supply. This improvement has had a positive impact on quality and effectiveness at this level of education.

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<sup>105</sup> This rate was similar in 2014/2015

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## A: Enhancement of Education Supply

**253-** Both public and private primary education supply increased during the reference year.

### 1) Strengthening the Supply of Public Primary Education

**254-** Strengthening the provision of public primary education has been made possible, in particular through the intensification of infrastructure and equipment, the increase in the number of teachers and the revitalization of non-formal education.

#### a) Strengthening Infrastructure and Facilities in Public Primary Schools

**255-** Thanks to the action of MINEDUB, Councils, development partners and the continuation of the Emergency School Plan<sup>106</sup>, many public primary schools were built, rehabilitated and equipped. Thus, 325 public primary schools, 26 of which are in the English-speaking area were constructed. The Public Investment Budget (PIB) enabled the construction of 602 classrooms and 81 latrine blocks. With funding from C2D, 243 classrooms and 116 latrine blocks were built while 30 public schools were fully rehabilitated.

**256-** During the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 Academic Years, the number of primary schools in the 2 subsystems was increased as shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Distribution of primary schools by subsystem/area from the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 school years**

No.	Subsystem	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
1	French-speaking	13,064	13,706	14,018
2	English-speaking	5,071	5,430	5,693
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,135 (5,465 in urban areas and 12,670 in rural areas)</b>	<b>19,136 (5,922 in urban areas and 13,214 in rural areas)</b>	<b>19,711 (6,132 in urban areas and 13,579 in rural areas)</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

<sup>106</sup> See Chapter on Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons § 1043-1058.

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**257-** More so, 18 classrooms were built by the MTN Foundation, 6 by the Chantal Biya Foundation and *Cercle des Amis du Cameroun* (CERAC), while 10 others were built by other partners including the PNDP, Orange Cameroon Foundation and Plan Cameroon. CERAC also rehabilitated 6 classrooms in the Far North (2), West (2) and South West (2) Regions.

**258-** In addition, the central and decentralized services such as the Regional Delegations of the South and the Far North, the Divisional Delegation, Kadey and the Sub divisional Inspectorate, Figuil, were equipped with office furniture, computer hardware and accessories.

**259-** The acquisition of 20,100 desks, 602 tables for teachers and 4,000 micro-science kits helped to improve learning and teaching conditions in schools. Overall, equipment received by schools from 2013 to 2016 is shown in the table below.

**Table 4: Distribution of equipment in primary schools from 2013 to 2016**

No.	Subsystem	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	
1	<b>French-speaking</b>	Number of desks for pupils	2,422,230	2,548,660	2,625,669
		Number of blackboards	69,339	68,095	71,362
		Number of cupboards	12,820	13,465	13,959
		Number of office chairs for teachers	39,794	42,939	43,459
2	<b>English-speaking</b>	Number of desks for pupils	864,691	927,238	976,382
		Number of blackboards	31,556	34,851	33,902
		Number of cupboards	7,155	7,979	8,479
		Total number of office tables and chairs	27,297	30,804	32,321
<b>Total</b>	Total number of desks for pupils	<b>3,286,921</b>	<b>3,475,898</b>	<b>3,602,051</b>	
	Number of blackboards	<b>100,895</b>	<b>102,946</b>	<b>105,264</b>	
	Number of cupboards	<b>19,975</b>	<b>21,444</b>	<b>22,438</b>	
	Total number of office tables and chairs for teachers	<b>67,091</b>	<b>73,743</b>	<b>75,780</b>	

## b) Number of Teachers

**260-** The number of teachers increased from 60,357 in the 2013/2014 School Year to 66,264 in the 2015/2016 School Year, representing an increase of 5,907 teachers in absolute terms, and 8.9% in relative terms as shown in the table below.

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**Table 5: Distribution of teaching staff of public primary schools for the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 School Years**

No.	Subsystem	Number of teachers	2013/2014	2014 /2015	2015/2016
1	French-speaking	Male	25,929	28,314	27,781
		Female	21,819	25,968	24,881
		<b>Total</b>	<b>47,748</b>	<b>54,282</b>	<b>52,662</b>
2	English-speaking	Male	4,996	5,243	5,203
		Female	7,613	8,353	8,399
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12,609</b>	<b>13,596</b>	<b>13,602</b>
Total	Male	30,925	33,557	32,984	
	Female	29,432	34,321	33,280	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60,357</b>	<b>67,878</b>	<b>66,264</b>	

Source: MINEDUB

**261-** In order to ensure the loyalty of staff and to retain them in rural areas, 22 blocks of 2 guest houses for teachers were built, bringing the total number of guest houses for primary school teachers in the country in 2016 to 3,056, that is, 2,405 in French-speaking primary schools and 651 in English-speaking primary schools. Besides, based on geographical distribution, there were 2,140 staff houses in rural areas and 916 in urban areas.

## 2) Improvement of Private Education Supply at Primary School Level

**262-** Subsidies worth CFAF 1,816,000,000<sup>107</sup> were allocated to 6,896 private nursery and primary schools. In addition to this financial support, MINEDUB initiated the experiment of signing contract with teachers in 20 nursery schools and 20 pilot private primary schools.

**263-** The validation workshop of the results of this experiment was held on 22 and 23 December 2016 in Yaounde. This allowed significant progress, especially at the educational, material as well as human and financial resources management levels.

**264-** At the educational level, the effects of contracting were positive. To this end, as a result of support received by pilot schools, the attendance rate of pupils increased, teachers were stable at work, coverage of teaching hours increased, especially in ICT, and the grades of students improved at sequence assessments<sup>108</sup>.

<sup>107</sup>About 2,772,519.08 Euros

<sup>108</sup> For example, the average success rate in ICT in all the pilot schools concerned, increased from 51.33% to



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**265-** With respect to equipment, contracts signed with pilot private schools strengthened the equipment pool. The equipment was intended mainly for teaching computer science in primary and nursery schools, as well as to serve as play equipment specifically offered to nursery schools.

**266-** Regarding human and financial resources management, pilot schools received money to ensure the regular payment of the salaries of teaching staff. This support contributed to the stability and assiduity of teachers at work.

**267-** In 2016, the number of contract teachers paid by the State stood at 42,907, representing 37,167 teachers recruited during the period 2007-2011, 2,761 teachers in 2012 and 2,979 teachers in 2015.

## **B: Increase in Education Demand**

**268-** Incentives to school enrolment contributed to increase in the number of pupils. In addition to the Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) implemented in 12,806 government primary schools throughout the country, compared to 5,982 in 2015, other incentives included free distribution of textbooks in government primary schools<sup>109</sup> and the furnishing of school libraries with 60,000 civic and citizenship education books.

**269-** The number of pupils in primary school increased over the last 3 years. It rose from 4,136,912 during the 2013/2014 Academic Year, of which 917,847 pupils from private education, to 4,369,988 pupils in 2014/2015, of which 978,402 pupils from private education, and then to 4,481,235 pupils in 2015/2016, of which 986,037 pupils for private education. This resulted in an increase of 344,323 pupils in absolute terms and 7.68% in relative terms, as indicated in the table below.

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68.44% after the support offered to schools. Similarly, the coverage rate of ICT programmes in the Littoral Region rose from 51.01% to 71.43% in the first sequence, from 58.25% to 73.83% in the second sequence and 54.63% compared to 72.63% at the third sequence.

<sup>109</sup> As part of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) financed by the World Bank, MINEDU signed a contract for the distribution of 1,300,000 textbooks, including readers (English and French) and mathematics books for Class 1 and Class 2 to reduce the ownership ratio of textbook from 1:12 to 1:3 or 1:1.

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**Table 6: Distribution of pupils in primary school by subsystem from the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 school years**

No.	Subsystem	Number of pupils	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
1	French-speaking	Boys	1,745,753	1,840,523	1,875,949
		Girls	1,486,795	1,583,086	1,618,157
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3,232,548</b>	<b>3,423,609</b>	<b>3,494,106</b>
2	English-speaking	Boys	456,723	477,496	498,869
		Girls	447,641	468,883	488,260
		<b>Total</b>	<b>904,364</b>	<b>946,379</b>	<b>987,129</b>
Total		Boys	2,202,476	2,318,019	2,374,818
		Girls	1,934,436	2,051,969	2,106,417
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4,136,912</b>	<b>4,369,988</b>	<b>4,481,235</b>

Source: MINEDUB

**270-** Distribution by private and public education stands as follows :

**Table 7: Distribution of private/public primary school pupils by type of education from the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 school years**

No.	Type of Education	Number of pupils	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
1	Public	Boys	1,699,859	1,777,421	1,829,227
		Girls	1,453,684	1,534,575	1,582,860
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3,153,543</b>	<b>3,311,996</b>	<b>3,412,087</b>
2	Private	Boys	466,555	496,781	500,285
		Girls	451,292	481,621	485,752
		<b>Total</b>	<b>917,847</b>	<b>978,402</b>	<b>986,037</b>

Source: MINEDUB

**271-** The geographic distribution of pupils rose from 1,527,727 in urban areas and 2,609,185 in rural areas in 2013/2014, to 1,609,315 in urban areas and 2,760,673 in rural areas in 2014/2015, and then to 1,640,715 in urban areas and 2,840,520 in rural areas in 2015/2016.

**272-** The teacher/pupil ratio at the national level stood at 44.6:1. However, in the public sector, it stood at 49:1, which is close to the Education For All Fast-Track Initiative (EFA) standard, which recommends a pupil/teacher ratio of 42:1.

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## C: Primary Education Quality and Effectiveness

**273-** Both primary education quality and effectiveness were improved.

### 1) Improvement of Primary Education Quality

**274-** The permanent quest for primary education quality led MINEDUB to improve the school map, promote national languages and multilingualism, build the capacities of its staff, implement curricula reform and initiate a discussion on mastery of textbooks used in schools.

#### a) Cleaning up the School Map

**275-** The fight against unauthorized schools resulted in the closure of 297 private schools, including 98 in the Centre, 156 in the Littoral, 20 in the South West and 23 in the West Regions.

#### b) Promotion of National Languages and Multilingualism

**276-** As part of the promotion of national languages, several activities were carried out, such as the further development of materials to teach reading, writing and mathematics in national languages, as well as capacity building of stakeholders in the field of pedagogical supervision of these courses. In all, these stakeholders monitored and evaluated activities in 360 pilot schools in national languages (*Ewondo, Fulfude, Ghomala'a* and *Bassa*).

**277-** In partnership with ELAN CAMEROON, an experiment in the promotion of national languages was launched during the 2015/2016 School Year in 150 multilingual classes in 50 government primary schools throughout the national territory, comprising 5 schools per Region.

#### c) Capacity Building of Staff

**278-** With regard to pedagogy, 12,224 teachers were trained on the use of textbooks to teach reading and mathematics in schools. This first phase ultimately aims at training more than 50,000 permanent teachers.

**279-** A team of teachers was also trained on the evaluation of basic education learning achievements with the support of the Global Partnership for Education.

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## d) Implementation of Curriculum Reform

**280-** The first phase of curriculum reform was implemented in particular through the validation of the framework document of the said reform and the drawing up of the study programme. The main trends of curricula reform underway at *MINEDUB* are geared towards the development of basic skills, adaptation to ongoing world changes, training of more creative children, with increasingly less dogmatic teaching.

**281-** The different strategic thrusts of the reform are based on the ability of pupils to communicate in the 2 official languages and in at least one national language, teacher training, the drawing up of curricula using a participatory approach, the application of tests on a small sample of schools in urban and rural areas in the English-speaking and French-speaking subsystems, and the involvement of all categories of teachers in the drawing up of these curricula (higher, teacher training, primary and nursery).

**282-** As concerns curriculum content that will be more practical, 10 subjects will be selected, including English, French and literature, science and technology, information and communication technologies, social sciences, national languages and cultures, mathematics, physical, sports and health education, personal development and arts education.

## e) Control of School Textbook

**283-** A discussion on the control of school books was initiated by *MINEDUB* following recriminations related to their management<sup>110</sup>, availability and accessibility. It is based on free textbooks for all pupils and teachers on a step-by-step approach, incentives for national authors, the setting up of school libraries and the training of librarians.

<sup>110</sup>The management of school textbooks is governed by Order No. 1/PM/CAB of 4 January 2002 to lay down the organization and functioning of the National Council for the Approval of School Textbooks and Teaching Aids. The Council, after yearly evaluation of draft publications by publishers, proposes to the *MINDUB* 3 textbooks of equal scientific and pedagogic value for each subject on which School Boards make a final choice based on their pedagogic and didactic goal over three years.

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## 2) Efficient Primary Education

**284-** On the whole, the 2016 examination sessions had satisfactory results. The success rate stood at 84.19% as compared to 81.85% in 2015.

**Table 8: Statistics on 2015 and 2016 examination results**

No.	Examinations and competitive examination	Year		
		2015 Session	2016 Session	
1	CEP	Registered	289,833	294,123
		Sat	283,740	288,921
		Passed	207,645	212,508
		<b>Success rate</b>	<b>73.18%</b>	<b>73.55%</b>
2	FSLC	Registered	98,956	103,577
		Sat	98,121	102,737
		Passed	88,603	93,385
		<b>Success rate</b>	<b>90.29%</b>	<b>90.89%</b>
3	CE	Registered	86,322	92,511
		Sat	85,756	91,717
		Passed	70,409	80,838
		<b>Success rate</b>	<b>82.10%</b>	<b>88.13%</b>

Source: MINEDUB

## §3: Revitalization of Literacy and Non-formal Basic Education

**285-** With the support of the GPE and the Equity and Quality Education Improvement Programme, literacy and non-formal education were revitalized during the reference year through the adoption of the National Literacy Policy Document, its distribution and the holding of regional training seminars relating thereto.

**286-** At the operational level, 10 Functional Literacy Centres (FLC) were built and staff participated in capacity building workshops, enabling literacy skills for 21,000 people, compared to 18,000 in 2015. Overall, the number of FLC in 2016 was evaluated at 1,468 throughout the country, and officials of these Centres are also effectively involved in the teaching of national languages.

**287-** In addition, the number of pupils enrolled in non-formal basic education centres has also increased from 65,522 in 2013/2014 to 79,590 in 2014/2015, then 83,111 in 2015/2016.

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## SECTION 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION AT THE SECONDARY EDUCATION LEVEL

**288-** With a budget that rose from CFAF 217,505,813,000<sup>111</sup> in 2015 to CFAF246,068,000,000<sup>112</sup> in 2016, giving an increase of 13.13% in relative terms, the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC) carried out many actions relating to access to education, improving education quality, with the aim of making education more efficient.

### §1: Measures on Accessibility to Secondary Education

**289-** The supply of education and the increase in demand guaranteed accessibility to secondary education.

#### A: Education Supply

**290-** Both public and private education supply improved during the reference year.

#### 1) Public Education Supply

**291-** Public education supply focused on development of school infrastructure and sustainability of the consolidation of school governance.

**292-** As regards infrastructure, the drive to secure the private domain on which public schools are built, launched in 2015, entered its operational phase in 2016. To this end, more than 544 applications for registration by structures under MINESEC were collected in the Centre, Littoral and West Regions. However, the implementation of this operation was hampered by many administrative and financial difficulties.

**293-** Moreover, infrastructure development concerned the construction of 200 classrooms, 13 workshops, 2 turnkey schools (Government High School, Nyom in the Centre Region and Bilingual Government High School, Bonassama in the Littoral Region), and a one-storey pedagogic building of 8 classrooms in Government High School, Ahala (Yaounde) for general education.

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<sup>111</sup>About 332,069,943.51 Euros

<sup>112</sup>About 375,676,335.88 Euros

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**294-** As regards teacher training education, 2 dormitories and 1 refectory were constructed at the Government Teacher Training College, Akwa in Bakassi.

**295-** Technical and vocational education was enhanced by the construction of a specialized classroom for students studying Tourism at the Technical Government High School, Dschang, the completion of the construction of the Agricultural Technical and Vocational Government High School, Yabassi, as well as that of 198 blocks of 2 classrooms and 21 workshops.

**296-** Moreover, 139 classrooms were equipped with 8,340 desks and 278 offices, 8 workshops with heavy duty teaching material, 69 schools with small teaching kits, and 20 other workshops with small equipment.

**297-** Concerning the sustainability of the consolidation of school governance, control of central, decentralized and supervised units allowed the auditing of the Department of Guidance and Counselling, Life and Educational Assistance on the organization of the National School Guidance and Counselling Day.

**298-** The following were also audited: 5 Regional Delegations (Adamawa, Centre, Far North, Littoral and North West), 10 Divisional Delegations, 21 schools including 10 Technical High Schools, 10 Government High Schools and 1 Government Secondary School. These audits revealed some shortcomings, including an approximate level of information, both by officials and learners. Corrective measures for management methods were recommended to enable a greater number of persons take advantage of the professionalization of teaching.

## 2) Private Education Supply

**299-** In addition to the issuance of authorizations for the setting up of and opening of 260 private secondary schools, the school map was cleaned-up and subsidies granted for the functioning of this type of education.

**300-** In terms of cleaning-up, the national directory of private schools, a document containing information on private schools authorized to operate during the 2016-2017 school year, was updated, making it easier to detect unauthorized schools. Thus, school management control led to the closure of 75 unauthorized private secondary schools.

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**301-** A total subsidy of CFAF600,000,000<sup>113</sup> was awarded to private secondary education and distributed as follows:

- CFAF 3,300,000<sup>114</sup> to the 4 Education Secretariats of the 4 types of private education (Catholic, Protestant, Islamic and Secular); and
- CFAF596,700,000<sup>115</sup> to 494 private schools and private training schools.

## B: Increasing Demand

**302-** Demand is expressed by the number of students enrolled in various types of schools: General Secondary Education (GSE), Technical and Vocational Secondary Education (TVSE) and public and private Teacher Training Colleges (ENI). The table below indicates a general increase of 96,938 students from the 2014/2015 to the 2015/2016 Academic Years, representing, 4.53% in relative terms.

**Table 9: Number of students in the GSE, TVSE and ENI from 2015 to 2016**

Type	Public		Private		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
<b>GSE</b>	<b>1,188,024</b>	<b>1,239,621</b>	<b>460,036</b>	<b>490,065</b>	<b>1,648,060</b>	<b>1,729,686</b>
Girls	554,604	580,433	241,068	257,854	795,672	838,287
Boys	633,420	659,188	218,968	232,211	852,388	891,399
<b>TVSE</b>	<b>329,193</b>	<b>343,597</b>	<b>131,026</b>	<b>133,595</b>	<b>460,219</b>	<b>477,192</b>
Girls	114,170	117,601	56,138	57,041	170,308	174,642
Boys	215,023	225,996	74,888	76,554	289,911	302,550
<b>ENIEG</b>	<b>20,811</b>	<b>16,620</b>	<b>5,515</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>26,326</b>	<b>22,820</b>
Girls	12,328	10,189	4,137	4,586	16,465	14,775
Boys	8,483	6,431	1,378	1,614	9,861	8,045
<b>ENIET</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>7,422</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>6,472</b>	<b>8,417</b>
Girls	2,759	3,786	634	739	3,393	4,525
Boys	2,926	3,636	153	256	3,079	3,892
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,543,713</b>	<b>1,606,310</b>	<b>597,364</b>	<b>630,855</b>	<b>2,141,077</b>	<b>2,238,015</b>
Girls	683,861	712,009	301,977	320,220	985,838	1,032,229
Boys	859,852	895,251	295,387	310,635	1,155,239	1,205,886

Source: MINESEC

**303-** The number of orphans and students with disabilities who were supported significantly increased in the general secondary and technical education, going from 26,013 to 32,750 orphans and from 4,083 to 4,810 students with disabilities identified, representing, 25.90% and 17.80% respectively.

<sup>113</sup> About 916,030. 53 Euros

<sup>114</sup> About 5,038.17 Euros

<sup>115</sup> About 910, 992.37 Euros



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**Table 10: Distribution of the number of vulnerable children in public and private GSE and TVSE from 2015 to 2016**

Regions	Orphans			Students with disabilities		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Adamawa	1,002	1,424	2,426	149	210	359
Centre	1,362	1,478	2,840	268	325	593
East	573	769	1,342	53	94	147
Far North	2,292	4,432	6,724	213	409	622
Littoral	2,846	2,847	5,693	215	237	452
North	1,223	1,961	3,184	162	303	465
North West	2,111	2,042	4,153	289	217	506
West	1,497	1,498	2,995	567	514	1,081
South	998	1,126	2,124	67	94	161
South West	664	605	1,269	219	205	424
<b>Total 2016</b>	<b>14,568</b>	<b>18,182</b>	<b>32,750</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>2,608</b>	<b>4,810</b>
<b>Total 2015</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

**304-** Incentive measures for the strengthening of demand were taken by awarding scholarships. In 2016, CFAF 64,000,000<sup>116</sup> was granted as scholarships to 6,400 students including 721 persons with disabilities and 940 girls in the sciences and technology; some other students (4,739) were granted excellence scholarships.

## §2: Improvement of Teaching Quality

**305-** This improvement involved teaching and teachers.

### A: Teaching Quality

**306-** It was enhanced through curricula reform, professionalization of courses, the development of entrepreneurship in schools, and the strengthening of competitive training and innovation.

#### 1) Curricula Reform

**307-** Curricula reform that started in 2015, continued in 2016. As concerns general education, assessment of the level of introduction of 26 new course clusters continued with the 6<sup>ème</sup>, 5<sup>ème</sup>, Form 1 and Form 2 serving as pilot classes. A similar exercise was also carried out for the introduction of 14 new course clusters with 4<sup>ème</sup> and Form 3 as pilot classes. For a better follow-up of the assessment, 7,657 teachers were

<sup>116</sup> About 97,709.92 Euros

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retrained in the introduction of these new course clusters at the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle. For Teacher Training Education, 2 new course clusters were introduced and 4 teacher training reference documents were drafted.

## **2) Professionalization of Courses and Development of Entrepreneurship in Schools**

**308-** The goal of this thrust is to match training with the socio-economic environment. To this effect, 2 course clusters in Tourism for the options Reception and Touristic Animation, and Travel Agency were validated. Apart from traditional Open Door Days, concern to make entrepreneurship more visible in schools led to the organization of internships in companies for both 457 teachers and 594 students in the field of Industrial Techniques, and for 555 Information Technology students.

## **3) Competitive Training and Innovation**

**309-** The strengthening of competitive training and innovation was realized by developing and generalizing digital science through the continuation of internet connection in 50 High Schools and Colleges in partnership with MINPOSTEL. It was also displayed through the enhancement of Bilingualism in schools by organizing a national bilingualism week on the theme *Bilingualism: Access to Quality Education for Sustainable Development*, through the promotion of Arts, National Languages and Cultures, the collection of national cultural data in the 10 Regions and the popularization of philosophic expression through a national philosophy competition.

## **B: Quality of Teachers and Other Staff**

**310-** The training of teachers and the management of human resources continued to improve during the reference year.

### **1) Training of Teachers**

**311-** In order to have quality human resources, emphasis was laid both on vocational training and on continuous education of secondary education staff.

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## a) Strengthening of Initial Training

**312-** Some, 3,884 graduates of Higher Teacher Training Colleges (*ENS*), 171 student Guidance Counsellors of the 3 *ENS* and 3 Higher Technical Teacher Training Colleges were followed up and assessed. About 3,669 student Grade I teachers from Technical Education Grade I Teacher Training Colleges (*ENIET*) were followed-up and assessed during their internship. Moreover, an additional 3,691 graduates of General Education Grade I Teacher Training Colleges (*ENIEG*) were supervised during practical pedagogic examinations and defences; 160 of them were trained in learning management.

## b) Continuous Training

**313-** Continuous education for pedagogic inspectors, administrative officials and teachers were systematic during the reference year with emphasis on generalization of digital science and a greater development of the Competency Based Approach. In all, 820 Regional Inspector Coordinators, Regional Pedagogic Inspectors and Pedagogic Animators were trained in the use of formative evaluation instruments. Fifty three Regional Pedagogic Inspectors, as well as 523 Guidance Counsellors were trained and assessed.

**314-** As concerns teacher training education, 710 school supervisory staff and Grade I Teacher Training Colleges were followed-up and evaluated. Some 900 Citizenship teachers were trained in the teaching and evaluation of the Special Bilingual Programme and 18,880 staff (Teachers, Inspectors, Regional Coordinators, Regional Pedagogic Inspectors and Pedagogic Counsellors) were trained. The training enabled better coverage of teaching programmes.

## 2) Human Resource Management

**315-** The following actions were carried out as regards human resources management: automatic processing of 21,702 promotion files in order to maintain staff at their work station; the census of 60,118 staff, signature and the transmission to the National Application for Computer and Logistics Processing of State Personnel of 32,161 promotion decisions; the processing of 2,040 salary files, confirmation for payment of 11,580 promotion acts and printing of 40,000 payslips; as well as the immediate posting of 10,971 graduates of Teacher Training Colleges.

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**316-** Other significant actions were equally carried out in matters of governance. In this regard, some 400 teachers who used forged documents for transfer from schools in remote areas to cities were identified and posted to their former place of work. Moreover, emphasis was laid on the respect of the career profile of staff during appointment of officials.

## **§3: Effective Secondary Education**

**317-** The quest for effective secondary education was realised through the preparation for examinations and the improvement of past results.

### **A: Preparation for Examinations**

**318-** Remedial classes were organized for 2,500 students in areas with a great deficiency of teachers. Based, on the one hand, on the order placed by Pedagogy Inspectorates, groups of teachers prepared examination questions for the structure in charge of examinations. On the other hand, annals were compiled containing sample answers of past examination questions, thereby enabling candidates to prepare properly for examinations. As concerns innovations, new subjects were introduced in the syllabuses of some examinations taking into account the requirements of professionalization.

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## B: Results

**319-** Examination results in 2016 are presented in the tables below.

**Table 11: Success Rate at Examinations organized by DECC from 2015 to 2016**

Examinations	Registered	Absent	Sat	Passed	Success rate in 2016 (%)	Success rate in 2015 (%)	Gap (%)
<b>Bilingual BEPC</b>	1,499	8	1,491	1,251	83.90	66.06	17.84
<b>Ordinary BEPC</b>	251,247	4,066	247,181	93,598	37.87	40.82	-2.95
<b>CAP Commercial</b>	16,143	291	15,852	7,684	48.47	47.66	0.81
<b>CAP Industrial</b>	44,287	416	43,871	16,014	36.50	40.06	-3.73
<b>CAPIEMP</b>	11,990	120	11, 870	11,280	95.03	93.99	1.04
<b>CAPIET</b>	3,652	17	3,458	3,458	95.13	99.84	-4.71
<b>Entrance examination into 1<sup>st</sup> year</b>	53,893	1,304	52,585	40,622	77.24	75.38	1.86
<b>Common entrance into Form I</b>	182,960	2,930	180,030	115, 180	63.98	62.22	1.76
<b>Competitive entrance examination into ENIEG</b>	8,520	209	8,311	5,467	65.78	81.52	-15.74
<b>Competitive entrance examination into ENIET</b>	4,643	224	4,419	1, 840	41.64	55.55	-13.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>578, 814</b>	<b>9,565</b>	<b>569, 249</b>	<b>296, 439</b>	<b>52.08</b>	<b>51.71</b>	<b>0.37</b>

Source: MINESEC

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**Table 12: Success Rate for Official Examinations organized by the Cameroon Baccalaureate Board (OBC) from 2015 to 2016**

Examinations	Registered	Absent	Sat	Passed	Success rate in 2016 (%)	Success rate in 2015 (%)	Gap (%)
<i>Baccalaureats and Brevets de Techniciens</i>	127, 886	1,862	126, 024	66,477	52.75	57.29	-4.54
<i>Probatoires and Brevets de Techniciens</i>	232,289	6, 027	226, 262	77,857	34.41	30.62	3.79
<i>Brevets Professionnels and Brevets d'Etudes Professionnelles</i>	491	22	469	269	57.36	43.64	13.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>360, 666</b>	<b>7, 911</b>	<b>352,755</b>	<b>144, 603</b>	<b>40.99</b>	<b>43.64</b>	<b>-2.65</b>

Source: MINESEC

**Table 13: Success rate for official examinations organized by the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Board from 2015 to 2016**

Examination	Success rate in 2015	2016			Gap (%)
		Sat	Passed	Success rate (%)	
<b>GCE-O/L</b>	44.93	102,857	63,951	62.17	17.24
<b>GCE-A/L</b>	60.41	43,937	29,226	66.52	6.11
<b>GCET-O/L</b>	45.00	9,005	3,613	40.12	-4.88
<b>GCET-A/L</b>	42.8	9,399	5,921	64	21.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.28</b>	<b>170,132</b>	<b>105,392</b>	<b>61.94</b>	<b>13.66</b>

Source: MINESEC

**Legend:**

- **GCE-O/L:** General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level
- **GCE-A/L:** General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
- **GCET-O/L:** General Certificate of Education Technical Ordinary Level
- **GCET-A/L:** General Certificate of Education Technical Advanced Level

**320-** From the evaluation of these official examinations, it appears that no major malfunctioning was noticed during this session and all initiatives implemented ensured increased registration for examinations, with an increase of 6.42% for examinations organized by the Department of Examination and Certification (DECC), 1.2% for examinations organ-

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ized by the GCE Board and 3.26% for examinations under the OBC. The national success rate in examinations increased to 49.92% compared to 47.80% in 2015.

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

**321-** In order to guarantee the efficiency of higher education, emphasis was laid on accessibility to University Institutions as well as on the quality of lecturers and pedagogical tools.

### §1: Accessibility to University Institutions

**322-** The continued expansion of the university map and the taking of incentive measures, on request, facilitated access to University Institutions.

#### A: Continued Expansion of the University Map

**323-** The expansion of the university map included the opening of annexes and faculties, the setting up of new institutions, the construction, rehabilitation and equipment of university facilities with the aim of enabling lecturers and students to work under appropriate conditions.

#### 1) Opening of Annexes and Faculties

**324-** Although no new public institutions were set up in 2016, several annexes of the Faculties of Law and Political Sciences of some Universities were opened, notably the Ebolowa Annex of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Yaounde II, and the Garoua Annex of the University of Ngaoundere. Furthermore, the Annex of the Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences of the University of Dschang was opened in Bafia.

**325-** Mention can also be made of the transformation of the Higher National School of Posts and Telecommunications into the Higher National School of Posts, Telecommunications, Information and Communication Technologies by Decree No. 2016/425 of 26 October 2016. This change is in line with the evolution of the ICT sector, reflected in particular in the reforms of the regulatory framework that took place in

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2015<sup>117</sup>. Also, 6 Private Institutions of Higher Education (IPES) were opened and 9 were set up, bringing their number to 215 in the country.

## 2) Construction, Rehabilitation and Equipment of University Facilities

**326-** At the University of Bamenda, pedagogic blocks were constructed and equipped at the Faculty of Science and at the Higher Technical Teacher Training College. In addition, various roads and services were constructed.

**327-** At the University of Buea, a 500-seat Amphitheatre was built and equipped for the Faculty of Health Sciences as well as an academic and pedagogical administrative block with a language laboratory for Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters.

**328-** At the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Douala, 1 pedagogic block of 2,800 seats was built and equipped, as well as a laboratory block and specialized halls with 1,500 seats. At the Faculty of Industrial Engineering, 2 workshop blocks were finalized and, roads and services were constructed.

**329-** At the University of Maroua, the construction and equipment of the Higher Teacher Training College continued.

**330-** As regards the University of Dschang, in addition to securing the land of the *Institut Universitaire de Technologie Fotso Victor*, a pedagogic block for the Wood, Water and Environmental Industry Field was constructed in Ebolowa.

**331-** An administrative block was built at the School of Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of the University of Ngaoundere.

**332-** At the University of Yaounde I, a pedagogic block of 1,200 seats earmarked for continuing training was built and equipped at the Faculty of Medicine.

**333-** At the University of Yaounde II, renovation works of the library and the printing unit of the Advanced School of Mass Communication were completed.

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<sup>117</sup> See 2015 Report, §170



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## 3) Number of Lecturers

**334-** The number of lecturers increased respectively from 4,027 in 2014/2015 to 4,450 in 2015/2016, taking into account missionaries, part-time lecturers, Research Fellows, Assistants, Senior Lecturers, Associate Professors and Professors. The ratio was 1:102 students, which was below the standard set by UNESCO standing at 1:50.

### B: Incentive Measures

**335-** The student population in higher education increased from 375,000 in 2014/2015 to 450,000 in 2015/2016. Scholarships and grants were given by the Government in Cameroon and abroad:

- 174 scholarships to 174 students in 7 friendly countries;
- 109 grants to scholarship holders; and
- 19 grants for student mobility.

**336-** In order to promote academic excellence, 100,000 students from State universities and *IPES* continued to benefit from academic excellence scholarships to the tune of CFAF50,000<sup>118</sup>, giving a total of CFAF5,000,000,000<sup>119</sup>. Some 800 students benefited from paid internships under the *Work Study Program*.

## §2: Teaching Quality and Tools

**337-** Improving the working conditions of lecturers and pedagogic tools contributed in enhancing teaching quality.

### A: Improving the Working Conditions of Lecturers

**338-** In order to improve the working conditions of lecturers and researchers and ensure better monitoring of university research, 4,450 lecturers benefited from the academic research grant worth CFAF 9,600 000,000<sup>120</sup>. In addition, 19 lecturers benefited from mobility or internship scholarships abroad.

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<sup>118</sup> About 76.34 Euros

<sup>119</sup> About 7,633,587.79 Euros

<sup>120</sup> About 14,656,488.55 Euros

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## B: Improving Pedagogic Tools

**339-** The irreversible option for the professionalization of higher education undertaken by *MINESUP* continued with restructuring of curricula, extension of the Bachelor-Master-Doctorate system to *IPES*, its harmonization in universities and discussion on the effective mobility of students.

**340-** As part of the promotion of ethical values in higher education for the preparation of exemplary youthful students, 366 students were sanctioned for exam fraud and indiscipline against 144 students in 2015.

### §3: Efficiency of Higher Education

**341-** Examination results for the 2015/2016 academic year improved as compared to results of the previous year as shown by the statistics below:

**342-** In State Universities (in the fields of Education, Letters and Arts, Social Sciences, Commerce, Law, Science, Engineering, Processing and Production Industry, Agriculture, Health and Services), the number of students who obtained a Bachelor, Masters or Doctorate Degree was as follows: Bachelor: 30,647; Masters: 10,499; and Doctorate: 147.

**343-** In private institutions, the following results were recorded:

- Vocational Education Specialized Diploma, out of 1,929 candidates, 1,451 were successful, giving a success rate of 75.22%;
- *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur*, out of 13,798 candidates, 9,184 were successful, giving a success rate of 66.56%;
- Higher National Diploma, out of 7,503 candidates, 6,074 were successful, giving a success rate of 80.95%;
- Higher Professional Diploma, out of 513 candidates, 504 were successful, giving a success rate of 98.25%;
- Professional Bachelor: 900; and
- Professional Master: 315.

**344-** Some 846 equivalences of foreign certificates were granted in 2016.

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**345-** The effective establishment of the Observatory of Trades for Higher Education Graduates, set up in 2014, is an initiative aimed at providing the national economy with human resources that are quantitatively and qualitatively capable of efficiently and sustainably supporting the economic development of our country.

**346-** From the foregoing, it can be noted that progress was made in guaranteeing the right to education during the year under review, especially through the development and equipment of infrastructure, the pursuit of community-based pre-school development, the increase in demand, and the improvement of the success rate in various examinations at the primary, secondary and university levels.

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**347-** However, there are still some challenges, especially with regard to the quick payment of salaries of newly recruited teachers, the eradication of the phenomenon of clandestine schools, the increase in the number of teachers and, the improvement of the quality and availability of school textbooks. The National Education Forum scheduled for 2017 will help overcome these challenges.



Chapter **2**

RIGHT TO HEALTH



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**348-** In 2016, the Ministry of Public Health (*MINSANTE*) was allocated CFAF 236,000,000,000<sup>121</sup> to manage the healthcare system. Measures continued to be taken to enhance health district servicing, maternal, adolescent, and child health, to control disease, and promote health and good governance.

## SECTION 1: HEALTH DISTRICT SERVICING

**349-** Government pursued its effort in improving health care supply. It also endeavoured to make healthcare accessible to all, especially by brainstorming on how to establish a functional universal health insurance system.

### §1: Strengthening Health Supply

**350-** Improving availability of care facilities and human resources were a priority of Government.

#### A: Availability of Care Facilities

**351-** Some major health infrastructure went operational during the year<sup>122</sup>. On 1 July 2016, a National Reference Laboratory for Malaria Research was inaugurated at the Cameroon Medical Research Centre in Yaounde. It is the fruit of partnership between the State and the French Corporation. It is equipped with scientific machines such as high resolution Microscope meant to X-ray Malaria Parasites, a bio-safety laboratory to incubate parasites and experiment their level of resistance to drugs.

**352-** The National Public Health Laboratory which was inaugurated on 14 December 2016,<sup>123</sup> replaced the *Laboratoire d'hygiène mobile*. Its main vocation is to regulate and coordinate National public and private laboratories.

**353-** Also, on 6 May 2016, the Gynaecological Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproductive Teaching Hospital was officially commissioned in Yaounde. The hospital is in charge of providing high level health care in endoscopic surgery, human reproduction, including med-

<sup>121</sup>About 360,305,343.51 Euros.

<sup>122</sup>On 8 July 2016 in Yaounde, the Minister of Public Health presented the Digital Health Map.

<sup>123</sup> This project received financial assistance from the United States President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief and the Global Health Security Agenda through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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ically assisted procreation, senology and high risk pregnancy management.

**354-** The Limbe Imagery Centre was inaugurated on 17 November 2016, after those of Garoua, Bamenda, Bertoua, Ebolowa, Bafoussam and Ngaoundere in previous years.

**355-** Furthermore, funds were transferred through decentralization to Councils for the construction of 92 Integrated Health Centres (IHCs), 4 Sub-divisional hospitals, 3 mother and child wards, the rehabilitation of 8 Sub-divisional hospitals, the construction of fences around 8 IHCs as well as the equipment of 116 IHCs, 18 Sub-divisional hospitals and 2 Mother and Child wards.

## **B: Human Resources**

**356-** New staff was absorbed into the health sector. *MINSANTE* received 1,322 staff of which 347 were integrated (254 General Practitioners, 31 Pharmacists, 31 Dental Surgeons, and 31 Senior Public Health Administrators while 975 were recruited by way of examination and sent to *MINSANTE*. Within the framework of the project to retain staff in the most staff-deficient health facilities, 318 staff were working in such areas in South West Region and the northern regions of the country in 2016. Staff posted to these health facilities were offered financial incentives. Doctors received CFAF70,000<sup>124</sup>, State Registered Nurses CFAF50,000<sup>125</sup> and Nurse Aides CFAF30,000<sup>126</sup> monthly. These amounts paid quarterly helped reduce the imbalance in the distribution of staff in Health Districts. The Doctors population ratio stands at 1:16,000 compared to the WHO standard which is 1:2000.

**357-** In order to improve on the condition of healthcare staff, the Prime Minister signed Decree No. 2016/6447/PM of 13 December 2016 to lay down the terms and conditions of allocation of bonuses calculated from paid services to some medical and paramedical staff working in public health facilities.

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<sup>124</sup> About 106, 87 Euros.

<sup>125</sup> About 76, 34 Euros.

<sup>126</sup> About 45, 80 Euros.



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## §2: Accessibility to Healthcare

**358-** Measures were taken to make healthcare accessible. Directives were also issued to make Public health facilities more accessible to the population. Furthermore, deliberations started on the establishment of a functional universal health coverage system.

### A: Availability and Accessibility to Medicines

**359-** The cost of some drugs was subsidized. About 90% of eligible hepatitis C patients, for example, received treatment as a result of Cameroon's access to new oral treatment at a rate of 1% of the real value following 2 Agreements signed with the pharmaceutical Companies GILEAD and MYLAN. Some categories of persons<sup>127</sup> even received free treatment.

**360-** Government's war against fake drugs continued in order to ensure that the population access only quality drugs. To this end, Cameroon joined the Organization for the Fight against Great Endemics in Central Africa (OCEAC), to organize a conference of Ministers in charge of health in CEMAC countries from 21 to 23 June 2016 in Douala, Cameroon, under the theme: *coordinated fight against fake drugs and illegal networks in Central Africa*. This led to the adoption of an Operational Plan of Action to eradicate drugs of low quality/false/falsely labelled/falsified/counterfeit and illicit drug channels in the CEMAC zone 2016-2020.

**361-** Fake drugs worth CFAF1,000,000,000<sup>128</sup> were seized and destroyed during the year. The efforts of Operation «*Halte au Commerce Illicite*» known by its acronym as «*Operation HALCOMI*», a special customs control task force, set up in conjunction with businessmen to strengthen local mechanisms to combat customs fraud and smuggled goods launched on 16 August 2016 was useful in achieving these results. Furthermore, illegal sale of medication is now criminalized as per Section 258-1 of the PC of July 2016 with imprisonment of from 3

<sup>127</sup> See § 370 for treatment of children and pregnant women for malaria and § 398 for treatment of HIV/AIDS patients

<sup>128</sup> About 1,526,717.56 Euros.

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months to 3 years and with fine of from CFAF1,000,000<sup>129</sup> to CFAF3,000,000<sup>130</sup>.

**362-** These efforts notwithstanding, the lack of clearly defined procedures in the approval of generic drugs remains a major challenge in accessing drugs at low cost.

## **B: Accessibility to Health Facilities**

**363-** On 22 April 2016, the Minister of Public Health issued Directives on consultation procedures of patients in Public health facilities. These Directives were issued as a result of findings on challenges encountered in the reception of patients, guidance and care of patients in hospital, lateness and shortcomings in the care of patients and inadequate compassion towards patients in distress.

**364-** The Directives require functional reception and orientation desks for users by ensuring the training and education of dedicated staff on proper conduct as well as a visible orientation Plan of Services and signposts to guide patients and users.

**365-** As regards treatment of patients, the Directives provide that in the event of an emergency, treatment should be immediate and without any prior condition of payment, thus, life-saving drugs and consumables must be available 24 hours a day at Emergency Wards. The Directives also concern communication between staff for better services, as well as control and evaluation.

**366-** Moreover, Government was assisted in its efforts by private initiatives. The first Cardiopad tablet<sup>131</sup> dedicated to cardiac care, for example, went on sale in 2016. The Cardiopad enhances access to health especially in rural areas as it allows health workers to carry out heart examinations and send the results to heart specialists far away.

**367-** There were interruptions in the care of patients on dialysis due to the breakdown of dialysis machines in health facilities including the

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<sup>129</sup> About 1,526.72 Euros.

<sup>130</sup> About 4,580.15 Euros.

<sup>131</sup> Invented by **Arthur ZANG**

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Yaounde Referral Hospital which led to a demonstration by patients in October 2016. Government took urgent measures to resolve such crisis by referring patients to health facilities where machines were functional.

## C: Universal Health Coverage

**368-** A majority of mutual health insurance schemes were bankrupt and could not pay health facilities for the services offered to their members and thus lost popularity. In order to revamp them, the International Labour Office and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security organized a workshop in Yaounde on the evaluation and the redefinition of the role and responsibilities of social protection schemes. The National Technical Committee set up on 2 June 2015 which is in charge of establishing a functional universal health coverage system was expected to produce a development plan for the universal health coverage system in the first half of 2017 and its legal framework expected to be submitted in the same year.

## SECTION 2: MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT, AND CHILD HEALTH

**369-** Government continued to make efforts to reduce maternal, adolescent and child mortality.

### §1: Maternal Health

**370-** Reducing maternal mortality remained a major concern of Government and to this end, a number of measures were taken to improve the quality of care. Measures were further taken to promote maternal health as well as combat maternal mortality.

**371-** In 2016, two cases of maternal mortality were widely reported. This concerns the death of Ms. **Helene NGO NKANA**, a medical doctor and Ms. **Monique KOUMATEKEL**.

**372-** Ms. **Helene NGO NKANA** died between the night of 9 January and early morning of 10 January 2016 at the Douala Referral Hospital following pregnancy-related complications. An investigation was opened into the matter by the National Medical Council. The results of the investigation made public on 8 February 2016 were that Dr. **NGO NKANA** was the victim of medical error, negligence and lack of professional conscience by medical staff of 3 health facilities namely *Clinique du Gros Chêne*, Douala Gynaeco-Obstetrics and Paediatric

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Hospital and the Douala Referral Hospital where she consulted.

**373-** Ms. **Monique KOUMATEKEL**, heavily pregnant with twins, died within the premises of the *Laquintinie* Hospital in Douala on 12 March 2016. A relative of hers who was not a medical professional operated upon the corpse. According to the said relative, the operation was done in a desperate attempt to save the twins who she believed were still alive. Following the unfortunate incident, social media went wild with accusations that the woman died due to negligence of staff at the *Laquintinie* Hospital.

**374-** Findings of the National Medical Council published on 31 March 2016 concluded that **Monique KOUMATEKEL** died more than 5 hours before she was brought to the *Laquintinie* Hospital and that it was not possible for a foetus to survive beyond 5 minutes after the death of its mother. The Report of the Medical Council highlighted that there were shortcomings in the organization of the *Laquintinie* Hospital including the poor reception and orientation of patients and their families, lack of coordination between services and lack of support and empathy by medical staff to patients and their families. Immediately after the incident the PG, CA, Littoral Region opened investigations into the matter.

**375-** Apart from these 2 cases, there were other reported cases of alleged negligence in a number of public health facilities. In addition to the transfer of medical staff implicated in these cases, the Minister of Public Health issued the Directives on access to Public health facilities.

**376-** New infrastructure was provided, amongst them a new maternity inaugurated on 22 February 2016 at the *Laquintinie* Hospital, Douala.

**377-** Also, 46,153 obstetric kits were pre-positioned in health facilities while 500 staff members received training in Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care and 200 in surgical management of obstetric fistula. The coverage rate of health facilities whose capacity was strengthened in Family Planning stood at 73.89%.

**378-** The proportion of pregnant women who received intermittent preventive treatment for malaria free of charge stood at 39%. Some 656,650 pregnant women attended their first prenatal consultation and 566,931 were tested for HIV, representing a coverage rate of 86%.

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As part of week-long activities to mark the celebration of the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the International Women's Day, free surgery, admission, and drugs were offered to women suffering from obstetric fistula.

**379-** Furthermore, on 26 January 2016, an online teaching/learning platform, also known as a midwife zone for midwifery schools was launched. This e-learning platform is the result of collaboration between the *MINSANTE*, the German Agency for International Cooperation and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and stems from a concern that has been present since the reopening of midwifery schools in 2011, namely to ensure fair and quality training for students.

**380-** In November 2016, the NGO GiftedMom partnered with the UNFPA under the project christened «*Projet Telephonie Mobile au Service de la Santé de la Reproduction*» to reduce maternal and infant mortality in 4 health areas in Far North Region, namely Health Centres in Dougoi, Dargala, Moulvoudaye and Kolara. The project connects with GiftedMom users to facilitate antenatal care as it combines the GiftedMom mobile phone application<sup>132</sup> with tricycle ambulances to reach out to pregnant women in rural communities where healthcare is not at its best. Some 36 community workers and tricycle ambulance drivers were equipped with smart phones to register pregnant women at the level of the community and transport them during distress or early stages of labour.

**381-** Since one of the challenges in fighting maternal and infant mortality remains inadequate channels to educate pregnant women and new mothers especially those in rural areas on available sources, this initiative is a booster to Government's efforts in combating such mortality.

## §2: Adolescent Health

**382-** Measures taken to improve on adolescent health included providing them special services, raising awareness and educating them on HIV/AIDS and training personnel focused on adolescent health.

<sup>132</sup> The Application developed by **Alain NTEFF** which was used by over 20,000 persons in 2016 enabled them to receive advice from medical staff in a number of health facilities spread out in Adamawa, Centre, North West, South West and Far North Regions. Subscription can be made directly by sending the keyword "MOM" to 8566 through a mobile telephone.

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**383-** The Gynaeco-Obstetrics and Paediatric Hospital, Yaounde launched the teenage health platform dubbed “Adolescents Clinic” which started in 2015 and was officially launched in February 2016. The Clinic is open every Wednesday from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. and gives youngsters between the ages of 10 and 19 the opportunity to seek medical advice on health issues from health professionals. Some of the issues discussed are HIV/AIDS, Contraception, handling early pregnancy, care for babies and how to handle rape. This Adolescent Clinic was the 13<sup>th</sup> in the country, as East, Adamawa, Far North and North Regions already had 3 clinics each. Several activities on Consolidating Communication for Behaviour Change for youths and adolescents were conducted in 2016 to reduce the incidence and transmission of HIV among them.

**384-** On the occasion of the celebration of the Youth Day, the National Day, the National School Games (*FENASSCO*), the University Games and AIDS Free Holiday Campaigns, AIDS awareness-raising activities that targeted young people and adolescents were intensified. Consequently, more than 3,000,000 of them were sensitized during the year.

**385-** Associations were part of this prevention drive. The Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare (*CAMNAFAW*) through its work with the NGO, *Presse Jeune Développement* reached out to 4,170 young people and adolescents through educational chats and mobilizing 406 Peer Educators. Some 47,110 educational booklets, 53,668 leaflets, 1,750 posters, 1,500 banners and 3,500 Compact Discs were distributed during these chats. Some 2,084 youths and adolescents were also reached through the hotline of *Association Camerounaise de Marketing Social (ACMS)*. Workshops were also organized to educate adolescents on HIV/AIDS including one by African Action on AIDS on 9 October 2016 in Yaounde for 80 youths amongst whom 50 internally displaced children.

**386-** Within the framework of cancer control, 9,500 girls aged 9 and 10 were vaccinated against the human papilloma virus in the health districts of Edea and Foumban.

**387-** Furthermore, 50 health professionals were trained in Reproductive healthcare of Adolescents in the 10 Regions of the country.

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**388-** A free application called Ndolo360<sup>134</sup> downloadable from *play store* in English and French was launched in July 2016. This application enables adolescents to get online access to information from sexual and reproductive health experts on issues such as sexually transmitted diseases, early and unwanted pregnancies that they would otherwise feel uncomfortable talking about with others.

## §3: Child Health

**389-** Government continued to take actions such as vaccination to prevent disease in children, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and to provide care for sick children.

**390-** The vaccination coverage in Penta 3 moved from 79% in 2015 to 84% in 2016. Polio vaccine coverage was 83% while that for measles stood at 78%.

**391-** As concerns Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT), 96% of health facilities used the B + option. In addition, 64.8% of HIV-positive pregnant women were placed on ARV while 14,734 of the 15,620 babies born to HIV positive mothers received nevirapine Prophylaxis.

**392-** Measures were also taken to treat sick children. As for the management of malaria, 47% of children under the age of 5 years suffering from simple malaria and 56% suffering from severe malaria were treated free of charge. There was also an improvement in controlling measles as the number of health districts with the infection dropped from 40 in 2015 to 7 in 2016.

**393-** In addition, at the initiative of the *Association de lutte contre les maladies rares, les Maladies Orphelines et des Handicaps* in collaboration with the *Association HOPE*, from 10 to 22 May 2016, a team of doctors consulted and, where necessary, operated on children with rare diseases aged 17 and below at the Gynaeco-Obstetrics and Paediatrics Hospital, Yaounde.

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<sup>134</sup>Application developed by **MALLAH TABOT**

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## SECTION 3: DISEASE CONTROL AND HEALTH PROMOTION

**394-** Disease control and health promotion continued to occupy an important place in Government action.

### §1: Disease Control

**395-** Actions were taken to prevent as well as treat Transmissible Diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and Chronic Non Transmissible Diseases (CNTD).

#### A: Transmissible Diseases

**396-** Apart from measures taken to prevent Malaria which led to the distribution of 9,200,000 Insecticidal Nets in 2016, other actions were taken to control transmissible diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis.

#### 1) HIV and AIDS

**397-** In 2016, new guidelines on AIDS were issued in May 2016 by the Minister of Public Health in order to consolidate Cameroon's progress in the AIDS response by intensifying prevention and treatment services to the entire population.

##### a) New Guidelines on AIDS<sup>135</sup>

**398-** The new guidelines on AIDS are in line with major international guidelines on HIV, including the UNAIDS' 90-90-90 Ambitious Treatment Target to Help End the AIDS Epidemic<sup>136</sup>.

**399-** Accordingly, these guidelines cover matters such as routine HIV screening of persons consulting in a health facility, rapid HIV testing, the deployment of paediatric psychosocial staff, and the implementa-

<sup>135</sup>This includes Decision No. 1019/MINSANTE/CAB/CNLS/GTC/SP of 24 May 2016 and the 3 Circulars of the Minister of Public Health of 26 May 2016 respectively on care for persons living with HIV/AIDS, the Deployment of paediatrics psychosocial workers, and the registration of laboratories in charge of carrying out viral load tests.

<sup>136</sup>According to this treatment plan, by 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.



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tion of the “test and treat” approach. Other measures included subsidized prices for biological monitoring tests, the enrolment plan for laboratories to carry out test to monitor viral load and the opening of new treatment centres.

## b) Prevention Activities

**400-** Consolidating Communication for Behaviour Change is one of the key strategies to improve knowledge about HIV and promote the adoption of safer behaviour. Hence, in 2016, 54,288 educational chats and 104,940 one-on-one conversations were conducted by 8,518 Peer Educators and impacted 236,571 people.

**401-** The regulatory and institutional framework for condom distribution was enriched with the establishment of the Technical Working Group on Condoms in Cameroon following the signing of Decision No. 989/MINSANTE/CAB of 23 May 2016. Social marketing interventions and provision of male and female condoms continued in 2016 with Organization for the Fight against Great Endemics in Central Africa (OCEAC), ACMS, United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA), Care International, CAMNAFAW and the National AIDS Control Committee.

**402-** These efforts led to the distribution of 30,276,849 male condoms and 2,346,604 female condoms, representing a total of 32,623,453 preservatives distributed, far from the target of 37,910,000 in 2016.

**403-** Strategies were laid down to encourage screening for HIV, including proposing the test at health facilities whatever the reason for consultation. This led to 2,418,986 persons across the country being screened.

**404-** Efforts in the prevention of HIV led to a drop in the prevalence rate in 2016 which stood at 3.9% compared to 4.0% in 2014.

## c) Treatment

**405-** The number of AIDS treatment units increased from 166 in 2015 to 254 in 2016 and were found in all 189 health Districts.

**406-** Out of some 641,241 persons who were living with HIV in the country, approximately 205,382 were on antiretroviral treatment, (including 8,486 children less than 15 years old), representing an achieve-

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ment rate of 91.46% of the 224,563 Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) earmarked to be on treatment by 2017 in the *National Strategic Plan to fight HIV/AIDS and MSTs (2014-2017)*. This is an improvement on 2015 when PLWHA on treatment were 168,431.

**407-** As regards suppression of viral load, 8 laboratories nationwide were enlisted to carry out viral load tests. Of the 28,687 examinations reported by some of these Laboratories, 18,857 patients had an undetectable viral load representing a viral suppression rate of 65.7%<sup>137</sup>.

**408-** As part of efforts to reach out to more patients by making its services more affordable, the Chantal Biya International Reference Centre (CIRCB), which is a major stakeholder in the management of HIV/AIDS reduced the cost of the Antiretroviral drug resistance test from CFAF100,000<sup>138</sup> to CFAF10,000<sup>139</sup>, a reduction of 90%.

## 2) Tuberculosis

**409-** Treatment for tuberculosis continued to be free. Out of the 16,513 cases of smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis diagnosed and taken care of, 13,929 persons were cured, representing a cure rate of 82%. A total of 142,622 PLWHV on antiretroviral treatment were screened for tuberculosis, 17,000 of who were diagnosed with tuberculosis and treated free of charge.

## 3) Hepatitis

**410-** An international seminar on the management of chronic viral hepatitis opened in Yaounde on 9 March 2016 during which more than 30 medical doctors were trained. This was a good opportunity to gather skills as there are a limited number of medical doctors skilled in the management of hepatitis.

**411-** During celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the Emergency Centre, Yaounde launched on 17 August 2016, free Hepatitis B and C screening were organized. Also, on the occasion of the celebration of the world hepatitis day on 28 July 2016, free screening of hepatitis was organized at the University Teaching Hospital, Yaounde. Some 349

<sup>137</sup> These statistics concern only the CIRCB, *Centre Pasteur du Cameroun* in Yaounde the CPC in Garoua and the Reference Laboratory of Bamenda. Statistics of the laboratories of the *Laquintinie* Hospital in Douala, *Hôpital St Vincent de Dschang* and of *Centre Médical Catholique de Nkolondom* in Yaounde are not included.

<sup>138</sup> About 152,67 Euros.

<sup>139</sup> About 15,27 Euros

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persons were put on hepatitis C treatment following Cameroon's access to new oral treatments at a rate of 1% of the real value.

## **B: Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)**

**412-** Interventions as regards NTDs resulted in about 20,000,000 treatment doses distributed to prevent onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis, representing a coverage rate of 81.4% and 80.35%, respectively. Deworming of 5,000,000 school-aged children (5-14 years) of intestinal helminth infections took place and 2,000,000 persons received treatment for schistosomiasis. Some 200 cases of lymphatic filariasis complication (Hydroceles and elephantiasis) were detected and scheduled for operation or follow-up. A total of 666 cases of leprosy of which 133 were newly diagnosed were treated. Some 283 new cases of yaws were reported.

## **C: Chronic Non Transmissible Diseases (CNTD)**

**413-** Management of CNTD was done by strengthening education and public awareness as well as treatment of ailments including cancer, diabetes, parasitic and preventable blindness.

**414-** Measures on preventing cancer such as awareness-raising and free screening were carried out. In North West, Littoral, West, Adamawa and Centre Regions, for example, 1,096 women were screened for cancer of the cervix and 335 men for prostate cancer.

**415-** As regards diabetes, following cooperation with Novo Nordisk Laboratories, diabetic children up to the age of 21 continued to be treated free of charge within the framework of the programme "changing diabetes in children".

**416-** As far as Preventable Blindness is concerned, some 1,211 cases of Trachoma and Trichiasis were treated in North and Far North Regions. Many persons with cataract were also operated upon free of charge.

**417-** The Framework Agreement signed between *MINSANTE* and the Lions Club on 17 November 2011 started yielding fruits in 2016. In February 2016, donations were received from the Lion's Club through the Organisation for the Prevention of Blindness worth

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CFAF574,452,500<sup>140</sup> for health facilities in Yaounde, Douala, Ebolowa, Obala, Mbalmayo, Edea, Monatele, Pouma and Mfou. It consisted of equipment for the rehabilitation of health facilities, diagnosis, eye health care and motorcycles to allow specialists access remote areas. The donation also included capacity development for 21 Ophthalmologists, 356 General Practitioners and 408 professionals in charge of new-born health.

**418-** This donation is a step forward in achieving one of the objectives of the National Strategic Eye Health Plan 2015-2019 which is to decentralize care, thus bringing it closer to the population. The donation helps to take equipment hitherto available only in big cities to remote areas and enables staff to be deployed to these areas.

## §2: Health Promotion

**419-** The week of sensitization of mothers on the importance of breast-feeding their babies was launched on 1 August 2016 under the theme, a key to development in the context of the celebration of world breast-feeding day.

**420-** In 2016, 23% of the 189 Health Districts implemented the Community-Led Total Sanitation, which consists in improving compliance with hygiene rules. The goal was to reduce diseases due to unsanitary living conditions by increasing qualified staff in sanitary engineering, particularly in the northern part of the country.

**421-** As regards drug control, various awareness-raising and information activities were carried out for the population and young people in particular, on the harmful effects of smoking and the consumption of illicit substances and street drugs.

## SECTION 4: GOOD GOVERNANCE

**422-** As regards internal control and audit of health facilities, 375 of them (public and private) were subjected to inspection, investigation, control and audit. Some 106 reports out of 143 registered were investigated and on this basis 126 staff were sanctioned.

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<sup>140</sup> About 875,747 Euros

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**423-** Infrastructure, recruitment of staff and building the capacity of healthcare staff continued as well as measures to improve on accessibility to healthcare. Progress made towards the setting up in of a functional universal healthcare insurance offers a ray of hope. A number of malfunctions in some hospitals led Government to issue Directives geared at enhancing access to health.



Chapter **3**

**RIGHT TO ADEQUATE  
STANDARD OF LIVING**





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**424-** Public authorities endeavoured to consolidate measures for the guarantee of the right to sufficient food, the right to water and energy, and the right to decent housing.

## SECTION 1: GUARANTEE OF THE RIGHT TO SUFFICIENT FOOD

**425-** In order to preserve food security, Government continued its policy of revamping agropastoral activity for the availability of foodstuff, its acceptability and accessibility to all sections of the population.

### §1: CONSOLIDATION OF FOOD SUPPLY

**426-** To optimize national foodstuff production, Government adopted a comprehensive strategy that focused on improving factors of production and the competitiveness and profitability of the agriculture, breeding and pisciculture sectors. The increase of Agropoles further confirmed the choice for second generation agriculture.

#### A: Optimization of Factors of Production

**427-** While waiting for the implementation of the General Census on Agriculture and Breeding initiated in 2015<sup>141</sup>, the State opted for diversification of financing and capacity building.

#### 1) Diversification of Sources of Financing

**428-** Apart from the State budget, additional funds were mobilized for the financing of agriculture.

##### a) Allocation from State Budget for Agropastoral Activities

**429-** During the 2016 Financial Year, on an overall budget of CFAF4,234,700,000,000<sup>142</sup>, MINADER received an allocation of CFAF110,162,000,000<sup>143</sup> against CFAF108,771,070,000<sup>144</sup> in

<sup>141</sup>The preparatory phase that was already launched was concretized by establishing national coordination stakeholders, drafting and validating technical and methodological documents by the National Technical Committee.

<sup>142</sup>About 6,465,190,839.70 Euros.

<sup>143</sup>About 168,186,259.54 Euros.

<sup>144</sup>About 166,062,702.29 Euros.

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2015, corresponding to an increase of CFAF1,390,930,000<sup>145</sup>. The sum of CFAF64,914,712,000<sup>146</sup> was allocated to major agriculture sectors.

**430-** The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (*MINEPIA*) was allocated CFAF39,552,554,000<sup>147</sup> against CFAF29, 923,127,000<sup>148</sup> in 2015, corresponding to an increase of CFAF9,629,427,000<sup>149</sup>.

**431-** Nevertheless, the cumulated amount of these allocations represents 3.52% of the general budget, indicating a drop compared to the allocations of 2015 which stood at 3.70%. This drop did not allow the State to meet its commitments within the framework<sup>150</sup> of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (*CAADP*)<sup>151</sup>.

## b) Other Sources of Financing

**432-** Considering budgetary insufficiency, the State mobilized funds through plans, programmes and projects with the support of partners.

### i) National Agriculture Investment Plan (*NAPI*)

**433-** In implementing *NAPI*, an Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (*PD-CVA*)<sup>152</sup> was set up and benefited in October 2016 from a partial financing agreement of CFAF58,571,000,000<sup>153</sup> between the State and the African Development Bank.

### ii) Mobilization of Financial Service Supply

<sup>145</sup> About 2, 123, 557.25 Euros.

<sup>146</sup> About 99, 106, 430.53 Euros.

<sup>147</sup> About 60, 385, 578.63 Euros.

<sup>148</sup> About 45, 684, 163.36 Euros.

<sup>149</sup> About 14, 701, 415.27 Euros.

<sup>150</sup> Within this framework, the State committed itself to allocate 10% of budgetary resources to the agropastoral sector, to attain an agricultural growth rate of at least 6% per year. See 2015, Report §553 and 556.

<sup>151</sup> In order to reverse agriculture decline on the African Continent, Head of States and Governments adopted the *CAADP* in 2003, in the margins of the Maputo Summit. *NAPI*, which is the operationalization framework of *CAADP* in Cameroon has been effective since 2011. Its objective is to make of the rural sector the engine of the national economy, and as outputs, the creation of wealth and jobs, and to ensure food and nutritional security for the people.

<sup>152</sup> This financing improved the competitiveness of the palm oil, plantain and pineapple value chains, as well as the development of infrastructures.

<sup>153</sup> About 89,421,374.05 Euros.

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**434-** Concerning financial service supply, stakeholders of the agropastoral sector were granted external support through projects. This is the case with the Livestock Development Project, funded by the World Bank to the tune of CFAF60,000,000,000<sup>154</sup>, Programmes for the Improvement of the Competitiveness of Family Agropastoral Business and Support Programmes for the Renovation and Development of Vocational Training in the Agriculture, Breeding and Fishery Sectors. They were financed by the French Development Agency and received CFAF100,000,000,000<sup>155</sup> for their third phase as part of C2D.

**435-** The European Development Fund (EDF) backed financing of the Programme for the Improvement of Agricultural Production (PAPA)<sup>156</sup> with CFAF1,600,000,000,000<sup>157</sup>. Moreover, MINADER launched, with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Phase 2 of the Support Project for Rural Microfinance Development, while the initial activities of Project for Investment and Development of Agricultural Markets are ongoing.

## 2) Capacity Building of Stakeholders of the Rural World

**436-** The promotion of second generation agriculture largely depends on the training of agropastoral stakeholders. In order to enable them master value chain links in various sectors<sup>158</sup>, specialized excellence centres were being set up per sector. The 1<sup>st</sup> pilot experiment, the National Cocoa Academy, was opened in Ebolowa. Some 14 training sessions were carried out in management, phytosanitary control, production of organic fertilizers and the use of chemical fertilizers. These training sessions brought together 205 Producer Organizations (PO) including 611 producers and 186 Phytosanitary Village Control Task Forces<sup>159</sup>.

<sup>154</sup> About 91,603,053.44 Euros.

<sup>155</sup> About 152,671,755.73 Euros.

<sup>156</sup> It is a Programme launched in 2011, which has 3 components: milk, cocoa/coffee and cotton that was over by end-2016.

<sup>157</sup> About 2,442,748,091.60 Euros.

<sup>158</sup> For further specialization, efficiency and competitiveness in the targeted sectors.

<sup>159</sup> It is a group of persons trained per village by the State for phytosanitary control.

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**437-** As regards academics, the Limbe Nautical Arts and Fisheries Institute welcomed its 1<sup>st</sup> Batch<sup>160</sup> recruited through competitive examination. Likewise, more than 600 Animal Husbandry Technicians, Senior Agropastoral Technicians and Entrepreneurs were trained in the National Zootechnical, Veterinary and Fishery Centres of Maroua, Jakiri and Fouban, for further enhancement of these sectors.

## **B: Development and Sector Competitiveness<sup>161</sup>**

**438-** Public authorities targeted the agriculture, animal, fishing and pisciculture sectors.

### **1) Agriculture Sectors**

**439-** Supported by an encouraging seed policy and the availability of inputs, the enhancement of foodstuff supply was characterized on the one hand by the development of strategic sectors, with considerable food security challenge, such as rice, maize, cassava, Irish potatoes, plantain, palm oil, onion, fruits and vegetables, grain vegetables, millet and sorghum; and on the other hand, through the development of industrial crops such as coffee, cocoa, hevea and banana. In this regard, emphasis was laid notably on the supply of seeds and improved seedlings, fertilizers and pesticides to producers, support for the development of post-harvest operations as well as the distribution of small farm equipment. Producers, for example, were followed-up and supervised to better appropriate cultivation techniques. As such, 7.1 million cassava cuttings were shared after certification resulting in the cultivation of 710 ha of cassava; 12 rickshaws, 30 wheelbarrows, 350 machetes, 200 dabas, 250 hoes, 150 shovels, 150 pickaxes, 100 watering cans, 90 pairs of boots and 100 pairs of gloves were distributed to 15 PO.

**440-** These actions contributed in obtaining increased production results as shown in the following table:

<sup>160</sup> They are 75 Fishery Officers trained in naval mechanics, fishery technology and industrial fishing.

<sup>161</sup> Sector Development and competitiveness was realized by the modernization of small family farms, while ensuring the promotion of medium and large scale farms, in order to meet increasing national, sub-regional and international demand. Special attention was paid to strategic sectors with considerable food security challenge. These activities consisted especially in supplying seeds and improved seedlings, fertilizers and pesticides to producers and supporting the development of post-harvest operations.

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**Table 1: Comparative Production Results from 2013 to 2016 and 2017 objectives**

Crops	2013 Producti on (in tons)	2014 Producti on (in tons)	2015 Producti on (in tons)	2016 Estimate d Producti on (in tons)	2017 Producti on Objectiv e (in tons)	Increa se Rate
Cocoa	244,077	246,120	250,000	270,000	<b>300,000</b>	<b>11.1 %</b>
Arabica Coffee	4,560	3,563	4,000	5,000	<b>6,000</b>	<b>20.0%</b>
Robusta Coffee	45,231	38,256	42,000	50,000	<b>60,000</b>	<b>20.0%</b>
Cotton	114,592	185,000	227,000	250,000	<b>275,000</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
Millet/Sorghum	1,187,531	1,240,970	1,425,895	1,521,000	<b>1,560,000</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
Paddy Rice	153,078	174,089	181,817	190,000	<b>225,000</b>	<b>18.4%</b>
Maize	1,632,004	1,568,804	1,749,976	2,000,000	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>15.0%</b>
Cassava	3,808,239	4,082,903	4,287,177	4,300,000	<b>4,600,000</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
Palm Oil	234,021	248,266	265,570	285,000	<b>290,000</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
Banana	3,182,184	3,425,757	3,569,318	3,700,000	<b>3,800,000</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Irish Potatoes	188,452	196,687	210,015	223,000	<b>240,000</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
Beans /Groundnuts /Voandzou	919,224	961,569	1,170,170	1,300,000	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>7.7%</b>

Source: MINADER

## 2) Livestock Sectors

**441-** The State focused on the amelioration of the beef, pig and poultry sectors especially through the development of good quality animal and fishery seeds, the granting of authorizations for export of livestock and setting up of farms.

**442-** In the poultry sector especially, access to inputs, in particular chicks, was facilitated while 112 authorizations for the setting up of poultry farms as well as 14 technical import opinions for 22,300 parents, 3,153,400 day-old chicks and 2,675,100 hatching eggs, were issued. Moreover, 20 vaccination points for local chicken against the Newcastle Disease were set up in the Adamawa, West and North West Regions.

**443-** As for the dairy sector, 4 mini dairies were equipped and handed over to beneficiaries of the PAPA Project, while 10 milk collection Centres were built in the Northern and North West Regions. The holding of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Milk Forum on 16 June 2016 helped in identifying the challenges of this sector.

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**444-** The efforts made improved production results as shown in the following table:

**Table 2: Comparative livestock production results from 2015 to 2016**

Sectors	2015 Production (in tons)	2016 Production (in tons)	Increased Value
<b>Cattle (meat production)</b>	107,006	116,101	9,095
<b>Pig (pork production)</b>	13,323	13,814	491
<b>Apiarian (honey production)</b>	2,255	2,300	45
<b>Poultry(chicken production)</b>	134,773	137,334	2,561
<b>Dairy (milk production)</b>	151,464	172,211	20,747

Source: MINEPIA

## 2) Fishery Sector

**445-** In order to increase supply of fishery products, the fight against illicit fishing was intensified and measures taken to further step up aquaculture.

**446-** The fight against undeclared, unregulated and illegal fishing continued under the framework of the partnership agreement signed between MINEPIA and MINDEF<sup>162</sup>. In this regard, 2 visits were carried out to inland waters and the sea land frontage. During these operations, 8 trawlers were inspected and 6 of them were in violation of the law. At the end of these controls, CFAF26,146,692<sup>163</sup> was collected from the offenders and paid into the Public Treasury, including CFAF22,600,000<sup>164</sup> as fines and CFAF3,546,692<sup>165</sup> from auction sales of seized products. The paltry fines<sup>166</sup> collected results from the minimal penalty provided for by the Law. A revision of the Law would better protect national fishery resources.

**447-** Public authorities continued to promote intensive aquaculture and 2 projects were set up in this regard. They are the Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Promotion Project (PPEA) in the Centre, South and Littoral

<sup>162</sup> Partnership signed in 2014, see 2014 Report, §481.

<sup>163</sup> About 39,918.61 Euros.

<sup>164</sup> About 34,503.82 Euros.

<sup>165</sup> About 5,414.80 Euros.

<sup>166</sup> See Sections 155, 156, 157 and 161 of Law No. 94/1 of 20 January 1994 to lay down the forest, fauna and fishing regime. The amount of fines varies between CFAF 50,000 to CFAF100,000,000 (about 152,671.76 Euros).

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Regions and the Support Project for the Breeding of Caged Tilapia. To this end, 13 cages were installed and filled with fish in Mbalmayo, in the Centre, Yabassi in the Littoral, Bambalang in the North West, Lagdo in the North and Atok in the East Regions.

## C: Second Generation Agriculture by Agropoles

**448-** In 2016, 10 new Agropoles<sup>167</sup> were set up and financed for an amount of CFAF 27,106,333,216<sup>168</sup>, with the State's input estimated at CFAF7,348,265,562<sup>169</sup>. These Agropoles will produce freshwater fish, cocoa, pig, coffee, maize and pineapple juice.

**449-** Results from Agropoles that are already operational are satisfactory. The Mbouda Irish Potatoe Agropole, for example, that was opened in 2015 produced 46,600 tons of irish potatoes in 2016, while chicken production Agropoles supplied 1,607,960 chicken, and table eggs Agropoles produced 294,000,000 eggs.

## §2: Guarantee of Foodstuff Quality

**450-** Apart from the improvement of infrastructures to guarantee foodstuff hygiene, including ongoing projects as part of the Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth (*PLANUT*)<sup>170</sup>, the State protected foodstuff quality through foodstuff sanitation, standards and quality control.

<sup>167</sup> These are the fish production and processing Agropole, Ntem Valley; the fresh waterfish production and commercialization Agropole, Mvila; the cocoa production, processing and commercialization Agropole, Kekem; the pig production, processing and commercialization Agropole, *Hauts-Plateaux*; the pig production, processing and commercialization Agropole, Boumnyebel; the coffee processing and commercialization Agropole, North West; the production, processing and commercialization Agropole, Noun; the fresh water fish production, processing and commercialization Agropole, Yaounde and its vicinities; the fish production, processing and commercialization Agropole, Wouri-Bwelelo-Bekoko; the pineapple production, processing and commercialization Agropole, Kumba.

<sup>168</sup> About 41,383,714.83 Euros.

<sup>169</sup> About 11,218, 726.05 Euros.

<sup>170</sup> See 2015 Report §590. This include the construction and equipment of a cold store with a capacity of 6000m<sup>3</sup> and that can store 10,000 carcasses of 200kg each in Yaounde, an industrial slaughter house in Ngaoundere and refrigerated centres in Kribi and Ebolowa, for an overall amount of CFAF10,000,000,000 (about 15,267,175.57 Euros). These refrigerated centres will preserve meat from the slaughterhouse and provide stock in case of shortages or disease outbreak in the sector and supply healthy meat to the population. These infrastructures will be received early 2017.

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## A: Control of Foodstuff Sanitation Security

**451-** Through Decree No. 2016/1248/PM of 23 May 2016 on the transfer to Councils of sanitation control and the inspection of establishments that produce, package, store and distribute foodstuff, Government sought to reduce the impact of animal and crop deceases on consumer goods.

### 1) Control of Animal Foodstuff

**452-** At the strategic level, an Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Policy Document was adopted by MINEPIA from 11 to 12 August 2016 at Mfou, in collaboration with the Support Programme for the Management of Rural Sector Administrations. The Document sets out Government guidelines and priorities on animal health and interactions with human health.

**453-** Furthermore, the resurgence in May 2016 of the bird flu imposed the adoption of emergency measures to contain the spread of the virus from all identified areas. These measures consisted in:

- slaughtering some 80,000 infected or suspected chicken by veterinary services;
- restricting the displacement of poultry, used poultry products and equipment, prohibiting the transfer of poultry products from affected areas to others;
- closing some poultry markets in 4 Divisions<sup>171</sup> with bird flu outbreaks;
- disinfecting systematically all poultry markets, seizing and destroying all products sold in violation of the prohibition; and
- strengthening veterinary control at Sanitary and Veterinary Inspection Posts, and at Control Posts. To this end, 131 Control Posts were set up and/or reactivated.

**454-** In order to avoid animal-to-man transmission, awareness-raising messages were disseminated on the safe handling of poultry<sup>172</sup>.

**455-** To strengthen the mechanism for the fight against bird flu, the State, with the support of its partners, raised CFAF250,000,000<sup>173</sup>. Thus, 2

<sup>171</sup>The Mfoundi, Mifi, Koung-Khi and the Mvila Divisions

<sup>172</sup>Over radio and television.

<sup>173</sup>About 381,679.39 Euros.



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Agreements were signed with the World Bank<sup>174</sup> and the FAO<sup>175</sup> respectively on the following thrusts: awareness-raising and training of stakeholders, purchase of equipment for the management of outbreaks, logistic support and communication.

**456-** Although the bans on sale and transfer of poultry products were lifted, this plethora of measures had a negative impact on the production, processing and commercialization of chicken, resulting in job losses, decreased turnover and difficulty for the sector to resume its activities. In this light, discussions on these challenges were started at the end of the year by the Competitiveness Committee for the Revival of the Poultry Sector. The results thereof have been submitted to Government.

## 2) Control of Plant Foodstuff

**457-** To identify pesticide toxicity on producers, consumers and the environment, a survey on the use of agricultural pesticides was started in 2016 by *MINEPDED*, with the support of the FAO. This survey will generate data that may help decision-making, especially concerning the prohibition of pesticides that are dangerous for health.

**458-** Moreover, the security device for the phytosanitary protection of cocoa and coffee plants was deployed for treatment with products which respect standards.

## C: Promotion of Standards, Control and Quality Certification

**459-** In order to further raise public awareness on the importance of standards, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the National Quality Week (*SENAQ 2016*) was organized in Douala from 21 to 23 April 2016 by the Standards and Quality Agency (*ANOR*), under the theme *Standards and Evaluation of Conformity at the Centre of Strategies for the Creation of Wealth and Employment*.

**460-** Thanks to the activity of *ANOR*, the control and certification of the quality of products, especially in laboratories have targeted about

<sup>174</sup> In July 2016 on the prorogation of the pre-existing agreement through PACA, the World Bank granted support of USD1,000,000, the equivalent of about CFAF600,000,000 (about 916, 030.53 Euros) to carry out 2 surveys, one of which on the socio-economic impact of avian influenza in Cameroon and the other one on the audit of hatcheries in Cameroon.

<sup>175</sup> The Agreement was signed on 20 September 2016. Concerning the FAO, it is a project titled "Emergency Assistance for the Control of Highly Pathogenic Outbreaks of Avian Influenza in Cameroon", for an amount of CFAF 300,000,000, about 45,8015.27 Euros.

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5,000 local and imported products, including foodstuff. More so, with the resumption on 31 August 2016, of the Pre-shipment Evaluation of Conformity for imports to Cameroon, set up by Decree No. 2015/1875/PM of 1 July 2015, protection of the health and security of consumers was strengthened.

### **§3: Measures to Guarantee Accessibility of Foodstuff**

**461-** To assess the impact of measures taken by Government on the population, the institutional framework for the protection of consumers was strengthened, the infrastructural network of the country was broadened and operational distribution chains were reinvigorated.

#### **A: Setting up of the National Consumption Council**

**462-** To strengthen consumer protection<sup>176</sup>, an advisory body, known as the National Consumption Council, was set up by Decree No. 2016/3/PM of 13 January 2016 which lays down its organization and functioning.

**463-** The missions of this Council include promoting exchange of views between public authorities, organizations for the protection of the collective interests of consumers' and employers' organizations, and encouraging consultation between representatives of consumer interests and Delegates of employers' organizations on issues relating to consumer protection. To reflect its inclusive dimension, the Council consists of 4 representatives of consumer rights organizations.

#### **B: Modernization of Storage and Food Transfer Infrastructure**

**464-** In order to modernize the rural world, socio-economic facilities, including markets, storage warehouses, community huts, improved boreholes and wells, culverts and agricultural tracks were built or equipped.

**465-** Likewise, as part of the urgent food security measures in the Far North Region<sup>177</sup>, the following equipment were bought: 12 rice hullers for the processing and packaging of paddy rice stored in the Cereal Products Board and at the *Société d'Expansion et de Modernisation de la Riziculture de Yagoua (SEMRY)* as well as 50 corn and cereal mills

<sup>176</sup> The National Consumer Day was celebrated on 14 June 2016.

<sup>177</sup> See the Food Security Emergency Management Commission set up on 26 February 2015

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for affected and displaced persons.

**466-** These storage and packaging measures must be accompanied by the processing of agricultural products. Indeed, processing provides added value to agricultural products. In this regard, the International Forum on Agriculture and Food Industry of Yaounde<sup>178</sup> set the ball rolling by displaying a variety of local products.

## C: Consolidation of Food Redistribution Channels

**467-** Consolidation of food redistribution channels concerned direct distribution of foodstuff and plans to provide food to the population.

### 1) Direct Food Distribution

**468-** Measures taken by the Government have not always had the expected impact and have not addressed the risks of food insecurity in some parts of the country. Indeed, about 9.6%<sup>179</sup> of the population is affected by these risks mainly in the northern part of Cameroon, where insecurity<sup>180</sup> due to the activities of the terrorist group, *Boko Haram* and the exacerbation by climatic factors have contributed in widening food gaps<sup>181</sup>. Government, to overcome these constraints, has chosen to directly distribute food to the people.

### 2) Food Supply

**469-** Promotional sale campaigns for foodstuff to consumers continued under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade (*MINCOMMERCE*) in partnership with other Ministries and producer organizations, and the Consumer Product Supply Regulation Authority (*MIRAP*).

**470-** *MINCOMMERCE* organized 305 promotional sale campaigns for general consumer products, dubbed «*quinzaine de Noël*», to reduce shortages during end-of-year feasts.

<sup>178</sup> The 4<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Agriculture and Food Industry of Yaounde, held from 6 to 16 December 2016, brought together hundreds of participants.

<sup>179</sup> These are statistics from *MINADER* collected during the drawing up of a national food security strategy on 26 September 2016.

<sup>180</sup> In the Far North Region for instance, cereal farms have been reduced by about 20%.

<sup>181</sup> In the Adamawa Region, cassava and irish potatoe dropped by 18% and 80% respectively. In the Logone and Chari Division, cereal production dropped from 50,000 tons to 30,000 tons.

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**471-** *MIRAP* renewed its usual marketing platforms by organizing 338 periodic test markets, 351 street markets and 25 special test markets. These markets supplied households with animal products (532,963 kg), vegetable products (9,022,331 kg), and manufactured products (117,471 kg).

## SECTION 2: GUARANTEE OF RIGHT TO WATER AND ENERGY

**472-** Measures have been taken to guarantee access to water and energy.

### §1: Access to water

**473-** To meet the population's growing<sup>182</sup> water need, efforts have been made to increase drinking water supply and to continue the liquid sanitation work.

#### A: Water Supply

**474-** The soaring demography faced by urban, peri-urban and rural populations has led Government to continue augmenting drinking water supply.

#### 1) Urban Area

**475-** Activities were carried out in Yaounde and Douala.

##### a) Activities in Yaounde

**476-** In order to increase water supply service rate, some works were ongoing while others were completed.

**477-** The extension of the Akomnyada plant injected 35,000m<sup>3</sup>/day into the network. Overall, Yaounde received 185,000m<sup>3</sup>/d of drinking water, taking into account the 100,000m<sup>3</sup>/d from the former Akomnyada plant and 50,000m<sup>3</sup> from the Mefou renovated plant in Nkolbisson.

**478-** Apart from the first extension of the Akomnyada station, CAMWATER, from 7 October 2016, undertook a series of works to provide a lasting solution to the problems of access to drinking water in the capi-

<sup>182</sup> In 2016, drinking water supply rate in Cameroon was estimated at 40% and should, according to Government projections increase to 75% by 2020.

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tal city with funding from Eximbank, USA<sup>183</sup>. This extension concerned the construction of a new water processing unit with a capacity of 55,000m<sup>3</sup>/d, through the construction of 10 compact mobile units, small water collection and processing stations that are similar to containers with wheels.

**479-** Moreover, 350km of water pipes were being rehabilitated. This work involves rehabilitating and replacing 60km of cast-iron water pipes in the city centre with water pipes in compliance with international standards. Reinforcement of the primary structure was also ongoing by setting up or rehabilitating pumping stations at Tsinga, Emana and Fouda, as well as rehabilitating water towers at Mbankolo, Djoungolo and Ate-mengue.

**480-** This project, known as the *Drinking Water Supply for Yaounde and three Secondary Towns*, was financed by the French Development Agency and the European Investment Bank for the sum of CFAF103,688,000,000<sup>184</sup>.

## b) Activities in Douala

**481-** In August 2016, CAMWATER received 11 industrial boreholes constructed in Douala. They have a total production capacity of 50,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d already injected into the distribution network, supplementing the 150,000m<sup>3</sup>/d produced by the Yato I and II plants. Overall, the production capacity for Douala reached 230,000m<sup>3</sup>/d given the 50,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d from the Japoma plant.

**482-** In July 2016, in a bid to address drinking water shortages, CAMWATER tested a new temporary solution to supply water to neighbouring communities in Douala that were not connected to the distribution network. As such, 116 giant plastic tanks were built and will ensure storage of 5,000 litres of water at the cost of CFAF28,668,681<sup>185</sup>.

**483-** As at 31 July 2016, some 10,000,000 inhabitants had been connected to the drinking water network of the Cameroon Water Company lease. While total needs are above 500,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d, total production was estimated at slightly above 380,000m<sup>3</sup>/d, with an average service rate

<sup>183</sup> See 2015 Report, § 641.

<sup>184</sup> This project, worth about 158,302,290.08 Euros, will improve water supply in Edea, Bertoua and Ngaoundere.

<sup>185</sup> About 43,768.98 Euros

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of 40%, for a total number of subscribers estimated at 400,276, and an average daily consumption of 45 litres /inhabitant. Additional efforts should therefore be made to curb the deficit by 120,000m<sup>3</sup>/d.

## 2) Semi-urban Area

**484-** Some ongoing projects in urban areas also extend to semi-urban areas. This is particularly the case with the Project to improve drinking water supply in Yaounde and 3 secondary towns (Edea, Bertoua and Ngaoundere).

**485-** This is also the case with the Project to Strengthen and Extend Drinking Water Supply Systems (AEP) in 52 centres, *Tranche C2*, which started in 2016 and is expected to end in 2018. It is Financed by BELFIUS, a Belgian Bank, the State and CAMWATER. The completion of this work would result in an additional production capacity of 2,700 m<sup>3</sup>/d, giving a total production of 66,500m<sup>3</sup>/d in Bankim, Banyo, Figuil, Mayo Oulo, Mbalmayo, Dimako, Djoum, Lomie, Mbe, Pitoa, Sa'a, Yoko, Bangoua and Chidifi. About 23.01% of this project had been executed as at December 2016.

**486-** Furthermore, works to rehabilitate, strengthen and AEP in 52 Centres, *Tranche 5* at Akonolinga, Sangmelima, Kribi, Bamenda, Bafoussam, Bandjoun, Foumban, Batouri, Ambam, Monatele , Evodoula, Campo, Sa'a, Yokadouma, Zo'etele are continuing. Their implementation rate was 72.5% as at 31 December 2016.

**487-** As part of the Drinking Water Supply Project in 9 towns *Tranche 1*, funded by Eximbank China, the work progress and delivery of supplies rate stood at 83% in March 2016 for Sangmelima, Kribi, Bamenda and Bafoussam.

**488-** Finally, works undertaken as part of the Project to rehabilitate, strengthen and AEP in 52 centres, *Tranche C1* have been completed. They increased additional production capacity by 150m<sup>3</sup>/d and additional storage capacity of 300m<sup>3</sup>/d as well as the construction of 197.45km of pipes in the localities concerned (Yaounde, Douala, Garoua, Bafoussam, Buea, Limbe, Maroua, Banyo, and Maroua University).

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## 3) In Rural Areas

**489-** In rural areas, many projects were ongoing within the framework of the 2014-2017 Triennial Emergency Plan. This included the construction of 900 boreholes in 9 Regions of the country and 19 mini-water supply systems in the North West Region. This last project was completed at 100%, while completion rates in the Northern Regions were as follows: 51% for the Adamawa Region, 55% for the North Region and 70% for the Far North Region. On 2 June 2016, 3 solar-powered boreholes were handed over in Waza to be used by some 208 households.

**490-** Lastly, on 15 April 2016, 36 potable water points were inaugurated in Bakondji, co-financed by the European Union and Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the tune of CFAF 400,000,000<sup>186</sup>. It will have an impact on some 5,000 inhabitants.

### B: Liquid Sanitation Activities

**491-** Within the framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Liquid Sanitation Access Programme, *the Semi-Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project*, covering 18 centres, divided into 3 lots, produced the following results:

- lot 1, completed at 100%, concerned Nkongsamba, Manjo, Loum, Mbanga and Kumba and amounted to CFAF3,544,136,868<sup>187</sup>;
- lot 2 concerned Akono, Ngoumou, Bafia, Sangmélima, Ebolowa and Kousseri and amounted to CFAF5,544,905,291<sup>188</sup> with a completion rate of 78.2% ;
- and lot 3 was completed at 100% at Bangangté, Bafang, Bana, Bangou, Bansa and Foumban and amounted to CFAF 8,530,020,739<sup>189</sup>.

## §2: Right to Energy

**492-** The growth objectives for 2016 evaluated at 6% were incumbent upon the increase in energy supply<sup>190</sup>. Indeed, demand increases by 7 to 8% each year, resulting in an additional requirement of 75 to 100 megawatts (MW) per year. This increase is explained by the produc-

<sup>186</sup> About 610,687.03 Euros

<sup>187</sup> About 5,410,895.98 Euros

<sup>188</sup> About 8,465,504.26 Euros

<sup>189</sup> About 13,022, 932.43 Euros

<sup>190</sup> This sector is part of the Triennial Emergency Plan to speed up growth.

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tion of the industrial sector and mainly by the metallurgy and cement industries. In addition, the increase in the number of connections, with 85,000 new customers connected each year to the electricity grid, leads to an additional capacity requirement of 800 to 1,000 MW up to 2020.

**493-** Thus, the high energy demand from both households and industries has led to a series of actions that are related to the intensification of production and the improvement of the distribution of electrical energy and the diversification of renewable energy sources. Efforts have also been channeled towards the protection of consumers.

## **A: Production and Distribution of Electrical Energy**

**494-** The production of electrical energy was increased and distribution improved.

### **1) Increased Production**

**495-** This was possible thanks to the change of the institutional framework with the setting up of the Nachtigal Hydro Power Company (NHPC), continued construction of hydroelectric dams and the construction of hydroelectric plants.

#### **a) Setting up of the NHPC**

**496-** This Company was set up on 7 July 2016. It is 40% owned by EDF International, 30% by the State of Cameroon and 30% by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). It is responsible for the construction and operation of the Nachtigal Project<sup>191</sup> that will provide an installed capacity of 420MW and an additional source of stable generated electricity by 2020. The cost of the Project is estimated at CFAF 656,000,000,000<sup>192</sup>.

#### **b) Construction of Hydroelectric Dams**

**497-** As at December 2016, 98% of the Lom Pangar Dam had been constructed. Total water filling was effective in September 2016 by the retention of 6,007,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of water allowing a more serene management of the 2017 low-water period by Energy of Cameroon

<sup>191</sup> It will generate 3,000 direct jobs.

<sup>192</sup> About 1,001,526,717.56 Euros



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(ENEO) at the Song Loulou and Edea dams, thanks to the additional gain of 170MW. The completion rate of the 211MW Memve'ele Hydroelectric Dam, as at December 2016, stood at 92%. Lastly, construction works of the Mekin Hydroelectric Dam, with a capacity of 15MW, was completed at 98% as at December 2016.

## c) Construction of Power Plants

**498-** The Government has started construction works of the Bini hydroelectric power plant in Warak. This plant is expected to produce about 75MW of electrical power. Its commissioning will help, no later than the fourth quarter of 2018, to offset the energy supply deficit in the North Interconnected Grid. The components of this Project are: a water storage dam with a capacity of 560 cubic hectometres; a hydroelectric power station with an installed capacity of 75MW; a 225KV transmission line for high-voltage electrical power; the rehabilitation and construction of access roads in the Project area and an environmental and social management plan for the benefit of the neighbouring population.

**499-** The cost of the Project, to be completed by 2021, is approximately CFAF 182,000,000,000<sup>193</sup>. A Convention was signed to this effect between the Government of Cameroon, Commercial Bank of China and SINOHYDRO Ltd which will be responsible for the construction of the structure.

**500-** Moreover, on 16 December 2016, an energy contract was signed between ENEO and IED Invest Cameroon for the construction of a mini hydropower plant that will enable decentralized production and bring the production source closer. The Project, named *Mbakaou Carrière*, has an installed capacity of 1.4MW for an average annual output of 2.8MW. The Project worth CFAF3,600,000,000<sup>194</sup> funded by the European Union, aims to promote access to electricity for more than 1,500 households in the Mbakaou Village, Boninting, Liboum, Makandao, Naskoul, Gantang and Combo in the Adamawa Region.

**501-** In the first quarter of 2016, a 20MW thermal power plant was installed in Djamboutou, in Garoua town. This capacity is in addition to that of the Lagdo and Kousseri power plants already operational for the 3 Northern Regions.

<sup>193</sup> About 277,862,595.42 Euros

<sup>194</sup> About 5,496 183.21 Euros

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**502-** Lastly, the ongoing commissioning of the new transformer at the Oyom-abang interconnection station in Yaounde, with a capacity of 35 MVA, carried out by the German company Siemens, will reduce disruption of the electricity grid in the capital. The newly commissioned transformer is the first of a series of 3 ordered for the complete renovation of "Banc n° 2" of the Oyom-Abang Post.

## 2) Increased Distribution

**503-** In December 2016, the Government put in place a Programme to strengthen and upgrade the electrical transmission grid throughout the country, notably in the interconnected grids of South, North and East. It consists, among others, in providing interconnections to increase electricity supply to major urban centres, strengthening and securing the 3 North, South and East interconnected grids, ensuring stable energy transmission from power plants (Nachtigal, Memve'ele, Kribi, Mekin, Lom Pangar) to consumption centres.

### a) Electric Power Transmission to Urban Centres

**504-** For the city of Yaounde, one of the components of this Programme is the reinforcement of the electric power transmission grid, which includes the construction of a 225KV loop and a 90KV loop around the city, to ensure good distribution supply.

**505-** It is worthy of note that within the framework of *PLANUT*, *MINEPAT* signed with Deutsche Bank SAE cumulative loan agreements worth CFAF30,000,000,000<sup>195</sup> for the implementation of the Project to reinforce and stabilize the electric power transmission grids of Yaounde (2016-2021)<sup>196</sup>.

**506-** In Douala, reinforcement will also consist in constructing a 90KV loop and new 225KV lines, as well as associated substations. This work will be financed by the French partner Bouygues. Impact studies have been completed.

<sup>195</sup> About 45,801,526.72 Euros

<sup>196</sup> Studies carried out within this framework concern the posts of Ahala, Ngoussou and Oyomabang

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## b) Transmission of Electrical Energy from Production Centres to Consumption Centres

**507-** The completion of work on the transmission line of energy produced at the Mekin Dam and the construction of the Ndjom Yekombo step-down substation made it possible to inject 15MW into the South Interconnected Grid.

**508-** The construction of the transmission line of the energy produced in Memve'ele and related works on the Nyabizan, Ebolowa, Ahala and Nkolnkoumou corridor, with a capacity of 225KV, had been executed at 30% as at 31 December 2016.

**509-** Lastly, the construction of the 30MW plant, the 90KV power line between Lom Pangar and Bertoua and related works were ongoing with a view to implementing the Rural Electrification Programme of the East Region.

## c) Rural Supply

**510-** After the first phase of the Rural Electrification Master Plan, adopted in 2011, that ended in 2015<sup>197</sup>, the second phase covering the Period 2016-2035 amounting to CFAF600,000,000,000<sup>198</sup> was prepared by Government. This plan seeks to improve rural electrification rate through major skeleton lines linking administrative units, border or major localities, while enabling the development of low-cost rural electrification through small branch antennas.

**511-** In this context, Government initiated a project to electrify 102 localities in 5 Regions of the country (North, Centre, South, Adamawa and West). The overall cost of this project is estimated at CFAF18,500,000,000<sup>199</sup> to be executed for a period of 4 years as from 2016. It is financed by the Islamic Development Bank and Government. This project includes studies, the design and construction of 757km of medium voltage lines, 94 distribution stations, and 235km of low voltage lines, including the realization of some 9,000 connections. As at 31 December 2016, related studies had been completed.

<sup>197</sup> See Report 2015, § 689

<sup>198</sup> About 916,030,534.35 Euros

<sup>199</sup> About 28,244,274.81 Euros.

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**512-** The objective of the Rural Electrification Project by Extension of the South and North Interconnected Grids worth CFAF8,860,880,284<sup>200</sup>, financed by the World Bank and the State of Cameroon, is to connect 80 to 10,557 connections including in the Adamawa (1,480 connections), Far North (1,311 connections), North (1,653 connections), and West (6,113) Regions. The objective has been fully attained.

## **B: Exploration and Diversification of Renewable Energy Sources**

**513-** The development of renewable energy sources continued notably with regard to wind, biogas and solar power plants.

**514-** Thus, the execution of the Electrification Project for 166 localities in the 10 Regions by solar system began in January 2016. It concerns primarily border localities structured by Government with the support of HUAWEI.

**515-** Within the framework of the 2016 PIB, 270 street lights were installed in 11 localities of the Centre and South Regions out of the 14 planned, and mini solar power plants built in 4 localities with a total capacity of 21.35 kW were received, at a cost of CFAF590,000,000<sup>201</sup>.

**516-** Furthermore, the installation of solar street lights was completed in Awae (Mefou-Afamba), Etoudi-Yaounde (Mfoundi), Elon-Enoah (Mvila) and the solar power station of Meyomessala (Dja and Lobo). Work was underway at the *Collège Athénée-Soa* (Mefou Afamba) and at the University of Buea (Fako). The project completion cost stands at CFAF927,043,000<sup>202</sup>.

## **C: Consumer Protection**

**517-** The protection of consumers and the defense of their rights were effective during this year through the activities of the conciliation platform of the Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL) and those of the Call Center.

<sup>200</sup> About 13,528,061.50 Euros

<sup>201</sup> About 900,763.36 Euros

<sup>202</sup> About 1,415,332.82 Euros

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## 1) Conciliation Platform

**518-** ARSEL Conciliation Commission held 31 conciliation sessions, 19 of which in Yaounde and 12 in Douala. During these sessions, 336 petitions were received. Solutions were found to 238 of them, bringing the dispute resolution rate to 70.83%.

## 2) Call Center Activity

**519-** The Call Center, reachable at the numbers 650 00 00 50/2 22 20 60 70, received a total of 4,009 calls. Consumers' complaints were related to electrical failures (3,216), supply disruptions (436), poor service quality (252), fallen poles (48), burnt transformers (30), pending connections (7) and all other complaints (20).

**520-** The Centre Region recorded the highest number of consumer complaints (2,417). It is followed by the North (520) and the South West (423), while the Far North Region recorded only 9 complaints.

**521-** Government efforts to increase water and energy production have remained constant over the years. The implementation of Projects relating thereto, which are allocated substantial funding from both development partners and the State, is likely to meet sharp increasing demand.

## SECTION 3: RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING

**522-** With the launch in 2016 of a national urban policy and in order to take into account the constraints related to urban population growth, Government continued to increase the provision of plots and housing and to explore real estate financing solutions.

### §1: Increased Provision of Plots and Housing

**523-** Measures were taken with regard to the development of plots for construction, housing construction, improvement of urban environment and the development of roads and networks.

#### A: Development of Construction Plots

**524-** Within the framework of the finalization of the STATE-MAETUR 2013-2015<sup>203</sup> performance plan, the State partially financed works on

<sup>203</sup> Its implementation started in 2014 and ended in 2016

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roads and services and contributed to the constitution of the land reserves at Nkondom 1, Mfou and Gbego, Bertoua. These activities resulted in a substantial reduction in the price per square metre of land by more than 30% of the normal price which varied from CFAF18,000<sup>204</sup> to CFAF22,000<sup>205</sup> per square metre. More so, MAETUR Project studies on these sites were carried out at a rate of 52%, while work was carried out at a rate of 22%.

**525-** Within the framework of the execution of the *Experimental Programme for the Production of Housing Accessible to Low-income Households*, the following actions were carried out with the financial support of the State: the constitution of the Logbessou (Douala) Land Reserve with a surface area of 50 ha, the finalization of the acquisition of the Oloa-Nsimalen, Mfou site, some 50 ha, and the start of the development of the Talla-Kribi site (125 ha).

**526-** In addition, the development of the Ekoko 2 Mfou site (16 ha) was completed as part of the *Programme for the Development of Resettlement Areas for Victims of the Yaounde Highway Project*.

**527-** Lastly, studies for urban restructuring/renovation at the sites at Garoua, Bafoussam, Douala (Makepe-Missoke and Bonaloka) were launched. As part of the *Logbessou TV Restructuring Project* in Douala, MAETUR produced 469 construction plots during the year.

## **B: Construction of Housing**

**528-** Housing construction continued through Government's programme to build 10,000 social housing units and produce 50,000 building plots, the Triennial Emergency Plan for Accelerating Economic Growth, the *Cité des cinquantenaires* Project and the Emergency Flood Control Project (PULCI).

### **1) Government Programme to build 10,000 Social Housing Units**

**529-** Government's Programme for the construction of the first 1,675 social housing units attained 90% execution rate in Yaounde and 67% in Douala respectively. Out of the 1,300 homes earmarked, 780 were

<sup>204</sup> About 27.48 Euros

<sup>205</sup> About 33.59 Euros

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completed and offered for sale. In 2016, 80 homes in Yaounde and 180 in Douala were received and delivered to users.

**530-** More so, the *Société Immobilière du Cameroun* has started rehabilitating social housing in its Real Estate amounting to CFAF427,986,120<sup>206</sup>. The construction of a building comprising 24 social housing units in Yaounde (*Cité Verte*) also continued at the cost of CFAF 1,675,589,906<sup>207</sup>.

## 2) Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth

**531-** Under this Plan, 100 houses in each Regional headquarter, except Yaounde and Douala, were under construction. Some 34% of the works, estimated at CFAF 40,000,000,000<sup>208</sup> had been completed as at December 2016.

### 3) *Cité des cinquantenaires* Project

**532-** The construction project of 530 houses at the *Cité des cinquantenaires* in Douala commenced. It is developed on a surface area of 20,161m<sup>2</sup>. It is initiated by the Douala City Council and its subsidiary company, the *Société d'Aménagement de Douala*. The total cost of the project is CFAF30,000,000,000<sup>209</sup> excluding tax. This projet will comprise deluxe houses, offices, stores with leisure areas, green spaces, pedestrian walkways and parking lots.

### 4) Emergency Flood Control Project (*PULCI*)

**533-** Financed by a World Bank loan and the investment budget of Cameroon, *PULCI* will run over a period of 5 years from 2016. It aims at preventing further damage of hydraulic and protection works on *SEMYR* irrigated land.

**534-** On this score, relocation works for persons affected by floods have started at the Bégué-Palam site. They consist in the construction of 257 huts, 66 latrines, 66 kitchens, 3 manually operated boreholes and 7 wells for 72 families.

<sup>206</sup> About 653,413.92 Euros

<sup>207</sup> About the sum of 2,558,152.53Euros

<sup>208</sup> About 61, 068, 702.29 Euros

<sup>209</sup> About 45, 801, 526.72 Euros

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## C: Improvement of Urban Environment

**535-** On the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Batimaide* Fair, organised on 8 November 2016 in Douala, under the theme *Housing and Life Quality*, housing sector stakeholders held discussions to find solutions for decent and secure housing. The following development works were equally carried out: cleaning up of the Mfoundi Canal (*PADY II*), construction of the access road at the new town Olembe, Yaounde and the Participatory Programme for the Improvement of Slums (PPAB).

### 1) Mfoundi Canal (*PADY II*)

**536-** The execution of these works, with duration of 36 months was launched in January 2016. Estimated at CFAF47,900,000,000<sup>210</sup>, the construction works of the storm water drainage canal downstream of the Mfoundi will sustainably improve rain water disposal, and the hygiene and health conditions of the population of Yaounde. They involve notably, the development of 2 embankment roads, the reinforcement of 2 embankments built within the framework of *PADY I* and the realization of special works. Apart from environmental protection works, the Project includes town greens and leisure spaces. During the 2016 Financial Year, the execution rate of the construction works of 14km of drainage of the Mfoundi canal and its tributaries within the framework of the project for the cleaning up of Yaounde was about 60%.

### 2) Access Road of the New Town Olembe-Yaounde

**537-** The development works of the access road of the new town Olembe-Yaounde have reached an execution rate of 99%. An interchange and an urban road with 6 lanes provide access to new houses. This work which is 2.5km long comprises a minor interchange, 2 boulevards, a rotary junction, bicycle paths, pavements and parking areas.

### 3) Participatory Programme for the Development of Slums

**538-** PPAB is jointly managed by the group of African-Caribbean-Pacific States, UN-Habitat and the European Community. The implementation of Phase 3 of the pilot projects launched in August 2015 in Nkolbikok, Yaounde was at its final stage by end-2016. PPAB intervenes in this area to restructure the neighbourhood. Through this choice, the popu-

<sup>210</sup> About 73,129,770.99 Euros



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lation is maintained onsite while their living conditions are improved. The activities of this phase were two-fold: community fund and investment.

**539-** Projects selected for the community fund concerned cleaning-up, access to water, creation of jobs and health. They were fully completed<sup>211</sup>, except for the Project to clean up the Edzoa Mballa River, with a completion rate of 45%.

**540-** The Nkolbikok investment phase comprises watercourse crossing works, installation of street lights and rehabilitation of an earth road. The following actions were carried out as part of this project:

- the construction of 3 watercourse crossings (2 box culverts and a footbridge of about 300 metres long);
- the installation of 68 street lights at Nkolbikok; and
- the rehabilitation of a 780 metre long earth road.

**541-** Moreover, in 2016, PPAB was replicated in 2 neighbourhoods in Garoua and Bafoussam, with the technical support of MAETUR.

**542-** In Douala, the construction of canals for rain water drainage of Lot 1 (*le Mboppi*) and Lot 2 (*le Kondi*) commenced. The duration for these 2 construction sites is 24 months at a cost of CFAF32,000,000,000<sup>212</sup> for each site. The development of some secondary roads was almost complete.

## D: Development of Roads and Networks

**543-** Within the framework of the implementation of skills transferred to Councils in the urban roads sector, CFAF 840,000,000<sup>213</sup> were allo-

<sup>211</sup> It is composed of the following projects:

- access to water, hygiene and basic sanitation at Nkolbikok realised at 100%;
- community mobilization for the cleaning up of flooded parts of Nkolbikok realised at 100%;
- fight against vectorielle and rats at Nkolbikok realised at 100%;
- Support Project for the Capacity Building of Nkolbikok Youths in Urban Trades realised at 100%;
- Extension Project for paid service for the prior collection of household refuse at the Nkolbikok slum realised at 100%

<sup>212</sup> About 48,854,961.83 Euros

<sup>213</sup> About 1,282,442.75 Euros.

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cated to 21 Councils to enable them keep their respective roads at a satisfactory level of usage. As at 31 December 2016, most of the related contracts had already been executed and received by a great number of councils.

**544-** Concerning the rehabilitation of urban roads, 69.22km of roads have been rehabilitated. The major works concerned mainly the:

- rehabilitation of the Shell Nsimeyong-Tam-tam-TKC road and the Chapelle Saint Marc-Biyem-Assi Hospital loop giving a total of 7.935km;
- rehabilitation of roads in Ngaoundere, Ngaoui, Basheo, Guider, Nkongsamba, Mombo, Bassamba, Edea, Yabassi, Mundemba, Fundong, Baham, Loum and Bangem giving a total of 19.482km financed by the Road Fund; and
- realization of emergency priority works in the 2 major metropolises of Cameroon, within the framework of the first phase of the Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth in particular, for a total distance of 19km in Douala and 9km in Yaounde.

**545-** Concerning urban roads, the following main projects were carried out:

- continuation of construction works of the Yaounde-Nsimalen highway, along rural roads, with an execution rate of 60%;
- construction of the access road to Olembe over a distance of 2.451 km that was received on 2 September 2016;
- construction of a 17.4km access road and 60,000m<sup>2</sup> of town greens around the Limbe Omnisport Stadium and the rehabilitation of 13.8km of roads in the said town.

## §2: Real Estate Financing

**546-** In 2016, out of 543 applications for financing received, the Cameroon Housing Loan Fund (CFC) granted 475 loans, amounting to CFAF 19,739,612,376<sup>214</sup> with 22 files pending.

**547-** Yet, there were still structural and situational constraints which hindered access to real estate financing. To address these concerns, a conference was held in Yaounde from 13 to 14 September 2016, on *"the financing of real estate in Cameroon"*. The deliberations revealed that

<sup>214</sup>About 30,136,812.79 Euros

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mortgage is not sufficiently developed to satisfy the high demand, especially social demand. The CFC, that has limited means, is the only institution that offers this type of long term investment resources. This is the reason for the low contribution of the banking system as a whole to real estate financing that gives priority targets to profitable sectors.

**548-** The above-mentioned constraints have led CFC to consider more supple financing methods by designing a product specifically meant for the young whose duration of activity is longer than that of the average client. This model is based on the resources deducted from the salaries of employees, a network of sales point covering the 10 Regions of Cameroon, a collaboration platform animated by various stakeholders and a commercial offer that has evolved over time to match environmental changes<sup>215</sup>.

**549-** The 2016 Finance Law provides measures to facilitate access to housing in the form of tax breaks for those who acquire social housing for the first time.

**550-** Though measures taken by Government to ease access to decent housing are significant, they are nevertheless insufficient considering the ever increasing social demand and needs resulting from the industrialization of the country. These needs include support to private initiative, strengthening of the legal framework, change of the institutional and operational framework, finance and tax measures, as well as consultation with *MINDCAF*, *MAETUR*, administrative authorities and councils to constitute real estate reserves.

**551-** It is hoped that the projections made in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) will find solutions to the issues raised, with the setting up of a National Housing Fund, a Social Housing Board, a Construction Equipment Exchange, a Social Housing Promotion Fund and a Fund for the Constitution of Real Estate Reserves.

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<sup>215</sup> The list of products supplied comprises about 15 forms of mortgage loans with the following conditions: interest rate varying between 3.75% to 7% ICT; reimbursement duration up to 30 years and a maximum loan of CFAF250,000,000 (about 381,679.39 Euros) for natural persons and CFAF 500,000,000 (about 763,358.78 Euros) for corporate bodies respectively. Apart from these loans, special loans and the credit line were granted to Councils at the rate of 1.5% excluding tax.

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**552-** Considering their impact on the quality of life of the population, the right to sufficient food, the right to water and energy, as well as the right to decent housing benefitted from numerous measures from the Government, especially through the increase of material and financial means allocated to guarantee these rights. Yet, hazards which occurred during the year especially the resurgence of the bird flu, constant water and electricity outages and the postponement of the availability of social housing, impeded the State's determination, and prove that these measures are still insufficient to meet demand. In this regard, it is hoped that the realization of the General Census on Agriculture, the adoption of a Housing Development Programme and the implementation of projects to strengthen energy and water supply, will contribute in improving the living standard of the population.



**Chapter** **4**  
**RIGHT TO WORK AND  
SOCIAL SECURITY**



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**553-** In furthering implementation of the Country Programme for decent work in Cameroon (2014-2017), Government laid emphasis on the empowerment of young people, in particular through the development of 2 strategic thrusts notably the Special Emergency Plan for the Intensification of Civic Education and Integration of the Youth, and *PANEJ*.

**554-** All these policies led to the creation of 320,000 jobs through the adoption of employability measures. Furthermore, the promotion of decent work and social dialogue as well as the consolidation of the social security system were ensured.

## SECTION 1: EMPLOYABILITY MEASURES

**555-** In order to increase employability, the institutional environment was strengthened, employment incentive measures continued and entrepreneurship culture promoted.

### §1: Employment and Vocational Training Institutions

**556-** To improve the employment market information system, the National Observatory for Employment and Vocational Training (*ONEFOP*) was reorganized. This concern was associated with the need to develop Vocational Training Centres of Excellence<sup>216</sup> (*CFPE*) for the promotion of accessibility to employment for all. Emphasis was also laid on the need to ensure better supervision of young people through the establishment of a National Youth Observatory (*NYO*) and a National Fund for Youth Integration (*FONIJ*).

#### A: National Employment and Vocational Training Observatory

**557-** Order No.109/PM of 22 September 2016 reorganized this entity by making it an ideal information structure on the employment and vocational training situation in Cameroon. *ONEFOP* that has operational structures to guide it as a decision-making body now has diverse funding sources<sup>217</sup>.

<sup>216</sup> The opening of *CFPEs* in Sangmelima, Douala and Limbe by Decision No. 192/MINEFOP/SG/DAG of 21 July 2016, is part of the pilot phase of innovations instituted in vocational training reform. *CFPEs* have training halls with state-of-the art equipment and dormitories for students.

<sup>217</sup> Pursuant to Order No. 7/PM of 13 February 2002, *ONEFOP* comprises representatives of the various actors in charge of the follow-up of employment and vocational training issues, and has a secretariat. The operating costs of *ONEFOP* were borne by the budget of the *MINEFOP* only.

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**558-** *ONEFOP* is composed of 2 Organs: a Steering Committee that is the decision-making body presided upon by the Minister in charge of Employment, and a Permanent Secretariat, that is a technical structure placed under the responsibility of a Permanent Secretary<sup>218</sup>.

**559-** The financial and material resources of *ONEFOP* accrue from financial allocations inscribed annually on the budget of the *MINEFOP*, but also from State subsidies, contributions by development partners, resources generated from its activities, as well as gifts and bequests. In 2016, *ONEFOP*'s budget dropped compared to the previous years and stood at, CFA55,000,000,000<sup>219</sup> against CFA57,000,000,000<sup>220</sup> in 2015.

## **B: Setting up of the NYO**

**560-** The NYO was set up in Multi-purpose Centres for Youth Promotion pursuant to Decision No. 9/2016/D/MINJEC/CAB of 23 February 2016. Placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education (*MINJEC*), the NYO is a platform for, mobilizing, supporting and directing young people towards appropriate channels for their needs. Its mission is to facilitate access of young people to institutions and programmes/projects the action of which will have a direct impact on their civic education, social inclusion and economic promotion. It is an institution for the reception, registration, listening, information and guidance of young people toward programmes and governmental and non-governmental projects intended for them.

## **C: Establishment of FONIJ**

**561-** FONIJ seeks, through its objectives and its scope, to provide an appropriate and complementary response to the other programmes on youth employment issues.

<sup>218</sup> The Steering Committee that meets at least twice a year in ordinary session, brings together representatives of the different administrations governing development sectors where workforce need is recurrent; the institutions in charge of statistics, vocational training, placement; the representatives of consular chambers, and those of employers and trade union organizations. The Permanent Secretariat is made up of 3 Work Units: a Studies and Research Section; a Cooperation, Documentation and Dissemination Section; and an Administration and Finance Section. Moreover, to guarantee an effective and reliable employment and vocational training information system, *ONEFOP* has a national data collection network consisting of Ministerial, Regional and Divisional Focal Points.

<sup>219</sup> About 83, 969,465. 65 Euros.

<sup>220</sup> About 87, 022,900.76 Euros.



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## 1) Objectives of *FONIJ*

**562-** *FONIJ* was set up by Decision No.10/2016/D/MINJEC/CAB of 23 February 2016. It is a Fund that finances and guarantees youth projects implemented by MINJEC. *FONIJ* is an upshot of the financial sustainability of the Rural and Urban Youth Support Programme (*PAJER-U*) and the Socio-economic Project for Youth Insertion by setting up of Micro-enterprises for the Manufacture of Sports Equipment (*PIFMAS*).

**563-** The aim off the Fund is to promote the integration of young people into production circuits by financing their projects as well as remunerating intermediary organizations that prepare and support them to self-employment and entrepreneurship.

## 2) Categories covered by *FONIJ*

**564-** *FONIJ* is directed primarily to young people not attending school or school drop-outs, graduates or non graduates, aged between 15 to 35 years who own productive projects that promote individual or group innovations. Candidates financed by *FONIJ* are primarily those registered in the *MINJEC* projects and programmes and possibly other governmental and non-governmental programmes. These are actually youths enrolled in NYO who received moral training from the National Service Agency for Participation Development on civic education and national integration. They include young people who received technical managerial and entrepreneurial training at *PAJER-U* or in any other project or programme.

**565-** *FONIJ* is interested in projects aimed at funding youth production units and services in the following areas: pastoral production, forestry and timber, small urban and rural trades, catering and related activities, ICT and telephony, building construction and public works, processing and conservation of local products. The funding is also opened to some categories of young people such as motorcycle-taxi men, young people in the Diaspora to encourage them return home, young student graduates of technical education and vocational training, and young volunteers from the National Volunteer Programme.

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## §2: Support and Employment Incentive Measures

**566-** Support measures generally provided by specialized employment structures are in tandem with actions carried out by the newly set up FONIJ.

### A: Continuation of Traditional Measures

**567-** Traditional measures refer to the results of actions taken by the National Employment Fund (NEF) and the *MINEFOP*.

#### 1) Activities carried out by the NEF

**568-** In fulfilling its mission of receiving and providing information to job-seekers, NEF welcomed, discussed with and provided guidance to 50,999 job-seekers in 2016 against 51,395 in 2015. NEF organized the first edition of the Employment Forum (*JDE*) from 8 to 10 February 2016, in lieu of the Youth Employment Week, that henceforth will be held between 27 April and 1 May<sup>221</sup>. The objective of the *JDE* was to inform the public on the benefits of NEF through guided tours of 4,900 people in its operational services, and the direct placement of 338 job-seekers through the Employment Forum organized on this occasion.

**569-** To enhance the quality of their supervision of job-seekers, *Expertise France* organized from 11 to 15 January 2016, a training session for 17 NEF Employment Advisors, Branch Quality Correspondents, and 3 Services Inspection Executives from *MINEFOP*, in the ownership and use of the Results Analysis and Activities Performance Tool. This tool is a quality management assessment mechanism<sup>222</sup>. In addition, 22 learners participated from 11 to 23 July 2016 in Yaounde, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Training of Trainers of Employment Advisors of Public Employment Services in Francophone Africa, who are members of the African Association of Public Employment Services.

**570-** The National Skills Identification Programme, shortlisted 25,328 persons against 51,230 in 2015.

<sup>221</sup> This reorientation is justified by the fact that there are an ever increasing number of events during the Youth Week period, thereby dispersing youth participation.

<sup>222</sup> The quality approach aims at improving the NEF's services supply in compliance with international standards, at all stages of treatment of target populations.

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**571-** Out of the 50,999 registered job-seekers, 46,521 obtained paid employment<sup>223</sup> while 36 were self-employed. These figures have dropped compared to 2015 during which 48,124 persons had paid employment and 17,294 were self-employed. Some 1,224 persons also received formal training against 429 in 2015.

**572-** Within the framework of the Graduate Employment Programme that aims at placing young people without professional experience, 525 young graduates were offered pre-employment internship for one year, against 573 in 2015.

**573-** Overall, NEF's activities have declined compared to 2015. This situation is due to insufficient budgetary resources for the institution.

## 2) Activities of *MINEFOP*

**574-** To promote self-employment, 100 micro-projects were funded under the Integrated Support Project for Informal Sector Stakeholders. The beneficiaries, divided into groups and associations, created 400 direct and indirect jobs.

**575-** As regards development of the vocational guidance system, the School, University and Professional Guidance Centres of Douala and Yaounde organized trade forums for the popularization of the agropastoral, banking, hotel, catering and material manufacture sectors. Besides, *MINEFOP* awarded 78 foreign and 308 national scholarships respectively to young candidates.

## B: Achievements of *FONIJ*

**576-** After *FONIJ* was set up and organized<sup>224</sup>, 2 Credit Committees met in 2016 at the national and regional levels<sup>225</sup>. At the end of their deliberations, 1,338 youth projects including 1,097 micro-activities and 241 Junior Enterprises were approved for funding. The table below reflects the regional distribution of these projects.

<sup>223</sup> The concept of employment is distinguished from self-employment.

<sup>224</sup> The officials were appointed respectively by Decision No. 14/2016/D/MINJEC/CAB of 29 February 2016 to appoint the Interim National Project Coordinator for the implementation of *FONIJ* and Decision No. 59/2016/D/MINJEC/CAB of 3 August 2016 to appoint Project Officials for the implementation of *FONIJ*.

<sup>225</sup> Credit Committees are bodies which take final decisions on the amount of credit to be granted to the projects of young people. To this end, the National Committee examines funding applications which vary between CFAF1,000,001 and CFAF25,000,000 (Junior Enterprises) whereas Regional Committees, held in Regional Headquarters, review funding files of up to CFAF1,000,000 (micro-activities).

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**Table 1: Regional Distribution of Projects selected by FONIJ for Funding in 2016**

Regions	Number of Micro-activities	Number of Junior Enterprises
Adamawa	68	21
Centre	125	51
East	60	9
Far North	226	60
Littoral	96	17
North	167	53
North West	71	5
West	105	7
South	88	10
South West	91	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>241</b>

**Source:** FONIJ/MINJEC

### §3: Entrepreneurship Culture in the ICT Era

**577-** The need to adapt supply to demand guided actions for the promotion of ICT entrepreneurship. In this context, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (*MINPOSTEL*) organized a seminar on start-ups for students especially those from IAI. The objective was to promote start-up projects as real vectors of development and the fight against unemployment. A discussion session was also held on 19 February 2016 with young promoters from Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam and Garoua.

## SECTION 2: MEASURES TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS

**578-** The actions to improve working conditions focused on the promotion of health and safety at work, the management of work disputes, the promotion of social dialogue and dealing with labour migration.

### §1: Promotion of Health and Safety at Work

**579-** Some 246 Health and Safety Committees were set up in companies and awareness activities carried out on HIV/AIDS. Besides, Labour Inspectors carried out 2,218 inspections and produced inspection reports that resulted in 500 warnings.

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## §2: Management of Work Disputes

**580-** Work disputes were individual and collective.

### A: Individual Disputes Management

**581-** In 2016, Labour Inspectors recorded 6,079 individual conflicts on which Full Conciliation (3,377), Partial Conciliation (81), Non Conciliation (1,587) Reports were produced, while the rest were pending (886), closed (140) or the subject of non-conciliation due to the non appearance of parties (8).

**582-** Where there is non-conciliation, some cases are brought before the Courts. The table below renders account of dismissal proceeding trends in some courts.

**Table 2: Wrongful Dismissal Proceedings recorded in some Courts in 2016**

Courts	Matters instituted by Employers	Matters instituted by Employees	Matters Heard	
			In favour of Employees	In favour of Employers
CFI	149	2,848	1,071	249
HC	366	557	302	109
CA	257	136	188	74
SC	242	144	65	40

Source: MINJUSTICE

**583-** Upon analysis, the bulk of the disputes concerned the legality or not of dismissal based on loss of confidence of the employer in respect of his employee in the event of a proceeding against such employee; refusal of issuance of work certificate; sanction for the irregular composition of a court in the absence of assessors.

**584-** Relevant examples are the cases between *La Pharmacie de Garoua SARL* and its former employees Mrs. **DJIKAM Rikiatou**, Messrs **DJAYOU OUMAROU** and **MOUSSA TANKO**<sup>226</sup>. These cases raised the problem of the legal effects of the change of the form of a company

<sup>226</sup> The Court of Appeal, Garoua, Judgment No. 6/Soc of 1 September 2016, *La Pharmacie de Garoua SARL vs. MOUSSA TANKO*; Judgment No. 7/Soc of 1 September 2016, *La Pharmacie de Garoua SARL vs. DJAYOU OUMAROU*; Judgment No. 9/Soc of 1 September 2016, *La Pharmacie de Garoua SARL vs. DJIKAM RIKIATOU*.

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on ongoing work contracts. In these cases, the concerned alleged the abusive nature of their dismissal following their refusal to sign a fixed-term work contract offered after the legal change of the Pharmacy to a limited liability company (Ltd). In upholding the position of the trial judge that the pharmacy was liable for the breach, the CA of the North, in these cases, considered that the employer had violated the provisions of Section 42 (b) of the Labour Code by failing to prove that the new proposals were made in the interest of the company. For the Judge, this interest stems from the impact of the new measures or amendments proposed on the good running of the company or on its survival in the event of difficulty. In this regard, the substantial amendments to the work contracts must be negotiated taking into account the common interest of the Parties<sup>227</sup>.

## **B: Management of Collective Disputes**

**585-** The serenity of the social climate was disrupted by the claims of workers, the observation of strike notice essentially for non-payment of arrears of wages and for the implementation of the technical lay off of workers. This was the case in the Mvog-Betsi Complex due to the negative impact of the bird flu epidemic. A similar situation was observed in the PANAGIOTS MARELIS Company specialized in forestry due to the implementation of technical lay off of some 100 workers on 6 October 2016. Discussions to cope with this crisis led to the signing of a tripartite agreement between the parties.

## **§3: Promotion of Social Dialogue**

**586-** In its traditional tripartite configuration, the Committee for Consultation and Follow-up of Social Dialogue examined at its 9<sup>th</sup> Session held on 1 July 2016, the level of implementation of the recommendations of the previous session of 30 March 2016 relating to unfair dismissal of workers of the SIM Sawmill at Lomie, the exclusion of teachers in the Academic Awards process and the payment of the social contributions of employees of public institutions and enterprises in the public and para-public sector. On this occasion, the low rate of implementation of the resolutions of the Committee, the fragility of the status of staff delegates

<sup>227</sup> Court of Appeal of Garoua, Judgment No. 6/Soc of 1 September 2016, *La Pharmacie de Garoua SARL vs. MOUSSA TANKO*.

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and the financing of social partners were raised.

**587-** To ensure representation of the defence of the interests of workers, elections of staff delegates were organized on 1 March and 8 April 2016 throughout the country. These elections led to the selection of 7,480 staff delegates distributed according to their trade union affiliation as follows<sup>228</sup>:

**Table 2: Classification of National Confederations of Trade Unions after Elections of Staff Delegates in 2016**

Rank	National Trade Unions	Number of Staff Delegates Elected	Percentage
1	<i>Centrale Syndicale des Travailleurs du Cameroun (CSTC)</i>	2,350	31.41%
2	<i>Confédération des Syndicats Autonomes du Cameroun (CSAC)</i>	1,434	19.17%
3	<i>Union Générale des Travailleurs du Cameroun (UGTC)</i>	762	10.19%
4	<i>Union des Syndicats Libre du Cameroun (USLC)</i>	750	10.03%
5	<i>Syndicale Entente Nationale des Travailleurs du Cameroun (ENTENTE)</i>	550	7.35%
6	<i>Confédération Générale des Syndicats des Transports du Cameroun (CGSTC)</i>	398	5.32%
7	<i>Confédération des Travailleurs Unis du Cameroun (CTUC)</i>	370	4.95%
8	Cameroon Confederation of Workers Trade Union (CCWTU)	342	4.57%
9	<i>Confédération Camerounaise du Travail (CCT)</i>	212	2.83%
10	<i>Confédération Générale des Travailleurs-Liberté du Cameroun (CGT-Liberté)</i>	212	2.83%
11	<i>Confédération des Syndicats Indépendants du Cameroun (CSAC)</i>	100	1.34%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** MINTSS

**588-** From 20 to 23 April 2016, a delegation of the NCHRF carried out an investigation mission on the construction site of the Memve'ele Hydroelectric Dam in the South Region, following allegations of violation of the rights of the employees of the dam. After discussions with the administrative and judicial authorities of the South Region, as well as officials and workers of the project, the NCHRF underscored the positive achievements on the protection of the rights of workers, namely the pro-

<sup>228</sup> Order No. 2016/0101/MINTSS/SG of 11 July 2016 to establish the national classification of Confederations of Trade Unions.

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vision of 2 infirmaries, 4 restaurants and camps within the site. But, it also noted shortcomings relating in particular to the non-compliance of the National Collective Agreement on Building Construction, Public Works and Related Activities, non classification of employees by category, non repayment of workers' contributions to the NSIF, unfair dismissals and poor staff management.

## **§4: Discussions on Labour Migrations**

**589-** Government in setting up a technical platform, assessed the possibility of ratifying the International Convention of 18 December 1990 on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

### **A: Technical Platform for the Management of Labour Migration**

**590-** Set up by Order No. 22/CAB/PM of 22 February 2016, the duties of the Technical Platform<sup>229</sup> for the management of labour migration are to conduct studies on the possibility of ratifying the International Convention of 18 December 1990 on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; propose conditions for the implementation of the Joint African Union Programme on Labour Migration, Development and Regional Integration; and to coordinate the preparatory work in view of the holding in Cameroon of the Summit of Ministers of the Sub-Region of the Economic Community of Central African States in charge of labour migration issues.

### **B: Ratification and Implementation of Migration Conventions**

**591-** The Platform conducted on the one hand, a study on the possible ratification of the Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and on the other hand, an assessment of the level of implementation of other Conventions relating to migration, ratified by Cameroon.

<sup>229</sup> Placed under the supervision of the Prime Minister, Head of Government and chaired by the Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Office, the Platform is composed of the Ministers of the Economy, Finance, Labour and social security, Employment, External Relations and the General Delegate for National Security. It meets at least once per quarter and, as necessary, on the invitation of its Chairman. It has a Technical Secretariat responsible for preparing files and for developing minutes; implementing its directives; identifying and proposing actions to be implemented in the framework of the management of labour migration; and conducting any other action entrusted to it by the platform.



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**592-** The Platform expressed reservations on the ratification of the Convention on the protection of migrant workers, mainly because States cannot make reservations on some provisions they deem ambiguous<sup>230</sup>.

**593-** As regards the level of implementation of Conventions related to the question of migrant workers, it stressed, among other things, the need to ensure a better popularization of Convention No. 97 on migrant workers, of Decree No. 68/253 of 10 July 1968, as amended by Decree No. 76/162 of 22 April 1976 to lay down the general conditions of employment of domestic workers and household employees; and to put in place an information collection system on the basis of Convention No. 143 on Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the promotion of equal opportunity and treatment of migrant workers (adopted on 23 June 1975 and ratified in 1978).

## SECTION 3: STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

**594-** The social security system was consolidated through reforms. More so, the NSIF continued with recovery and payment of the social benefits of 900,000 insured persons<sup>231</sup> and handled litigation relating thereto.

### §1: Reform of the Social Security System

**595-** There were 2 types of social security benefits: family allowance and old age pensions, disability and death allowance.

#### A: Family Allowance

**596-** Decree No. 2016/34 of 21 January 2016 establishes the increase of family allowances from CFAF1,800<sup>232</sup> to CFAF2,800<sup>233</sup> per month and per child. Prenatal and Maternity Allowances increase re-

<sup>230</sup> This refers to Article 7 entitled "Non-discrimination with Respect to Rights" : "States Parties undertake, in accordance with the international instruments concerning human rights, to respect and to ensure to all migrant workers and members of their families within their territory or subject to their jurisdiction the rights provided for in the present Convention without distinction of any kind such as to sex, race, colour, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status".

<sup>231</sup> This figure has increased by 165,316 persons compared to the previous year and includes 100,000 voluntary insured persons.

<sup>232</sup> About 2.75 Euros.

<sup>233</sup> About 4.27 Euros.

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spectively from CFAF16,200<sup>234</sup> to CFAF25,200<sup>235</sup> and from CFAF21,600<sup>236</sup> to CFAF33,600<sup>237</sup>.

**597-** For NSIF, this increase in family allowance has no consequence on the rate of contributions. The same applies for medical bills for pregnancy and maternity, which have remained static, at CFAF1,400<sup>238</sup> for maternity and CFAF200<sup>239</sup> for each pregnancy examination.

## **B: Pension for Old Age, Disability, Death, Industrial Accident and Occupational Diseases**

**598-** Decree No. 2016/72 of 15 February 2016 sets the rates of social contributions and the applicable remuneration ceilings in the branches of family allowance, old age, disability and death, industrial accidents and occupational diseases insurance-pensions managed by NSIF.

**599-** Social contributions rates range from 7 to 8.4% and the ceiling of pensionable wages has been raised from CFAF300,000<sup>240</sup> to CFAF750,000<sup>241</sup>.

**600-** It should also be noted that this new ceiling of CFAF 750,000 has a favourable impact on the average monthly remuneration which determines the base for calculating benefits in the Occupational Risks Branch (industrial accidents and occupational diseases). In effect, the re-

<sup>234</sup> About 24.73 Euros.

<sup>235</sup> About 38.47 Euros.

<sup>236</sup> About 32.98 Euros.

<sup>237</sup> About 51.30 Euros.

<sup>238</sup> About 2.14 Euros.

<sup>239</sup> About 0.31 Euros.

<sup>240</sup> About 458.02 Euros.

<sup>241</sup> Before the advent of Decree No. 2016/72 of 15 February 2016, on the branch of pensions, social contributions were set at a rate of 7%, 2.8% paid by the worker and 4.2% by the employer, with a ceiling of CFAF300,000 per month. The new Decree of February 2016, sets the new rates as follows: 8.4% allocated in equal shares, representing 4.2% to the employer and 4.2% to the worker capped at CFAF750,000 (about 1,145.04 Euros) per month.

As regards the implications of the increase of the ceiling of social contributions in the Old Age Pension, Disability and Death Allowance, before the advent of the Decree, the amount of the old age pension was equal to approximately 30% of the worker's average earnings of 3 or 5 years capped at CFAF300,000. With salaries capped at CFAF300,000, a salary greater than or equal to CFAF300,000 will give right to a pension of CFAF90,000 per month. Since the ceiling of salaries has been raised to CFAF750,000, a worker whose salary is greater than or equal to CFAF750,000 may have a pension of at least CFAF225,000 per month.

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muneration used in calculating daily subsistence allowances and other permanent incapacity annuities ranged from CFAF300,000 to CFAF750,000. These benefits also increased substantially.

## §2: Payment of Social Benefits

**601-** Social benefits payments made by NSIF were evaluated at CFAF80,510,941,848<sup>242</sup> for 179,250 beneficiaries who themselves generated 261,975 beneficiaries throughout the country. This amount was split for the payment of family allowances, old age, disability and death pensions, and occupational risks.

### A: Payment of Family Allowances

**602-** The number of beneficiaries as at 31 December 2016 stood at 71,812 on behalf of 149,507 children to which an overall amount of CFAF 8,119, 425,456<sup>243</sup> was paid, representing 40.06% of the general number of beneficiaries and 10.08% of the total amount of benefits paid. These payments are distributed as follows:

**Table 4: Statement on the Payment of Family Allowances as at 31 December 2016**

No.	Categories of Family Allowances	Amount in CFAF	Number of Beneficiaries
1	Maternity Allowance	219,703,200 <sup>244</sup>	7,450
2	Pre-natal Allowances 1 and 2	125,806,600 <sup>245</sup>	12,715
3	Maternity Leave Daily Allowance	3,408,696,503 <sup>246</sup>	6,433
4	Pre-natal, Medical and Delivery Examination Bills	910,400 <sup>247</sup>	2491

Source: NSIF

<sup>242</sup>About 122,917,468.47 Euros.

<sup>243</sup> About 12,396,069.40 Euros.

<sup>244</sup> About 335,424.73 Euros

<sup>245</sup> About 191,272.67 Euros

<sup>246</sup> About 5,204,116.80 Euros

<sup>247</sup> About 1,389.92 Euros

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## B: Payment of Old Age, Disability and Death Pensions

**603-** Old age, disability and death pensions were paid for 101,399 beneficiaries. In addition, 106,176 beneficiaries were paid for a general amount of CFAF69,415,174,633<sup>248</sup>, representing 56.56% of the overall number of beneficiaries and 86.21% of the total amount of benefits paid.

## C: Compensation for Occupational Risks

**604-** As at 31 December 2016, 6,292 beneficiaries of which 6,039 beneficiaries, were supported to the tune of CFAF2,977,318,959<sup>249</sup>. This amount represents 3.36% of all beneficiaries and 3.69% of all social benefits payments. These payments are divided as follows:

**Table 5: Occupational Risks Compensation Statement**

No.	Compensation for Occupational Risks	Amount in CFAF	Number of Beneficiaries
1	Disability Allowances	442,212,610 <sup>250</sup>	399
2	Daily Subsistence Allowances	167,156,037 <sup>251</sup>	1001
3	Funeral fees	4,009,225 <sup>252</sup>	8
4	Survivors benefits	1,180,224,715 <sup>253</sup>	1904
5	Benefits (permanent incapacity, arrears paid)	1,031,604,332 <sup>254</sup>	2,059
6	Benefits calculated after reinsurance	23,938,791 <sup>255</sup>	46
7	Reimbursement of medical and drug costs	121,806,415 <sup>256</sup>	711
8	Medical care	121,806,018 <sup>257</sup>	41
9	Transport fare	682,020 <sup>258</sup>	54
10	Drugs, medical tests and x-rays	2,167,687 <sup>259</sup>	54
11	Prostheses and orthopaedic apparatuses	800,000 <sup>260</sup>	1
12	Re-education, Re-adaptation and Professional Reconversion Costs	53,609 <sup>261</sup>	1
13	Dental Care	8,910,089,100 <sup>262</sup>	1
14	Other costs	466,400 <sup>263</sup>	12

Source: NSIF

<sup>248</sup> About 105,977,365.85 Euros.

<sup>249</sup> About 4,545,525.13 Euros.

<sup>250</sup> About 675,133.76 Euros.

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## §4: Social Security Disputes

**605-** Social security disputes were brought before the Labour Judge and in some cases before the Administrative Judge. Besides, cases of embezzlement of State property arising from social services were submitted to the Criminal Judge.

### A: Labour and Administrative Disputes

**606-** Data analysis from Administrative Courts<sup>264</sup>, establishes that as regards disputes on the base for the recovery of debts, 15 cases were brought before the Administrative Judge, out of which the State won 4 and lost 4.

**607-** The bulk of the disputes in these courts reveals rejection of applications to contest the tax base imposed by the NSIF, for failure to comply with the time limit of 2 months prescribed by the Law to file an appeal, following the explicit or implied rejection of the Appeal Committee of the NSIF<sup>265</sup>. As concerns appeal, 11 matters were brought be-

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<sup>251</sup> About 225,200.06 Euros.

<sup>252</sup> About 6,121.95 Euros.

<sup>253</sup> About 1,801,869.79 Euros.

<sup>254</sup> About 1,574,968.45 Euros.

<sup>255</sup> About 36,547.77 Euros.

<sup>256</sup> About 185,963.99 Euros.

<sup>257</sup> About 3,218.35 Euros.

<sup>258</sup> About 1,041.25 Euros.

<sup>259</sup> About 3,309.45 Euros.

<sup>260</sup> About 1,221.37 Euros.

<sup>261</sup> About 81.85 Euros.

<sup>262</sup> About 13,603,189.47 Euros.

<sup>263</sup> About 712.06 Euros.

<sup>264</sup> These statistics were obtained from data collected from Administrative Courts with the exception of the Administrative Court of the Littoral Region.

<sup>265</sup> In *Groupe Scolaire les MBOHMELTES vs. NSIF*, subject of Appeal No.122/2012 of 28 February 2012, The Administrative Court Yaounde delivered Judgment No. 281/2016/TA-YDE of 12 September 2016; In *Société Immobilière LBOUDI vs. Etat du Cameroun*, subject of Appeal No. 140/2010 of 5 April 2010, The Administrative Court Yaounde delivered Judgment No. 250/2016/TA-YDE of 16 August 2016. In *Cabinet dentaire de la Vallée de Bastos vs. NSIF*, subject of Appeal No. 244/2011 of 14 July 2011, The Administrative Court Yaounde delivered Judgment No. 269/2016/TA-YDE of 6 September 2016.

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fore HCs and the Courts of Appeal, South, Centre and Far North. Among the cases, 8 were tried out of which 1 was won by the workers and 7 by the employer.

## **B: Litigation before the Criminal Judge**

**608-** In the context of actions for forceful recovery instituted against employers, debtors of social contributions since 2015, 13 cases on embezzlement of social contributions of a total amount of CFAF10,366,700,996<sup>266</sup> led to prosecution before the SCC.

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**609-** Clearly, in 2016, focus was on young people to further mobilize them to seize opportunities offered by Government and the private sector, to refer them to placement institutions and to draw up a list of beneficiaries. Furthermore, reforms in the social security sector equally enabled support for the greatest number of the socially insured and the augmenting of the purchasing power of pensioners and beneficiaries as well as their successors. However, there are still lingering challenges relating especially to increasing the budget of the employment observatory and placement institutions, executing court decisions, condemning employers for violation of labour regulation as well as consideration by employers of workers' health and safety.

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<sup>266</sup>About 15,827,024. 42 Euros.

Chapter 5

RIGHT TO CULTURE  
AND LEISURE





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**610-** Government continued to work to make culture a lever of development. To this end, it pursued the preservation of cultural heritage and the creation of opportunities for access to and enjoyment of the right to culture as well as work for the interest of artists. Promoting and developing tourism and leisure also received Government attention.

## SECTION 1: PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

**611-** In order to ensure the sustainability of culture, the legal framework on the protection of cultural property was strengthened through Section 187- 1<sup>267</sup> of the Penal Code on offences related to National Cultural and Natural Heritage, access to the national museum was encouraged and measures taken to promote the national archives and the restoration of the national heritage site in Bimbia.

### §1: Access to the National Museum

**612-** The National Museum remained accessible to all, without any discrimination and hosted several artistic and cultural events. It welcomed over 12,000 visitors in 2016 including 4,307 adults residing in Cameroon, 4,020 non-residents and 3,863 children.

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<sup>267</sup>Section 187-1 provides:

(1) «Whoever:

- unlawfully exploits or exports the natural and cultural property of the State and carries out any other activity that devalues it;
- refuses to include in the inventory or to the record movables and immovable belonging to the State, regional and local authorities or to any person or corporate body and that from a historical, artistic, philosophical, scientific, technical or touristic perspective, has value that makes it worthy of preservation;
- refuses to classify or declassify a cultural and natural property belonging to the State;
- disposes of the classified property either gratuitously or for profit;
- posts notices or installs advertisement equipment on classified monument;
- exports any classified or to-be classified property, save with a temporary exportation authorization issued by the competent authority shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 months to 2 years and with fine from FCFA 100,000 to 3000,000»

(2) Whoever without authorization of the competent authority:

- destroys, depreciates, transforms or excavates, disposes of or pollutes any cultural property;
- displaces or transfers ownership of a to-be classified property and carries out any work other than routine maintenance or ordinary exploitation;
- destroys or carries out restoration or conversion works on classified property;
- erects buildings or creates easements on classified property;
- Carries out archeological excavations and explorations of classified or to-be classified sites;
- exports non-classified property, in particular antique, shall be punished with penalties provided for in Subsection 1 above»

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## §2: Promoting National Archives

**613-** There were stands during cultural events organized by the Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC), the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Book Fair of Yaounde and the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (FENAC) to showcase the work of the National Archives. The celebration of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Day of Archives was marked by a series of activities from 22 to 24 June 2016. During these 3 days, there were guided exhibitions of the National Archives in Yaounde, the importance of archives in the search for historical information was highlighted and public administrations sensitized on their contribution to the archival conservation chain.

## §3: Restoration of the National Heritage Site in Bimbia

**614-** Since the classification of Bimbia as a national heritage site in 2013 due to its cultural and historical importance, Government has not relented its efforts in promoting and restoring it. It is in this vein that MINAC in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States in Yaounde and the charity, "Route des Chefferies", on 23 February 2016 organized at the Reunification Monument in Yaounde, an exhibition dubbed "Bimbia: Remembering the History of Slavery and Slave Trade in Cameroon." The exhibition was an occasion to view pictures, paintings and works of art depicting slavery and slave trade in Cameroon, and also pay homage to those who died in slavery.

## SECTION 2: ACCESS TO AND ENJOYMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

**615-** Government did not derogate from its tradition of organizing and supporting artistic and cultural events. In this vein it provided grants to encourage the organization of cultural and artistic events. A reading culture as well continued to be promoted.

## §1: Organization of Major Cultural and Artistic Events

**616-** Government continued its policy of promoting cultural industries through the organization of cultural and artistic events including the launch of the 2016 Cultural and artistic season and the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of FENAC. These events enabled the population to enjoy their cultural heritage.

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**617-** The launch of the cultural and artistic season organized for the first time was a major highlight of the year. This event organized by MINAC from 19 to 22 January 2016 was a great moment of reunion for Cameroon artists and those involved in the promotion of culture. Several activities were organized during the launch including a movie evening on 20 January at the Cameroon Cultural Centre and a cultural and artistic evening on 22 January in Yaounde, attended by more than 1,000 guests.

**618-** On 18 May 2016, the Multi-purpose Sports Complex in Yaounde hosted a gigantic cultural evening organized as a prelude to the celebration of the 44<sup>th</sup> National Day of Unity of Cameroon on 20 May 2016. The aim of this event was to highlight national unity and honour valiant defense forces engaged in the fight against *Boko Haram*. Similar events took place in the other 9 Regions of the country.

**619-** The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *FENAC* held from 7 to 13 November 2016 in Yaounde. Participants came from the 10 Regions of the country and abroad. Thousands of visitors came to discover and experience Cameroon culture in all its diversity. Activities of *FENAC* 2016 included a Grand Carnival for the opening through the city of Yaounde, modern outdoor music concerts every evening, a Festival of Choral Songs, a Night of Laughter with the best Cameroon humourists, the International Theatre Encounters, a Tribute to African Filmmakers and a Photography Exhibition of important figures of the history of Cameroon.

**620-** During the 35<sup>th</sup> edition of the international festival of music from 18 to 21 June 2016, an Exhibition of Musical Instruments and a Jazz Music Show were organized at the *Institut Français de Yaounde* on 18 June 2016 and there was an exhibition of traditional musical instruments at the Cameroon Cultural Centre on 19 June 2016. In addition, MINAC organized a musical concert at the Central Prison, Yaounde for inmates and a cultural evening at the University Teaching Hospital, Yaounde for patients.

## §2: Promotion of a Reading Culture

**621-** The Agreement MINAC signed with *Libraries without Borders* in 2015 for the acquisition of a mobile library began to bear fruits as MINAC acquired the *Bibliobus* (mobile library) in July 2016. The mo-

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bile library which has 4,000 books, 15 digital tablets, a laptop and a portable server, electronic documentary resources, 40 fun applications and an autonomous *wifi* connection was deployed in several localities of the Centre Region. On 30 December 2016, MINAC further received 1,000 books for the Public Reading Centre and the mobile library.

**622-** The esplanade of the National Museum hosted over 20 events, amongst them, the 2nd edition of the International Book Fair<sup>268</sup> from 2 to 6 June 2016 which welcomed more than 28,000 visitors and was attended by 246 illustrious Cameroon and foreign authors, publishers and readers.

## SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF THE MORAL AND MATERIAL INTERESTS OF ARTISTS

**623-** Efforts in the reform of collective management of copyright continued with a number of decisions, one of them relating to the establishment of an *ad hoc* working group responsible for examining files relating to debts owed MINAC. A Provisional National File of Right Holders was also published and Artists continued to receive awards from the State.

### §1: Reform of Collective Management of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights

**624-** Measures taken by Government geared towards consolidating the collective management of copyright and neighbouring rights mainly concerned instruments<sup>269</sup> which harmonized the process of setting up collec-

<sup>268</sup> This edition was in honour of 6 Cameroon writers, 5 of whom were **MONGO BETI, IBRAHIM NJOYA, Bernard FONLON, Francis BEBEY** and **Ferdinand-Léopold OYONO**.

<sup>269</sup> - Decree No. 2016/4281/PM of 21 September 2016 amending and supplementing certain provisions of Decree No. 2015/3979 / PM of 25 September 2015 laying down detailed rules for the application of Law No. 2000/011 of 19 December 2000 Relating to copyright and neighbouring rights;  
- Order No. 0002/MINAC/CAB of 28 March 2016 laying down the common provisions applicable to the general statutes and regulations and electoral codes of collective management bodies for copyright and neighbouring rights;  
- Order No. 0011/MINAC/CAB of 22 September 2016 to amend and supplement some provisions of Order No. 0002 / MINAC / CAB of 28 March 2016 to lay down the common provisions applicable to the general statutes and regulations and electoral codes of the collective management body of copyright and neighbouring rights;  
- Order No. 0012/MINAC/CAB of 27 September 2016 to lay down the procedures for the constitution and maintenance of the National File of holders of copyright and neighbouring rights;

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tive management bodies in order to ensure effective control of their administrative and financial management and set the framework for monitoring the effective use of State subventions awarded through the Special Appropriation Account to Support Cultural Policies of Cameroon.

## §2: Provisional National File of Right Holders

**625-** MINAC published the provisional national file of right holders<sup>270</sup>; that is, the National File of holders of Copyrights and neighbouring Rights which comprises 6,085 artists<sup>271</sup> and divided into 5 categories of arts. The breakdown by categories is as follows:

- Category A (literary and dramatic arts): 1,836 artists;
- Category B (musical art): 2,429 artists;
- Category C (audiovisual and photographic arts): 1,177 artists;
- Category D (graphic and plastic arts): 503 artists; and
- Category E (related rights): 3,236 artists.

## §3: Handling Claims of Artists

**626-** Handling claims of Artists was made possible by Decision No. 66/MINAC/SG of 13 July 2016 on the establishment, functioning and composition of the *ad hoc* working group responsible for examining files relating to debts owed by MINAC. This permitted all natural or legal persons whose rights had been violated by MINAC to claim compensation. The *ad hoc* Working Group thus established, collected, centralized and examined 70 claims, from 2005 to 2015. At the end of the examination, 18 applications were found to be based on a formal commitment by MINAC amounting to CFAF53,907,387<sup>272</sup>, 28 applications were considered well-founded (subject to filing of supporting documents by the applicants) for a total of CFAF

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- Decision No. 0107/MINAC/CAB of 16 August 2016 on the Rules of Procedure of the Arbitration Commission established by Law No. 2000/011 of 19 December 2000 on copyright and neighbouring rights;
  - Decision No. 0190/MINAC/CAB of 21 December 2016 establishing, organizing and functioning of the Restricted Working Group to monitor the establishment of the National File of holders of copyrights and neighbouring Rights;
  - Memorandum No. 0051/MINAC/CAB/CASSPC of 21 December 2016 specifying the modalities for managing the subsidies granted by Decision No. 0189/MINAC/CAB of 20 December 2016 awarding grants to artists, associations and Cultural enterprises under the Special Account for Support of Cultural Policies of Cameroon

<sup>270</sup> The file is available on the internet at: <http://finatid.cm/>.

<sup>271</sup> In reading the figures per category, note should be taken that some artists belong to several categories of arts.

<sup>272</sup> About 82,301.35 Euros.

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302,259,895<sup>273</sup>, 4 applications amounting to CFAF184,411,125<sup>274</sup> were submitted to hierarchy and 20 applications were dismissed.

**627-** The Arbitration Commission and the Supervisory Commission of the Collective Management Bodies created in 2015 became operational with the appointment of their respective Presidents and members by Decisions Nos. 8/MINAC/CAB and 9/MINAC/CAB of 27 January 2016 of the Minister of Arts and Culture.

## **§4: Support to Artists**

**628-** As in previous years, funds were allocated to promote the work of Artists and their talents recognized through Awards.

### **A: Financial Support to Artists**

**629-** The tradition of providing financial support to artists, associations and cultural enterprises under the Special Appropriations Account to Support Cultural Policies of Cameroon, (CASSPC) was maintained. Support was also given from CASSPC to sick artists as well as to their families in case of death. The following tables presents statistics on beneficiaries of CASSPC in the first and second halves of 2016:

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<sup>273</sup> About 461,465.49 Euros.

<sup>274</sup> About 281,543.70 Euros.

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**Table 1: Financial Support from CASSPC to Artists, Associations and Cultural enterprises in 2016 for cultural and artistic events**

Categories	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester		2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	
	Number of beneficiaries	Amount in CFA F	Number of beneficiaries	Amount in CFA F
Support for musical art	34	37,200,000 <sup>275</sup>	113	74,900,000 <sup>276</sup>
Support for literature and drama	4	5,500,000 <sup>277</sup>	30	12,538,000 <sup>278</sup>
Support for cinema and audiovisual industry	18	25,000,000 <sup>279</sup>	35	35,000,000 <sup>280</sup>
Support for festivals and other cultural events	59	253,385,729 <sup>281</sup>	60	75,210,720 <sup>282</sup>
Support for international cultural events	0	0	8	4,302,720 <sup>283</sup>
Purchase of books for the Public Reading Centre	4	1 736 250 <sup>284</sup>	0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>322,821,979<sup>285</sup></b>	<b>246</b>	<b>201,951,440<sup>286</sup></b>
<b>General total of beneficiaries</b>			<b>365</b>	
<b>Global Amount Allocated</b>			<b>541,885,419</b>	

Source: MINAC

**630-** A total of CFAF 17,112,000<sup>275</sup> from CASSPC was given to 8 sick artists (CFAF 1,837,000<sup>276</sup>) and for assistance for the funeral of artists and to their descendants (CFAF 15,275,000<sup>277</sup>) for some 23 beneficiaries.

<sup>275</sup> About 26,125.19 Euros

<sup>276</sup> About 2,804.58 Euros

<sup>277</sup> About 23,320.61 Euros

<sup>278</sup> About 56,793.89 Euros

<sup>279</sup> About 114,351.15 Euros.

<sup>280</sup> About 8,396.95 Euros

<sup>281</sup> About 19,141.98 Euros

<sup>282</sup> About 38,167.94 Euros

<sup>283</sup> About 53,435.11 Euros

<sup>284</sup> About 3856,848.44 Euros

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## B: Awards to Artists

**631-** The talents of Artists in promoting Arts and culture was compensated during *FENAC* 2016 as the Head of State awarded honorary distinctions to more than 130 Cameroon Artists, including Musicians (**Manu DIBANGO, TALLA André-Marie, EKO ROOSEVELT, Charlotte DIPANDA** and the group **X-Maleya**), Writers (**Guillaume OYONO MBIA, Calixte BEYALA**), Poets, Storytellers and Actors (**Ali MVONDO**).

**632-** The National Literary Contest for Young Authors was organized from 18 February to 18 March 2016, in order to encourage literary creation of young persons in their thirties. At the end of this competition in which 185 candidates took part, the first 10 were rewarded on 5 June 2016.

## SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND LEISURE

**633-** Enhancing visibility, promoting delivery of quality services through capacity development, organizing leisure activities and strengthening leisure infrastructure remained a priority to Government in the tourism and leisure sectors.

**634-** In order to better promote and develop the tourism and leisure sectors, Law No. 2016/6 of 18 April 2016 governing tourism and leisure activities in Cameroon was promulgated. This is an improvement on the former law as it highlights ecotourism which is key to sustainable tourism, makes provision for the organization and follow up of training schools in the area of tourism, hotel and leisure, and reinforces preventive measures linked to the security and protection of tourists.

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<sup>285</sup> About 114,825,53 Euros

<sup>286</sup> About 6,569.04 Euros

<sup>287</sup> About 2,650.76 Euros

<sup>288</sup> About 492,857.98Euros

<sup>289</sup> About 308,322.81Euros



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## §1: Enhancing Visibility

**635-** The Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL) continued to work to improve on tourist inflow by carrying out campaigns to promote the tourism and leisure potential of the country at international and national events such as workshops, trade fairs and exhibitions.

**636-** At the International level, MINTOUL attended the International Tourism Fair in Madrid, Spain in January 2016, The Berlin ITB Show in Germany in March 2016, the International Tourism Fair in Tunis, Tunisia, in April 2016 and at the Ouagadougou International Crafts Fair in November 2016.

**637-** At the national level, its promotional activities at events included the International Tourism Development Fair held in Douala in March 2016, the Exhibition of Government Action/Forum on Government Action dubbed “Cameroon’s window”, in August 2016, the International Handicraft Show of Cameroon in April 2016 and at the Women’s AFCON village in Limbe from 25 November to 3 December 2016.

**638-** On the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Women’s AFCON 2016, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization **TALEB RIFAI**, paid an official visit to Cameroon from 19 au 22 November 2016. He addressed several areas of cooperation with Government such as capacity development and training of Stakeholders, statistics and data collection and visa facilitation for tourists. He reiterated the need to set up a Tourism Satellite Account in Cameroon and the support of the Organization to Cameroon. He further stressed that “Cameroon is not alone and we should let the world know that it is a safe destination to be visited”.

## §2: Consolidating Service Delivery through Capacity Development

**639-** The strategy of enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to meet the challenges of having adequate quality staff to improve on service delivery and keep the country as an attractive tourist destination was pursued. Measures were also taken to improve on training programmes.

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**640-** The organization of the Women's AFCON in 2016 and the Men's AFCON scheduled for 2019 were opportunities that spurred capacity building activities. To this end, 3 training seminars to enhance the capacity of tourism stakeholders in the hotel, catering, tourism guide, travel agencies sectors on security, reception and quality of services and hygiene were organized. The Seminars were held in Buea from 15 to 17 September 2016, in Yaounde from 16 to 17 November 2016 and in Douala from 14 to 15 December 2016.

**641-** Also, a workshop for the harmonization of training programmes and the validation of skills acquired and experience in the tourism, hotel and leisure sectors was organized at the Conference Centre, Yaounde from 17 to 18 November 2016 and another for the implementation of vocational training programmes in tourism, hotels and leisure in Buea from 25 to 26 November 2016. The capacity of 50 leisure and holiday monitors was also developed through a training workshop held from 27 to 30 June 2016 in Yaounde.

### §3: Organization of Tourism and Leisure Activities

**642-** Diverse leisure activities were carried out for different categories of persons. The holding of 2 summer camps in Bafoussam and Garoua from 16 to 31 August 2016 for 200 children aged 12 to 15 years was an opportunity for youths to learn and exchange experiences. The promotion of healthy, educational leisure activities in schools and in the workplace was embarked upon.

### §4: Strengthening Tourism and Leisure Infrastructure

**643-** Government's concern to expand the tourism and leisure sectors led to an increase in the number of businesses authorized to operate. Hence, the number of hotels rose from 678 in 2015 to 748 in 2016, restaurants increased from 410 in 2015 to 429 in 2016 while tourism agencies evolved from 241 in 2015 to 254 in 2016 and the number of leisure establishments from 1,467 in 2015 to 1,494 in 2016. Furthermore, public and private hotels selected to host the Women's AFCON were given a face lift. This included the Atlantic Beach Hotel in Limbe, and the Mountain Hotel and Parliamentarian Flats in Buea. The enhancement of tourism infrastructure notwithstanding, access to some touristic sites remained a challenge due to bad roads.

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**644-** The strengthening of the legal framework for the promotion of the right to culture and leisure, the identification of Artists through the Provisional National File of Right Holders and handling claims of Artists was a great leap forward in 2016. However, access to some touristic sites needs to be improved upon.



**Chapter** **6**  
**RIGHT TO LANDED  
PROPERTY**



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**645-** Government continued to guarantee access to landed property and stamp out any violation thereto.

## SECTION 1: GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO LAND

**646-** In a bid to guarantee access to land, Government conducted reform of the regulatory framework, modernized Lands and Survey services, and improved issuance of land titles.

### §1: Regulatory Framework Reform

**647-** The following 2 instruments reflect Government's determination to legally guide land issues: Decree No. 2016/1246/PM of 23 May 2016 to lay down the terms and conditions of exercise of some powers transferred by the State to Councils on land development, and Decree No. 2016/1431/PM of 27 May 2016 on private property transactions.

**648-** The first instrument provides that henceforth, Councils shall, without prejudice to the responsibilities and prerogatives of the State, have new powers especially to draw up and implement general town planning, soil use and construction rules; design protection measures and security boundaries to be taken into account in town planning documents, the right to visit construction sites and the right to communicate documents; supervise and conduct technical control on the construction of art works, strategic studies on land development operations.

**649-** The second instrument lays down the procedure for sale, free transfer or exchange of property between individuals.

### §2: Modernization of Lands and Survey Services

**650-** Efforts undertaken in 2015 under the Modernization of Survey and Business Climate Support Project<sup>290</sup> continued to produce results.

**651-** The report of studies on the computerization of Survey Services was validated in 2016. It confirms the idea that land data storage, analysis, sharing and security are the cardinal points in modernizing Survey services. The major challenge is to consolidate the reliability of land

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<sup>290</sup>See 2015 Report, § 802, 803 and 804

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titles and lease in order to win back the confidence of banks, digitalize 120,000 land titles and build a databank of 240,000 plots in Yaounde, Douala, Garoua, and Maroua by December 2017.

**652-** A national survey was conducted and 721 survey network points were planted resulting in an increase of points from 1,159 to 1,980 out of the 20,025 to be planted. Studies are underway to produce a large scale digital map of all the Councils of the country.

**653-** The demarcation of administrative units is already effective in the 10 Regional Headquarters and the acquisition of 12 Total Stations<sup>291</sup> to improve technical equipment and guarantee access of users to land.

### §3: Issuance of Land Title

**654-** In 2016, some 7,476 land titles were issued of which 1,930 to women, representing 25.81%. This figure shows a net drop compared to 2015 during which 8,712 land titles were issued and of which 4,783 to women.

**655-** Furthermore, 205 provisional concession files and 84 final concession files were processed and correspond respectively to a surface area of 246ha 17a 18ca and 2,644ha 07a 74ca.

## SECTION 2: PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLATION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

**656-** Government policy, especially as regards compensation of expropriated population for public utility and land disputes takes into consideration protection against violation of property rights.

### §1: Compensation of Expropriated Population

**657-** People affected by major projects under the GESP received full compensation amounting to CFAF4,258,227,782<sup>292</sup>, broken down as follows: road projects (CFAF1,396,155,970<sup>293</sup>), electrification projects

<sup>291</sup> An instrument used to measure angles and distances during all topographic works.

<sup>292</sup> About 6,501,111.12 Euros

<sup>293</sup> About 2,131,535.83 Euros



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(CFAF40,263,264<sup>294</sup>), oil projects (CFAF58,354,000<sup>295</sup>), securing landed property owned by State Universities (CFAF148,161,715<sup>296</sup>), land reserves (CFAF1,865,413,699<sup>297</sup>), Japoma stadium project (CFAF690,274,171<sup>298</sup>), development of the access road to Ekoko II settlement site (CFAF59,604,963<sup>299</sup>), and the construction of the Yaounde-Douala motorway (CFAF1,028,000,000<sup>300</sup>).

## §2: Land Disputes

**658-** Land disputes were filled before criminal courts and Administrative Courts (AC).

### A: Land Disputes before Criminal Courts

**659-** There is a large number of land disputes before criminal courts. At the CFI, Douala-Bonanjo alone, 46 matters on violation of property rights were registered in 2016. Out of this number, 29 judgments to expropriate were delivered while 17 are pending.

**660-** The Supreme Court also protects landed property. Examples include Judgment No. 34/P of 17 March 2016 in **EKOBO Zacharie vs. NDAPTCHE Paul**. In this matter, the Supreme Court rejected an argument by the Applicant based on the absence of criminal responsibility under section 74 of PC. Indeed, in challenging criminal Judgment No. 602/P delivered on 13 December 2012 by the CA, Littoral, **EKOBO Zacharie** explained that if the Civil Claimant had responded to the summons by the traditional rulers and the Gendarmerie to justify his ownership of the land in contention, he would not have built a fence around the said land.

**661-** In rejecting this ground of appeal, the SC held that the Appellant did not obtain the prior authorization of the owner of the land and that since the issuance of Judgment No. 405/COR delivered on 3 February

<sup>294</sup>About 61,470.63 Euros

<sup>295</sup>About 89,090.08 Euros

<sup>296</sup>About 226,201.09 Euros

<sup>297</sup>About 2,847,959.85 Euros

<sup>298</sup>About 1,053,853.70 Euros

<sup>299</sup>About 90,999.94 Euros

<sup>300</sup>About 1,569,465.65 Euros

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2011 by the CFI, Douala-Ndokoti that found him guilty of violation of property, **EKOBO Zacharie** who was well-informed of his lack of ownership, did not take any action to restore the right of ownership of the land to **NDAPTCHE Paul**.

## **B: Land Disputes before Administrative Courts**

**662-** Some 1,300 applications and 1,634 disputes were examined. In the latter case, 268 matters were forwarded to AC, and 68 judgments were delivered against the State. Out of the 54 matters filed before the Administrative Bench of the SC, 44 judgments were delivered in favour of the State.

**663-** An analysis of the judgments delivered by AC clearly shows the obligation to first file an application to the administrative authority concerned which may give rise to either an action for annulment of the land title or action for rectification of the said title.

### **1) Obligation of a prior Application**

**664-** Before a complaint is filed before an AC, an application must first be filed to the Minister of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure to report the alleged administrative deed that violates the Land Law.

**665-** The said obligation which is a matter of public policy was recalled in **ENGOLO Antoine and Cameroon Baptist Convention vs. the State of Cameroon**<sup>301</sup>. In the matter, the AC held that the Minister of State Property acted *ultra vires* by signing Order No. 725 of 14 October 2010 to withdraw land titles Nos. 33429 and 35445 belonging to **ENGOLO Antoine** and **Cameroon Baptist Convention** respectively, whereas the said parties filed an application each to her on 21 February 2007 and 9 October 2009. The administrative authority was held wrong not to have considered Judgment No. 74 of 22 December 1994 delivered by the CA, Centre Region in which Mrs. **ETOUNDI ES-SAMA Cyrille** was disqualified as heir to late **EBANGA Jean-Jacques** (father of **ENGOLO Antoine**). In reaction to the said prior applications, the Ministry of State Property remained silent on the alleged claims and instead signed the Order referred to above which the AC cancelled.

<sup>301</sup> Judgment No. 5/2016/TA-YDE of 5 January 2016 delivered by the AC, Yaounde

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## 2) Application for Cancellation

**666-** The annulment of a land title may be made by an AC each time that one or more errors made by the Ministry of State Property or case of fraud by the beneficiary are discovered to have been committed during the establishment of the land title. This is the case of non-transfer of land title by the Administration, failure to consider prior development of the land or where there are more than one land titles on the same piece of land.

### a) Annulment based on non-transfer of land title

**667-** Failure to transfer a land title by an Administration may result in the annulment of a land title established fraudulently for a second buyer. In **MAKUATE Suzanne vs. the State of Cameroon**<sup>302</sup>, the AC, Yaounde annulled land title No. 14619/Mfoundi fraudulently issued **MBE Jean** on 17 August 2008, whereas the seller, **PAGBE II Jean Marc** had previously transferred the said piece of land to **MAKUATE Suzanne** as per deeds of Notary Public of 3 July and 2 November 2007. The fault committed by the Administration was upheld on the ground that **MAKUATE Suzanne** was bound to transfer the said land title to the first buyer and not the second.

### b) Annulment based on Non-consideration of prior Development of Land

**668-** An administrative fault further resulted in the annulment of a land title in **FOPA Lucas vs. the State of Cameroon**<sup>303</sup>. In the matter, the AC held that the Lands and Surveys department committed a fault in issuing a land title to **DIEFOUO Rogobert** without taking into consideration the development made on the disputed piece of land by **FOPA Lucas** as required by Article 9 of Decree No. 76/165 of 27 April 1976 to lay down the conditions for obtaining a land title.

### c) Annulment based on many Land Titles on the same Land

<sup>302</sup> Judgment No. 331/2016/TA-YDE of 18 October 2016 delivered by the AC, Yaounde

<sup>303</sup> Judgment No. 18/TA/BFM/2016 of 24 October 2016 delivered by the AC, Bafoussam

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**669-** The unassailable, intangible and final nature of a land title, in particular where one of the titles challenged was issued subsequently to the person who is challenging the validity, seems to be questionable as per Article 2 (new) (6) (1) of Decree No. 2005/481 of 16 October 2005 to amend and supplement some provisions of Decree No. 76-165 of 27 April 1976. The said article provides that where many land titles have been issued on the same land, they shall all be annulled as of right and the procedures shall be re-examined to determine the legitimate owner. A new land title shall then be issued the legitimate owner.

**670-** Such was the case in **Mrs. MEDJEUMEN TCHAKOUNTE Emilienne vs. the State of Cameroon**<sup>304</sup>. In the matter, although the AC annulled Order No. 953/Y.7/MINDAF/D100 of 14 November 2007 which annulled on ground of public policy land title No. 28911/Mfoundi of 31 August 2000 and land title No. 35949/Mfoundi of 11 July 2006 issued on the same land to **Mrs. MEDJEUMEN TCHAKOUNTE Emilienne** and **ENGOLO Jean Calvin** respectively, the legitimate rights of **Mrs. MEDJEUMEN TCHAKOUNTE Emilienne** were only restored after establishing that **ENGOLO Jean Calvin** was fraudulently issued the said land title.

**671-** The restoration of legitimate rights that obviously compromises the enjoyment of the rights of the first buyer, is generally done after a lengthy procedure, even though the fact that the first land title had existed before the establishment of fraud of the second title could have served as a basis of appreciation of the legality of the land title in dispute.

**672-** In order to correct the prejudice suffered by the initial owner, the Minister of State Property has instructed that the competent Senior Divisional Officer conducts a prior re-examination of procedures for obtaining the challenged land title. At the end of such re-examination, fraudulently issued land titles are annulled. However, an urgent review of the regulatory provisions referred to above will further protect the legal occupation of land by holders of land title. This was one of the recommendations made at the end of a workshop on land disputes organized in Kribi from 22 to 23 September 2016 by the Cameroon Bar Association within the framework of the PBGE referred to above. The workshop brought together 25 Judicial and Legal Officers, 10 Lawyers,

<sup>304</sup> Judgment No. 328/2016/TA-YDE of 8 November 2016 delivered by the AC, Yaounde

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and 5 Senior Officials from *MINDCAF*. Participants further recommended the computerization of the land data conservation system.

### 3) Application for Rectification

**673-** Land title is rectified where a fault was committed by the Ministry of State Property during the procedure for obtaining the land title and mindful of the authentic deeds produced. In **ESSONO OVA MBESSA vs. the State of Cameroon**<sup>305</sup>, land title No. 5900/Mfoundi of 3 November 1976 issued late **ESSONO Gabriel** was rectified by adding the name of one of his children, **ESSONO OVA MBESSA**<sup>306</sup>.

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**674-** On the whole, although land disputes abound and remain a source of obvious distress for land owners, Government has made significant efforts to guarantee their rights. Completion of the Modernization of Cadastral and Business Climate Project through computerization of Survey Services and issuance of land title will increase the reliability of land titles that will directly result in huge financing of land projects by banks.

<sup>305</sup> Judgment No. 80/2016/TA-YDE of 8 March 2016 delivered by the AC, Yaounde

<sup>306</sup> The same holds true in Mrs. **NGOUMOU ELOUNDOU Marie** and **ELOUNDOU Isidore** vs. the State of Cameroon. Claiming that the registration procedure of land title No. 25683/Mfoundi issued **MBARGA ESSOMBA Christophe** and his children was done after the names of **EBODE Dieudonné**, **ESSOMBA ELOUNDOU**, **NGONO MVIE Engelbert**, Mrs. **MENDANA EFFA Odile** and **MBARGA Christophe** had been removed, the AC, Yaounde annulled the land title in part by substituting the names of **NOMO Marie Thérèse**, **ESSOMBA Jean Chrisostome**, **MBARGA ESSOMBA Christophe**, **ESSOMBA Martin**, **MBARGA MBARGA Christophe**, **MBARGA MBEZELLE Jean Claude** and **OTTOU ONANA Marcel** with those of **EBODE Dieudonné**, **ESSOMBA ELOUNDOU**, **NGONO MVIE Engelbert**, Mrs. **MENDANA EFFA Odile** and **MBARGA Christophe**.



Chapter

7

RIGHT TO A HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT





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**675-** The unanimous adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015 was reflected by the massive and rapid adhesion of States<sup>307</sup> thereto. Cameroon ratified the instrument on 29 July 2016<sup>308</sup>. To implement the Agreement and other ratified conventions, Cameroon continued to carry out actions on the sustainable management of biodiversity and control of pollution, pollutants and chemical and/or dangerous substances.

## SECTION 1: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

**676-** To ensure sustainable management of biodiversity, focus was on conservation operations on vegetation cover, and protection of animal and plant species.

### §1: Conservation of Vegetation Cover

**677-** Conservation of vegetation cover continued through operation “Green Sahel”, community participation in nature restoration, and implementation of climate change mitigation and resilience programmes within the framework of the Paris Agreement.

#### A: Operation “Green Sahel”

**678-** Operation “Green Sahel” continued through restoration of 2,450 ha of degraded land, corresponding to 9 sites of 250 ha each and a site of 200 ha in the Far North Region. Also, 290,000 seedlings were planted. Emphasis was laid on supporting local councils to ensure security, maintenance of old sites and watering of new sites. In a bid to reduce the excessive use of firewood, 11,500 improved stoves were produced and distributed in the Far North Region following a seminar on how to use them.

**679-** Similarly, as part of development of the catchment basin of River Benoue in Garoua III Council, 5,000 seedlings were planted to stabilize the banks of the river. The awareness of Councils in Far North Region where Operation “Green Sahel” is located was raised on development and monitoring actions on the said sites and forest reserves transferred

<sup>307</sup> On 4 November 2016, this instrument entered into force in 141 UN member States.

<sup>308</sup> After signing the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016, the President of the Republic signed Decree No. 2016/320 of 12 July 2016, to ratify the said Agreement. The Instrument of ratification was then deposited on 29 July 2016.

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to the Councils concerned.

## **B: Community-driven Restoration of Nature**

**680-** The community-driven restoration<sup>309</sup> of nature was conducted through planting of trees in some schools in the 10 Regions of the country by “*clubs des amis de la nature et reboisement*”, evaluation of developed green areas such as the Tignere Green Area in Adamawa Region with the support of *MINEPDED*, and the establishment of a platform for Focal Points of Multilateral Agreements on the Environment for community-driven management of environmental information<sup>310</sup>.

## **§2: Poaching and Illicit Trafficking Control of Animal and Plant Species**

**681-** Actions taken to protect animal species included capacity building of stakeholders and repression.

### **A: Capacity Building of Stakeholders**

**682-** Capacity building activities comprised frequent involvement of stakeholders at the centre of poaching control activities; such as, indigenous peoples and staff from the transport and logistics sectors.

**683-** From 24 to 28 February 2016, a Regional Workshop for Central and West Africa was organized in Limbe to include indigenous peoples and local communities in controlling illegal trade of wildlife species. The workshop that was jointly organized by International Institute for Environment and Development, *le Réseau de Surveillance du Commerce des Espèces de Faune et de Flore sauvage*, the Regional Programme for Central Africa, and the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, enabled representatives from indigenous peoples support organizations to be educated on models of governance that involve them in the sustainable management of protected species.

**684-** Some 65 staff from the transport and logistics sector representing air transport companies, institutions in charge of control, freight, logistics,

<sup>309</sup> Such participation is reflected in the involvement of the population in choosing the sites, planting, tree maintenance, and monitoring of the sites (Labour-intensive approach).

<sup>310</sup> Decision No. 62/D/MINEPDED/SG/CIDE of 27 April 2016 to set up and lay down the organization and functioning of the National Information sharing Platform on Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development

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and administrations representing Customs services, the Police, and *MINFOF* were trained in Douala from 14 to 15 April 2016 as part of control of illegal transportation of wild animal and plant species.

## **B: Suppression Measures**

**685-** Suppression measures included stepping up the surveillance mechanisms of parks, and other specific actions. Surveillance mechanisms consisted in the training and distribution of response equipment to species protection agents<sup>311</sup>. With the technical and financial support of the German Cooperation/GIZ and NCHRF, *MINFOF* field agents were trained from 27 to 28 October 2016 in Bertoua on respect for Human Rights and best practices to be applied in poaching control and enforcement of the wildlife law.

**686-** Intensifying the surveillance mechanism made it possible to seize hunting trophies. On 19 April 2016, some 2,000 elephant tusks and 1,753 art objects in ivory were seized from poachers and other traffickers and burnt during a symbolic ceremony presided upon by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, with many members of Government, the people's representatives, and the Ambassador of the United States of America to the United Nations in attendance.

**687-** Furthermore, out of 155 forestry offences identified, 42 resulted in suspension of licence, 39 formal notices, 8 fines, 22 pending before the National Control Brigade, and 3 before the courts on which judgments have been delivered.

**688-** Besides, 33 wildlife offences were identified in 2016 and the courts delivered judgments in 56 matters, ordering the convicted persons to pay damages to *MINFOF*.

## **SECTION 2: CONTROL OF POLLUTION, POLLUTANTS AND CHEMICAL AND/OR DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES**

**689-** This section deals with environmental evaluation, rational waste management, environmental inspection, and environmental disputes.

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<sup>311</sup> The following equipment were distributed to *MINFOF* agents by partners: 11 vehicles were given to *MINFOF* as part of C2D; 3 vehicles and 5 motorcycles were given to agents of the Bouba-Ndjidda Park by the African Development Bank.

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## §1: Environmental Evaluation

**690-** Environmental evaluations were carried out during 9 sessions of the Interministerial Committee on the Environment during which 68 environmental compliance certificates were awarded. Contractual provisions were completed for the conduct of a socio-economic and environmental impact study of the spread of water hyacinth in the area between the water treatment station of Akomnyada and the Olama Bridge.

## §2: Rational Waste Management

**691-** In addition to discussions on wastes and the issuance of environmental permits, rational waste management consisted in the continued ban on the use of non-biodegradable plastic packaging.

### A: Discussions on Wastes

**692-** The first National Forum on Wastes organized by *MINEPDED* from 27 to 28 April 2016 in Yaounde focused on the theme Waste Management: towards a circular economy.

**693-** This Forum served as a conducive discussion framework between Industrialists, Councils, sector administrations, international organizations, Parliamentarians, and scholars in a bid to stir up discussions on best practices so as to come out with a “green” waste management and environment-friendly policy.

**694-** The following recommendations were made at the end of deliberations:

- amend the National Waste Management Strategy towards a circular economy;
- conduct a study on the organization and functioning of a National Clearinghouse for Waste Exchange;
- include waste management in school and university syllabuses; and
- establish a Circular Economy Agency in charge of conducting statistical studies, research/development, organizing awareness-raising actions in collaboration with all the stakeholders involved in

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sorting, reuse, recycling and promoting renewable energy.

**695-** At the end of the meeting, *MINEPDED* organized an intersector discussion workshop on 11 August 2016 in Yaounde on the establishment of a National Clearinghouse for Waste Exchange. The main resolution taken at the workshop was to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of the said Exchange.

## **B: Issuance of Environmental Permits on Wastes**

**696-** The Committee that examined the application files for Environmental Permits held 10 sessions at the end of which 87 Environmental Permits were issued broken down as follows: 7 permits on dangerous waste management, 24 on non-dangerous waste management, 54 on importation, manufacture and marketing of non-biodegradable packaging, and 2 on electric, electronic and household waste management.

## **C: Non-compliant Plastic Packaging Control**

**697-** Some 1,139 missions were conducted to control compliance of plastic packaging by Regional and Divisional Committees set up for that purpose, and by the National Environmental Inspection Brigade. The operation resulted in 108 detentions, 82 case files on environmental offences, seizure of 442,827.1kg of non-compliant packaging, and recovery of CFAF12,299,300<sup>312</sup> as fines paid by offenders.

## **§3: Environmental Inspection**

**698-** In the reference year, 1,603 joint inspections were conducted by the National Environmental Inspection Brigade and by Regional Brigades. The inspections resulted in 817 Environmental Inspection Reports and 106 case files on environmental offences.

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<sup>312</sup> About 18,777.56 Euros.

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## §4: Environmental Disputes

**699-** Regarding environmental disputes, there were 3 matters on possession and marketing of non-compliant plastic packaging<sup>313</sup> while 6 matters were on challenging the notification of payment of a fine<sup>314</sup>.

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**700-** On the whole, the ratification of the Agreement on Climate Change is a major undertaking of the State as part of climate change control. Like other African countries, Cameroon awaits fulfilment of expectations raised by the excitement on the adoption of the instrument.

<sup>313</sup> CFI, Yaounde *MINEPDED vs. NWAKUBA AZUBUKE*; *MINEPDED vs. AKADAMLA Martin*; *MINEPDED vs. MOUSSA HAMADOU*.

<sup>314</sup> *OK Plast vs. The State of Cameroon (MINEPDED)* pending before the AC, Douala (Wouri) and 5 other matters pending before the AC, Yaounde, in particular *WOUNBA Guy vs. The State of Cameroon (MINEPDED)*; *YOUNBI vs. The State of Cameroon (MINEPDED)*; *Toungou Hôtel vs. The State of Cameroon (MINEPDED)*; *La Référence Sarl vs. the State of Cameroon (MINEPDED)*; *MVOG NKOULOU vs. the State of Cameroon (MINEPDED)*.

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## CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

**701-** Government made significant efforts to guarantee the people access to education, health, food, water, energy and decent housing. Giant strides made in the execution of *PANEJ* and *PTS-Jeun* will enhance access of youths to employment. The ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change on 12 July 2016 reflects the streamlining of sustainable development requirements.

**702-** However, such efforts are not enough since there are still challenges on maternal and infant mortality, universal health insurance for the people, the low doctor/patient ratio, teacher/student ratio at all levels of education, difficult access to housing loan for the underprivileged population, and persistence of some epizootics and food insecurity in areas with loose soils and those affected by acts of *Boko Haram*.

**703-** Addressing all these challenges in addition to consolidating protection of fishing areas and tightening regulations against illegal fishing will make it possible for a better enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.





## PART THREE

# CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SPECIFIC RIGHTS



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART THREE

**704-** In 2016, specific rights were guaranteed through adoption of a new PC with provisions that consolidate protection of the rights of children and women amongst others.

**705-** The setting up of a Drafting Committee of the National Charter on Child Protection online, and a National Platform on Child Protection in Cameroon, including children in emergency situations, fall in line with consolidating protection of the rights of the child.

**706-** Difficulties in pooling resources to meet the needs of thousands of refugees in Cameroon have reoriented response measures notably with the Framework Convention on health coverage of refugees signed between Cameroon and the UNHCR.

**707-** Part Three of this Report discusses the following issues:

- Human Rights and Combating Terrorism;
- Promotion of Good Governance and Anti-corruption;
- Detention Conditions;
- Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Socially Vulnerable Persons;
- Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights; and
- Protection of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.



Chapter

1

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMBATING TERRORISM



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**708-** The year 2016 was marked by the resurgence of terrorist attacks by *Boko Haram* and subsequent Human Rights violation. In a bid to consolidate security of persons and property, integrity of the national territory and peace, Government stepped up multi-faceted measures taken to combat terrorism while respecting Human Rights including in the prosecution of offenders.

## SECTION 1: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION BY *BOKO HARAM*

**709-** Repeated incursions by members of *Boko Haram* and subsequent attacks resulted in heavy casualties. Such acts raised the issue of child victims of the atrocities of terrorism.

### §1: Attacks by *Boko Haram*

**710-** Statistics on acts of terrorism committed by *Boko Haram* show the variety of its activities and its ability to cause trouble. Some 30 attacks against forces of law and order, 115 incursions into Cameroon territory, 29 suicide attacks carried out against 28 in 2015, and 20 mine accidents were identified<sup>315</sup>. January 2016 seemed to have been the deadliest month with more than 15 terrorist attacks carried out by *Boko Haram*<sup>316</sup>.

### §2: Balance-sheet of *Boko Haram* Atrocities

**711-** The attacks resulted in heavy casualties. Some 3,803 human victims amongst whom 6 National

Security staff and 3,797 civilians including women and children were identified<sup>317</sup>.

**712-** Some 6,674 head of cattle was stolen by *Boko Haram* while 16 cases of destruction of property were identified. In addition, there was a decline in agricultural activity with a drop of about 20% of the cereals production area compared to the situation before *Boko Haram* incursions, thereby aggravating food insecurity and malnutrition of children.

<sup>315</sup> Source: DGSN statistics, March 2017.

<sup>316</sup> On 13 January 2016, for example, 13 persons were killed in a suicide attack in Kouyape, in a Mosque during a prayer session. Besides, 9 persons were kidnapped and 6 fire outbreaks on homes identified. On 25 January 2016, 4 suicide attacks were carried out almost simultaneously in Bodo market square, 15km from Afade in Logone-and-Chari Division with more than 30 persons killed and about 60 wounded.

<sup>317</sup> Source: DGSN, March 2017

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## §3: Association of Children to *Boko Haram*

**713-** Cases of children who were victims of kidnapping, forced enrolment into armed groups, used as human bombs and sexual objects were identified. In this connection, they became direct or collateral victims of the conflict. The arrest of some of these children raised the problem of their criminal responsibility since Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism is silent on the issue. The anti-terrorist Law does not provide specific provisions for the prosecution of children involved or associated to terrorist activities. Furthermore, only Military Tribunals have jurisdiction to prosecute and punish authors of acts of terrorism. However, children cannot be prosecuted before same. In this context, there was a negative conflict of jurisdiction between ordinary courts and Military Tribunals.

**714-** After discussions, stakeholders of the criminal chain agreed that children involved or associated to terrorist groups should be considered not as authors of offences but as victims in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups<sup>318</sup>.

## SECTION 2: ANTI-TERRORISM MEASURES

**715-** Combating terrorism required readjustment of measures used until then. The normative framework was stepped up to ensure regulation and control in the use of arms. Structural and operational measures were equally taken.

### §1: Normative Framework

**716-** With the adoption of Law No. 2016/15 of 14 December 2016 governing firearms and munitions in Cameroon, the legal arsenal was consolidated with a new set of rules governing the manufacture, introduction into the national territory, exportation, transfer, acquisition, transit, transportation, tracking, possession and carriage of firearms and munitions. In addition to a broad understanding of the notion of firearm<sup>319</sup>, this Law is a valuable supplement to Law No. 2014/28 of

<sup>318</sup> See 2015 Report, § 875.

<sup>319</sup> The said Law governs the use of firearms, arms with sound effect or bladed weapon, war arms, cluster munitions, biological weapons, chemical weapons, defence weapons, hunting guns, war weapons, fire weapon and shot-



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23 December 2014 and widens the scope of incriminations, notably on the manipulation of nuclear arms<sup>320</sup>, biological arms, chemical arms, and incriminates many types of terrorist acts.

**717-** Besides, Regulation No.1/CEMAC/UMAC/CM of 11 April 2016 on prevention and suppression of money-laundering and financing terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in Central Africa, brings in a significant innovation on curbing financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, notably nuclear weapons, chemical or biological weapons used especially for terrorist purposes.

## §2: Structural and Sector Measures

**718-** In order to coordinate the fight against terrorism and the economic battle against marginalization and poverty, Government signed a Financing Agreement of CFAF6,600,000,000<sup>321</sup> with the *Agence Française de Développement* on 20 December 2016. The Agreement targets an Investment Project to support local economic development in the Far North Region to promote integration of youths under the National Community-driven Development Programme (*PNDP*).

**719-** Basic social infrastructure in the areas of health, education, and rural development were also built and equipped in the Far North, North, Adamawa, and East Regions with CFAF99,300,000,000<sup>322</sup> from the cancellation of a debt Cameroon owed Italy.

**720-** Also, financial intelligence units of the Lake Chad Basin meeting in Niamey, Niger in April 2016, agreed on the need to institute an intelligence-sharing mechanism as part of the fight against financing terrorism in general and *Boko Haram* in particular.

**721-** Besides, the Ministerial Action Group Commission against Money-laundering in Central Africa held sessions from 21 to 25 March and from 31 August to 2 September 2016 in Douala on risks of financing terrorism inherent in the use of new payment methods.

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gun for low-powered ammunition, home-made weapon...

<sup>320</sup> See the Convention on the physical protection of nuclear substances adopted on 3 March 1980 and ratified by Cameroon on 29 June 2004.

<sup>321</sup> About 10,076,335.88 Euros

<sup>322</sup> About 151,603,053.44 Euros

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**722-** Furthermore, to help families affected by terrorism to build resilience, a budgetary head (Assistance and Relief) of CFAF96,000,000<sup>323</sup> was included in the State budget, 30% of which was allocated to wards of the State, representing about CFAF28,800,000<sup>324</sup>. Thus, 113 families of soldiers who died at the war front received financial support, school kits and clothes.

**723-** In November 2016, some 35,500 students and pupils<sup>325</sup> in the Far North Region benefitted from a special food gift from the Head of State to victims of *Boko Haram* atrocities.<sup>326</sup>

## §3: Operational Measures

**724-** More combined efforts were made to combat terrorism and Cameroon continued to receive support from bilateral and multilateral partners.

### A: Combined Efforts to combat Terrorism

**725-** In addition to diplomacy<sup>327</sup>, combined efforts were made through joint military operations. Under the *Alpha et Emergence 4* operations to guarantee peace and security in the Northern part of the country under terrorist attacks, Cameroon defence forces supported by those from member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, acting within the framework of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) including Benin, continued to thwart *Boko Haram* assaults.

**726-** In this connection, major operations were carried out along the boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria, such as attacks conducted in February 2016 by Cameroon soldiers and those of the MNJTF in the Nigerian communities of Ngoshe and Kumche in operation *Arrow*.

<sup>323</sup> About 146,564.89 Euros

<sup>324</sup> About 43,969.47 Euros

<sup>325</sup> Beneficiaries include 27,000 pupils and 8,500 secondary school students.

<sup>326</sup> This was the 4<sup>th</sup> of such gifts comprising rice, maize, sugar, sardine, and soap.

<sup>327</sup> The 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit on Security in Nigeria and neighbouring countries of the Lake Chad Basin held in Nigeria on 14 May 2016 and attended by the Head of State of Cameroon who reaffirmed that a single State cannot defeat terrorism; hence, the need for a synergy of actions between States is vital.

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## B: Multifaceted Support to Cameroon

**727-** Apart from multifaceted support of the people<sup>328</sup>, Cameroon benefited from assistance by *Vigilante* Committees, and operational and logistic capacity building with convincing results.

### 1) Support of *Vigilante* Committees

**728-** The impact of support provided by *Vigilante* Committees to defence forces was quite significant. In March 2016, for example, members of the *Vigilante* Committee arrested a young girl loaded with explosives in Mozogo locality as she was preparing to detonate them in the local market.

**729-** In order to support their actions, they were provided with material assistance<sup>329</sup> worth CFAF30,000,000<sup>330</sup>. In addition, they were awarded Medals of Military Valour.

### 2) Operational and Logistics Capacity Building of Defence Forces

**730-** A series of trainings and refresher courses were organized for Officers and Sub-officers of the Gendarmerie and National Security staff. Examples include training of 29 Gendarmerie Sub-officers and National Security staff on combating terrorism, especially post-attack investigation for proper interpretation of the facts and their reconstitution. The training was effected with the support of France who further offered equipment<sup>331</sup> worth CFAF450,000,000<sup>332</sup> in December 2016.

**731-** Similarly, the United States supported training on post-attack investigation in a session organized in May 2016 at the National Gendarmerie Training School. The training focused on Judicial Police investigations in terrorist offences. The United States further provided participants with 24 kits to help them conduct post-attack investigations

<sup>328</sup> In 2016, moral and material support included the public stand by religious leaders took at the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of Imams and Muslim Dignitaries of Cameroon by proclaiming that Islam is a religion of peace and security, and against extremism, radicalism and violence.

<sup>329</sup> The equipment comprised motorcycles, first aid boxes, metal detectors, binoculars, torch lamps, machetes, boots, clubs, whistles, bows and arrows and mobile phones.

<sup>330</sup> About 45,801.56 Euros

<sup>331</sup> The equipment comprised health and rough-terrain transport vehicles for troops, machine guns, high frequency receivers and transmitters, bullet proofs and helmets.

<sup>332</sup> About 687,022.90 Euros

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at the Training School. Besides, a Memorandum of Intent was signed on 22 March 2016 between the Delegate General for National Security and the Ambassador of the United States to Cameroon for technical assistance by the United States in control of border flows.

## C: Outcome of State Efforts

**732-** Efforts by the State reduced the capacity of *Boko Haram* to cause harm with the seizure of its war arsenals (mortars of different calibres, rocket launchers, machine guns, AK 47 war weapons ...), destruction of some manufacturing centres of Improvised Explosive Devices, and training and planning centres. The objective was to cut off the group from its supply networks and logistics.

**733-** One of the achievements of the defence forces was the liberation of hundreds of hostages mostly women and children held by *Boko Haram*. In May 2016, operations carried out in Madawaya forest by Cameroon defence forces under the banner of Sector 1 of the MNJTF, supported by Operations *Alpha et Emergence 4* and in synergy with the Nigerian army freed 46 hostages including 18 women<sup>333</sup> and 28 children, and especially captured **BOUKAR KAOU**, *Boko Haram* Emir of Kumshe.

**734-** The main subsequent challenge is the rehabilitation and reintegration of the freed hostages into their communities.

**735-** State efforts led to gradual resumption of normal life. Some schools re-opened at the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year in Fotokol<sup>334</sup> while business between Nigeria and Cameroon picked up.

## SECTION 3: CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO TERRORISM AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**736-** Cameroon reiterated her stand as a State that respects Human Rights in combating terrorism, supported by Lawyers who expressed their readiness to follow the drive<sup>335</sup>. That is why prosecution against ar-

<sup>333</sup> Three Cameroon women were among the freed captives.

<sup>334</sup> See Chapter on protection of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons § 1008

<sup>335</sup> At the 31<sup>st</sup> Congress of French-speaking Bar Associations held in Yaounde from 7 to 10 December 2017 under the theme "*The Rule of Law and new security challenges, a myth or reality*", the Bar President reiterated that "*it is relevant to consolidate balance between security and respect of Human Rights.*"

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rested members of *Boko Haram* continued, as well as protection of specific rights of accused persons.

## §1: Prosecution of *Boko Haram* Members

**737-** At the inaugural ceremony of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the International Conference of French-speaking Lawyers' Associations, the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals recalled that *Cameroon has opted to combat Boko Haram in compliance with the Rule of Law. Thus, although it has adopted special laws to address the special situation, Government is determined to guarantee the accused fair trial.*

**738-** An analysis of the judgments delivered by Military Tribunals show their determination to respect the fundamental rights of alleged terrorists during prosecution. Thus, the principles of "equality of arms" and the right of defence were respected such that some accused were acquitted and others convicted.

**739-** Regarding respect of the rights of persons prosecuted, the matter *The State of Cameroon vs. ZAINAB OUSMAN and MARIAM MOUSSA*<sup>336</sup> is quite illustrative. The 2 Nigerian young girls were prosecuted before the Military Tribunal, Yaounde for attempted acts of terrorism and illegal immigration. At the hearing of 24 October 2016, the matter was adjourned to 18 November 2016 to enable the accused to be assisted by an Interpreter into Hausa, the only language they speak.

**740-** In 2016, the Military Tribunal, Maroua delivered 116 judgments on matters of terrorism involving 320 persons amongst whom 183 were acquitted, representing an acquittal rate of 57.18%. In addition, 26 accused were sentenced to death, 31 sentenced to imprisonment for life, and 12 sentenced to fixed imprisonment terms. Judgments on the death penalty have systematically been appealed against. The Military Tribunal, Garoua delivered 4 judgments of which 2 acquittals. Besides, the Military Tribunal, Yaounde delivered 5 judgments<sup>337</sup> of which 4 acquittals on all counts of terrorism.

<sup>336</sup> See Judgment No. 12/Crim/17 of 16 January 2017 in which the accused were convicted and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

<sup>337</sup> Military Tribunal, Yaounde, Judgment No. 7/CRIM/16 of 18 January 2016; Judgment No. 9/CRIM/16 of 18 January 2016; Judgment No. 35/CRIM/16 of 22 February 2016; Judgment No. 37/CRIM/16 of 22 February 2016; Judgment No. 126/CRIM/16 of 25 July 2016.

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## §2: Respect of Specific Rights of Accused Persons

**741-** The commitment to respect the rights of persons in detention prosecuted for terrorism was consolidated. The rights of such persons to visits took a special turn, notably with the organization of family visits for those prosecuted before the Military Tribunal, Yaounde, and who are far from their families settled in the Northern Regions. By joint action of Government and the International Red Cross Committee, 7 and 40 families visited members of their families detained at the Central Prison, Yaounde respectively from 12 to 13 October 2016 and 22 to 24 November 2016.

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**742-** On the whole, the recurrent attacks of *Boko Haram* did not weaken Government's determination to combat terrorism. Such determination was effected both concerning prevention and suppression of terrorism, and respect of the Human Rights of persons prosecuted before the courts. However, efforts should equally be oriented towards deradicalization of former terrorists, care of victims and rehabilitation of minors.

Chapter **2**  
GOOD GOVERNANCE  
AND ANTI-CORRUPTION





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**743-** In 2016, Government policy included the promotion of good governance, continued reforms in the public contracts sector, and curbing corruption.

## SECTION 1: PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

**744-** In 2016, public sector/private sector dialogue continued with a view to enhancing the business climate, and actions were taken to stimulate investment. Improving governance in the public sector was also one of Government's priorities.

### §1: Enhancing the Business Climate

**745-** The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Cameroon Business Forum (CBF) that held on 15 March 2016 in Douala under the theme, "*For a better perception of the business climate in Cameroon*" ended with recommendations, the implementation of which was evaluated. Nevertheless, delays and bottlenecks were identified during the evaluation.

#### A: Evaluation of the Implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> CBF Session Recommendations

**746-** At the 7<sup>th</sup> CBF Session, some 24 recommendations covering 10 reform areas were made, 18 (75%) of which focused on the road map proposed by the Doing Business Advisory of the World Bank Group under its programme to support enhancement of the perception of the business climate in Cameroon.

**747-** At the end of 2016, 18 of the 24 recommendations were implemented, 4 were under implementation and 2 were still to be implemented. The implementation rate stood at 75% compared to 70% in 2015.

**748-** The recommendations referred to above focused on business establishment (4 out of 4), driving licence (2 out of 3), access to electricity (2 out of 2), access to property (4 out of 6), easing trans-border trade (2 out of 2), trade disputes/execution of contract (1 out of 2), inspection (1 out of 2), promotion of investment (0 out of 1), access to loan/financing (1 out of 1), and payment of taxes (1 out of 1)<sup>338</sup>.

<sup>338</sup> The figures in brackets refer to reforms undertaken and recommendations adopted.

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## **B: Delays in the Implementation of Recommendations<sup>339</sup>**

**749-** Delays in implementing recommendations scheduled before the end of May 2016 led to Cameroon's stagnation in the classification index of Doing Business of the World Bank from 167<sup>th</sup> position in 2015 to 166<sup>th</sup> in 2016. This stagnation resulted from the fact that many recommendations were implemented only during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016.

**750-** To improve Cameroon's classification, it is recommended that the land reform be accelerated with focus on easing access of investors to land, especially in agroindustry, opening an escrow account to reimburse Value Added Tax credits and facilitate electronic payment methods in Taxation Offices, establishing Commercial Courts, and computerizing procedures for public contracts awards.

## **§2: Investment Incentives**

**751-** In addition to the establishment of an Arbitration Centre of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Handicraft of Cameroon<sup>340</sup> in June 2016, and the reduction of the customs clearance time limit,<sup>341</sup> legal procedures for the establishment of a private company were simplified.<sup>342</sup> Actions were also taken to promote investment and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME).

### **A: Simplified legal Procedures for the Establishment of a Private Company**

**752-** As per Law No. 2016/14 of 14 December 2016 to fix the minimum share capital, and lay down the terms and conditions of seeking

<sup>339</sup> Only the following 2 reforms were selected by Cameroon under the 2017 Doing Business Report: computerization of the building permit in Douala, and reforms on bankruptcy adopted by OHADA. The reform on a drop in taxation was disqualified because of the increase of the minimum taxable from 1 to 2%.

<sup>340</sup> In 2016, the Chamber was still not functioning for lack of staff and financial resources.

<sup>341</sup> The time limit dropped from more than 7 days to less than 2 days.

<sup>342</sup> In enforcement of Decree No. 2001/380 of 27 November 2001 on the change of name and reorganisation of the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Handicraft, Article 16 of which provides that *the Chamber may conduct conciliation where there is a dispute between its members and between its members and foreign companies. In this connection, the Chamber may set up Arbitration Centres.*

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the services of a Notary Public when establishing a private company, the minimum share capital shall be CFAF100,000<sup>343</sup>, and the services of a Notary Public shall henceforth be optional.<sup>344</sup>

**753-** The reform is to promote migration from the informal sector to formal economy, and job creation.

## **B: Promotion of Investments**

**754-** In 2016, investment agreements were signed, and the International Economic Conference held in Yaounde helped increase actions to promote investment.

### **1) International Economic Conference held in Yaounde**

**755-** The International Economic Conference, presided over by the President of the Republic, held in Yaounde from 17 to 18 May 2016 at the Conference Centre under the theme, *Invest in Cameroon, land of attraction*. The Conference brought together more than 800 participants including political leaders, businessmen, bankers and economists. Deliberations focused on how to refine the public/private partnership strategy so as to enhance the business climate and explore all business opportunities Cameroon has in order to attract more investors.

**756-** The Conference highlighted the driving force of the private sector as a major stakeholder of growth. Thus, recommendations made focused on consolidating the support of the private sector by setting up tax and administrative facilities (easing the issuance of visas to businessmen, computerizing procedures, etc.), and establishing special economic zones.

### **2) Investment Agreements**

**757-** As per Law No. 2013/4 of 18 April 2013 to lay down private investment incentives in the Republic of Cameroon, the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development signed 60 agreements in 2016 as against 59 in 2015, in different sectors including cement man-

<sup>343</sup> About 152.67 Euros

<sup>344</sup> As per Articles 10 and 311 of the OHADA Uniform Act on Company Law and Economic Interest Group adopted on 30 January 2014 by the Council of Ministers of OHADA, Cameroon laid down a provision contrary to the OHADA Law which fixes the minimum share capital at CFAF1,000,000 (1,526.72 Euros). This reform facilitates the incorporation of companies by encouraging migration from the informal to the formal sector.

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ufacture, agroindustry worth more than CFAF1,150,558,179,708<sup>345</sup> with a job creation target of 18,953 direct jobs as against CFAF800,610,951,201<sup>346</sup> for 26,852 jobs in 2015.

## **C: Promotion of SMEs**

**758-** In addition to the creation of a website<sup>347</sup> in August 2016 for the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Promotion Agency (APME), other promotion actions included enhancing competitiveness and financial support to SMEs.

### **1) Enhancing Competitiveness of SMEs**

**759-** Improving service offer in Centre for Business Incorporation (CFCEs), reducing the time limit to establish an enterprise and modernizing SMEs were some of the actions taken to boost competitiveness of SMEs.

#### **a) Improving Service Offer in CFCEs**

**760-** The e-registration (*Mybusiness.cm*) application was inaugurated on 19 May 2016 in the pilot CFCEs in Yaounde, Douala, and Maroua to ease online registration of enterprises. In a bid to consolidate the modernization process, including a reduction of the period of establishment of an enterprise, a technical and functional audit of CFCEs was conducted at the end of a special quality service audit carried out from 25 to 28 May 2016 in CFCEs Yaounde, Douala, Ebolowa, Bamenda, and Garoua. An analysis of procedures for the establishment of an enterprise in the Regions was also made.

#### **b) Reduction of the Period of establishment of an Enterprise**

**761-** Reducing the period of establishing an enterprise by 3 days in CFCE increased the number of enterprises established in 2016 compared to 2015. Thus, the number of established SMEs increased from 13,374 in 2015 to 15,219 in 2016, representing an increase of 1,845 SMEs. Since the establishment of CFCEs in 2000, more than 60,000 enterprises have been set up. In Yaounde alone, the number of enterprises

<sup>345</sup> About 1,756,577,373.6 Euros

<sup>346</sup> About 1,222,306,795.73 Euros

<sup>347</sup> As a bilingual interactive tool, the website provides information on all fields of activity of the sector. It equally serves as an interface between the Agency and Companies, and as a modernization vector.

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increased from 235 in 2010 to 6,369 in 2014 and more than 7,000 in 2016.<sup>348</sup> Such upturn confirms the majority position of SMEs, representing more than 95% of the economic structure of Cameroon and a contribution of 36% of Gross Domestic Product.

**762-** More than half of registered enterprises were established by youths of less than 40 years old. Handicraft is one of the popular domains with 6,973 enterprises identified in Councils in 2016. Many digital start-ups were established online.

## c) Modernization of SMEs

**763-** In January 2016, APME initiated a 4-year SME modernization programme that will end in 2020. The goal of the programme is to enhance competitiveness of SMEs by modernizing their visibility, management, process and tools through Information and Communications Technologies.

**764-** In this connection, 36 young computer scientists and SME promoters were trained in using computer technologies from 21 to 23 June 2016 at the *Institut Africain d'Informatique-Centre d'Excellence Paul Biya*.

**765-** APME further signed 5 partnership agreements with MTN-Cameroon, NSIF, SOPECAM, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Bank of Cameroon (BC-PME), and the Subcontracting and Partnership Stock Exchange-Cameroon.

## 2) Financial Support to SMEs

**766-** In 2016, BC-PME provided financial support through continued provision and development of specific products and relating services with high added value.

**767-** Following a prospection operation that included more than 2,693 SME customers, BC-PME registered 1,405 SME customers and handicraft production units that opened accounts with it. In addition, 581 SME

<sup>348</sup> More enterprises are established in Cameroon today. In 2010, there were 712 new SMEs registered in Business Start-up Centres.

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customers files out of 658 applications were granted loans worth CFAF6,934,567,052<sup>349</sup> at an interest rate of 11% (excluding taxes).

## SECTION 2: PUBLIC CONTRACTS REFORM

**768-** Public contracts reforms continued through improving the legal framework, enhancing governance in the award and execution of public contracts.

### §1: Improving the Legal Framework

**769-** In 2016, the legal framework was improved with the signing of Decree No. 2016/886/PM of 25 April 2016 to lay down the general framework of execution of infrastructure projects under State control. The innovation includes the determination of officials empowered to issue authorizations to execute infrastructure projects under State control (Prime Minister and Minister of Public Contracts) depending on the threshold; clarification done on the initiative of the controller henceforth left to the appreciation of the Project Owner; introduction of execution thresholds of infrastructure projects under State control; and consolidation of control on execution of infrastructure projects under State control.

### §2: Enhancing Governance in Award and Execution of Public Contracts

**770-** Governance was enhanced through dispute management, systematic control of execution of public contracts, and sanctions against unscrupulous stakeholders.

#### A: Dispute Management

**771-** The Minister in charge of Public Contracts received 559 complaints of which 397 by bidders who claimed that they were sidelined in the award of contracts, 32 applications for arbitration on persistent disagreement between contracting authorities and the Tenders Board, and 130 complaints filed by other stakeholders of the system. The rate of complaints stood at about 8.7% of all the contracts awarded nation-

<sup>349</sup> The amount (about 10,587,125.27 Euros) is broken down as follows:  
- Cash payments: CFAF5,251,903,256 (About 8,018,172.91 Euros) ;  
- Signed commitments: CFAF1,682,663,796 (About 2,568,952.36 Euros).

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wide. After examination of all the files, 0.66% of the complaints were founded.

## **B: Systematic Control of Execution of Public Contracts**

**772-** In 2016, some 1,743 public contracts were controlled by Central Services of the Ministry of Public Contracts (*MINMAP*) while 3,172 others were controlled by local Control Brigades; that is, 4,895 public contracts controlled in 2016 as against 3,406 in 2015. At the end of the control, some CFAF11,127,140,758<sup>350</sup> was recovered and paid into the Public Treasury. Besides, out of the 5,802 files received and processed within the 3 days prescribed time limit, 1,630 were dismissed.

## **C: Sanctions against unscrupulous Stakeholders**

**773-** Sanctions imposed on unscrupulous stakeholders included exclusion of 183 enterprises from public procurement for a period of 2 years; that is, 86 enterprises excluded for different fraudulent practices and 97 for improper execution of their contractual obligations. Some 15 persons were also excluded from all activities relating to award and control of public contracts. One *MINMAP* official was removed from office and sent back to his administration of origin for suspected acts of corruption.

## **SECTION 3: CURBING MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**774-** In a bid to institute proper management of public property, Government stepped up prevention, control, detection of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property, and punishment of authors of the said acts.

### **§1: Enhancing Prevention**

**775-** Prevention was characterized by awareness-raising campaigns. Such campaigns targeting youths were organized by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (*CONAC*) during *FENASSCO* Games "A" and "B" organized in Bafoussam from 19 to 23 March 2016 and in Ebolowa from 23 to 28 March 2016, and during the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of University Games held from 23 to 30 April 2016 at the University of

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<sup>350</sup> About 16,988,001.16 Euros

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Yaounde II-Soa. CONAC further organized a “Corruption-free Schools Reopening” campaign in September 2016 in the 10 Regions of the country and continued broadcast of its programme “Espace CONAC” in the 2 official languages (English and French). CONAC also deployed awareness-raising caravans in Yaounde and its environs with some 200 trade unionists in the transport sector to raise the awareness of their colleagues on anti-corruption measures. CONAC further published a collection of instruments on anti-corruption and related offences in Cameroon<sup>351</sup>.

## §2: Control

**776-** CONAC, the Supreme State Audit Office (CONSUPE), and the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court intensified corruption control and detection.

### A: CONAC Actions

**777-** As part of implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy<sup>352</sup>, investigation and control focused on the quality of public expenditure and identification of acts of corruption.

**778-** In 2016, CONAC received and examined 2,402 reports of acts of corruptions as against 3,268 in 2015. It further conducted administrative and financial control of the City Council, Limbe from 31 January to 15 February 2016. CONAC also conducted investigations at the Treasury Offices in Bertoua and Buea, and on the management of the assistance of the Head of State to victims of floods in the Mayo-Danay Division.

**779-** Through its Rapid Intervention Offices and based on reports received, CONAC carried out 79 rapid intervention actions in 2016 as against some 30 in 2015 and established cases of *flagrante delicto* on scam and acts of corruption in many areas such as issuance of fake driver’s licence, and land titles.

<sup>351</sup> It is a 584-page document in 2 parts. Part I dwells on general standards while Part II focuses on specific standards.

<sup>352</sup> CONAC continued the implementation of the SNLCC through launching of the 9<sup>th</sup> series of the Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) on 9 September 2016. It further evaluated the implementation of the 2016 annual Regional Anti-Corruption Plans of Action of the 10 Regions. The evaluation concerned Adamawa, East, North, North West, West, South, and South West Regions.



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**780-** After the investigations, CONAC seised the competent courts on 10 matters including alleged forgery, misappropriation of public property, false pretences, usurpation of qualification, corruption, undue demand, oppression, and illegal exercise of a profession.

## **B: Activities of the Supreme State Audit**

**781-** The Supreme State Audit received and examined reports and also carried out control missions. It further received files on corruption and referred some managers before the courts as part of its activities as the Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council (BFDC).

### **1) Examining Reports**

**782-** Amongst the reports received and examined by *CONSUPE* Operational Units, some were taken into account within the framework of mobile control missions.

**783-** The Department of Legal Affairs and Information Exploitation (*DAJEI*) received and examined 301 reports as contained in the table below:

**Table 1: Reports received and examined by DAJEI in 2016**

No.	Administrations concerned	Number
1	Public Administrations	58
2	Public Administrative Establishments	16
3	Private Establishments	21
4	Individuals	111
5	Councils	4
6	Trade Unions	12
7	Anonymous	22
8	Associations/NGOs/Cooperatives	50
9	Liberal Professions	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>301</b>

**Source:** *CONSUPE*

**784-** Divisions for Inspection and Control received and examined 142 reports at times within the context of special missions prescribed by the President of the Republic and investigation missions<sup>353</sup>. The table below contains reports received and examined.

<sup>353</sup> These could entail seizure of officials and forwarding of files, etc.

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**Table 2: Reports received and examined by Divisions for Inspection and Control in 2016**

Operational Units	Reports received	Reports examined	Reports resulting in special missions	Reports resulting in investigation	Pending reports
<i>DIESP</i>	3	3	3	0	4
<i>DICTD</i>	103	103	1	0	5
<i>DIAP</i>	18	18	0	1	0
<i>DIEPOS</i>	18	18	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>

Source: *CONSUPE*

### **Legend:**

- **DIESP:** Division for Inspection and Control of Public and semi-public Enterprises
- **DICTD:** Division for Inspection and Control of Councils
- **DIAP:** Division for Inspection and Control of Public Administrations
- **DIEPOS:** Division for Inspection and Control of Public Establishments and Specific Organizations

## **2) Control Missions**

**785-** Divisions for Inspection and Control conducted 12 control missions in 2016 as against 18 in 2015, representing a drop of 6 missions. The missions were conducted at Public and Semi-public Enterprises, Specific Organizations and Public Administrations under execution of the PIB. The drop continued as only 7 missions were executed under PIB in 2016 as against 13 in 2015 as shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Comparative table of control missions by Divisions for Inspection and Control in 2015 and 2016**

Operational Units	Missions started		Missions completed		Pending Missions		Reports forwarded to the Presidency of the Republic	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
<i>DICTD</i>	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
<i>DIAP</i>	11	6	11	3	0	3	0	1
<i>DIEPOS</i>	6	5	1	4	5	1	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

Source: *CONSUPE*

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**786-** The Division for Inspection and Control of Public and Semi-public Enterprises started 11 missions and completed 2 with 9 pending. At the end of the missions, *CONSUPE* forwarded 2 Reports to the Presidency of the Republic.

### 3) Activities of BFDC Permanent Secretariat

**787-** BFDC received and examined files during its sessions and rendered decisions some of which were appealed against.

#### a) Files received and examined

**788-** In 2016, BFDC received 2 reports<sup>354</sup> as against 9 in 2015 for disciplinary action. Most of the files were on Mission Reports a majority of which were still under examination. The outcome was that 95 unscrupulous managers or public agents were heard before the BFDC as against 18 in 2015 as shown in the table below.

**Table 4: Files received and examined by BFDC in 2015 and 2016**

Matters examined		Year		2015		2016		
Files received				9		2		
Files for which managers were heard				18		95		
Sessions organized				9		20		
Matters examined				25		38		
Decisions delivered and published				18		43		
Sanctions imposed on unscrupulous managers	Deficits and special fines	Deficits	Special fines	Deficits	Special fines			
		CFAF662,352,520 <sup>355</sup>	CFAF9,400,000 <sup>356</sup>	CFAF11,926,062,448 <sup>357</sup>	CFAF27,100,000 <sup>358</sup>			
	Persons with deficits		6	10	25	34		
	Persons with special forfeiture		0		4 with special forfeiture for a period of 10 years			

**Source:** BFDC Permanent Secretariat

<sup>354</sup> Files refer to the number of Reports received.

<sup>355</sup> About 1,011,225.22 Euros

<sup>356</sup> About 14,351.15 Euros

<sup>357</sup> About 18,207,728.93 Euros

<sup>358</sup> About 41,374.05 Euros

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## b) Appeals against BFDC decisions

**789-** BFDC decisions were appealed against before AC. The AC, Yaounde, for example, received 30 appeals for cancellation of BFDC decisions and suspension of their effects. While 21 matters were pending before the said Court, 8 judgments were delivered in favour of the State and 1 against the State.

### C: Control by the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

**790-** The Audit Bench of the Supreme Court conducted judicial and administrative control and assisted and advised public authorities.

#### 1) Judicial Control

**791-** Judicial control concerned some 4,802 accounts of Public Accountants including accounts of previous financial years not produced on or before 31 December 2015. The accounts included 15 accounts from main Treasury Accountants, 625 from Accounting Agents of Public Administrative Establishments, and 4,162 from Council Revenue Collectors.

**792-** The Court received 374 accounts and delivered 88 final judgments of which 42 fines for late submission of account to the tune of CFAF17,110,000<sup>359</sup>, 10 judgments for deficits incurred by public accountants to the tune of CFAF467,631,881<sup>360</sup>, and 15 judgments discharging some Public Accountants of liability.

**793-** A panel of Joint Divisions examined 10 applications for review of final judgments and declared them inadmissible. It further examined 2 matters on the merits file by *CONSUPE*. The outcome was that the Accountants concerned were discharged of liability.

#### 2) Administrative Control

**794-** In 2016, 5 final observation Reports on accounts of enterprises, notably the National Water Corporation for the 2004 financial year, the National Civil Engineering Laboratory for the 2005-2007 financial

<sup>359</sup> About 26,122.14 Euros

<sup>360</sup> About 713,394.80 Euros

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years, *Chantier Naval Industriel du Cameroun* for the 2004 financial year, *Aéroports du Cameroun* for the 2005 financial year, and Cameroon Postal Services for the 2004-2005 financial year were produced.

**795-** The observations contained in the 5 Reports show different types of irregularities mostly from non-compliance of the statutes of such enterprises with the legal provisions governing them, notably the absence and/or poor functioning of the corporate organs that guarantee good corporate governance (General Assembly, Board of Directors, and Audit Office).

### 3) Assistance and Advice

**796-** The Audit Bench of the Supreme Court continued to provide assistance and advice to both Government and Parliament.

#### a) Assistance to Government

**797-** The Audit Bench provided assistance to Government by drawing up the annual Public Report and through deliberations of the Permanent MINFI-Audit Bench Consultation Framework.

**798-** The Permanent Consultation Framework held 3 sessions on 31 March, 4 August, and 13 December 2016 respectively on issues relating to the enforcement of Judgments of the Audit Bench, the spirit of the State accounting reform, challenges on notification of Judgments of the Audit Bench, and analysis of the major irregularities on the liabilities of accountants in recent Judgments of the Audit Bench.

#### b) Assistance and Advice to Parliament

**799-** In addition to its opinion on the Settlement Bill and the Certification Report on the general State account of 2015 financial year, the Audit Bench held discussions with the National Assembly and the Senate.

**800-** In its Opinion No. 2/2016/CSC/CDC of 11 November 2016 on the Settlement Bill of 2015 financial year, the Audit Bench made observations on insufficiencies and abnormalities noticed in the accounts

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kept by public accountants as well as Ordinance No. 2015/4 of 23 December 2015 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2014/26 of 23 December 2014 on the Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for 2015 financial year, as per section 19 (1) of Law of 26 December 2007 on the financial regime of the State amongst others. The Audit Bench also anticipated<sup>361</sup> like in the previous years, the certification of the State account for the 2015 financial year.

**801-** It further held discussions on 21 June 2016 with the Finance Committee of the Senate, and on 7 December 2016 with the Finance Committee of the National Assembly. The aim was to build the capacities of members of the said Committees on how to appreciate the Finance Law, and on a better examination of Reports of the Audit Bench.

### §3: Detection Actions

**802-** In addition to combating financing of terrorism<sup>362</sup>, the National Financial Investigation Agency (*ANIF*) developed the capacities of staff in charge of detection in collaboration with other institutions in charge of combating financial crime.

#### A: Capacity Development of Staff in charge of Detection

**803-** *ANIF* staff attended many seminars and training sessions including training organized from 18 to 29 January 2016 in Libreville, Gabon by the Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa, on the new evaluation method of the Financial Action Group. According to the evaluators, the method did no longer consist in only examining the technical compliance of States with an anti-money laundering law, the effective functioning of detection and suppression structures, but especially to appreciate measures taken by States to combat money laundering and financing terrorism through a national risk evaluation and strategies adopted to address such risks.

<sup>361</sup> In spite of the provisions of Article 128 of Decree No. 2013/160 of 15 May 2013 governing Public Accountancy that fixes 2019 as the deadline for production of the Report of the Audit Bench on the certification of public accounts provided for by Article 126 (3) of the Decree referred to above.

<sup>362</sup> See Part III, Chapter I, §720 and 721.

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**804-** *ANIF* staff further attended a seminar in Armenia from 13 to 17 June 2016 on the strategic analysis of the use of enterprises and financial products for criminal purposes. The goal of the seminar was to develop the capacities of participants on detecting warning signals relating to the misuse of legally established enterprises for laundering criminal proceeds or faking the identity of proprietors, and also on the improper role of some legal representatives who act on behalf of their clients.

**805-** The Division for Training and International Cooperation of *CONSUPE* organized activities as part of capacity development of vote holders and staff managers of internal control organs of Ministries, public and semi-public organizations. Such activities included training of 30 officials from General Inspectorates of Ministries on Methodology and Techniques of Verification; 37 officials from the City Council, Douala on Initiation to Performance/Planning Phase Audit and on Preparation and Dissemination of Procedures and Techniques of Verification. At the end of the latter training, an Internal Verification Guide and an Internal Audit Charter were drawn up by the said Division for the said City Council.

## **B: Interactions between Anti-Financial Crime Institutions**

**806-** In 2016, *ANIF* received 474 suspicious transaction reports by regulated professions as against 468 in 2015 and 521 in 2014, and forwarded 71 files to competent authorities of which 20 to competent courts, 31 to *CONSUPE* and *CONAC*, and the 20 on financing terrorism were forwarded as follows: 11 to the Military Tribunal, Yaounde and to other authorities as against 69 in 2015 and 60 in 2014. The files forwarded were on alleged money laundering, misappropriation of public property, corruption, false pretences, peddling and fraud and misuse of social assets. The table below contains statistics from 2014 to 2016:

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**Table 5: Comparison of suspicious transaction reports by regulated professions received and forwarded by ANIF from 2014 to 2016**

Number Year	Suspicious transaction reports of by regulated professions	Files forwarded to competent authorities
2014	521	60
2015	468	69
2016	474	71

Source: ANIF

## §4: Punishment of Authors of Acts of Corruption and Misappropriation of public property

**807-** A drop in the number of files before the SCC reflected Government’s determination to punish authors of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property. Such punishment continued in other ordinary courts for offences on misappropriation of public property for which they entertain jurisdiction.

### A: Disputes before specialized Courts

**808-** In 2016, the number of files registered before the SCC reduced compared to 2015. The number of files dropped from 54 in 2015 to 44 in 2016, and the number of matters heard and determined decreased from 43 in 2015 to 31 in 2016. The table below is quite illustrative.

**Table 6: Judgments delivered by the SCC in 2015 and 2016**

Year	Matters enlisted	Judgments delivered	Convictions	Discharge and acquittals	Matters discontinued
2015	54	43	65	31	25
2016	44	31	56	13	32

Source: SCC

**809-** The number of matters at the level of preliminary inquiry increased from 51 in 2015 to 67 in 2016 while the number of inquiries closed increased from 22 in 2015 to 26 in 2016. More so, 91 persons were referred to the SCC in 2016 against 85 in 2015, and 35 persons discharged in 2016 compared to 12 in 2015.

**810-** There was a drop in the restitution of the *corpus delicti* while no sums of money were recovered as shown in the table below.



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**Table 7: Number and profile of persons prosecuted, amounts claimed and sums restituted or recovered in 2015 and 2016**

Year	Persons prosecuted	Men	Women	Claims			Amounts restituted	Amounts recovered	Cameroonians	Foreigners
				Fines	Costs	Damages				
2015	144	105	39	//	CFAF2,146,631,629 <sup>363</sup>	CFAF28,441,125,029 <sup>364</sup>	CFAF552,588,642 <sup>365</sup>	//	143	1
2016	183	124	59	//	CFAF3,974,300,904.46 <sup>366</sup>	CFAF79,127,883,862.3 <sup>367</sup>	CFAF493,365,933 <sup>368</sup>	//	182	1

Source: SCC

**811-** Some judgments of the SCC were appealed against before the Specialized Division of the Supreme Court. This Division received 27 files, 6 of which were at the level of judicial investigation. It delivered 25 judgments of which 17 convictions, 6 acquittals, and 2 dismissals of application for bail.

**812-** The Inquiry Control Chamber of the Specialized Division of the Supreme Court received 6 appeals against rulings of Examining Magistrates. The 2 matters heard were dismissed and the parties requested to return before the court where the matters were pending. However, 4 matters were pending before the said Chamber.

## B: Prosecution before other Courts

**813-** Ordinary courts also delivered a number of judgments against authors of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property.

**814-** The volume of files on misappropriation of public property before ordinary courts dropped compared to 2015. The number of investigations opened dropped from 263 in 2015 to 210 in 2016 while the number of matters ripe for hearing remained the same; that is, 167 in 2015 and 167 in 2016 as shown in the table below:

<sup>363</sup>About 3 277 300, 20 euros.

<sup>364</sup>About 43 421 564, 93 euros.

<sup>365</sup>About 843 646, 78 euros.

<sup>366</sup>About 6 067 634, 97 euros.

<sup>367</sup>About 120 805 929, 56 euros.

<sup>368</sup>About 753 230, 43 euros.

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**Table 8: Judgments on misappropriation of public property delivered by ordinary courts in 2015 and 2016**

Year	Investigations opened	Matters at the level of preliminary inquiry	Matters ripe for hearing	Convictions	Discharge and acquittals
2015	263	72	167	76	17
2016	210	200	167	114	55
Total	-53	+128	0	+38	+38

Source: MINJUSTICE

**815-** In 2016, the number of files on corruption before ordinary courts dropped compared to 2015. The number of judicial police investigations opened dropped from 42 in 2015 to 19 in 2016 while the number of matters for hearing dropped from 21 in 2015 to 14 in 2016. Preliminary inquiries increased from 3 in 2015 to 7 in 2016. Moreover, the number of convictions reduced from 7 to 3 while the number of discharge or acquittals dropped from 7 to 6.

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**816-** On the whole, Government spared no effort to promote good governance through public sector/private sector discussions to improve the business climate, encourage investment and enhance governance in the public sector and curb corruption. Nevertheless, the implementation of economic reforms is suffering the impact of a sluggish international economic climate. Similarly, the drop in restitution of the *corpus delicti* and the low recovery rate of misappropriated property hampered efficient repression.



**Chapter** **3**  
**DETENTION CONDITIONS**



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**817-** In 2016, Cameroon continued its quest for improvement of detention conditions<sup>369</sup>. Priority actions included capacity building of prison staff, construction of prison facilities, improvement of living conditions and preparation of inmates for social reintegration. These actions were monitored and evaluated through controls and visits to prisons.

## SECTION 1: MAPPING OF PRISON POPULATION

**818-** The diverse nature of prison population in 2016 can be analyzed using different criteria, namely awaiting trials and convicts, gender, the situation of minors and the nationality of inmates. Prison population was not static throughout the year due to the processing of cases of detainees. The continuous fight against terrorism and armed robbery in Far North and East Regions accounts for the rise in the number of detainees in some prisons, thereby increasing the number of persons remanded in prison custody in general.

### §1: Mapping of Awaiting Trial and Convicts

**819-** As in the previous years, statistics of prison population indicated that persons remanded in custody awaiting trial outnumbered convicts, with the exception of prisons in East (790 awaiting trials as against 799 convicts, about 49.7%), North (1,355 awaiting trials as against 1,508 convicts, about 47.3%) and North West (562 awaiting trials as against 867 convicts, about 39.3%) Regions. Therefore, out of 29,341 prisoners, 16,439 detainees were awaiting trial (about 56%) while 12,902 (44.0%) were already convicted. The table below illustrates prison statistics of awaiting trial and convicts per Region.

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<sup>369</sup> The detention conditions only concerned persons in prison.

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**Table 1: Prison Statistics per Region as at 31 December 2016**

No.	Region	Accommodation Capacity	Awaiting Trial	Convicts	Total	Occupancy rate (%)
1	Adamawa	1,070	977	925	1,902	177.8
2	Centre	4,270	4,832	2,802	7,634	178.8
3	East	1,475	790	799	1,589	107.7
4	Far North	1,970	2,234	1,518	3,752	190.5
5	Littoral	1,550	2,567	1,717	4,284	276.4
6	North	1,300	1,355	1,508	2,863	220.2
7	North West	1,750	562	867	1,429	81.7
8	West	2,720	1,254	1,191	2,445	89.9
9	South	800	609	586	1,195	149.4
10	South West	1,010	1,259	989	2,248	222.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,915</b>	<b>16,439</b>	<b>12,902</b>	<b>29,341</b>	
<b>Average occupancy rate</b>						<b>163.8</b>

Source: DAPEN

**820-** Among the 16,439 detainees awaiting trial, for nationals, there were 14,286 men, 454 women and 727 minors and convicts comprised 11,883 men, 285 women and 158 minors while for foreigners there were 972 awaiting trial and 576 convicts.

**821-** Due to lack of space, convicts were generally not separated from those awaiting trial but those charged with serious offences and habitual offenders were most of the time isolated from other inmates in the majority of prisons.

## **§2: Distribution of Detainees according to Gender, Age and Nationality**

**822-** Specific categories of inmates included women, minors and foreigners.

### **A: Female Detainees**

**823-** The highest number of female detainees continued to be in the Centre (280) and Littoral (98) Regions, while the lowest number of female inmates was registered in Adamawa (26) and South (28) Regions.

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**Table 2: Women in Prison as at 31 December 2016**

No.	Region	Awaiting Trial	Convicts	Total	Percentage Rate
1	Adamawa	16	10	26	3.5%
2	Centre	198	82	280	37.9%
3	East	17	24	41	5.5%
4	Far North	48	30	78	10.6%
5	Littoral	65	33	98	13.3%
6	North	25	14	39	5.3%
7	North West	11	48	59	8.0%
8	West	23	21	44	6.0%
9	South	17	11	28	3.8%
10	South West	34	12	46	6.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: DAPEN

**824-** Female inmates with children are obliged to remain together despite difficult prison conditions. This situation is very uncomfortable, taking into consideration the requirements of post-natal care and consultation.

## B: Imprisoned Minors

**825-** Principles of juvenile justice which are centred on re-education, reducing recidivism and ensuring social reintegration remained major concerns of Government. Imprisoned minors were unevenly distributed in all the Regions, with Centre Region (24.9%) having the highest number and North West Region (3.2%) the lowest as indicated in the table below:

**Table 3: Imprisoned Minors as at 31 December 2016**

No.	Region	Awaiting Trial	Convicts	Total	Percentage Rate
1	Adamawa	59	11	70	7.9%
2	Centre	202	18	220	24.9%
3	East	53	18	71	8.0%
4	Far North	91	25	116	13.1%
5	Littoral	37	9	46	5.2%
6	North	51	21	72	8.1%
7	North West	23	5	28	3.2%
8	West	80	21	101	11.4%
9	South	44	2	46	5.2%
10	South West	87	28	115	13.0%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: DAPEN

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## C: Foreigners

**826-** Foreigners constituted a significant proportion of detainees in some Cameroon prisons as seen from the statistics in table 4 below. Foreign detainees were recorded in all Regions. The highest number of foreign inmates was found in Far North, North, and South West Regions. This trend can be easily explained by the fact that these are zones where cross-border crimes were on the rise.

**827-** The number of foreign inmates mainly from Nigeria and Chad in Central Prison, Maroua and Main Prison, Yaounde is high due to activities related to *Boko Haram*.

**Table 4: Imprisoned Foreigners as at 31 December 2016**

No.	Region	Awaiting Trial	Convicts	Total	Percentage Rate
1	Adamawa	91	72	163	10.5%
2	Centre	106	28	134	8.7%
3	East	96	59	155	10.0%
4	Far North	349	97	446	28.8%
5	Littoral	71	34	105	6.8%
6	North	92	176	268	17.3%
7	North West	5	2	7	0.5%
8	West	5	3	8	0.5%
9	South	21	28	49	3.2%
10	South West	136	77	213	13.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>1548</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: DAPEN

## §2: Prison Capacity and Occupation Rate

**828-** The highest number of detainees was found in Centre (7,634), Littoral (4,284) and Far North (3,752) Regions while the lowest number of inmates was found in South (1,195) and North West (1,429) Regions. Centre Region had the highest accommodation capacity of 4,270 beds while South Region had the lowest with 800 beds.

**829-** The highest prison occupancy rates were registered in Littoral Region (276.4%), South West (222.6%), and North (220.2%) Regions. The lowest occupancy rates were found in North West (81.7%) and West (89.9%) Regions. The average occupancy rate stood at 163.8%.

**830-** Prison overcrowding was still significant in Yaounde and Douala Central Prisons with 4,279 inmates for 1,500 beds and 3,012 for 800



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beds respectively. The Main Prison, Yoko that hosts only convicts had 97 inmates for 500 beds. Some newly earmarked prisons like Bandjoun, Touboro, Batibo, Bengbis, Mundemba, Menji, Tombel, Mbankomo and Bangem were still to be built. The opening of these prisons shall contribute to reducing overcrowding in prisons.

**831-** From the statistics above, overcrowding in prisons remained a major challenge. To tackle the issue, the PC has provided for alternative sentences<sup>370</sup> (section 18-1) namely, community service and reparatory sentence for offences punishable with an imprisonment of less than 2 years or a fine. Discussions on the implementation of alternative sentences were part of the agenda of Heads of Court of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration held on 18 and 19 August 2016.

**832-** These discussions led to the following proposals:

- within the Penitentiary Administration, establishment of a national service of integration and probation;
- qualitative and quantitative increase in staff strength; and
- change in the practices which prioritise imprisonment sentences.

**833-** At the end of this meeting, the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals instructed Heads of Court of Appeal to forward to him a list of alternative sanctions likely to be applied after consultation with local authorities. He further instructed that detailed discussions be held on the nature of a specific legal instrument on the terms and conditions of application of alternative sentences.

## SECTION 2: STAFF ENHANCEMENT

**834-** Staff enhancement consisted in increasing staff strength through recruitment, building staff capacity through training and improving working conditions.

### §1: Increase in Staff Strength

**835-** Direct competitive entrance examinations for the recruitment of staff into different grades of Penitentiary Administration were organized in

<sup>370</sup> See Section 26 of the PC for the definition and conditions of implementation.

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June 2016. The 305 candidates who were declared successful started training at the National School of Penitentiary Administration, Buea. The number of candidates recruited in 2016 included 10 candidates (with 4 women) for the grade of Prison Administrators Category A, 25 candidates (including 4 women) for the grade of Prison Superintendents Category B, 50 candidates (25 women) for the grade of Chief Warders Category C, 7 candidates with specialisation in Motor-mechanics for the grade of Prison warders and 213 candidates (73 women) with no specialisation were admitted into the grade of Prison warders Category D. A total of 305 candidates were admitted compared to 488 in 2015.

**836-** The total number of Penitentiary staff as at 31 October 2016 is presented in the tables below.

**Table 5: Penitentiary staff by grade as at 31 October 2016**

No.	Grades	Number	Percentage
1	Prison Administrators	215	5%
2	Prison Superintendents	386	9%
3	Chief Warders	870	20%
4	Warders	2,945	66%
Total		4,416	100%

Source: DAPEN

**837-** Out of 4,416 penitentiary staff, 3,866 were effectively working at their duty stations while 550 were undergoing training.

**Table 6: Specialised Penitentiary Staff as at 31 October 2016**

No.	Nature of personnel	Number
1	Medical Doctors	23
	Nurses	67
3	Nurse's Aid	147
4	Laboratory Technicians	36
5	Computer Experts	4
6	Sports and Civic Education Teachers	10
7	Youth and Animation Counsellors	3
8	Social Welfare personnel (MINAS)	20
9	Engineers	5
Total		316

Source: DAPEN

**838-** In 2016, increase in staff strength brought the national warder/inmate ratio to 1:7 as compared to 1:10 in 2015. However, some secondary prisons like Betare-Oya, Doume, Lomie, Bavenga, and Buea

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Upper-Farms had a maximum warder/inmate ratio of 1:2, while overcrowded prisons such as the Douala, Ngaoundere, and Garoua Central Prisons and the Tchollire Main Prison had a warder/inmate ratio of 1:15.

## §2: Staff Capacity Building

**839-** The Italian NGO known as *Associazione Centro Orientamento Educativo Cameroon (COECAM)* which runs the project on humanisation of detention conditions and protection of the rights of prisoners in the Yaounde, Douala, Garoua, Bafoussam Central Prisons and Main Prison, Mbalmayo organised a series of seminars for penitentiary staff. COECAM also organised a national training workshop on *Shared responsibility to protect the rights of and preserve the dignity of Prisoners* in Yaounde from 27 to 29 January 2016. The workshop brought together stakeholders involved in the promotion and protection of Human Rights in prisons including lawyers, bailiffs, officials of the Ministry of Justice, the General Delegation for National Security and the National Gendarmerie.

## §3: Staff Working Conditions and Discipline

**840-** Actions were carried out to improve the working conditions of staff of penitentiary administration including purchase and distribution of the following dressing elements: 3,000 kaki uniforms, 2,000 belts, 2,800 berets and 1,989 pairs of epaulets of different grades. As regards light security materials, 1,150 pairs of handcuffs were purchased while basic office equipment were acquired for the Central Prison, Maroua, and Main Prisons, Mfou, Batouri, Mokolo, Ambam and Sangmelima and Secondary Prisons, Bali and Betare-Oya.

**841-** As regards disciplinary measures, 10 penitentiary staff, mainly warders were prosecuted for various offences in different prisons. These offences ranged from aggravated theft, involuntary homicide, murder, escape from lawful custody and aggravated receiving. The prisons concerned include Ebolowa, Bertoua and Garoua Central Prisons, Baham, Mbengwi, Nanga-Eboko, Banyo and Tibati Main Prisons, and Djoum Secondary Prison.

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**842-** Improvement of disciplinary procedures were discussed from 26 to 27 April 2016 in a seminar organised in Bafoussam by the Ministry of Justice to enhance the capacity of staff of Penitentiary Administration on the management of disciplinary files of staff. The seminar brought together Prison Superintendents and Service Heads of Administrative and Financial Affairs from prisons of West, North West and Littoral Regions. The seminar ended with the formulation of the following recommendations:

- establishment of a permanent secretariat of discipline to speed up processing of disciplinary files of penitentiary staff;
- consideration of competences and grades of staff in appointments to posts of responsibilities in prisons; and
- enhancement of the financial intervention capacity of penitentiary structures.

## SECTION 3: IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

**843-** In order to improve prison infrastructure, the State and its partners embarked on the construction, rehabilitation and equipment of prisons which had a positive impact on the treatment of inmates with dignity.

**844-** The construction of new prisons and prison facilities continued as well as the rehabilitation of existing ones.

**845-** The Yaounde Central Prison saw the construction of storage facilities while more construction works of the administrative buildings of Main Prison, Bamenda were carried out. In the same vein, the construction of the Bengbis Secondary Prison continued and the damaged roof of the Ngaoundere Central Prison was repaired. An NGO, *Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré (ALDEPA)* within the framework of the Project *Children deprived of liberty and those separated from their families: promotion and protection of the fundamental rights of children deprived of liberty, children accompanying their mothers in detention and those separated from their families in the Far North of Cameroon* constructed separate wings for female and minor detainees of the Main Prison, Mokolo and also equipped the training centre for women and minors in the same prison. The keys of the newly constructed wings were handed over to the Senior Divisional Officer of Mayo-Tsanaga Division on 12 July 2016.

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**846-** ALDEPA equally rehabilitated cells for females and minors in the Kaele Main Prison, shelters and a kitchen in the Maroua Central Prison.

**847-** The Bali Secondary Prison in North West Region went operational, thereby decongesting prisons where detainees appearing before the Court in Bali were hitherto kept. This brought the number of functional prisons to 79.

## SECTION 4: IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN PRISONS

**848-** The treatment of inmates with dignity was guaranteed through feeding, health coverage and organisation of socio-cultural activities.

### §1: Feeding of Prisoners

**849-** The budget allocated for the feeding of prisoners witnessed a slight drop. The budget for 2016 stood at CFAF2,570,000,000<sup>371</sup> as against CFAF2,747,520,000<sup>372</sup> in 2015. This decrease brought the general average rate for feeding per detainee per day to CFAF250<sup>373</sup> compared to CFAF313<sup>374</sup> in 2015, an amount which remained insufficient.

### §2: Health Coverage

**850-** Another slight drop was noticed in the domain of prisoners' health coverage. The budget allocated for the health of prisoners in 2016 stood at CFAF 150,640,000<sup>375</sup> as against CFAF157,740,000<sup>376</sup> in 2015. This decrease coupled with the significant increase in the number of detainees brought the annual rate per detainee to CFAF5,327<sup>377</sup> in 2016 as against CFAF6,572<sup>378</sup> in 2015. The total number of medico-sanitary penitentiary staff stood at 273 as against 225 in 2015. These include 23 medical doctors, 67 nurses, 147 nurse aids and 36 medico-

<sup>371</sup> About 3,923,664.12 Euros.

<sup>372</sup> About 4,194,687.02 Euros.

<sup>373</sup> About 0.38 Euros.

<sup>374</sup> About 0.48 Euros.

<sup>375</sup> About 229,984.73 Euros.

<sup>376</sup> About 240,824.43 Euros.

<sup>377</sup> About 8.13 Euros.

<sup>378</sup> About 10,03 Euros.

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sanitary laboratory technicians. These personnel ensured the follow-up of the health of persons remanded in custody, with a doctor/detainee ratio of 1:1276, nurse/detainee ratio of 1:438, nurse aid/detainee ratio of 1:200 and assistant laboratory technician/detainee ratio of 1:815.

**851-** ALDEPA supplied delivery kits, toilet accessories, sanitary items and products for the disinfection of cells to the Maroua Central Prison and Mokolo Main Prison.

**852-** Available statistics on transmissible diseases in prisons indicated that out of 3,855 inmates screened for HIV, 818 were tested positive. Some 499 inmates were diagnosed with tuberculosis out of 661 suspected cases, while 257 received anti-tuberculosis vaccines. As concerns sexually transmitted infections, 1,376 cases were registered in prisons. All these persons received treatment.

**853-** Cases of non-transmitted infections were identified as follows: malaria - 1,990, respiratory infections - 9,558, scabies - 8,850, diarrhoea - 4,722, testicular mycosis - 6,646, diabetes - 60, mental problems - 166 and drug addiction 21,951 cases.

**854-** The treatment of these infections in prisons is done using the subvention from the State to purchase drugs, the support of State partners such as the International Funds for the care for HIV/AIDS patients and the CICR that support feeding and treatment of some illnesses. The Ministry of Public Health also contributes enormously to consult and treat inmates referred to some referral hospitals and district hospitals. Confessional hospitals and NGOs like CARITAS and the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church, have also played a big role in the treatment of inmates.

**855-** A total number of 206 deaths were registered in all prisons. Mention can be made of the death of 4 inmates following a strike action in the Garoua Central Prison. Some 40 inmates were also injured. Since the strike was reported to be as a result of "unbearable heat" in the prison cells, 43 air conditioners were installed in the said prison.

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## SECTION 5: SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

**856-** The strategy to ensure the social reintegration of detainees involved training in production activities and education.

### §1: Training in Production Activities

**857-** Production activities on poultry farming were organised in the Bafoussam Central Prison in a bid to ensure the social reintegration of prisoners.

**858-** A grouping of 17 organisations including Christians and Muslims known as *Réseau Foi et Libération* within the framework of their activities related to the promotion and protection of Human Rights, carried out studies on improvement of detention conditions in Cameroon prisons from 28 September to 30 November 2016. At the end of the studies, they recommended the need to focus on the social reintegration of inmates by making use of their different talents in prisons. They also insisted on the need for detainees to be psychologically taken care of<sup>379</sup>.

### §2: Education

**859-** The Central Prison, Bamenda which had 4 trained teachers, registered 13 candidates for the FSLC and had a percentage pass of 66.7%. The Yaounde Central Prison had 85 students (81 boys and 4 girls). Out of this number, 4 were registered for the FSLC, 7 for GCE O/L, 8 for *Probatoire* and 3 for GCE A/L with a success rate of 41.5%. On 16 June 2016, 60 minors received their end-of-year report cards in a ceremony presided over by the Inspector General at the Governor's Office, Littoral Region. These minors were all inmates of the Douala Central Prison who had undergone 9 months of studies at the primary and secondary levels. This ceremony aimed at portraying the importance of the education of minors which includes psychosocial guidance despite their detention.

**860-** The foregoing notwithstanding, the effective education, leisure, socio-cultural guidance and social reintegration of inmates can only be

<sup>379</sup> In November 2016, they organized a series of restitution workshops in different towns notably in Yaounde, Bafoussam, Douala and Maroua to disseminate the studies in question.

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enhanced by posting more qualified teachers, youth and animation counsellors, social workers and other professionals to prisons.

## SECTION 6: CONTROL AND VISITS TO PRISONS

**861-** Control in prisons takes the form of judicial control which involves all control activities regularly carried out by the Legal Department or administrative control carried out by some officials of MINJUSTICE and independent Human Rights structures.

### §1: Judicial and Administrative Control

#### A: Control by the Legal Department

**862-** Control by the Legal Department in North West Region was as follows:

- Bamenda Central Prison and Fundong Main Prison, 3;
- Kumbo, Mbengwi and Ndop Main Prisons, 12;
- Nkambe Main Prison, 6; and
- Wum Main Prison, 5.

**863-** The Buea Central Prison and the Mamfe Main Prison in South West Region were equally controlled by the competent Legal Departments, 13 and 12 times respectively. The Foumban, Mbanga, Eseka, and Mokolo Main Prisons, were also controlled by the Legal Department on 12 different occasions each. On 15 different occasions, the Legal Department carried out controls in the Douala Central Prison.

#### B: Administrative Supervision

**864-** Administrative control was carried out essentially by the Inspectorate General of Penitentiary Administration of MINJUSTICE. At the end of the control exercise, irregular cases were generally referred to the competent Procureur General for appropriate measures which include the release of unduly detained persons and the transfer of inmates to other prisons in order to decongest some prisons. The prisons visited include the Bafoussam Central Prison, the Foumban, Dschang, Banyo, Kumbo, Ndop, Monatele, Yaounde main prisons, and the Moulvoudaye, Sa'a, Meri, Doukoula and Makary Secondary Prisons.



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## §2: Visits by the Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation (DDHCI), NCHRF and NGOs.

**865-** Within the framework of its mandate of monitoring and evaluating the Human Rights situation in the country, officials of the DDHCI of the Ministry of Justice carried out visits to prisons nationwide, alongside visits by the NCHRF as well as some NGOs.

### A: Monitoring visits by the DDHCI

**866-** Staff of the DDHCI visited detention centres in all regional headquarters. The objective of the visit was to appreciate first-hand detention conditions. At the end of the visits, the following recommendations were forwarded to the hierarchy:

- wider application of alternative measures to the imprisonment of minors;
- speed up separation of convicts from inmates awaiting trial;
- improvement of ventilation and lighting systems in prisons;
- reflexions on the situation of children living with their mothers in prison;
- regular capacity building of penitentiary staff on Human Rights;
- computerization of prison registries for the efficient management of detainee files; and
- enhancement of sleeping facilities in prisons.

### B: Visits by the NCHRF

**867-** The NCHRF carried out visits to some prisons in 2016. It visited the Bafia and the Yoko Main Prisons in Centre Region, the Meiganga, Banyo, Tibati, Tignere Main Prisons and the Ngaoundere Central Prison in Adamawa Region, the Bafoussam Central Prison, Bangangte and Dschang Main Prisons in West Region, Buea Central Prison, Mamfe and Kumba Main Prisons in South West Region, Kribi Main Prison in South Region, Wum and Mbengwi Main Prisons in North West Region, Douala Central Prison, Nkongsamba and Mbanga Main Prisons in Littoral Region.

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**868-** In the course of these visits, the NCHRF observed that there were different religious worship areas in prisons coupled with numerous leisure activities. However, the Commission noted some challenges. Generally, it was observed that in most prisons, detainees could receive visitors but few inmates effectively received visitors as they were abandoned by their families. Telephones were generally forbidden.

**869-** Furthermore, the detention environment was averagely acceptable but septic tanks to evacuate wastes were full, thereby making toilets dirty. Cells were mostly less ventilated.

**870-** Moreover, detainees were generally entitled to one meal a day. Nevertheless, inadequate water supply was identified in most of the prisons.

**871-** As concerns education and health, there were insufficient training centres or libraries while sick bays existed but lacked adequate medical material.

## C: Visits by NGOs

**872-** The Yaounde based *Association pour l'Assistance Juridique aux Personnes Vulnérables* visited the Mfou Main Prison on several occasions. Their mission consisted in assisting inmates with financial difficulties. Their numerous interventions before the President and State Counsel of the HC, Mefou-et-Afamba and CFI Mfou led to the release of 7 prisoners who were wrongfully detained in this prison. The strategy used was seising the Courts with applications for *habeas corpus*.

**873-** Another Yaounde based NGO, *Relais Enfants-Parents* Cameroon refurbished the visitor`s room at the Yaounde Central Prison which had been constructed in 2009 but was not in use. The structure which is adapted to family encounters was inaugurated on 8 April 2016.

**874-** The Justice and Peace Commission of the Roman Catholic Church also visited all the prisons in North West Region, and Bafoussam Central Prison, Mbouda and Dschang Main Prisons in West Region. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees visited the Yaounde, Douala, Maroua, Bertoua Central Prisons and the Meiganga and Batorou Main Prisons.

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**875-** Although Government and its partners, have put in considerable effort to improve detention conditions in Cameroon, a lot remains to be done to meet international standards especially as concerns feeding, health coverage, education, psycho-social support in prisons. The persistent increase in the number of prisoners coupled with the limited number of prison facilities results in overcrowding. More efforts are required to be made by competent courts to try those awaiting trial in the prisons. It is hoped that the completion and the opening of newly set up prisons, as well as the application of alternative sentences provided for in the PC will help reduce overcrowding in prisons. Social reintegration of inmates should be vital in prisons.



**Chapter** **4**

**PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF THE  
RIGHTS OF SOCIALLY  
VULNERABLE PERSONS**



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**876-** Socially vulnerable persons including children, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples need special protection from the State in order to better enjoy civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It is in this light that Government and its partners took specific actions in 2016 for the benefit of this category of persons.

## SECTION 1: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

**877-** The legal and institutional frameworks on children's protection including those in emergency situations were strengthened. Measures continued to be taken to enhance the civil rights and freedoms as well as the socio-economic rights of children<sup>380</sup>, building the capacity of Stakeholders and protect them against violence. Some special protection measures were also taken.

### §1: Strengthening the Legal Framework

**878-** Law No. 2016/7 of 12 July 2016 relating to the PC instituted new provisions on the rights of the child relating to early marriages, female genital mutilation, breast ironing, reversionary pension<sup>381</sup>, the right to visit, and education.

**879-** Concerning the right to visit, Section 355-1 of the Code provides *"any parent who interferes with the exercise by the other parent of the right granted by a court order to visit any child they have in common, shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 (six) months to 1 (one) year or with fine of from CFAF50,000<sup>382</sup> (fifty thousand) to CFAF 500,000<sup>383</sup>(five hundred thousand) or both such imprisonment and fine"*.

**880-** Interference with the right to education or training has also been protected. Thus, by virtue of Section 355-2, any parent with sufficient means who refuses to send his child to school, shall be punished with a fine of from CFAF 50,000 to CFAF 500,000. Some Court decisions have taken

<sup>380</sup> See Part 2, Chapter 1 on Right to Education (§240) and Chapter 2 on Right to Health (§348)

<sup>381</sup> See chapter on Women's Rights for further discussion on these provisions, §971-973

<sup>382</sup> About 76.34 Euros

<sup>383</sup> About 763.36 Euros

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into consideration the right to education of children in the administration of estates. Thus it was held that buildings belonging to minors be sold to pay for their education<sup>384</sup>.

## §2: Strengthening the Institutional Framework

**881-** Government set up mechanisms for the protection of the rights of the child including in emergency situations, and protection of children online.

### A: Protection of children in emergency situations

**882-** By Decision No.2016/0098/D/MINAS/SG.DPSE/SDPDE of 20 October 2016, a National Platform on the Protection of the Child in Cameroon, including in Emergency Situations was set up. The task of the said Platform includes:

- drafting an appropriate and coordinated national strategy on prevention, response and advocacy on children's protection; and
- coordination for a greater synergy/coherence of interventions among different stakeholders through strategic and operational planning to anticipate problems/solutions so as to better take into account the specific needs of children.

**883-** The above-mentioned National Platform is made up of 24 statutory members including public administrations, CSOs, national and international NGOs and 5 members with observer status including CSOs, NGOs and a UN Agency.

### B: Protection of Children online

**884-** By Decision No. 117/MINPOSTEL/SG/DSR of 2 June 2016 of the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, a Committee was formed to draft a National Charter on the Protection of Children online. The Committee is composed of representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, 10 ministries, General Managers of companies providing Internet

<sup>384</sup> See Judgments No. 76 of 17 March 2016, CFI, Ndokoti, in **MVUH ADIJA** and **NCHA AMSETOU** vs. QDD; No.186 of 19 May 2016, CFI, Ndokoti, in **LEUMEN TEUMEN NGASSA Berthe Annie** vs. QDD; No. 208 of 2 June 2016, CFI, Ndokoti, in **MANDENGUE Louis Lucien Heurard** vs. QDD; No. 244 of 16 June 2016, CFI, Ndokoti, in **MBOGLE Jacques** and **NGO NGOCK Ernestine** vs. QDD; No. 312 of 21 July 2016, CFI, Ndokoti, affaire **LATALLE Désiré** vs. QDD; No.313 of 21 July 2016, CFI, Ndokoti, in **ABELLA A MOUBEP Emile Stéphane** vs. QDD and No. 330 of 4 August 2016, CFI, Ndokoti, in **VOUFFO FEUDJIO Charlie Rose** vs. QDD.



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services in Cameroon, ART, ANTIC, International Telecommunications Union and 2 representatives from CSOs responsible *inter alia* for:

- mapping of risks and dangers faced by minors;
- providing information on the current situation on the protection of children online;
- defining the responsibilities of stakeholders;
- disseminating the different thrusts related to electronic communications, as well as actions to be undertaken to address them; and
- proposing mechanisms which could lead to awareness-raising campaigns for the entire population on the risks children face online.

## §3: Civil Rights and Freedoms

**885-** Government and its partners continued to enhance the civil rights and freedoms of children especially through awareness-raising campaigns and capacity building on citizenship, participation and alternative care.

### A: Right to Citizenship

**886-** Despite efforts made in previous years for children to have access to citizenship by establishing birth certificates, there were still many of them without same. Hence, MINATD organized a national forum in Yaounde on 30 June 2016 for stakeholders involved in civil status registration, notably First Assistant Senior Divisional Officers, Government Delegates to City Councils, Mayors and Secretaries of civil status registries to raise their awareness and to evaluate the level of rehabilitation of these registries and the effective establishment and functioning of the National Civil Status Office (BUNEC).

**887-** Furthermore, MINATD through awareness-raising campaigns organized 90 meetings for the training of 4,100 staff of civil status registries in 74 localities over the national territory, and further trained 700 other persons (village chiefs, health officials and staff of MINJUSTICE) on the procedures and laws governing civil status registration. Campaigns were also organized from 17 to 22 July 2016 for Indigenous Peoples and the population of the Bakassi peninsular. Administrative and municipal authorities of these localities were trained on the political and social consequences of non-declaration of births. Materials for birth

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registrations were handed over to the said authorities. It was envisaged that at the end of the campaign, Cameroon shall have a computerized civil status register, a secured nationality and access to citizenship.

**888-** Parliamentarians also participated in the campaign to raise the awareness of the population on the need to establish civil status certificates especially birth certificates for children. A workshop was jointly organized by the National Assembly and the “*Ecole citoyenne et politique de Yaoundé*” on 29 March 2016 for parliamentarians, staff of the National Assembly and politicians who are directly in contact with the population.

**889-** In addition, the CSO, *Association pour la Promotion et la Protection des Personnes Handicapées, Agées et les Orphelins du Cameroun* in collaboration with the Councils of Mabga, Malantouen, Kouoptamo, Njimom and Foubot in Noun Division established 1,517 birth certificates for children out of the 6,917 identified, giving a percentage of 21.93% of children issued birth certificates in the 5 Councils in 2016.

## **B: Right to Participate**

**890-** Children have the right to participate in decision-making for matters that directly concern them. Hence, Government in partnership with Plan Cameroon ensured the participation of 2 children from Cameroon in a teleconference Session at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on 5 October 2016 in Geneva.

**891-** The right to participation was also guaranteed by organizing the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Children’s Parliament on 16 June 2016, in the course of which the Day of the African Child was also celebrated under the theme: “*Conflicts and Crisis in Africa: Let’s protect the Rights of all Children*”. The Children called on all and sundry to rigorously combat ills like early marriages, child labour and to protect children affected by armed conflict in Far North Region.

**892-** Through its Programme “*Education of the girl child*”, Plan Cameroon set up 59 platforms for the participation of children, 22 clubs for girls, 27 Children’s Government and 10 Children’s forum in Centre Region. Furthermore, Plan Cameroon mobilized and involved about 65

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CSOs and 1,035 children (515 boys and 520 girls) to draft complementary reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) in Cameroon.

## C: Adoption and Guardianship

**893-** A number of judgments were delivered based on the provisions of Article 3 of CRC and Article 4 of ACRWC concerning the taking into account of the best interest of the child in all decisions concerning him<sup>385</sup>. By Judgment No. 363/CIV of 4 June 2015, the CA, Centre Region ruled in same order in *The People vs. Hageman Diane Albertine, Mrs. Mbida Tsinga Ndzie Marie*. The CA dismissed the application of the Legal Department challenging the adoption decision pursuant to Article 3 of CRC in that, adoption was granted a person aged 26 as against national law that provides for 40 years for adoption. In upholding the judgment, the CA recalled the provisions of Article 45 of the Constitution that provides that ratified international conventions take precedence over national laws to decide, *“That as such, the provisions of Section 344 of the Civil Code which the Legal Department evoked to request that the challenged judgment be quashed, should be dismissed in favour of Article 3 of the CRC more especially as the child whose adoption is sought lost not only his mother but also his guardian and that it is obvious that the requested adoption is in the interest of the child.”*

**894-** An analysis of the Judgment of the CA, North West Region showed that most applications for adoption were filed by Cameroonians living abroad who are represented in court due to distance. Once the interest of the child is preserved, the Court allows the application. Conversely, adoption was disallowed where the parents of the child withdrew their consent for adoption of the child to a third-party living abroad. The Court held that the interest of the child was best upheld by the person to whom custody was granted by custom since 10 years before and who lives in Cameroon<sup>386</sup>.

<sup>385</sup> Judgment No.231/Civ of 21 March 2016, HC, Mfoundi, in **Philippe Olivier MORIN** vs. The People ; Judgment No.44/Civ of 7 January 2016, HC, Mfoundi, in **FAYOLLE Jeanne** and **FAYOLLE François** vs. The People ; Judgment No.32/Civil of 7 January 2016, HC, Mfoundi, in **M. GAY Bernard** vs. The People ; Judgment No.231/civ of 21 March 2016, HC, Mfoundi, in **Philippe Olivier MORIN** vs. The People ; judgment No.543/TPD of 7/11/2016 delivered by *Tribunal de Premier Degré de Garoua*.

<sup>386</sup> HCM/079M/2016: **ACHU Samuel Atoh** and **ACHU Abednego NJI** and 2 others.

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**895-** In 2016, the courts<sup>387</sup> granted 238 applications to nationals seeking to adopt children while 19 applications were granted to foreigners.

**896-** In addition, judgments on delegation of guardianship were delivered on grounds of the provisions of the CRC with the aim of compensating for the distance of the parents to guarantee the child, "protection by one member of his family who can ensure his care, comfort, assistance in civilian life, education and his psychological balance<sup>388</sup>.

**897-** In the same vein, the *Tribunal de Premier Degré de Bafoussam* in Judgment No. 669/C of 14 July 2016, concerning delegation of parental authority and judgment No. 807/C of 25 August 2016 on the delegation of guardianship, the Judges cited Article 3 of the CRC and Article 4(1) of the ACRWC in which the best interest of the child was always taken amongst other considerations in granting the applications.

**898-** The courts also granted 122 applications to nationals seeking guardianship over children and 11 to foreigners.

## §4: Protection of Children against Violence and Exploitation

**899-** The courts sanctioned perpetrators of violence on children such as trafficking, rape, murder or homicide.

**900-** Children were victims of violent crimes such as capital murder, unintentional killing and harm, assault occasioning grievous harm, assault occasioning death and indecency to child under 16 as illustrated by some cases. In judgment No. 41/crim of 26 May 2016, before the HC, Bamboutos, a young man aged 21, in order to punish a minor of 6 years for having beaten his nephew, sent his fingers into the eyes of the minor and assaulted him with a stick. The child later died of the said assault and wounds in the hospital. The accused was convicted for 6 years imprisonment for assault occasioning death.

**901-** In another violent crime before the CFI, Mbouda (Judgment No. 24/DELJUV of 14 July 2016) the accused who forcefully took his victim, a 10-year-old girl into a bush and abused her sexually, was convicted and sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment for indecency to child under 16.

<sup>387</sup> Tribunal de Premier Degré, High Courts, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.

<sup>388</sup> HC, Mfoundi, Judgment No. 698/Civ of 13 June 2016, in **NTONE NKONGO Alain Didier vs. The People**.

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**902-** The courts evoked international conventions in punishing authors of violence against children. In Judgment No. 102/CRIM of 25 August 2015 on indecency to child under 16 that resulted in the rape of an 8-year old child (The People and Usufructs of AJJ vs. **TCHATCHUE KAMGA David**) by HC, Mifi Division, the court recalled, *“that such attitude is a flagrant violence of the rights of the child who, pursuant to Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, must be protected against all forms of violence.”*

**903-** Concerning trafficking in persons, despite concerted actions<sup>389</sup> to combat this scourge, the phenomenon increased in 2016 as compared to 2015<sup>390</sup>. Thus, this year, 35 children (23 boys and 12 girls) were victims of child trafficking as registered in the courts. Twenty three of the cases are pending before the trial courts, 7 persons convicted and 1 acquitted.

**904-** Continued protection of the child against violence resulted in the following trends: about 1,206 children (361 boys and 845 girls) were victims of violent and other related offences with 1,773 persons convicted for the offences. The offence with the highest number of children victims was indecency to child under 16 with 661 cases (99 boys and 562 girls). The number of cases concerning child victims of violent offences reduced in 2016 as compared to 2015<sup>391</sup>.

## §5: Special Protection Measures

**905-** Government and its partners took special protection measures to curb the phenomenon of street children, protect those in conflict with the law and emergency situations<sup>392</sup>.

### A: Curbing the Phenomenon of Street Children

**906-** The fight against the phenomenon of street children focused on social integration, capacity development, identification and returning of these children to their families.

<sup>389</sup> See 2015 Report, § 1139,

<sup>390</sup> See 2015 Report, § 1140

<sup>391</sup> 1,648 children were victims of violent offences with 840 cases of indecency to child under 16 in 2015

<sup>392</sup> See chapter on Terrorism, §708

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## 1) Social Integration

**907-** In order to socially integrate former street children, Government allocated CFAF 56,000,000<sup>393</sup> to the National Employment Fund to fund micro-projects by former street children. Consequently, about 30 of these children were empowered to carry out their own micro-projects. Also, MINAS organized 2 professional orientation sessions for 86 street children in view of their social integration.

## 2) Capacity Building

**908-** MINAS organized 2 consultation meetings with stakeholders and institutions involved in the care of street children in Mfoundi Division. These meetings which were held on 2 and 12 December 2016 respectively, aimed at developing the capacity of stakeholders in view of housing street children. Also, the process of identifying structures which could serve as placement centres was commenced.

## 3) Identification and Return of Street Children to Families

**909-** In 2016, 169 street children (166 boys and 3 girls) were identified in Yaounde. In Adamawa Region, 137 were identified, out of which 10 were retrieved from the streets and returned to their families in Tignere, 31 benefited from professional reintegration within the framework of *Programmed'Appui à l'Insertion et à la Réinsertion Professionnelles des Personnes Vulnérables* and the rest continued to benefit from psychosocial care by Welfare Centres. Furthermore, in Littoral Region, 55 street children were returned to their families.

### B: Children in Conflict with the Law

**910-** The number of children in custody increased in 2016 (885) compared to 2015 (823). There were 24 judicial placements in some of the institutions in charge of supervision and rehabilitation of children in 2016.

**911-** MINJUSTICE with the support of UNICEF organized 8 training seminars for Gendarmes and Police officers from 11 to 23 January

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<sup>393</sup> About 85, 496.18 Euros.

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2016 in Maroua on the rights of the child, as well as, the interaction between stakeholders in charge of child protection. The seminar was attended by 120 Gendarme officers, 120 Police officers, 8 representatives of CSOs and 8 Social Workers in Far North Region.

**912-** At the end of the seminar the following recommendations amongst others were made:

- deployment of trained police and gendarmerie officers on the protection of the rights of children;
- organization of training for defence and security forces on diversion, access to justice, drafting of documents during judicial and police investigations and duties of the child;
- assignment of Social Workers to police and gendarmerie units; and
- amendment of Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism on the specific situation of these children.

## C: Protection of Children in Armed Conflicts

**913-** In prelude to the celebration of the Day of the African Child on 16 June 2016, MINAS in collaboration with MINJUSTICE and with the support of UNICEF, organized a conference in Maroua on 10 June 2016 for 30 participants from the central and regional services of administrations in charge of care of child victims of armed conflicts. The Conference focused on promotion and protection of the rights of child victims of armed conflicts in Cameroon, as well as promoting synergy between different structures involved in their care. During the conference, MINAS informed participants that more than 25,336 children had benefitted from psychosocial support as part of the national response to the security crisis in Far North Region.

## SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**914-** Government focused on improving the social protection system, promoting the right to work, physical and mental health, inclusive education and participation in cultural activities of persons with disabilities.

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## §1: Social Protection System

**915-** To boost the social protection system, the Multifunctional Centre of Bepanda, Douala went operational following its inauguration on 22 June 2016 by the Minister of Social Affairs. The Centre is dedicated to the reintegration of vulnerable children. It is made up of workshops such as carpentry, building, painting, sewing and hair dressing.

## §2: Right to Work

**916-** MINAS supported the socio-economic installation of 7 girls with different disabilities by granting sewing machines from the *Centre de Formation et Promotion pour Femmes handicapées «Bobine d'Or»*. MINAS also continued to lobby MINFOPRA to grant age limit exemption to candidates with disability in Official Competitive Examinations.

**917-** Also, Government granted tax and custom duty exonerations to persons with disabilities, and provided them with financial support.

## §3: Physical and Mental Health

**918-** On 15 March 2016 in Mbalmayo, the Swiss NGO, FAIRMED and MINAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Government to ensure the continuity of the Community-Based Rehabilitation Project. The Project provides a forum for orientation, sharing of ideas and advice for persons with disabilities, as well as a medium for the support of socio-economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Project which generally aims to improve the physical and mental well-being of persons with disabilities had benefited 296 of them.

**919-** On 21 July 2016, the Association, Healthy Environment for Living People and *la Fondation Franjac* organized a forum to raise the awareness of stakeholders and families on mental disability. The Association which is made up of psychologists, psychiatrists and psycho-therapists focused on mental disability and socio-professional integration in Cameroon. During the forum, artistic works of persons with mental disability were exhibited.



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## §4: Inclusive Education

**920-** *MINESEC* in partnership with the NGO, Sight-savers organized a workshop from 9 to 11 August 2016 to develop the capacity of national pedagogic inspectors on inclusive education. The workshop was held within the framework of implementing the guidelines of the strategy paper in the education and training sector which aims at inclusion and inclusive values within the school milieu.

**921-** To achieve this goal, *MINESEC* embarked on a 3-year Programme of training national pedagogic inspectors who will in turn train regional pedagogic inspectors and teachers of GTTC on the inclusive pedagogy approach.

**922-** In addition, subventions were granted to private educational institutions specialized in teaching and training children with different disabilities within the framework of developing their technical, material and financial capacities.

## §5: Participation in Cultural and Sporting Activities

**923-** On the occasion of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2016, *MINAS* organized exhibitions and sporting activities for persons with disabilities. The Day was celebrated under the theme: *“Attaining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals: For a future that we want”*.

**924-** These achievements notwithstanding, the rights of persons with disability will be greatly enhanced if the enabling instrument of Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 is signed.

## SECTION 3: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

**925-** The awareness of older persons and the population was raised on “aging well, measures were taken to enhance the health of older persons as *MINAS* organized free medical consultation for older persons on old age pathologies and cultural activities.

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**926-** On 28 May 2016, an information and awareness-raising workshop was organized on the notion of “aging well” to empower social workers and other stakeholders with new skills to take care of elderly persons. During the workshop, older persons were drilled on how to personally take care of themselves. Families were equally urged to change their attitude and individually and collectively take care of this vulnerable group of persons.

**927-** Older persons participated in cultural events and sports in prelude and during celebrations on 1 October 2016, marking the International Day of Older Persons under the theme: Aging population: no to any form of discrimination and stigmatization related to age.

## **SECTION 4: IMPROVING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

**928-** The civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous peoples (Mbororos and Pygmies) were guaranteed by Government with the support of its partners.

### **§1: Civil and Political Rights**

**929-** The civil and political rights of indigenous peoples such as access to citizenship, information and participation in the management of public affairs were improved.

#### **A: Access to Citizenship**

**930-** Through the combined efforts of Government and Plan Cameroon, birth certificates were established for Pygmies in South and East Regions in 2016. Between 13 June and 29 December 2016, special assizes were held in the various localities inhabited by Pygmies in the East Region where about 855 declaratory judgments were delivered to Bakas to established birth certificates. In South Region, 200 of such judgments were also delivered for the same purpose.

#### **B: Access to Information**

**931-** Government and its partners constructed a community radio station in Kribi dedicated to promotion and protection of the rights and culture of Pygmies and the radio was provisionally authorized to function

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on 13 August 2016. The community radio-Nkuli-Makeli (drum of the forest people) is animated by Pygmies. In addition to enhancing access of Pygmies to information, the radio also serves as an affirmation and perpetuation of the knowledge and know-how of Pygmies.

## C: Participation in the Management of Public Affairs

**932-** Government ensured that citizens of all social strata including indigenous peoples, were involved in the management of public affairs. In July 2016, for example, Dr. **IBRAHIM MANU**, a lecturer at the University of Dschang was appointed *Chargé de Mission* at the Prime Minister's Office.

## §2: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**933-** In a bid to promote and protect the economic, social and cultural rights of Indigenous Peoples, housing standard was improved, and capacity development and advocacy for social inclusion and education activities carried out.

### A: Enhancing Adequate Standard of Housing

**934-** Major construction projects in areas inhabited by the indigenous peoples like the Kribi seaport led to the displacement of some Pygmy villages. Hence, Government resettled the Pygmies of the Mboro village in the South Region, which was destroyed during the construction of the seaport. A village with modern houses equipped with electricity, water and toilets was constructed for them. The village also has a school, a football field, a house of worship and a cultural hall.

### B: Training and Capacity Development

**935-** MBOSCUA in partnership with the NGO, Village Aid-UK, organized a training of trainers workshop from 5 to 7 April 2016 in Bamenda on "*alternative conflict management approach*" to enhance the skills of 20 MBOSCUA staff of Dialogue Platforms in North West Region<sup>394</sup>. Some 760 (606 men and 154 women) other members of the

<sup>394</sup> In order to reduce farmer/grazer conflict between Mbororo pastoralists and farmers in North West Region, the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association of Cameroon (MBOSCUA) established dialogue platforms to solve such conflicts.

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said Dialogue Platforms were drilled on the same topic from 14 to 28 November 2016 in 21 villages of the 7 divisions in North West Region.

**936-** Managing conflicts between farmers and grazers through dialogue platforms had commendable results as out of the 396 conflicts registered in 2016, 321 were resolved amicably.

## C: Education and Social Inclusion

**937-** In the 2016/2017 school year, there was a marked increase in the number of indigenous children (Bakas) in primary schools in East and South Regions. As per statistics from *MINEDUB*, there were 5,502 (3,028 boys and 2,474 girls) children in primary school in East Region while in South Region, there were 1,773 (980 boys and 793 girls) Baka children.

**938-** The number of indigenous children who sat for official examinations also increased. For the 2016 session of the “*baccalauréat*”, for example, in East Region the number of Baka candidates was 6 (4 were successful), and for the “*probatoire* and *BEPC*” there were about 10 of them in examination centres like *Lycée Moderne* and *Lycée technique d’Abong-Mbang*. This increase is due to the combined results of an education policy set up by Government and its partners to integrate this vulnerable group in nation building.

**939-** In addition, Government opened 4 primary schools within Mbororos communities in Adamawa Region (Salo Konabiradam, Didango Tibati, Sambo Laddo, Wuro Barode) and 1 in Bangem, South West Region.

**940-** At the level of higher education, with regard to the Mbororos, statistics from 4 State Universities indicated that there were 188 students with 4 PhD students and a student medical doctor.

**941-** Furthermore, MBOSCUDA in partnership with Village-Aid, UK partly constructed a classroom in GBSS Sabga, completed the construction of one classroom at GPS Ntabang and rehabilitated a community hall in Ntabang, all in North West Region.

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**942-** From what precedes, despite efforts made by Government in protecting socially vulnerable persons especially strengthening the legal and institutional framework of protecting children, promoting social inclusion amongst indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and the older persons, there are still some challenges to overcome. A lot of minors are still in detention due to few judicial placements, and social protection schemes need to be improved upon.



Chapter **5**

PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS





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**943-** The year 2016, declared “*African Human Rights Year with Particular Focus on Women’s Rights*”<sup>395</sup>, was a pivotal moment for the promotion and protection of Women’s rights in Cameroon. In this connection, some of the major activities include the strategic and institutional rooting of gender equality, protection of women against violence, promotion of women’s economic rights, and protection of property rights.

## SECTION 1: CONSOLIDATION OF THE POLICY OF GENDER EQUALITY

**944-** Consolidation of gender equality<sup>396</sup> orientated public policies and served as a leitmotiv for participation of women in the management of public affairs.

### §1: Gender Equality as an Orientation Framework of Public Policies

**945-** Public policies on gender equality progressed with a repeal of some discriminatory provisions, full political commitment in the *He For she* Global Solidarity Campaign, and the functioning of the institutional framework to promote gender equality

#### A: Consolidation of the Anti-discrimination Normative Framework

**946-** With the adoption of the PC, some provisions of Conventions on protection of women’s rights<sup>397</sup> were internalized resulting in the repeal of discriminatory provisions. The discriminatory provisions include adultery, rape, and early marriage. Thus, section 361 of the PC henceforth punishes both adultery of the woman and adultery of the man in the same manner. In addition, marriage between the author of rape and his victim is no longer considered a ground for exemption from prosecution as per section 297. Section 356 (3) abolishes the age disparities be-

<sup>395</sup> Theme of celebration of the 26th and 27th Sessions of the Conference of Head of States and Government of the African Union held respectively in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 27 to 31 January 2016 and in Kigali (Rwanda) from 11 to 14 July 2016.

<sup>396</sup> The 31st edition of the International Day of the Woman celebrated under the theme: *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: take up the Challenge, Overcome Obstacles*, fully expresses this commitment.

<sup>397</sup> This concerns the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women known as the Maputo Protocol.

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tween boys and girls, and fixes 18 years<sup>398</sup> as the minimum age of marriage. However, harmonization would only be complete where the provisions of Ordinance No. 81/2 of 29 June 1981 to organize the civil status<sup>399</sup> and those of the PC are the same on the age of marriage.

## **B: Political Commitment on Gender Equality**

**947-** The *He For She*<sup>400</sup> Global Solidarity Campaign was launched in Cameroon (Yaounde) on 11 August 2016<sup>401</sup>. The goal of the Campaign<sup>402</sup> is to encourage men and boys to participate in the drive for gender equality and the rights of women by encouraging them to take measures to stop inequalities against women and girls. Men and boys were requested to step up their commitment by subscribing to the *He For She* website. As at 31 December 2016, Cameroon had 2,600 male subscribers although the target stood at 2,000,000 male Cameroon subscribers.

## **C: Institutional Gender Equality Promotion Framework**

**948-** On 13 December 2016, Government published the Multisector Plan of Action for the implementation of the National Gender Policy (2016-2020). The Plan of Action which was drawn up by Public Administrations, CSOs and with the support of Technical and Financial Partners, aimed at opening the gender promotion institutional framework to implement the national multisector policy. One of the strategic thrusts of the Plan concerned participation of women in the management of public affairs.

## **§2: Participation of Women in the Management of Public Affairs**

**949-** Participation of women in the management of public affairs was effected through guaranteeing their political rights and their access to decision-making positions.

<sup>398</sup> The former provision made it possible to punish "any person who gives a minor girl of 14 years old or a minor boy of 16 years old in marriage."

<sup>399</sup> Section 52 of the Ordinance fixes the minimum marriage age at 15 years for girls and 18 years for boys.

<sup>400</sup> The Head of State had already expressed his support for the campaign under the Women in Parliament Global Forum. See 2015 Report, §1222.

<sup>401</sup> During a ceremony under the distinguished patronage of the Head of State and presided upon at by the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

<sup>402</sup> Initiated since 20 September 2015 in New York by the United Nations.

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## A: Guaranteeing of the Political Rights of Women

**950-** In a bid to increase the representativeness of women in future elections, public authorities and private stakeholders focused on discussions, awareness-raising and political capacity building of women.

**951-** During the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Decentralization Day celebrated on 9 August 2016 in Yaounde, discussions were held on the role of women in the decentralization process under the theme *Equality, Gender Promotion and Women's Empowerment for proper achievement of the 2063 Agenda and Millennium Development Goals*. Deliberations focused on the representativeness of women in Councils and Parliament<sup>403</sup>, the key role of women as stakeholders in the political and democratic system, and enhancement of gender equality, stressing the need to implement the determining gender factor for better inclusion of women by 2030 as per the UN vision<sup>404</sup>.

**952-** In this connection, the political capacities of women were built. Political training sessions were organized for women by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (*MINPROFF*) in April 2016 in Mbankomo, Centre Region and by Elections Cameroon as part of awareness-raising operations dubbed *Month of March, Month of Women, Month of Women at Elecam*, to encourage them to register on voters' registers. This resulted in registering the 40,000<sup>th</sup> woman in May in Garoua Boulai.

**953-** In order to consolidate the participation of women in the management of public affairs, the *Réseau des Femmes Elues Locales d'Afrique du Cameroun* organized a capacity building seminar for its members from 27 to 28 May 2016 in Yaounde.

**954-** During the World Conference on Female Leadership held in Yaounde in February 2016 at the initiative of the Network of Associations, *More Women in Politics*, the political participation of women and alternative solutions to their political empowerment were at the centre of discussions. The adoption of a law to fix the quotas of women in elections was one of the resolutions of the Conference. In addition, under a proj-

<sup>403</sup> See 2013 Report, §861-868 containing a gender analysis of results of legislative and council elections.

<sup>404</sup> The programme targets a 50=50 world by 2030.

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ect led by the same organization in collaboration with *Horizon Femmes*, and the support of the European Union, a mobile caravan was launched to raise the awareness of women from 20 Councils in 7 Regions<sup>405</sup>, on democratic culture and the importance of their participation in politics.

## **B: Access of Women to Decision-making Positions**

**955-** On the whole, the political option to include women in the management of public affairs was consolidated although some drawbacks were observed.

**956-** Out of 254 positions of General Manager and Deputy General Manger in the 127 public enterprises identified, women are appointed to only 7% of such positions. This is gross inequality and it means that progress mentioned in the 2015 Report<sup>406</sup> on appointment of women to head public structures should be maintained.

**957-** In traditional communities, the political empowerment of women heightened significantly with the admission of female notables in the Council of Notables<sup>407</sup> in traditional chiefdoms<sup>408</sup> in Adamawa (Ngaoundere, Banyo, Tibati, and Tignere)<sup>409</sup> and North Regions. Such admissions fall in line with the drive to reduce exclusion of women from the management of public affairs<sup>410</sup>, which is another form of violence against them.

## **SECTION 2: COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**958-** Violence against women and girls is still a major challenge in Cameroon although the State and its partners have made efforts to combat it. That is why public authorities continued to implement the prevention strategy and take care of victims.

<sup>405</sup> Centre, Littoral, South, West, North West, South West, and East Regions.

<sup>406</sup> See 2015 Report, § 1230 and following.

<sup>407</sup> Councils of Notables are called "Faada".

<sup>408</sup> These organizations, also called *Lamidat*, were up till then not open to women.

<sup>409</sup> Till date, they are 29 in Adamawa Region.

<sup>410</sup> Especially since this part of the country is characterized by a patriarchal system of management.

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## §1: Violence against Women

**959-** The results of the 2014 Demographic and Health Survey, and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (DHS MICS) published in 2016 revealed, from the standpoint of the attitude of the population on domestic violence, the following statistics from a sample of persons aged 15 to 49: 36.1% of women as against 39% of men think it is right for a man to beat his wife if she does one of the following: she goes out without informing him, she neglects the children, she quarrels with him, she refuses to have sexual relations with him, or she wastes food.

**960-** The percentage of women between 15 and 49 years old, cohabiting or not, victims of different kinds of violence by their husband/partner in the last 12 months are as follows:

- physical violence: 30.8%
- sexual violence: 13.5%
- emotional violence: 47.2%
- at least 1 of the 3 forms of violence above: 56.2%.

**961-** The percentage of men aged 15 to 49 cohabiting who have been violent to their spouse/partner is as follows:

- physical violence: 31.2%
- sexual violence: 8.5%
- emotional violence: 40.1%
- at least 1 of the 3 forms of violence above: 47.7%.

**962-** Gender-based violence increases during humanitarian crisis. In the Far North Region, for example, 32.6% of girls get married before the age of 18. From January to August 2016, some 36 cases of rape, 318 cases of violence relating to conflict with *Boko Haram* were reported in health structures and another 215 documented cases of sexual violence recorded in the Region<sup>411</sup>.

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<sup>411</sup> The observation was made during a multisector workshop to consolidate national response to gender-based violence organized from 18 to 20 October 2016 in Maroua by MINPROFF in collaboration with UNFPA. A women's protection subgroup was formed at MINPROFF with the support of UNFPA to coordinate activities by stakeholders against gender-based violence, and a regional subgroup was formed in Far North Region.

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## §2: Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls

**963-** Appropriate strategies were implemented to prevent violence, notably awareness-raising with focus on curbing child marriage and capacity building<sup>412</sup>.

### A: Awareness-raising Campaigns

**964-** Awareness-raising activities were organized to change behaviour and paradigms, especially during commemoration days<sup>413</sup> devoted to combating violence.

**965-** This was the case of celebrations to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation<sup>414</sup> on 6 February 2016, the International Women's Day<sup>415</sup> on 8 March 2016 or the "Official 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence"<sup>416</sup>.

**966-** In addition, the proliferation of slavery and trafficking of Cameroon women to the Middle East was on headline news. In this connection, a joint press briefing by the Minister of Women's Affairs and the Family and the Minister of Social Affairs in the presence of the Minister of Communication was organized on 9 December 2016 to raise the awareness of families on the silent atrocities of such underground phenomenon.

### B: Campaign against Child Marriage

**967-** Child marriage<sup>417</sup> which constitutes a Human Rights violation of young girls<sup>418</sup> was Government priority. According to the 2014 DHS

<sup>412</sup> The training of 150 National Security staff on protection of women and children against gender-based violence in emergency humanitarian situations which begun in 2015, continued and resulted in the institution of gender desks in some police stations.

<sup>413</sup> The celebrations served as a springboard for conferences, educational talks, and awareness-raising of community and religious leaders, and families on the negative impact of all forms of violence on human dignity, women's empowerment, and national development goals.

<sup>414</sup> The celebrations were carried out under the slogan *Zero tolerance against female genital mutilation*.

<sup>415</sup> The 2016 edition was celebrated under the theme *Gender equality and women's empowerment: respond to challenges, overcome difficulties*.

<sup>416</sup> The days were celebrated in Cameroon from 25 November to 10 December under the theme *From peace at home to global peace, proper awareness-raising for all*, and resulted in the organization of conferences, educational talks and round tables.

<sup>417</sup> These are marriages where one of the spouses is below 18 years.

<sup>418</sup> Mention could be made amongst others of right to education, right to health, right to physical and moral integrity, right to development and protection...

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MICS referred to above, in Cameroon, 36% of girls aged 15 to 18 years are currently married.

**968-** In a bid to reduce the phenomenon, a Platform of Stakeholders against Child Marriage was set up in April 2016<sup>419</sup> at MINPROFF as part of activities of the *Prevention of abuse, violence and abandonment in communities and families* Project. The Platform further coordinated the national<sup>420</sup> launch of the African Campaign against Child Marriage initiated under the auspices of the African Union in November 2015. In addition, regional plans of action on abandonment of child marriage in families in Adamawa, North, and Far North Regions were drawn up in collaboration with administrative authorities, traditional and religious leaders under the auspices of MINPROFF and partners, while an awareness-raising session was organized on 25 October 2016 for Parliamentarians.

**969-** In order to make the voices of victims heard, an exhibition dubbed “*paroles de filles*” designed by the movement “*Girls, not Brides*” was organized on 18 November 2016 in Yaounde with the support of State partners.

## §3: Measures to combat Violence against Women and Girls

**970-** In spite of the different efforts made by public authorities and private stakeholders, violence against women is still a societal scourge reported in the media. That is why the National Strategy to combat Violence against Women and the Plan of Action against Female Genital Mutilation were updated while the legislative framework was consolidated for more efficiency in legal proceedings.

### A: Consolidating the Legislative Framework

**971-** In the new PC, the repressive arsenal was enhanced by widening the scope of incrimination of violence against women. Thus, new offences such as female genital mutilation, prevention of growth of an

<sup>419</sup> Decision No. 80/D/MINPROFF/SG/DPPFDE/SDPPDE of 21 April 2016 to set up and lay down the organization and functioning of the Interministerial Committee including Technical and Financial Partners, and Civil Society Organizations involved in child protection.

<sup>420</sup> On 18 November 2016

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organ<sup>421</sup>, and sexual harassment respectively provided for and punishable under sections 277-1, 277-2, and 302-1, have been added to the existing ones, while slavery and trafficking in persons<sup>422</sup> are provided for and punishable under section 342-1. Expulsion of a spouse from the matrimonial home is henceforth an offence provided for and punishable under section 358-1. This provision will protect the surviving spouse<sup>423</sup> from pressure from the deceased's family on property acquired by the couple.

**972-** Economic violence against women, notably denial of resources may constitute offences such as refusal to pay alimony, reversionary pension, and abandonment of the family which entitles the women to take legal action before the courts as per sections 180, 180-1, and 358 of the PC.

**973-** Sessions to disseminate the new PC, notably provisions that protect women, children, and the family were organized by *MINPROFF* nationwide<sup>424</sup> for proper understanding by people of all walks of life.

## **B: Legal Proceedings against Authors of Violence against Women**

**974-** The upsurge of violence against women resulted in a gruesome series of women violently killed in major towns. Between 25 December 2015 and 9 August 2016, the bodies of 6 women in their thirties or fifties with marks of violence were found in Nkolbisson quarters, Yaounde VII Subdivision.

**975-** An alleged offenders was prosecuted before the HC, Mfoundi for 2 of the killings. Investigations are ongoing in the other killings to arrest suspects.

**976-** Court statistics show that 109 women and 127 girls were victims of rape, resulting in 344 investigation reports forwarded to the different Legal Departments, while 264 judgments were delivered including 153 convictions.

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<sup>421</sup> This includes breast ironing.

<sup>422</sup> This offence was punishable under the provisions of Law No. 2011/24 of 14 December 2011 on the fight against slavery and trafficking in persons.

<sup>423</sup> In practice, widows are the more exposed.

<sup>424</sup> The inaugural session was held in Yaounde on 10 August 2016 and attended by members of Government, heads of diplomatic missions, representatives of international organizations, and members and representatives from civil society.



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**977-** Some matters on slavery such as The People and **BETIOLA BERILY, Larissa LIMNYUY, CHIN Eimilian, MBON Marceline, VERNYUY Bernadine, SENKA Loretta, LUKONG Elvira Rachel, SA'ADATU Asmaoua, MODESTA Odette, MBIM Harisu** and **NGONG Hostencia** vs. **FONYUY René** and **Demian BURINYUY** were brought before the courts. In this matter before the courts in Kumbo, the victims alleged that they had paid in huge sums of money to the accused persons to facilitate their journey to Kuwait where employment was awaiting them. However, on arrival they were used as house maids, treated poorly and could only be set free on reimbursing alleged sums paid by their new bosses to intermediaries. Due to lack of evidence that they had facilitated the journey of the girls against payment of financial compensation, the 1<sup>st</sup> accused was discharged and acquitted while the 2<sup>nd</sup> accused was convicted and sentenced to 1 year imprisonment with fine of CFAF500,000<sup>425</sup> and ordered to pay damages of CFAF2,000,000<sup>426</sup> and cost of CFAF191,000<sup>427</sup> for false pretences provided for and punishable under section 318 (1) (c) of the PC<sup>428</sup>.

## §4: Care and Rehabilitation of Victims

**978-** In order to ensure proper care of victims of violence, an institutional network was consolidated with the establishment of 6 gender desks and call centres in Bertoua, Mora, and Mokolo. In all, 1,574 victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV) were received in the centres in 2016.

**979-** Through support from CSOs like ACAFEJ, GBV victims especially Central African refugees received assistance as part of humanitarian response. Assistance to GBV survivors comprised identification of GBV cases, integrated care, counselling and group therapy. As part of the project that spread from September 2015 to February 2016, 29 cases of GBV were identified in refugee sites in the East Region, while 98 persons were counselled.

<sup>425</sup> About 765.35 Euros.

<sup>426</sup> About 3,053.44 Euros.

<sup>427</sup> About 291.60 Euros.

<sup>428</sup> Court of First Instance and High Court, Kumbo, and Bui, Judgment No.HCB/22/2016 of 19 December 2016.

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## SECTION 3: PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

**980-** On 8 March 2016, the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the International Women's Day<sup>429</sup> was celebrated. On that occasion, it was recalled that the paradigm of women's empowerment was at the centre of the new strategy to promote women's rights and Sustainable Development Goals. In order to use female skills in national development efforts, special emphasis was laid on education of the woman and the girl child<sup>430</sup>, capacity building of women, support to income-generating activities, and development of female cultural know-how.

### §1: Capacity Building of Women

**981-** In order to enhance integration of women in economic life through promotion of female entrepreneurship and poverty reduction, capacity building sessions in different domains were organized for women. In this connection, some 14,191 women were trained in project design in Women's Empowerment Centres. Women were also trained in Information and Communication Technologies especially through implementation of the *MINPROFF-MINPOSTEL* Agreement signed in 2015<sup>431</sup> as part of the Central Africa Backbone Project. Thus, some 11 Women's Empowerment Centres received technical, material and financial support geared towards their connection to the Internet.

**982-** Furthermore, in a bid to spread women's empowerment structures nationwide, 4 new Women's Empowerment Centres were built in Muyuka, Biwong Bulu, Ndobiang, and Okola, while 6 others were rehabilitated and/or equipped in Eseka, Ebolowa, Dschang, Bafang, Nkongsamba, and Kumbo.

**983-** Within the framework of partnership between *MINPROFF* and *Fondation Orange Cameroun*, with the support of Positive Planet, digital desks were established in Women's Empowerment Centres in Yaounde V Subdivision, Akwa-Douala, and Bafoussam, while 500 female entrepreneurs were trained in digital economy.

<sup>429</sup> Under the theme *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: respond to challenges, remove barriers*.

<sup>430</sup> See Chapter on Right to Education, §240

<sup>431</sup> During the celebration of the Day of the African Woman, see 2015 Report, Chapter on the promotion and the protection of women's rights, §1270.

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**984-** To encourage women to migrate from the informal sector (where they constitute the majority) to formal economy, a joint project between the International Labour Organization and the Interprofessional Group of Cameroon worth CFAF180,000,000<sup>432</sup> was launched in Douala in October 2016 to train 300 women on Business Management Skills.

**985-** In addition, the *Association des Bayam Sellam* which promotes and guides women in the informal sector was declared public utility by Decree No. 2016/478 of 22 November 2016, in order to support the development of income-generating activities of women.

## §2: Support to Income-generating Activities

**986-** In 2016, a study on female entrepreneurship was conducted in prelude to the drawing up of the National Female Entrepreneurship Development Policy. Besides, a Support Programme to promote female entrepreneurship was laid down by Government with the support of the Central African States Development Bank worth CFAF7,000,000,000<sup>433</sup> to finance female economic projects including training of trainers and follow-up of promoters.

**987-** Furthermore, DHS MICS 5 revealed that 34% of women operate in the agricultural sector as against 66% in the non-agricultural sector with variables depending on the rural area or urban area. In a bid to reduce poverty amongst rural women, the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the International Day of Rural Women was celebrated on 15 October 2016 under the theme *Empowerment of rural women to achieve sustainable development goals*.

**988-** Thus, in order to reduce the strenuous effort of agricultural work, 191 women's groups received agricultural tools<sup>434</sup> during and after the celebrations. Some 16,126 women were also trained in design and management of income-generating activities, production, processing, conservation, and marketing techniques of agricultural produce.

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<sup>432</sup> About 274,409.16 Euros

<sup>433</sup> About 10,687,022.90 Euros

<sup>434</sup> Wheelbarrows, power-driven pumps, sprayers, grinding mills, watering cans, etc

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**989-** There were also private initiatives such as that of an association dubbed ASAFRO that distributed agricultural tools<sup>435</sup> worth CFAF7,000,000<sup>436</sup> to 24 women's groups producing cassava in Nyong and Kelle Division.

## §3: Developing Female Skills

**990-** Sports and cultural activities were organized for women.

### A: Promotion of Female Sports Skills

**991-** Female sports movements took a step forward with support from public authorities. The organization of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Female African Cup of Nations in Cameroon was an opportunity for the Cameroon female national football team to demonstrate its talent. It ended the competition as runners up.

**992-** The successful organization of the competition resulted in the re-launching of a specialized female football league in Cameroon in December 2016. The goal was to professionalize female football in Cameroon.

**993-** The competition further generated a number of activities to promote female football<sup>437</sup> and cultural activities.

### B: Promotion of Female Cultural Skills

**994-** The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Miss Binga Film Festival devoted to the development of female cultural talents was organized in June 2016 under the theme "*Women and Empowerment*". The goal of the international female film festival was to highlight the work of national and international female producers. During the festival, female producers of documentaries unveiling female issues were recognized. Some of the issues concerned violence against women.

<sup>435</sup> They comprised 24 power-driven grinding mills, 24 trucks, 24 plastic drums, and 24 basins.

<sup>436</sup> About 10,687.02 Euros

<sup>437</sup> A Colloquium was organized by GERDIC from 16 to 18 November 2016 on "*women, society and sport governance in Africa*". During his visit to Cameroon, the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization chaired a Conference on 21 November 2016 on the theme "*Women, sports and tourism: female sports events and promotion of African tourism*". The Conference highlighted the link between development of female sports activities and flow of tourists.

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## SECTION 4: PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY RIGHTS OF WOMEN

**995-** In order to implement its international commitments contained in ratified Conventions, the property rights of women and other rights were protected in marriage and at the end of marriage.

### §1: Protection of the Rights of Women in Marriage or in the Family

**996-** In order to protect the matrimonial rights of women, premarital and marital education sessions were organized, and collective marriages were celebrated for matrimonial security of the spouses.

#### A: Premarital and Marital Education

**997-** Within the framework of preparing future spouses for marriage, teaching aids were used to educate some 6,326 persons on family education. Besides, capacity building sessions were organized for social workers and regional officials of *MINPROFF* on family welfare with a view to supporting couples and families in marital mediation and counselling.

#### B: Protection of Women's Rights in Marriage

**998-** In order to protect the rights of future spouses and reduce the number of common-law partnerships, *MINPROFF* provided multifaceted support to the celebration of 3,251 collective marriages nationwide. To consolidate peace in the family, *MINPROFF* drew up a National Plan to reduce domestic violence.

### §2: Protection of Women's Rights at the end of Marriage

**999-** Judgments delivered in 2016 confirm the option of equality in rules governing relations between spouses in the event of divorce or liquidation of property in the event of death of one of the spouses.

#### A: Protection of Women's Rights in the event of Divorce

**1000-** In 2016, the *Tribunaux de Premier Degré (TPD)* delivered 751 judgments on divorce at the instance of the husband as against 708 judgments at the instance of the wife, and 170 at the instance of both

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spouses. Meanwhile, 212 judgments ordered payment of alimony to the wife and 23 to the husband. High Courts delivered 170 judgments at the instance of the husband, 155 at the instance of the wife, and 121 at the instance of both spouses, of which 92 ordered payment of alimony to the wife as against 31 to the husband.

**1001-** Regarding property adjustment upon divorce, it was observed that some Judges were silent on the issue<sup>438</sup> although the trend was not systematic. Some Judges chose to share the joint estate between the spouses while they were legally married<sup>439</sup>. In this connection, 355 matters on sharing of joint estate were identified before TPDs and 161 before HCs.

## **B: Protection of Women's Rights in the event of Death of her Husband**

**1002-** Both the inheritance and property rights of the woman were preserved while in marriage and even after marriage in the event of the death of her husband. Thus, in order to raise the awareness of widows on their rights, a legal capacity building workshop for widows in Alou<sup>440</sup> Council was organized from 16 to 17 March 2013 by the *Comité d'Assistance à la Femme Nécessiteuse du Cameroun*.

**1003-** Regarding the protection of the inheritance rights of the widow, some 2,024 judgments delivered by HCs and TPDs nationwide recognized the widow as usufruct. The judgments below are quite illustrative:

**1004-** In Judgment No. 546/Civ delivered on 27 June 2016 by HC, Mfoundi, the Court ruling on a matter of succession in a polygamous family declared the 3 widows usufructs of the estate of their late hus-

<sup>438</sup> See Judgment No. 5/Civ delivered on 10 March 2016 by HC, Mungo Division, Nkongsamba, in which the Judge did not consider all the consequences of divorce but focused only on custody of the child, alimony, initial installation costs, and damages.

In Judgment No. 40/Civ of 21 July 2016 delivered by the same court, the Judge declared that the application for divorce by **MOUKOURY MOUKOURY** was inadmissible on the ground of *res judicata*, since the TPD, Mbanga had already dissolved the marriage by divorce. However, the Judge declared the application for liquidation of the joint estate by Applicant inadmissible on the ground that since the application was not determined by the lower court, it should be considered together with the application for divorce, by applying the rule of accessory follows the principal.

<sup>439</sup> See Judgment No. 31/Civ of 26 May 2016 by HC, Mungo Division; Judgment No. 10/Civ of 17 March 2016, original. The examples above show the inconsistency of case-law before the same court.

<sup>440</sup> Lebialem Division, South West Region. These meetings brought together participants from different villages and quarters of the Alou Subdivision, situated some dozen kilometres from Fongo-Tongo, that shares borders with the Menoua Division.

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band, and ordered the sharing of the estate between the late husband and each of the widows. This judgment followed precedence in matters of succession<sup>441</sup>. The same decision was taken in Judgment No. 305/Civ of 18 April 2016 which ordered the liquidation of the estate between the deceased and **ADA Josiane Amélie** on the one hand, and between the deceased and **NGOUNGOURE MOLUH ZOULIATOU** on the other hand.

**1005-** In Judgment No. 205/Civ of 10 March 2016 delivered by HC, Mfoundi, the Court declared the 2 widows *de cujus* usufructs of the estate, by carefully ordering the sharing of the estate between the deceased and the widows, stating *that in the instant case, it is established that AKOMO Marie Thérèse Victoire and NGA MVONDO Lucie were married to the deceased under the regime of joint property as per section 1400 of the Civil Code; that it is proper to order the dissolution of the estate between the deceased and the spouses.*

**1006-** However, the decision seems to recall the nuance raised by case-law on what constitute joint property in a polygamous home. Indeed, although it is agreed that a polygamous marriage results in as many estates as there are wives, in this matter, the Court seems to have ignored the diversity of estates regarding the polygamous unions. It is therefore imperative to immediately adopt a new Civil Code that will settle matrimonial regimes by taking into account the usages and customs of the people in such matters.

**1007-** The variety of activities carried out to guarantee women's rights confirmed the political option to take gender into account in all the sectors of national life. Legal and institutional reforms perceptible especially in the PC, reflect Government's determination to address the concern. Nevertheless, capacity building of all the stakeholders, proper understanding of women's rights by women themselves, persistent violence against women, and cultural setbacks are some of the challenges to address although they constitute a leitmotiv in continued efforts made towards the well-being of vulnerable peoples such as refugees.

<sup>441</sup> CA, Littoral Region, Judgment of 30 April 1971 on **WAMBO Gabriel** vs. **YIMGA Hélène**; SC, Judgment No. 10/L of 5 April 1987 on **BALOUGA Ruben-Michel** vs. **BALOUGA BISSOHONG Christine**.





**Chapter** **6**

**RIGHTS OF REFUGEES  
AND INTERNALLY  
DISPLACED PERSONS**



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**1008-** In an address at the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly<sup>442</sup> on the situation of refugees in the world, the Head of State recalled the extent of the situation generated by massive influx of refugees in Cameroon. During the occasion, an appeal was made to the international community for increased support to respond to the humanitarian emergency and enhance peaceful coexistence between refugees and nationals<sup>443</sup>.

**1009-** The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan to manage refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and host communities initially evaluated at USD282,000,000 (about CFAF161,359,919,436<sup>444</sup>) was reduced to USD254,000,000 (about CFAF151,384,000,000<sup>445</sup>). In this budget, USD176,000,000 (about CFAF104,896,000,000<sup>446</sup>) was allocated to refugees. The amount was expected to be used for reception and settlement of refugees and IDPs, and the protection of their economic, social and civil rights.

## SECTION 1: RECEPTION AND SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND IDPs

**1010-** Considering the ever-increasing number of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in Cameroon, actions were taken to guarantee them a worthy reception.

### §1: Ever-increasing Number of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and IDPs

**1011-** The number of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in Cameroon increased. In 2016, the number of refugees from different nationalities<sup>447</sup> increased by 32,442 persons; that is, from 342,973 in 2015 to 375,415 in 2016 (198,196 women of which 6,345 elderly, and 177,219 men of which 7,635 elderly).

<sup>442</sup> Session held on 20 September 2016 in New York.

<sup>443</sup> The appeal was reiterated by Mr. **Filippo GRANDI**, UN High Commissioner for Refugees during his visit to Cameroon from 16 to 17 December 2016. He further undertook to continue to assist refugees and IDPs.

<sup>444</sup> About 258,561,709.06 Euros

<sup>445</sup> About 231,120,610.69 Euros

<sup>446</sup> About 160,146,564.89 Euros

<sup>447</sup> This includes 1,465 Chadians, 785 Rwandans, 517 Congolese (DRC), 68 Sudanese and 272 persons of other nationalities.

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**1012-** In urban areas, 2,538 applications for asylum were received by UNHCR. In addition to pending applications, there were 3,521 applications in all granted in 2016. Out of this number, 2,200 applications were by Central African refugees.

**1013-** The number of Central African refugees increased by 16,139; that is, from 267,463 in 2015 to 283,602 in 2016. Some 191,209 of them live in rural areas<sup>448</sup>, 77,105 in Sites and the rest in urban areas.

**1014-** In 2016, some 16,866 Nigerian refugees<sup>449</sup> were registered in Cameroon bringing the number of Nigerian refugees to 88,706 as against 71,840 in 2015. The new refugees lived in the Minawao Site<sup>450</sup>, Far North Region where 60,000 refugees were registered in 2016 as against 52,000 in 2015. In addition, some 20,000 refugees lived in neighbouring villages in Mayo-Tsanaga, Logone and Chari, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Danay, Diamare and Mayo-Kani Divisions, Far North Region, some 1,915 in North West Region and the rest in urban areas.

**1015-** At the end of 2015, the number of IDPs stood at about 100,000. As at 31 December 2016, the number rose to 198,889 IDPs and settled in Logone and Chari Division (95,911, about 42.22%), Mayo-Sava Division (55,336, about 27.82%), Mayo-Tsanaga Division (28,641, about 14.4%), Mayo-Danay Division (13,791, about 6.93%), Diamare Division (4,963, about 2.49%), and Mayo-Kani Division (247, about 0.12%).

## §2: Settlement of Refugees and IDPs

**1016-** Measures were taken to settle refugees and IDPs.

### A: Settlement of Refugees

**1017-** When new refugees arrived, they were registered by the UNHCR. Thereafter, they are settled either out of the Site in neighbouring communities or in a camp where they were provided with shelter, su-

<sup>448</sup> In villages in Adamawa, East, and North Regions.

<sup>449</sup> The refugees registered by the UNHCR were distributed in 19,100 households.

<sup>450</sup> Through the support of administrative and religious authorities and the flexibility of the local population, the area of the Site was increased from 554 ha in December 2015 to 623 ha in December 2016.

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pervision and other basic facilities<sup>451</sup>. Emergency homes made of tarpaulin tents were later rebuilt with local construction materials by refugees. Other homes were also built with support from partners.

**1018-** Some 2,200 emergency homes were provided to Central African refugees, of which 1,000 were built by Plan Cameroon and 1,200 by IEDA Relief. Besides, 420 homes were supported with building materials and 450 rehabilitation kits distributed. All these resulted in the building of 1,163 semi-permanent homes and 1,552 permanent homes. Plan Cameroon distributed 698 community tool kits and transitional settlement kits to 5,980 households with Nigerian refugees who in turn built 6,341 homes in Minawao.

## **B: Settlement of IDPs**

**1019-** IDPs were warmly received by host communities<sup>452</sup> and settled either in homes or in parcels of land freely offered by the said communities, or in camps developed for them, or in school compounds transformed into settlements. Through actions taken by public authorities, some 36,068 IDPs comprising about 6,477 households returned home.

## **SECTION 2: PROTECTION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND IDPs**

**1020-** Measures were taken to guarantee the health, education, and subsistence of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs.

### **§1: Healthcare of Refugees and IDPs**

**1021-** Further measures were taken to promote the health and enhance healthcare provision for refugees and IDPs.

#### **A: Health Promotion**

**1022-** Health promotion comprised not only hygiene but also controlling malnutrition and HIV/TB.

<sup>451</sup> This comprises blankets, mats and kitchen kits distributed to refugees admitted into the Site.

<sup>452</sup> The population of local communities who warmly welcomed refugees and IDPs stood at some 550,000 inhabitants.

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## 1) Hygiene of Refugees and IDPs

**1023-** In a bid to encourage sanitation and control the spread of contagious diseases, health measures were taken including campaigns on hand washing with soap and clean water in schools dubbed Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), distribution of WASH kits<sup>453</sup> and construction of 87 latrines.

**1024-** UNHCR, UNICEF, Plan Cameroon and CARE built 4,315 latrines and 3,065 showers in all the Sites in East Region. This resulted in a ratio of 21 persons/latrine and 24 persons/shower.

**1025-** UNHCR organized awareness-raising campaigns and distributed hygiene kits to refugees and sanitary kits (soap and sanitary towels) to women once a month. In Minawao Site where Wednesdays were devoted to sanitation, 30 refuse dumps and about 800 dust bins were provided by UNHCR partners who further recruited hygiene auxiliaries to oversee cleanliness in the Site and public places. In all, 6,789 households received family washrooms, 37,933 hygiene kits were distributed and 105 hygiene promoters trained.

**1026-** The International Rescue Committee offered 2,518 hygiene kits<sup>454</sup> and built 262 latrines for IDPs and host communities in the Far North Region.

**1027-** In other Health Centres in the Regions concerned, refuse dumps were built and hygiene tools provided. More than 60% of health facilities benefited from a biomedical waste management system, and establishment of hygiene committees.

## 2) Malnutrition, HIV, and Tuberculosis Control

**1028-** Surveys on malnutrition revealed that in the 3 northern Regions, the rates of severe acute malnutrition exceeded the emergency threshold of 2% with 2.2% of sick children. That was due to acute poverty of the population, its limited access to basic services and staples, food ra-

<sup>453</sup> This comprises 2,630 plastic buckets with cover, 7,890 plastic cups, 50 metallic wheelbarrows, 100 round shovels, 526 water gallons, 1,578 brooms with wooden handle, and 12,624 cubes of soap.

<sup>454</sup> These included notably soap, mats, blankets, buckets, jerrycans and boilers.

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tion that dropped from 2,100 to 1,200 kilo calories, suspension of management of moderate malnutrition and critical prevalence of anaemia and chronic malnutrition.

**1029-** However, Government and its partners continued to take care of refugees suffering from severe acute malnutrition in 4 Internal Therapeutic Feeding Centres, and 10 Ambulatory Therapeutic Feeding Centres.

**1030-** More than 7,000 children aged 6-59 months and some 6,000 expecting and nursing mothers received assistance. Central African refugees in the East Region received nutritional assistance comprising provision of inputs and drugs in care facilities.

**1031-** Some 900 persons living with HIV and AIDS suffering from malnutrition received nutritional inputs within the framework of the feeding programme on prescription.

**1032-** In addition, for better care of refugees by Government and its partners, UNHCR launched in August 2016, an extended standardized feeding survey in Adamawa, East and North Regions to be informed on feeding and anaemia prevalence in children aged 6-59 months and women of child-bearing age. The results showed a critical prevalence rate of 8.9% for Global Acute Malnutrition, 1.2% for Severe Acute Malnutrition, and 43.2% for Global Chronic Malnutrition.

**1033-** As concerns HIV and Tuberculosis control, Government intervened through awareness-raising campaigns and the implementation of the HIV/TB<sup>455</sup> Prevention among other Vulnerable Peoples subproject<sup>456</sup>, to reduce HIV infection by at least 50% among refugees and the population in the Regions referred to above. Awareness-raising campaigns were organized such as the one initiated as part of celebrations to mark the World AIDS Day. In the Adamawa Region, for example, 65 students from Government Technical College, Fada, Meiganga were drilled on HIV/AIDS prevention methods, the rights and duties of the child, GBV, and gender-based discrimination in schools.

<sup>455</sup> This is the co-infection of AIDS and Tuberculosis

<sup>456</sup> The subproject resulting from the joint HIV/TB (2016-2017) proposal by Cameroon and entitled *Invest to obtain an HIV and TB impact*, was approved by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund).

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**1034-** A sample of 142,000 refugees was taken in 9 Sites in the Regions concerned<sup>457</sup> and a number of priority actions were carried out comprising HIV awareness-raising, mobilization for voluntary and anonymous screening the results of which, as at 31 December 2016, revealed that out of 1,626 refugees screened, 18 were seropositive and were referred to care facilities, encouraging the proper use of condoms, and the signing of a contract with 2 NGOs to authorize them to intervene in refugee Sites on behalf of the Project.

## **B: Enhancement of Healthcare Provision**

**1035-** Training of medical staff and availability of health infrastructure helped improve provision of healthcare.

### **1) Capacity Development of Peer Educators and Medical Staff**

**1036-** As part of the subproject<sup>458</sup> referred to above, 3,521 peer educators were trained, of which 1,472 in Minawao Site, Far North Region, 320 in Lolo, 280 in Mbile, 189 in Timangolo, 580 in Gado Badzere, 31 in Gari Singo, and 140 in Tihomo, East Region, 320 in Borgop and 180 in Ngam, Adamawa Region, representing a ration of 1 peer educator for 40 refugees. Some 25 Focal Points were also trained for target Sites in the East Region, and 20 for target Sites in the Far North Region.

**1037-** Besides, more than 140 additional staff (doctors, nurses, and nurse aids) were recruited to enhance access of refugees and IDPs to healthcare.

### **2) Infrastructure**

**1038-** Government, with the support of *Médecins sans frontières* (MSF) rehabilitated health facilities in refugee and IDP settlements and provided them with equipment to deal with trauma and other armed conflict-generated pathologies, while enhancing their technical facilities. A new

<sup>457</sup> Adamawa, East and Far-North Regions.

<sup>458</sup> The project included penitentiary staff whose capacity was developed on TB, STDs/HIV/AIDS. Thus, 53 training sessions for peer educators were organized nationwide at the end of which 1,384 convict Peer Educators (1,281 men and 103 women) were trained; 4 training sessions were further organized for penitentiary staff at the end of which 100 staff (54 man and 46 women) were trained.



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Health Centre was built in Minawao to complete primary healthcare services, and UNICEF built 40 latrine structures (20 with 1 cubicle and 20 with 2 cubicles) in health facilities in East and Adamawa Regions.

### 3) Healthcare Provision

**1039-** As part of preventive healthcare, Government deployed health staff in the Sites to control cholera. The action protected some 80,000 people from the disease in the Far North Region. With the support of MSF, refugees were vaccinated against measles and poliomyelitis immediately they entered Cameroon territory and before nutrition screening<sup>459</sup>. In addition, a number of vaccination campaigns against the diseases including cholera were organized with the support of WHO and UNICEF.

**1040-** Furthermore, on 10 August 2016, the State and UNHCR signed a Framework-Agreement on healthcare of refugees in national health facilities in Adamawa, East, Far North, and North Regions. The Agreement that entered into force in January 2017 provides that UNHCR shall incur 70% of health charges of Central African and Nigeria refugees in the said Regions and the State of Cameroon 30%. In the meantime, consultations and complicated cases of refugees were handled in hospitals.

**1041-** The life expectancy of refugees improved as a result of efforts made. In the Minawao Site, for example, the gross mortality rate of refugees in general that stood at 0.3 deaths/1000 persons/month in 2015 dropped to 0.2 deaths/1000 persons/month in 2016 while the gross mortality rate of children less than 5 years old dropped from 0.8 deaths/1000 children/month in 2015 to 0.5 deaths/1000 children/month in 2016 (with the threshold being 0.75 deaths/1000 children/month). Nevertheless, the lack of qualified staff, proper infrastructure and material remains a challenge.

### §2: Education of Refugees and IDPs

**1042-** Improvement of education was achieved through enhancement of supply and support of demand.

<sup>459</sup> Screening that will make it possible to know whether refugees are poorly fed or are in good health.

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## A: Enhancing Education Supply

**1043-** Old infrastructure was rehabilitated and new ones built. Besides, more teaching staff were recruited.

**1044-** As part of rehabilitation of infrastructure, the State reopened<sup>460</sup> at the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year, *Lycée de Tourou* closed since 2014 and *CES de Goudjim-Dele* and *CES de Bodo*, Far North Region.

**1045-** The transformation of social infrastructure into permanent structures that started in 2015 continued in 2016 with the completion of 20 classrooms out of the 44 initiated. The State further built and equipped 208 classrooms, and 64 latrine structures in the Regions concerned.

**1046-** In Minawao, UNHCR built and equipped 47 permanent classrooms, 56 latrines in schools and 2 permanent classrooms in host communities. In the East Region, it built 15 classrooms and UNICEF 8. Plan Cameroon built and equipped 5 community nursery schools and 5 children's play ground in refugee and IDP reception sites and settlements in the northern Regions and the East Region.

**1047-** In the East Region, 126 teachers of Temporary Learning Spaces for Children (*ETAPE*) in 6 Sites and in neighbouring schools were trained during Easter period on fast-track programmes for children between 10 and 14 years old not attending school and on their integration into the formal education system within 2 or 3 years. UNICEF also trained Cameroon and Nigerian teachers on how to handle traumatized children and on the psychosocial support<sup>461</sup> to give them. Some 34 school authorities and 85 education committees were trained on GBV and a training workshop was organized for 166 primary and nursery school teachers in Minawao on psychosocial support and reduction of risk of conflict-related disasters.

## B: Support to Demand for Education

<sup>460</sup> Several schools were closed due to insecurity caused by incursions of the terrorist group *Boko Haram*.

<sup>461</sup> This training falls within the framework of education initiative in emergency situation that encourages close collaboration between schools and child protection services. Through cooperation with community radios, these radios broadcast educative programmes in enclaved communities to enable children continue their studies.

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**1048-** Incentives and varied efforts had an impact on demand for education.

## 1) Incentives

**1049-** Government sensitized refugee communities to send their children to school and carry out psychological support activities in *ETAPEs* such as leisure, sports and educative events to help thousands of children. In supporting the initiative, Plan Cameroon organized in the Regions concerned, 179 awareness-raising sessions, 65 mobile caravans, 327 community discussions and 88 workshops for 2,911 men, 2,123 women, 9,527 boys, and 5,546 girls on the relevance of education.

**1050-** Prior to schools reopening, International Medical Corps (an NGO) in partnership with a Parents Committee in East Region, organized an awareness-raising for 117 persons in Mbile Site on the theme: *The relevance of education of children and the role of parents in the supervision of children*. In addition, 200 refugees were educated on registration procedures in schools in Mandjou.

**1051-** In the Adamawa Region, the awareness of 239 persons in Ngam and 237 in Fada was raised on the relevance of education, while in Garoua-Boulai, 817 families were sensitized not only on the relevance of education of children but also on the identification of children of school age. Furthermore, Lutheran World Federation raised the awareness of 760 persons in Gunbela, Kaladi, and Meiganga on the relevance of education especially that of the girl child, and on the responsibility of parents in the education of their children.

**1052-** UNHCR and some partners, in collaboration with Imams and Pastors organized 18 awareness-raising campaigns in the Minawao Camp for 15,561 persons including 6,525 women.

## 2) Material and Financial Support to Education

**1053-** In Adamawa, East, Far North, and North Regions, Government offered 6,240 desks and 22,291 school kits as teaching aids to primary and nursery schools attended by refugee and IDP children, and refurbished 208 offices for teachers.

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**1054-** Government further allocated CFAF3,700,000,000<sup>462</sup> to refugees, IDPs and teaching staff. Special allowances for teachers and examination fees for refugee and IDP children were deducted from the said amount.

**1055-** The US Government also allocated more than USD3,000,000 (about CFAF1,788,000,000<sup>463</sup>) to UNHCR to improve access of refugee children to education. Some USD90,000 (about CFAF53,640,000<sup>464</sup>) was deducted from the said amount to purchase school books and pay school fees and examination fees for refugee children in secondary schools in Yaounde and Douala.

**1056-** Besides, UNHCR also provided financial assistance to children attending public primary and secondary schools and those with special needs registered for specialized programmes. In urban areas, 3,506 children aged between 6 and 13 years in primary schools, and 1,694 children aged between 14 and 18 years in secondary schools were granted financial assistance to help them to cover all school costs. The assistance was granted to 96% of children of primary school age and 22.6% of children of secondary school age living in urban areas.

### 3) Consolidating Access to Education

**1057-** In 2016, the number of Nigerian refugee children in the Minawao Site stood at 19,567 as against 16,603 in 2015. Some 4,552 including 2,368 girls were in nurseries, 13,612 including 6,275 girls in primary schools, and 1,403 including 685 girls in secondary schools, representing a registration rate of 65.91%. The rate increased significantly as compared to 4% in 2013 upon their arrival.

**1058-** In Adamawa, East and North Regions, the number of Central African refugee children registered in 325 public primary schools in host villages stood at 25,048 including 14,593 boys and 10,455 girls, and 1,264 including 934 boys and 330 girls in secondary schools out of the Sites. In the Sites, 13,282 children including 7,461 boys and 5,822 girls were registered in ETAPes, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Term results of which re-

<sup>462</sup> About 5,648,854.96 Euros

<sup>463</sup> About 2,729,770.99 Euros

<sup>464</sup> About 81,893.13 Euros.

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vealed that 7,659 children (57.7%) were assessed and 68% passed, representing a 73% pass for boys and 61% pass for girls. Some 16,953 internally displaced children were registered in schools, 79 of them in nursery schools and 16,874 in primary schools.

## §3: Guaranteeing Subsistence of Refugees and IDPs

**1059-** The standard of living of refugees and IDPs was improved through feeding and empowerment.

### A: Feeding

**1060-** Feeding comprised water and foodstuffs supply. Some 32 boreholes were drilled and water was supplied through 26 taps at the Minawao Site producing an average of 734m<sup>3</sup>/day, representing 13litres/person/day as against 946m<sup>3</sup>/day for a ratio of 14litres/person/day in 2015. Such rate of access to water was insufficient because the average coverage was 1,117 persons per water point instead of UNHCR standard of 500 persons per water point and 20litres/person/day.

**1061-** However, a number of solutions were envisioned such as the implementation of a drinking water supply system along 25km from Mokolo to the Site. The project worth CFAF 1,180,000,000<sup>465</sup> was executed (83% as at 31 December 2016) through partnership between Government and UNHCR. Water supply was to be extended to neighbouring villages. It is intended to significantly resolve drinking water difficulty in the said camp, currently supplied by boreholes.

**1062-** In addition, MSF supplied drinking water to the Sites in tank trucks while the *Association pour le Développement Economique et Social* supplied same through water trucking from a seasonal stream. The IRC drilled 10 new manual boreholes for IDPs and host communities and rehabilitated 38 existing boreholes

**1063-** In developed Sites in Adamawa and East Regions, some 122 boreholes were drilled by UNHCR, UNICEF, Plan Cameroon, *Solidarité Internationale*, and CARE, and some 40 rehabilitated boreholes made it possible to achieve a ratio of 18litres/person/day.

<sup>465</sup> About 181,893.13 Euros

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**1064-** As part of the 4th Distribution Phase of foodstuffs to refugees and IDPs in the Far North Region, the President of the Republic ordered the disbursement of CFAF 2,000,000,000<sup>466</sup> in food gifts and other basic needs, animal feed, veterinary products and agricultural inputs to the most affected Divisions including Logone and Chari (50%), Mayo-Tsanaga (30%), and Mayo-Sava (20%). Refugees in the Minawao Site also received gifts comprising 50kg bags of rice, niebe and millet, a roll mil, and 8,641 displaced students received food kits worth CFAF287,013,000<sup>467</sup>.

**1065-** In the East Region, gifts comprised packets of foodstuffs and staples for refugees, and agricultural equipment for host communities. Besides, in the individual and community farms opened in the Sites and out of the Sites in East and Adamawa Regions resulted in the production of maize, groundnuts, cassava, potatoes, and tomatoes cultivated by refugees and host communities.

**1066-** As a sign of solidarity, the World Food Programme (WFP) offered refugees once admitted into the Sites, monthly food rations comprising tonnes of foodstuffs, distributed depending on the size of the family and as per feeding standards<sup>468</sup>. WFP further directly distributed staples and money through MTN Mobile Money to help refugees get supplies from local markets and vary their foodstuffs. In Gado Site, 23,000 refugees were given CFAF8,800<sup>469</sup> worth of food ration/person/month.

**1067-** Furthermore, France offered refugees, IDPs, and host communities gifts worth CFAF492,000,000<sup>470</sup> following an Agreement signed with UNHCR. In Minawao, the Nigerian Government offered hundreds of tons of foodstuffs and non-consumables such as fabrics.

## **B: Empowerment of Refugees and IDPs**

**1068-** Actions to empower refugees and IDPs focused on socio-economic capacity building and support.

<sup>466</sup> About 3 053 435, 11 Euros

<sup>467</sup> About 438 187, 79 Euros

<sup>468</sup> Each refugee received an average of 2,100 kilocalories of vegetable oil, 10.5kg of rice, 3kg of legumes, soja or beans, 0.21kg of sugar and 0.15kg of salt each month.

<sup>469</sup> About 13,44 Euros

<sup>470</sup> About 751,145.03 Euros

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**1069-** Refugees and IDPs were trained in different areas. In December 2016, for example, some 59 refugees in Douala were trained by NEF in job-seeking techniques and establishment of projects under the Livelihood Project<sup>471</sup> launched in Douala. In the East Region, some 230 youths from Gado and Lolo including 108 boys and 122 girls took part in daily skills activities such as literacy and apprenticeship lessons in cookery, hairdressing, gardening, handicraft, and bricklaying. Some 1,000 women attended functional adult literacy courses and 1,098 women were trained in embroidery, knitting, sewing and soap manufacture.

**1070-** An NGO, *Action Contre la Faim* (ACF) trained farmers on tilling and cultivating practices, and through UNHCR and Plan Cameroon, 50 persons including 8 Cameroonians, received end-of-course certificates in sewing and woodwork at the Vocational Training Centre, Minawao.

**1071-** As part of support to community recovery, the National community-driven development programme in collaboration with UNHCR and under the impetus of German Cooperation, implemented refugee empowerment programmes such as the *Programme to support host communities and Central African refugees*.

**1072-** Government and partners further provided refugees and IDPs with material gifts and kits for income-generating activities. The agricultural production capacity of refugees and IDPs was enhanced through distribution of quality seeds, tools and more than 1,000 agricultural kits offered by the ACF. In all, 6,901 persons benefitted from the gifts. In the Far North Region, 1,260 households with a population of 11,396 persons received a monthly money transfer of CFAF66,000<sup>472</sup> for 3 months to support income-generating activities<sup>473</sup>.

**1073-** UNHCR also initiated draft Agreements with Government such as the draft Agreement with *MINEPAT* to develop Councils that provide settlement for Central African refugees in Adamawa, East, and North Regions. The Agreement was finalized in August 2016 and is pending

<sup>471</sup> It is a project aimed at promoting subsistence of refugees.

<sup>472</sup> About 100.76 Euros.

<sup>473</sup> In all, CFAF155,760,000 (about 237,801.53 Euros) was offered.

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signature by *MINEPAT* to install the Platform Coordination Committee<sup>474</sup>.

## SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF REFUGEES AND IDPs

**1074-** Identification and protection measures were taken to guarantee the civil rights of refugees and IDPs.

### §1: Refugee Identification

**1075-** Issuance of identity documents is one of the pillars on which lies the international responsibility of the State. Regarding birth certificates, public authorities raised the awareness of individuals on declaration of births at the Civil Status Registry. As at 31 December 2016, some 2,222 birth certificates were issued to children born in Cameroon.

**1076-** In support to the initiative, UNHCR developed the capacity of civil status services in Mokolo with the employment of 4 temporary workers and provision of office supplies to the CFI and HC, Mokolo where 604 birth declarations were pending issuance. UNHCR further offered civil status registers and organized awareness-raising sessions for refugees.

**1077-** Concerning identification cards, UNHCR started a biometric enrolment of Central African refugees in Adamawa, East and North Regions in February 2016. At the end of the year, 113,545 persons were enrolled including 53,813 men and 59,732 women. In addition, Decree No. 2016/375 of 4 August 2016 to lay down the characteristics and terms and conditions of establishment and issuance of National Identity Card, to amend and supplement some provisions of the Decree of 4 September 2007 governing the enabling conditions of the Law of 12 January 1997 on the entry, stay and exit of foreigners in Cameroon, authorized the issuance of a personal secure, biometric computerized refugee card containing a chip to persons with refugee status.

<sup>474</sup> Regarding the Agreement with *MINAS* and *NEF* as part of the *Programme to support integration and reintegration of vulnerable persons in training, recruited or self-employed*, discussions are ongoing. This also holds true for the Partnership Agreement with *MINPROFF* to support the socio-economic integration of urban refugee women in Yaounde.



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## §2: Protection of Persons

**1078-** Preventive and repressive measures were taken to guarantee the security of persons.

### A) Preventive Measures

**1079-** Awareness-raising, capacity building and surveillance mechanisms were some of the measures taken to guarantee the security of refugees, IDPs and the population, and ensure living together. A number of awareness-raising campaigns were organized especially for refugee *Vigilante* groups, section heads, women, boys, girls, and students. In Minawao, for example, 96 mass and 664 door-to-door awareness-raising campaigns were organized for 40,440 and 37,690 persons respectively aimed at reducing sexual violence. Besides, 314 group discussions were organized for 9,440 persons for the same purpose.

**1080-** In East Region, 2,012 information-education-communication sessions on change of behaviour were organized for 112,741 persons including 42,171 men and 70,570 women. In addition, community relays raised the awareness of refugees on their rights and duties in different areas.

**1081-** With the support of UNHCR, some 38 law enforcement officials in Djohong and Ngoui, and 101 traditional authorities and law enforcement officials in Ndelele, Yokadouma, and Salapoumbe were trained on international protection. Besides, 88 youths in Ngam were educated on the "culture of peace".

**1082-** Concerning surveillance mechanisms, structures were set up to complete search and combing operations organized regularly and to ensure peace. In Minawao, for example, a Site Administrator and his Assistant were appointed, additional law enforcement operatives deployed, a police station, gendarmerie brigade and security posts opened, and a screening team<sup>475</sup> set up at the Refugee transit Centre.

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<sup>475</sup> It comprises Civil Administrators, Police and Gendarmerie Officers.

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**1083-** In June 2016, 3 Joint Committees were formed by local authorities and UNHCR in Divisions in the Far North Region to oversee protection of refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers, and 3 Information Centres<sup>476</sup> opened to enable them to obtain information on available services, obtained legal assistance and be orientated towards appropriate services. In Yaounde and Douala, 8 and 5 Community Committees were formed respectively, while 10 such committees were formed in the Minawao Site.

## B) Repressive Measures

**1084-** During monitoring visits by UNHCR in Batouri, Bertoua, and Meiganga, 665 refugees and asylum seekers were identified in prisons, police and gendarmerie cells.

**1085-** With the support of UNHCR, 51 refugees were freed after they were arrested for illegal immigration<sup>477</sup>, and 119 who were under custody in police stations and gendarmerie brigades or who had disputes with other refugees, employers or landlords were given legal assistance.

**1086-** At the end of 2016, 58 refugees were imprisoned in the Centre Region and 18 in the Littoral Region while 195 refugees were identified in prisons in other Regions for offences including possession and sale of drugs, assault and battery, threats, and theft amongst others.

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**1087-** Efforts made by Government and its partners to address humanitarian challenges regarding the increasing afflux of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs are insufficient considering the difficulties relating to their settlement and the protection of their rights. As a result, additional significant efforts made by the international community and the execution of the project launched in 2015 to establish an Emergency Humanitarian Relief Centre in Central Africa will help enhance the situation.

<sup>476</sup> In Logone-and-Chari, Mayo-Sava Mayo-Tsanaga Divisions.

<sup>477</sup> Section 8 (1) of Law No. 2005/6 of 27 July 2005 on Refugee Status in Cameroon.

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## CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

**1088-** Government action comprised setting up an environment conducive for the development of persons, and the building of an inclusive society that protects underprivileged people.

**1089-** In this connection, consolidating the military mechanism, pooling efforts and technical and strategic assistance of different partners made it possible to effectively respond to repeated attacks from *Boko Haram*. Besides, smooth business climate was reflected in the simplification of legal requirements for the establishment of a private enterprise, increase in the number of enterprises set up due to the reduction of the establishment timeframe, and continued regulation of management of public property.

**1090-** In addition, legal and institutional reforms helped consolidate protection of women and children through inclusion of provisions that combat breast ironing, female genital mutilation, early marriage of young girls less than 18 years old, and violation of the right of visit in the PC. Besides, a National Child Protection Platform was set up, and a National Committee to draw up a Child Protection Charter Online formed.

**1091-** In spite of the above measures, Government is still determined to address fundamental concerns such as management of victims of terrorism, proper understanding of the fight against terrorism by judicial stakeholders, deradicalization methods and the implementation of alternative punishment to imprisonment so as to reduce overpopulation in prisons.



**GENERAL**

**CONCLUSION**



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**1092-** Henceforth, focus will be on the planning framework which is the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2015-2019) the implementation of which was assessed in 2016, through measures taken to ensure that the people enjoy Human Rights. These were broken down into legislative, institutional, and operational measures and resulted in the proper guarantee of the rights of persons living in Cameroon.

**1093-** One of the best legislative measures taken was the adoption of the PC, the new incriminating provisions of which make it possible to sanction violations of Human Rights, in particular violation of the rights of women and children. The new PC will also enable better management of prison population with the provision of alternative measures to imprisonment. Exemption of prosecution of reporters of acts of corruption will boost anti-corruption actions. The same holds true for Law No. 2016/6 of 18 April 2016 to govern tourism and leisure activities in Cameroon that will provide healthy leisure for people. The ratification of the Paris Agreement indicated Government's determination to contain the harmful effects of climate change.

**1094-** At the institutional level, the State consolidated its option of increasing discussion, coordination and action forums for better intervention of public stakeholders and partners in guaranteeing Human Rights. That is why a National Youth Integration Fund was set up, a National Consumer Council formed, a National Child Protection Platform established, full transfer of skills to Councils achieved, and increase in allocation of resources to key sectors such as education, health, and agricultural activities implemented.

**1095-** At the operational level, the State focused on consolidating anti-terrorism activities, capacity building of Judicial and Legal Officers, continued reduction of judicial delays, and stepping up activities of the information sector.

**1096-** The effects of all the activities referred to above were observed in the different sectors. Thus, increase in effective schooling notably regarding the number on roll, increase in agricultural production, enhancement of care of refugees and increase in the number of jobs were only made possible through the promotion of good governance.

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**1097-** However, such progress was hampered by security, humanitarian, and socio-political challenges. Although there was reason to believe that *Boko Haram* was exhausted, the terrorist group seriously challenged State efforts, while the State and its partners had enormous difficulties in pooling resources to meet humanitarian emergencies. It was much more difficult to manage the human and material cost of road and railway accidents, difficult access of a large number of people to healthcare, inadequate access to water and energy, increasing statistics on violent crime, and overcrowding in prisons.

**1098-** Whereas the State was already gearing its actions towards new poles, claims by Lawyers and Teachers trade unions in the North West and South West Regions that resulted in social crisis increasingly complicated the challenges to overcome, thereby confirming the standpoint that guaranteeing Human Rights is one of the essential conditions of national cohesion and sustainable peace.



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## APPENDIX

The following institutions contributed in preparing this Report: the Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the UNHCR, the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal and Lower Courts, Ministries, independent administrative services, public and semi-public establishments, and civil society organizations :

### Ministries / Courts

- Supreme Court;
- Ministry of Communication (MINCOM);
- Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF);
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU);
- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER);
- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA);
- Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE);
- Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE);
- Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB);
- Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC);
- Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP);
- Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP);
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS);
- Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform (MINFOPRA);
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF);
- Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC);
- Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL);

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- Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED);
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS);
- Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE);
- Ministry of Defence (MINDEF);
- Ministry of External Relations (MINREX);
- Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT);
- Ministry of Finance (MINFI);
- Supreme State Audit (CONSUPE);
- Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT);
- Ministry of Youth and Civic Education (MINJEC);
- Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA);
- Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL);
- Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF);
- Ministry of Public Works (MINTP);
- Ministry of Transport (MINTRANSPORT);
- Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP);
- Ministry of Sports and Physical Education (MINSEP);
- Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI);
- Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE);
- General Delegation for National Security (DGSN);
- National Gendarmerie;
- Special Criminal Court (SCC).

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## Councils and Independent Administrative Services

- Cameroon Housing Corporation (*SIC*);
- Cameroon Investment Promotion Agency (*CIPA*);
- Cameroon Water Utilities (*CAMWATER*);
- Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (*MIRAP*);
- Douala City Council (*CUD*);
- Elections Cameroon (*ELECAM*);
- Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (*ARSEL*);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (*CONAC*);
- National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (*NCHRF*);
- National Aids Control Committee (*CNLS*);
- National Communication Council (*NCC*);
- National Employment Fund (*FNE*);
- National Financial Investigation Agency (*ANIF*);
- National Fund for Youth Integration (*FONIJ*);
- National Governance Programme (*PNG*);
- National Institute of Statistics (*NIS*);
- National Social Insurance Fund (*NSIF*);
- Rural Electrification Agency (*AER*);
- Small and Medium sized Enterprises Promotion Agency (*APME*);
- Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Bank of Cameroon (*BC-PME*);
- Standard and Quality Agency (*ANOR*);
- Urban and Rural Land Development Authority (*MAETUR*);
- Yaounde City Council (*CUY*);
- National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (*ANTIC*);
- National Employment and Vocational Training (*ONEFOP*).

# MINJUSTICE

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## International Organizations and Civil Society

- African Action on Aids (AAA);
- Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT-Bamenda);
- *Association de Lutte contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes (ALVF)*;
- *Association Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir (ASSEJA)* ;
- *Association Camerounaise des Femmes Juristes (ACAFEJ)* ;
- United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA);
- *Confédération Camerounaise du Travail (CCT)*;
- *Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED)* ;
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-Cameroon;
- Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA);
- Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH)-Cameroon ;
- Platform on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (DESC-CAM Platform);
- Network of Human Rights Organizations (RECODH);
- National Union of Associations and Institutions of and for Persons with Disabilities of Cameroon (UNAPHAC).