

**REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE**

**REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND**



**REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN CAMEROON IN 2018**

**Yaounde, November 2019**



# **REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMEROON IN 2018**

# MINJUSTICE

Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human  
Rights in Cameroon in 2018

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## PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION MAP OF CAMEROON

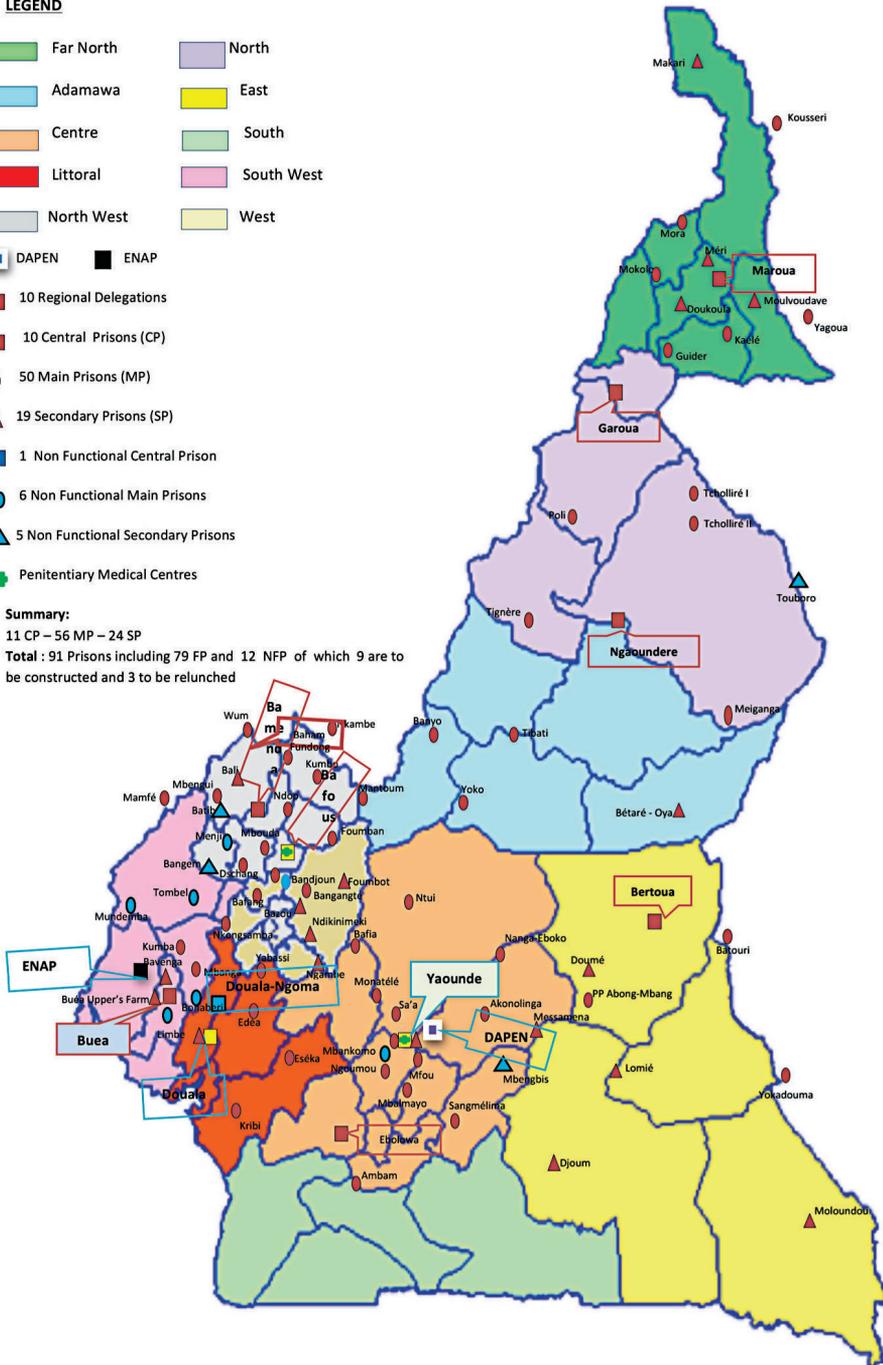
**LEGEND**

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

- DAPEN
- ENAP
- 10 Regional Delegations
- 10 Central Prisons (CP)
- 50 Main Prisons (MP)
- 19 Secondary Prisons (SP)
- 1 Non Functional Central Prison
- 6 Non Functional Main Prisons
- 5 Non Functional Secondary Prisons
- Penitentiary Medical Centres

**Summary:**

11 CP – 56 MP – 24 SP  
 Total : 91 Prisons including 79 FP and 12 NFP of which 9 are to be constructed and 3 to be relunched





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## FOREWORD

*" The major challenges that must be met to ensure the emergence of our economy, which I have mentioned, and commitments that I have made to improve the quality of life for Cameroonians, require, first of all, the creation of conditions conducive to stability and security (...)*

*The goal of achieving emergence must become a major national cause rallying all our fellow citizens in order to transform Cameroon into a modern and socially advanced country."*

**Excerpt of the speech by the President of the Republic on the occasion of his swearing-in, Yaounde, 6 November 2018.**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACERWC:</b>	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>ACHPR:</b>	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
<b>ACRWC:</b>	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>ADA:</b>	AdmeUp Digital Academy
<b>AFCON:</b>	Africa Cup of Nations
<b>ANTIC:</b>	National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies
<b>ANTILOPE:</b>	National Application of Data Processing and Logistics of State Personnel
<b>ARSEL:</b>	Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency
<b>ART:</b>	Telecommunications Regulatory Board
<b>ASTI:</b>	Advanced School of Translation and Interpretation
<b>BFDC:</b>	Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council
<b>BOD:</b>	Budgetary Orientation Debate
<b>BRIM:</b>	Motorised Infantry Brigade
<b>BSD:</b>	Buea School for the Deaf
<b>C2D:</b>	Debt-Reduction Development Contract
<b>CAF:</b>	Functional Literacy Centres
<b>CAMNAFAW:</b>	Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare
<b>CAMTEL:</b>	Cameroon Telecommunications
<b>CBCF:</b>	Centres for Business Creation Formality
<b>CBF:</b>	Cameroon Business Forum
<b>CCOGC:</b>	Commission for the Control of Collective Management Organizations
<b>CDE:</b>	<i>Cameroonaise Des Eaux</i>
<b>CDTI:</b>	Community-Directed Treatment with Ivermectin

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<b>CDU:</b>	Cameroon Democratic Union
<b>CEBNF:</b>	Non-Formal Basic Education Centres
<b>CENAME:</b>	Centrale Nationale d'Approvisionnement en Médicaments Essentiels
<b>CETIC:</b>	Technical, Industrial and Commercial Colleges
<b>CFC:</b>	Cameroon Housing Loan Fund
<b>CHICHO:</b>	Cameroon International Certification House and Outsourcing
<b>CIPRES:</b>	Inter-African Conference on Social Security
<b>CLTS:</b>	Community-Led Total Sanitation
<b>CNC:</b>	Community Nursery Centres
<b>CNCM:</b>	Cameroon National Citizen Movement
<b>COP:</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>COPPE:</b>	Physical Headcount of State Personnel
<b>CPDM:</b>	Cameroon People's Democratic Movement
<b>CPDP:</b>	Cameroon People's Democratic Party
<b>CRC:</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRM:</b>	Cameroon Renaissance Movement
<b>CVUC:</b>	United Cities and Municipalities of Cameroon
<b>DAJEI:</b>	Department of Legal Affairs and Information Exploitation
<b>DDHCI:</b>	Department of Human Rights and International Co-operation
<b>DECC:</b>	Department of Exams, Competitive Examinations and Certification
<b>DIAP:</b>	Division for Inspections and Control of Public Administrations
<b>DICTD:</b>	Division for Inspection and Control of Councils
<b>DIEPOS:</b>	Division for Inspections and Control of Public Establishments and Specific Organizations
<b>DWCP:</b>	Decent Work Country Programme
<b>EGEM:</b>	School of Geology and Mining Engineering

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<b>ELECAM:</b>	Elections Cameroon
<b>EPAB:</b>	Binguela Agricultural Practicing School
<b>ESA:</b>	Environmental and Social Audit Reports
<b>ESIA:</b>	Environmental and Social Impact Assessments
<b>ESSTIC:</b>	Advanced School of Information and Communication Sciences and Techniques
<b>EUET:</b>	European Union Emergency Trust Fund
<b>FENAC:</b>	National Arts and Culture Festival
<b>FNE:</b>	National Employment Fund
<b>GCCASP:</b>	Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme
<b>GCE Board</b>	General Certificate of Education Board
<b>GESP:</b>	Growth and Employment Strategic Paper
<b>GESP:</b>	Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
<b>GSS:</b>	Government Secondary School
<b>GTC:</b>	Government Technical College
<b>GTTC:</b>	Government Teacher Training College
<b>HND:</b>	Higher National Diploma
<b>HOFNA:</b>	HOPE for the needy Association
<b>HSC:</b>	Health and Safety Committees
<b>HTTC:</b>	Higher Teacher Training College
<b>HTTTC:</b>	Higher Technical Teacher Training Colleges
<b>ICCPR:</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICE:</b>	Inter-ministerial Committee on the Environment
<b>ICESCR:</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>ICRC:</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>IDA:</b>	International Development Association
<b>IDB:</b>	Islamic Development Bank
<b>IDP:</b>	Internally Displaced Persons

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<b>IMF:</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>INFFDP:</b>	National Institute for Trainer Training and Programme Development
<b>IRAD:</b>	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
<b>ITU:</b>	International Telecommunication Union
<b>MBOSCUA:</b>	Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association
<b>MIFED:</b>	Microfinance et Développement
<b>MINAS:</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs
<b>MINAT:</b>	Ministry of Territorial Administration
<b>MINDDEVEL:</b>	Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development
<b>MINDHU:</b>	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
<b>MINEDUB:</b>	Ministry of Basic Education
<b>MINEPAT:</b>	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
<b>MINEPDED:</b>	Ministry of Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
<b>MINEPIA:</b>	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
<b>MINESEC:</b>	Ministry of Secondary Education
<b>MINESUP:</b>	Ministry of Higher Education
<b>MINFOF:</b>	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
<b>MINJEC:</b>	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education
<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>MINPROFF:</b>	Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family
<b>MINRESI:</b>	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
<b>MINREX:</b>	Ministry of External Relations
<b>MINSANTE:</b>	Ministry of Public Health
<b>MINTOUL:</b>	Ministry of Tourism and Leisure

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<b>MINTSS:</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
<b>MINT:</b>	Ministry of Transport
<b>MIRAP:</b>	Consumer Product Supply Regulation Authority
<b>MJTF:</b>	Multinational Joint Task Force
<b>MTBF:</b>	Medium-Term Budgetary Framework
<b>MTEF:</b>	Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks
<b>NACC:</b>	National Anti-Corruption Commission
<b>NAFI:</b>	National Agency for Financial Investigation
<b>NCC:</b>	National Communication Council
<b>NCDS:</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases
<b>NCHF:</b>	National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms
<b>NCSCS:</b>	Nigeria to Cameroon Submarine Cable System
<b>NDC:</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution
<b>NGO:</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NHPC:</b>	Nachtigal Hydro Power Company
<b>NIS:</b>	National Institute of Statistics
<b>NOWEFOR:</b>	North West Farmers Organization
<b>NSIF:</b>	National Social Insurance Fund
<b>NTD:</b>	Neglected Tropical Diseases
<b>NUDP:</b>	National Union for Democracy and Progress
<b>ONACC:</b>	National Observatory on Climate Change
<b>ONEFOP:</b>	National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training
<b>PAEPYS:</b>	Drinking Water Supply Project in Yaounde and its environs from River Sanaga
<b>PAMS/NGP:</b>	Plan of Action to implement the National Gender Policy
<b>PANEJ:</b>	National Plan of Action for Youth Employment
<b>PANETEC:</b>	National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cameroon

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<b>PASZEP:</b>	Programme for Support to Schooling in Priority Zones
<b>PCB:</b>	polychlorinated biphenyls
<b>PEST:</b>	Technical Secondary Education Project
<b>PFD:</b>	Popular Front for Development
<b>PIB:</b>	Public Investment Budget
<b>PIDMA:</b>	Agriculture Investment and Market Development Project
<b>PLANUT:</b>	Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth
<b>PNDP:</b>	National Community-Driven Development Programme
<b>PPAB:</b>	Participatory Programme for the Improvement of Slums
<b>RECAN:</b>	National Artistic and Cultural Relaunch
<b>RGAE:</b>	General Census of Agriculture and Livestock
<b>RLAs:</b>	Regional and Local Authorities
<b>SAB:</b>	Société Anonyme des Brasseries du Cameroun
<b>SAIL:</b>	South Atlantic Inter Link
<b>SCC:</b>	Special Criminal Court
<b>SDF:</b>	Social Democratic Front
<b>SEDUC:</b>	Secretariat for Education
<b>SENAT:</b>	National Secretariats
<b>SME:</b>	Small and Medium-sized Entreprises
<b>SNH:</b>	National Hydrocarbons Corporation
<b>SOCAPALM:</b>	Société Camerounaise des Palmerais
<b>SONATREL:</b>	Société Nationale de Transport d'Electricité
<b>TTC:</b>	Teacher Training College
<b>UCDI:</b>	Cameroonian Union for Democracy and Innovation
<b>UNHCR:</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNIVERS:</b>	Union for Integration towards Solidarity
<b>UPSR:</b>	United People for Social Renovation

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## PREFACE

The year 2018 was a fruitful year in terms of reports on the state of Human Rights in Cameroon. Indeed, owing to dynamic, varied, passionate and sometimes challenging current events, much was written on the Human Rights situation in Cameroon, in ways that were sometimes difficult to understand. Diverse points of view were raised in various reports meant to assess the Human Rights situation, notably on the acceleration of decentralisation with the setting-up of the Ministry of Decentralisation, the establishment of the Constitutional Council, the organisation of senatorial elections in March 2018 and presidential election in October 2018, and the management of the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, both in terms of security and humanitarian action.

In the midst of all these points of view, the Government decided to publish a Report on Human Rights in Cameroon, not as on ad hoc occurrence but in continuation of a well established tradition. The intention of course, is to provide, as complex as it may be, an overview of the action of the State which is the main duty bearer for the protection of the rights of persons under its jurisdiction. Rather than being an activity solely by the State, the Report integrates efforts and contributions from various stakeholders.

It is hoped that this Report shall provide answers to questions raised or furnish additional information. It is also my wish that the reading of the Report opens the way to the future by identifying measures that can be taken by every stakeholder at their level, with the sole objective of significantly and continuously improving on Human Rights in Cameroon. In this regard, the most important task is to consolidate peace and stability in order to guarantee a favourable climate for improving the quality of life.

Enjoy your reading.

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



**GENERAL**

# INTRODUCTION



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- 1-** Cameroon entered the year 2018 with 3 priority challenges to address, namely, peace and security, improving living conditions and building a more inclusive society.
- 2-** Indeed, given the severe security crises situation in some Regions of the country and the prospect of elections being organised, the search for peace which is an essential condition for the achievement of Human Rights was a high priority goal.
- 3-** Also, with the unfavourable economic situation which tested the resilience of the economic fabric, readjustments were necessary, particularly in the framework of the economic and financial programme signed in 2017 with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and supported by an «Extended Credit Facility». The challenge was to guarantee a conducive environment for wealth creation, which is vital for the improvement of people's standard of living, and the necessary amplification of solidarity policies which should ensure that as many people as possible benefit from these policies.
- 4-** Highlights of the Human Rights situation in 2018 underscore concerns strongly related to these challenges. These include completing the setup of institutions provided for in the Constitution such as the operationalisation of the Constitutional Council, responding to security crises situations while respecting Human Rights and adequately handling humanitarian challenges involved, the effective participation of citizens in the management of public affairs with the acceleration of the decentralisation process and the holding of 2 out of the 4 elections expected, better access to basic social services, with the end of the lease contract signed between the State of Cameroon and the *Camerounaise des Eaux* (CDE), or anticipation of food insecurity risks.
- 5-** To meet these challenges, the State's international commitments were strengthened and legislative and statutory measures taken to improve the normative and institutional framework for the promotion of Human Rights.

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Beyond the legal framework, the strategic and operational framework also underwent significant adjustments.

**6-** Among legal instruments reflecting international commitments in the context of both bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the following Decrees can be mentioned:

- Decree No. 2018/456 of 3 August 2018 to ratify the Cooperation Agreement between Cameroon and Nigeria on the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons signed in Abuja on 6 February 2018;
- Decree No. 2018/457 of 3 August 2018 to ratify the Convention between Cameroon and Russia on extradition signed in Saint Petersburg on 28 May 2015;
- Decree No. 2018/458 of 3 August 2018 to accept the amendment to Article 8 of the International Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination adopted in New York on 15 January 1992;
- Decree No. 2018/459 of 3 August 2018 to ratify the Convention between Cameroon and Russia on the transfer of persons sentenced to deprivation of liberty signed in Saint Petersburg on 28 May 2015; and
- Decree No. 2018/794 of 18 December 2018 to ratify the Minamata Convention on Mercury adopted on 10 October 2013 in Kumamoto.

**7-** Many legislative and regulatory measures relating to various aspects of Human Rights were adopted. With regard to the right to peace and security and the management of humanitarian emergencies, the following decrees can be cited:

- Decree No. 2018/148 of 21 February 2018 to amend Decree No. 2014/308 of 14 August 2014 to amend Decree No. 2001/180 of 25 July 2001 on the reorganization of the Territorial Military Command;
- Decree No. 2018/149 of 21 February 2018 to amend the provisions of Decree No. 2001/183 of 25 July 2001 on the reorganization of the Army Combat Training ;

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- Decree No. 2018/150 of 21 February 2018 to amend the provisions of Decree No. 2013/236 of 22 July 2013 on the internal organization of the 11<sup>th</sup> Motorized Infantry Brigade;
- Decree No. 2018/179 of 30 November 2018 to set up the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee<sup>1</sup>; and
- Order No. 2018/127/CAB/PM of 21 November 2018 to lay down the establishment, organization and functioning of the National Centre for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Cameroon.

**8-** With regard to good governance and the fight against corruption, the following laws can be mentioned:

- Law No. 2018/11 of 11 July 2018 to lay down the Cameroon Code of Transparency and Good Governance in Public Finance Management;
- Law No. 2018/12 of 11 July 2018 relating to the financial regime of the State and other public entities
- Decree No. 2018/366 of 20 June 2018 relating to the Public Contracts Code.

**9-** As for the right to participate in the management of public affairs, the following decrees can be mentioned:

- Decree No. 2018/103 of 7 February 2018 convening the electorate for the election of Senators;
- Decree No. 2018/105 of 7 February 2018 to appoint members of the Constitutional Council<sup>2</sup>;
- Decree No. 2018/106 of 7 February 2018 to appoint the President of the Constitutional Council;

<sup>1</sup> The leaders of the Committee were appointed by Decree 2018/742 of 4 December 2018 to appoint the National Coordinator of the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee.

<sup>2</sup> The administrative structure was established by Decree No. 2018/104 of 7 February 2018 to lay down the organisation and functioning of the Secretariat General of the Constitutional Council. The Officials were appointed by the following decrees: Decree No. 2018 /170 of 23 February 2018 to appoint the Secretary General of the Constitutional Council; Decree No. 2018/445 of 31 July 2018 to appoint Officials at the Secretariat General of the Constitutional Council.

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- Decree No. 2018/190 of 2 March 2018 to supplement certain provisions of Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 to organize the Government;
- Decree No. 2018/391 of 9 July 2018 to convene the electorate for the election of the President of the Republic of Cameroon;
- Decree No. 2018/406 of 11 July 2018 to extend the term of office of Municipal Councilors;
- Decree No. 2018/449 of 1 August 2018 on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development;

**10-** With regard to the right to an adequate standard of living, the following can be cited:

- Law No. 2018/20 of 11 December 2018 on the framework law on food safety;
- Decree No. 2018/144 of 20 February 2018 to reorganize CAMWATER.

**11-** As for the right to health, the following texts were signed:

- Order No.122/CAB/MINSANTE of 19 January 2018 to reorganize the Emergency Medical Assistance in Cameroon;
- Order No. 63/CAB/PM of 19 July 2018 relating to the setting-up, organization and functioning of the Joint National Committee for the consolidation of the health map.

**12-** As concerns the right to education, the following should be noted:

Law No. 2018/10 of 11 July 2018 governing vocational training in Cameroon;

- Decree No. 2018/4 of 8 January 2018 to set up the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of Garoua;
- Decree No. 2018/5 of 8 January 2018 to set up the Higher Teacher's Training College of Bertoua.

**13-** In order to guarantee the rights of vulnerable groups, the following instruments were signed:

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- Decree No. 2018/6233/PM of 26 July 2018 to lay down procedures for the implementation of Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities;
- Decree No. 2018/6234/PM of 26 July 2018 to reorganize the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities; and
- Joint Order No. 1/MINSANTE/MINAS of 13 August 2018 to establish procedures for drawing up and issuing the Special Medical Certificate.

**14-** In addition to these legislative adjustments, strategic tools were necessary to guide actions implemented. In this regard, mention can be made of the strategy for recovery and consolidation of Peace in the Northern Regions and the East Region (2018-2022), Government Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan for the North West and South West Regions launched on 20 June 2018, budgeting of the Multi-sector Action Plan for the implementation of the National Policy on Hunger and Malnutrition by 2020 or the Framework Document for the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Workplace 2018-2022.

**15-** Like previous Reports for over a decade, this Report gives an account of the dense and rich current situation, without any distortion, in order to provide information about a complex reality, while relaying the various aspects of actions undertaken in their positive dimension, as well as exploring what is left to be done. Beyond information, the Report is indeed a self-evaluation tool that the State, which is primarily at the service of its populations, has freely given itself.

**16-** Several stakeholders contributed to this evaluation exercise. They should be commended not only for their active participation in the data collection phase, but also in the validation workshop during which the draft Report was reviewed. These stakeholders include Ministries and other public institutions, independent administrative authorities and Civil Society Organizations.

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**17-** Considering the importance of the challenge to safeguard peace, a chapter on the guarantee of the right to peace and security was added to Part three. This addition has not fundamentally changed the structure of the Report which still includes three main parts preceded by a preliminary chapter as follows:

- cooperation between Cameroon and international and regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of Human Rights (Preliminary Chapter);
- civil and political rights (Part I);
- economic, social and cultural rights and the right to a healthy environment (Part II); and
- cross-cutting issues on Human Rights and rights of specific groups (Part III).

**PRELIMINARY  
CHAPTER:**

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



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**18-** After two initial terms at the Human Rights Council from 2006 to 2012, Cameroon was again elected on 12 October 2018 during the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly<sup>3</sup>, for the period 2019-2022, as one of the 47<sup>4</sup> members of the Council. Before this election, on 16 May 2018, the country had defended its Report as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, a mechanism set up to have the Human Rights situation in all countries evaluated by peers. Thus, in 2018, Cameroon continued to be a stakeholder and the focus of international and regional Human Rights mechanisms. It fully cooperated with the mechanisms in various procedures relating to their deployment, both in terms of review of reports and communications. Through recommendations, this dialogue made it possible to identify courses of action to improve the Human Rights situation in the country.

## **SECTION 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE EXAMINATION OF THE REPORT UNDER THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**19-** Upon completion of the Review of Cameroon's Report which was conducted by a troika made up of South Africa, Iraq and Great Britain, 196 recommendations were made by 74 countries<sup>5</sup>. By Decision No. A/HRC/DEC/39/109 of 20 September 2019, the Council adopted all the instruments<sup>6</sup> resulting from the Review, including the State's remarks on the Recommendations and/or Observations. In accordance with usual pro-

<sup>3</sup> The Human Rights Council is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly.

<sup>4</sup> As representatives of the African Group within the Council, Cameroon will sit alongside three other newly elected countries namely, Burkina Faso, Eritrea and Somalia, Togo whose term was renewed and 8 other States which are South Africa, Angola, Egypt, Nigeria, DRC, Rwanda, Senegal and Tunisia.

<sup>5</sup> The countries concerned are the following regional groups: Africa (21); Western Europe (13); Western Europe (10); Latin America and Caribbean (21) Asia Pacific (9).

<sup>6</sup> The other instruments are: the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, commitments that the State took and responses it presented before the adoption of the instruments in plenary session, to questions or issues which were not sufficiently addressed during the discussions of the working Group.

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cedures, Cameroon accepted 124 recommendations, noted 23 and rejected 49.

## §1: Accepted Recommendations

**20-** Recommendations that were accepted concern the enhancement of the normative, institutional and strategic framework for the promotion and protection of Human Rights, general measures for the promotion of Human Rights, the exercise of civil and political rights, the guarantee of economic, social and cultural rights, the protection of Human Rights in specific situations or the protection of rights of specific groups.

**21-** The normative framework involved the ratification and internalisation of certain conventions and the completion of ongoing reforms of national laws including the Civil Code.

**22-** With regard to international instruments, in addition to the effective submission of instruments for ratification of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the State agreed to ratify the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Forced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention relating to the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, ILO Convention 189 on the Protection of the Rights of Domestic Workers, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

**23-** The State accepted to intensify the work of the Technical Committee set up to examine the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

**24-** At the institutional level, the strengthening of the independence and means of action of the National Commission on Human Rights and Free-

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doms (NCHF) was accepted, as well as the acceleration of the establishment of a formal framework for consultation with the civil society.

**25-** With regard to the strategic framework, the State agreed to continue the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, to finalise the adoption of the Family Policy Document and the National Policy Document for children.

**26-** With regard to the promotion of Human Rights, the country agreed to strengthen its national policy, particularly in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, to continue raising awareness on the appropriation of relevant principles, to mobilise resources and to seek assistance for capacity-building in this area. It also agreed to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights mechanisms by accepting visits of relevant Special Procedures, and facilitating monitoring and presentation of reports to the Human Rights Council.

**27-** Among accepted recommendations relating to the exercise of civil and political rights, feature those concerning the improvement of guarantees of the right to a fair trial and access to justice even in cases of alleged acts of terrorism, the fight against arbitrary deprivation of liberty, particularly by prohibiting incommunicado detention, the fight against impunity, including cases of violations committed by law enforcement personnel by carrying out prompt, effective, independent and impartial investigations into alleged Human Rights violations.

**28-** The State agreed to strengthen guarantees relating to the exercise of public freedoms, particularly by ensuring that restrictions on freedom of assembly and demonstration are in conformity with international law, guaranteeing public freedoms, including those of journalists, Human Rights defenders and members of opposition political parties, investigating allegations of excessive use of force on demonstrators and guaranteeing a fair trial for arrested demonstrators. The State agreed to guarantee freedom of access to information, including access to Internet, press freedom and its di-

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versity, to strengthen the fight against torture and to improve detention conditions.

**29-** With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, Cameroon agreed to promote, in broad terms, sustainable economic and social development, reduce poverty and raise the populations' standard of living. It thus indicated its willingness to continue the Decent Work Country Programme beyond 2019, to improve the implementation of social protection programmes for the most vulnerable persons, to continue social programmes to fight against poverty and inequality, to promote the health sector through infrastructure development, accelerate the achievement of universal health coverage, combat maternal mortality, ensure women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services, and eliminate all forms of discrimination in access to health care.

**30-** In the education sector, the State agreed to combat discrimination in access to education for girls and children from indigenous communities, to improve school enrolment rates, notably through the implementation of the Education Sector Strategy Paper and to ensure the effective application of the principle of free primary education.

**31-** With regard to the protection of Human Rights in specific situations, the State agreed, with regard to the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, to give priority to dialogue for a consensual resolution of the crisis, to guarantee the effective application of the official bilingualism policy so that the English-speaking population is not discriminated against in terms of access to employment, education or justice. The State also agreed to obliterate marginalization in all its forms, to guarantee freedom of expression, notably by ensuring transparency and access to information on the situation in these Regions. Concerning allegations of Human Rights violation in the context of the management of this crisis, the State agreed to conduct investigations on arbitrary arrests, excessive use of force, extrajudicial killings and allegations of torture. The State also agreed to guarantee access of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and

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other reputable organizations to detainees, in particular those extradited from Nigeria.

**32-** In humanitarian emergencies, the State agreed to allow and promote unimpeded humanitarian assistance to affected population whenever necessary.

**33-** On the situation of certain specific categories, the State welcomed recommendations relating to the elimination of discrimination against women as well as ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, refugees and displaced persons. With regard to women, the recommendations accepted concern the promotion of gender equality, their empowerment, ensuring their adequate participation in the management of public affairs, equal opportunities in access to employment and improvement of working conditions, the fight against gender-based violence including forced marriage, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, the repeal of discriminatory legal provisions concerning marriage and nationality rights. The State also accepted the recommendations concerning the protection of refugee and displaced women and girls from all forms of exploitation.

**34-** In the area of children's rights, the State agreed to accelerate the reform of the Civil Code with a view to strengthening the protection of children's rights, prohibiting corporal punishment in all contexts, setting the age of marriage at 18 for both boys and girls, and adopting public policies to eliminate the recruitment of children into armed groups, including strategies for the rehabilitation and reintegration of such children, in accordance with international standards. The State also agreed to step up its efforts to arrest and bring to justice perpetrators of child abduction for the sale of organs or magic practices.

**35-** Finally, the State agreed to continue the implementation of the policy on the reintegration of persons with disabilities at strategic and operational levels.

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## §2: Recommendations Noted

**36-** The State noted the recommendations relating inter alia, to the revision of Law No. 2014 / 28 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism, provisions on the definition of offences relating to freedom of assembly, demonstration and association and the guarantee of the right to a fair trial. The same applies to those concerning the fight against incommunicado detention, free access to international and regional Human Rights expert investigators to investigate and monitor Human Rights violations, including through unannounced inspection to all places of detention.

**37-** Other recommendations noted include those for the adoption of comprehensive legislative and political measures to ensure access to health services for people living with HIV/AIDS and access to sexual and reproductive health education for girls and women, particularly in rural areas.

**38-** The ratification of the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in Education, prevention of sexual harassment by teachers and early marriage and prohibition by law of corporal punishment of children in all settings, are also among the recommendations noted.

## §3: Rejected Recommendations

**39-** Cameroon rejected some of the recommendations made. With regard to the death penalty, it was recalled that the State was observing a *de facto moratorium* on its implementation. The non-acceptance of homosexuality by a majority of the society resulted in the rejection of the suggestion to decriminalise this practice. To reject the adoption of a specific legislation on the protection of journalists and Human Rights activists, the Government deemed that the country's legislative framework already offers the desired protection. Moreover, with regard to the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC, the State noted that it is not a prerequisite for its already effective cooperation with the institution.

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## SECTION 2: DIALOGUE AS PART OF COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

**40-** In the course of the year 2018, concerns raised in communications involved the right to life and physical integrity, the right to liberty and security of persons and the right to a fair trial, particularly in response to the two main security crisis <sup>7</sup> situations and the management of the aftermath of the presidential election of 7 October 2018 in relation to the exercise of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and demonstration. Interaction with the Human Rights mechanisms of the African Union and the UN enabled the latter to assess how the State managed the various situations.

### §1: Assessment by African Union Mechanisms

**41-** At the end of 2018, there were 16 communications<sup>8</sup> pending before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), including 2 Urgent Appeals by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals. No decision was rendered at the end of the year by the said Body, unlike the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), which took a decision in Communication No. 6/com/2/2015 and Communication No. 10/Com/3/2016.

#### **A: The Decision in Communication No. 6/com/2/2015**

**42-** Communication No. 6/com/2/2015, *The Institute of Human Rights and Development in Africa and Finders Group Initiative on behalf of TFA*, dealt with allegations of rape of a young girl and the absence of appropriate judicial measures due to lack of diligence by judicial authorities. Were particularly in issue, the relative sensitivity of stakeholders of the criminal justice chain to the specific nature of gender-based violence and above all, the failure to notify the victim within a reasonable time limit of a no case ruling at the end of the preliminary inquiry, thus obstructing the possibility of an appeal against the said decision.

<sup>7</sup> *Boko Haram*, Crisis in the North West and South West Regions.

<sup>8</sup> In 2018, 2 communications were filed.

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On its 31<sup>st</sup> Session held in May 2018 in Bamako, Mali, the Committee found a violation of the right to non-discrimination, the right to protection against abuse and torture. It recommended specific and general measures.

**43-** As part of the specific measures, the Committee recommended that the State should:

- immediately ensure that the perpetrator of the rape against TFA is prosecuted and punished for violating TFA's right not to be subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment and ensure effective reparation to TFA;
- pay TFA a sum of CFAF 50,000,000<sup>9</sup> in compensation for the moral damage suffered as a result of the above-mentioned violations.

**44-** As part of general measures, it was recommended that laws on the elimination of all forms of violence, including sexual violence against children be adopted and implemented, that Police Officers, State Counsel, Judges and other relevant Government Bodies be trained on how to protect and promote the rights of the child, that Police Units and specialised courts be set up to deal with cases of violence against children; that special entities be set up to provide children victims of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and their caretakers with necessary support, that be developed and implemented awareness-raising campaigns as well as educational and communication strategies aimed at eradicating beliefs, practices and stereotypes that legitimate and exacerbate the persistence and tolerance of violence against children.

## **B: The Decision in Communication No. 10/Com/3/2016**

**45-** The **ELOGO MENYE and Rev. EZO'O AYO Communication** dealt with the suspicious death of two young children in Douala. It questioned the quality of medical care provided in response to the children's ailment and the treatment of their remains. It alleged a violation of Articles 14 and 16 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child relating to the

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<sup>9</sup> About 76,335,88 Euros

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right to health and protection from abuse and ill-treatment, respectively. The communication was declared inadmissible for failure to exhaust domestic remedies.

## §2: Assessment by UN Mechanisms

**46-** Of the 7 cases pending before it, the Human Rights Committee adopted its findings on 19 July 2018 in the **Urbain OLANGUENA AWONO** Communication. With regard to mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, of the 7 communications registered, an Opinion of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention was issued on the case of **NGWANG Simon**.

### A: Findings of the Human Rights Committee in the Urbain OLANGUENA AWONO Communication

**47-** The Communication concerned the arrest and detention of Mr. **Urbain OLANGUENA AWONO** as part of various proceedings against him for misappropriation of public property. Following the review of the case file, except for the alleged violation of Article 14, paragraph 3 (c) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on the right to be tried without undue delay, the Committee declared the allegations of violation of other provisions of the Covenant inadmissible. They included allegations of violations of Articles 2, 7, 9 (1) and (3), 10, 14 (1), (2) and 15 of the ICCPR concerning non-discrimination and the right to remedies respectively, the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, the right to liberty, respect for human dignity, the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial and the right to be tried by an independent and impartial court.

**48-** With regard to inadmissibility, the Committee took into account several considerations. It noted on some points that the complainant had not exhausted the available domestic remedies (Articles 7 and 10). The Committee further found that the allegations of violations were not sufficiently substantiated, given that the complainant did not sufficiently justify the allegation that his detention was arbitrary and his conviction motivated by extrajudicial reasons (Article 9), that he did not indicate how the public

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statements of senior Government Officials on «Operation Sparrow Hawk» specifically concerned his case (article 14 (1)) and also that he did not demonstrate the violation of the rights of the defence before the Special Criminal Court (SCC). The Committee also noted that the setting up of the SCC seemed to be a reasonable response to the country's economic and social context.

**49-** Arguments pointing to the partiality of the Supreme Court were also found inadmissible, given that the judges concerned were excluded from the proceedings. The allegation of violation of the right to a second hearing was also subject to the same outcome. While recalling its case law on the necessity for courts of appeal to examine facts and the Law, the Committee noted that the complainant did not dispute the argument according to which the Supreme Court examined both facts and the Law in his case.

**50-** The claim that the principle of non-retroactivity of the Criminal Law had been violated was dismissed given that the Law setting-up the SCC did not create a new offence but determined procedural rules applicable even to acts constituting an offence committed before its adoption.

**51-** On the violation of Article 14, paragraph 3 on the right to be tried without undue delay, the Committee found that there was a nine-year delay between the author's arrest and the last Supreme Court decision. The Committee noted that the procedure was prolonged, *inter alia*, by the absence of representatives of the Legal Department at the hearings of 15 and 16 October 2012 when the case was adjourned pending judgment. It resulted in the transfer of the case to the SCC and the reopening of the proceedings after four years of proceedings. On this point, a member of the Committee, Mr **José SANTOS PAIS**, issued a dissenting opinion. In his view, such a decision may hinder efforts made by States in cases involving the fight against corruption by persons holding high-level Government positions. Given the complexity of the case, he believes that the issue of excessive delay cannot be raised even in countries with a higher level of development than Cameroon. He thinks that the State did not have to comment on the

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action of the Legal Department, which may in the light of subsequent events, be justified by the desire to submit the case to a specialised court, which is legitimate just as the accused may use all procedural subtleties to assert the rights of the defence. He considers that the State has tried to address the Committee's concerns regarding the fight against corruption through prosecution of perpetrators and sanctions proportionate to the gravity of the crimes in the event of guilt. In his view, the interests of the vast majority of the population who are victims of this type of crime must be duly taken into account.

**52-** Ultimately, the Committee considered that the finding of a violation of the right to be tried without undue delay was sufficient remedy for the complainant. It recommended that the State ensures that the violations deplored should not recur.

## **B: Opinion of the Working Group on the Arbitrary Detention of NGWANG Simon**

**53-** The Communication concerns the detention and sentencing of **NGWANG Simon**, who was accused of issuing cheques to fictitious suppliers in two cases relating to the misappropriation of public property at the Cameroon Shipyard and Industrial Engineering. Convicted on 20 July 2012 by the Wouri High Court, the complainant appealed to the Supreme Court on 23 July 2012.

**54-** The Working Group noted that the time limit for police custody was exceeded, that is, 10 days instead of 6 days, for the detention of a person having guarantees that he will appear in court when so required. It also noted the denial of the right of appeal by prolonged proceedings before the Supreme Court and the violation of equality of arms due to the alleged disappearance of evidence in the file.

**55-** The Mechanism recommended that the State should promptly remedy **Mr. NGWANG's** situation and make it compatible with international standards. More specifically, it recommended that he be released immediately,

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be granted reparation, an investigation be conducted into the violations and perpetrators be punished.

**56-** All in all, cooperation was intense and full of proposals on ways to improve the promotion and protection of Human Rights in light of the various challenges confronting the State, the construction of a more inclusive society with a stronger fight against discrimination and the protection of minorities, the preservation of peace and security, the improvement of the humanitarian response to the various crises, and the improvement of decent living conditions with more effective access to basic social services, including education, health, food and housing.

**57-** Most of the recommendations, particularly those of a general nature, are included in the policies or action plans of various public institutions. For example, the option was taken to entrust the NCHRF with the mandate of national mechanism for the supervision of places of detention. The recommendations are followed up by an Inter-Ministerial Committee housed in the Prime Minister's Office.

# INTRODUCTION

## TO PART ONE



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**58-** In 2018, the promotion and protection of civil and political rights was characterised by actions carried out by public authorities on capacity building of law enforcement personnel in order to better protect the right to life and the right not to be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment in a context of increasing road traffic accidents. These rights were also guaranteed by an increase in the number of Lawyers through recruitment into the Bar Association and by disciplinary and judicial sanctions taken against Law enforcement personnel, notably for torture.

**59-** To ensure equality before the law, the right of access to justice was reinforced by making the Constitutional Council operational and by boosting certain legal aid Commissions in order to guarantee the right to fair trial.

**60-** Moreover, capacity building for stakeholders of social communication was associated with proceedings against those who infringed professional obligations in media organs or who committed offences against the interest of private individuals.

**61-** During the reference year, the implementation of the right to participate in the management of public affairs aimed at rationalising recruitments, setting-up a Ministry in charge of Decentralization and Local Development within a context of strengthening decentralised cooperation.

**62-** Progress made regarding civil and political rights are presented in the following chapters:

- Right to Life, Physical or Moral Integrity, Right not to be subjected to Torture and Right to Liberty (Chapter 1);
- Right to Fair Trial (Chapter 2);
- Freedom of Expression and Communication (Chapter 3);
- Right to Participate in the Management of Public Affairs (Chapter 4).



**Chapter**

**1**

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



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**63-** Notwithstanding the various security crises, in 2018, the Government continued its efforts to improve the guarantee of the right to life, right to physical and moral integrity and the right to liberty. In this connection, activities to build the capacities of stakeholders in the Human Rights protection chain and to fight against the increase in road accidents were carried out. The right to liberty was also guaranteed and given the persistent violation of certain specific rights as revealed by the annual statistics on violent crime, sanctions were imposed on perpetrators.

## **SECTION 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION CHAIN**

**64-** In 2018, like previous years, Judicial and Legal Officers, Police, Gendarmes, Civil Servants of Penitentiary Administration and other stakeholders involved in the protection of Human Rights were trained.

**65-** In this regard, from 8 to 9 August 2018 in Mbalmayo, 21 participants (Judicial and Legal Officers, Gendarmes, Social Workers and representatives of Civil Society Organizations) took part in a workshop on the strengthening of information systems regarding children deprived of liberty. In addition, 23 staff (Judicial and Legal Officers, Police and Gendarmes, Civil Servants of Penitentiary Administration and administrative authorities) attended a training on the protection of children affected by armed conflicts in Maroua from 23 to 24 September 2018.

**66-** The capacity of Police Officers was enhanced through an increase in initial training modules on Human Rights and participation in continuous training. Thus, modules on "Ethics and Deontology", "Human Rights", "International Humanitarian Law", "Criminal Procedure", "Judicial Police?", "Regulatory and Practical Law Enforcement?", "Fight Against Terrorism" and "Protection of Women and Children within a context of Armed/Unarmed Conflict or Humanitarian Crisis" are taught in Training Centres, particularly at the National Police Academy with 6 hours of course work per week and 36 hours of conferences. Moreover, international instruments re-

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lating to the prohibition of torture, particularly the “Robben Island” Guidelines and the Istanbul Protocol were specially disseminated by means of a compilation in a CD-ROM and a display in police stations. As for refresher courses, 300 Police Officers from the Adamawa, East and Far North Regions were trained on the approach to identification and prosecution of persons associated with the *Boko Haram* terrorist group. Educative talks were also organised in police stations to raise awareness on the respect of the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code in conducting investigations.

## SECTION 2: FIGHT AGAINST INCREASE IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

**67-** In 2018, the number of road accidents were on the rise. Indeed, unlike the year 2017 during which 4, 190 accidents were recorded, 7, 963 were recorded in 2018 including 12 on the maritime network, 4 on the railway network and 7,947 on highways. The resulting death toll was 1,295 deaths, 4,125 wounded and nearly CFAF100,000,000,000<sup>10</sup> lost in material damage. The identified recurring causes of accidents in 2018 were speeding, poor conditions of vehicles, hazardous overtaking, distraction while driving, lack of road worthiness tests, poor road conditions, drunk driving, fatigue and overload. In order to provide an appropriate response to this scourge, authorities undertook various actions.

**68-** Actions taken by the Government in 2018 include securing transport licenses, making fixed speed cameras operational, intensifying awareness campaigns through translation and production in English of the illustrated brochure on the Highway Code, ensuring vehicles are tested for road worthiness, controlling travel agencies, performing breath tests, fighting illegal transport, removing obstacles and organising a campaign to screen drivers for eye diseases.

**69-** As a result, 1,027,018 transport licenses were secured, 28,500 notebooks and 1, 000 communication media with awareness messages were produced and distributed; 69 road safety teams were deployed, 100,000

<sup>10</sup> About 1,526,717.56 Euros

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breath tests were made available to the said teams and 5 machines were acquired for operations aimed at removing obstacles from roads.

**70-** As part of sanctions, road worthiness centres and travel agencies had their activities suspended following the campaign to check compliance with their specifications and in some cases following road accidents where the driver is found liable.

**71-** Similarly, in the case between the victims of the railway accident that occurred in Eseka on 21 October 2016 and CAMRAIL S.A., the Eseka Court of First Instance, after hearing the case, rendered the following decision:

- « - Delivering judgment publicly and after full hearing (the accused F.V.A. was absent) of a misdemeanour and at first instance;
- Rejects the request for independent international expertise presented by the Lawyers of CAMRAIL S.A. as untimely;
- Declares the defendants **KOUMFIEG TCHOUMBA Olivier Noel, GABAI Dieudonné and TEKOU MUKAM Rodrigue** not guilty of dangerous activities, killing and unintentional harm;
- Acquit them for non-established facts;
- On the other hand, declares **VANDENBON Didier Germain, YEDNA Mathias, DIKA WOUDOU Guillaume, NGNIN ESSOH Siméon, ATEBA AKA'A Emile, NYAKE MAMAKE Albert, TIMBOU Pierre, NLEND Carice Wilfried, NDZANA Jean OTTOU, BIWOLE NKOLE Stéphane Raoul, FRU Valentine AWAH** and the corporate body, CAMRAIL S.A., criminally liable and guilty for offences of dangerous activities, killing and unintentional harm punishable by Sections 74, 228 and 289 of the Penal Code;
- With regard to sanctions, Sentences CAMRAIL S.A. to a fine of CFAF500, 000<sup>11</sup>,
- Sentences the accused **VANDENBON Didier Germain** to six months imprisonment and a fine of CFAF300, 000<sup>12</sup>;

<sup>11</sup> About 763.36 Euros

<sup>12</sup> About 458.01 Euros

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- Sentences **DIKA WOUDOU Guillaume, NGNIN ESSOH Siméon, ATEBA AKA'A Emile, NYAKE MAMAKE Albert, TIMBOU Pierre, NLEND Carice Wilfried, NDZANA Jean OTTOU, BIWOLE NKOL Stéphane Raoul** to three months imprisonment and a fine of CFAF200, 000<sup>13</sup>;
- Sentences **YEDNA Mathias** to five years imprisonment and a fine of CFAF500, 000;
- Sentences **FRU Valentine AWAH** to three years imprisonment and a fine of 300 000 francs;
- Rules that sentences against **VANDENBON Didier Germain DIKA WOUDOU Guillaume, NGNIN ESSOH Siméon, ATEBA AKA'A Emile, NYAKE MAMAKE Albert, TIMBOU Pierre, NLEND Carice Wilfried, NDZANA Jean OTTOU** and **BIWOLE NKOLE Stéphane Raoul** are suspended for a period of three years...»

**72-** On compensation for damages suffered by the victims and their rightful claimants (12), CAMRAIL S.A. was ordered to pay them the total sum of CFAF 65,235,119<sup>14</sup> and also pay costs of proceedings estimated at the sum of CFAF 414,834,705<sup>15</sup>. This decision was contested, in particular by appeals and applications to set it aside lodged by rightful claimants of some victims and the Legal Department. The application to set aside were being examined by the Eseka Court of First Instance.

### SECTION 3: GUARANTEE OF THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY

**73-** Judicial activity in 2018 reveals that on liberty-related litigation, out of 3,295 registered applications for bail, 2017 were granted and 1278 were rejected. In addition, 929 detainees were released by the courts on their own motion and, in the specific case of the habeas corpus procedure, 66 out of 176 applications made by detainees were granted while 110 were rejected.

<sup>13</sup> About 305.34 Euros

<sup>14</sup> About 99,595.60 Euros

<sup>15</sup> About 633,335.43 Euros

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**74-** Most of the applications for habeas corpus granted were based on illegal remand warrants. This was the case with the application of Mr. **D. Félix** who was remanded in custody on 2 November 2016 for acts of violence against Civil Servants and for which no action had been taken by the Douala-Ndokoti Court of First Instance. By Ruling No. 80/TGI/W/DLA of 5 December 2018, the Wouri High Court ordered his immediate release.

**75-** Similarly, in the case of **N.B. Donatien Raphael**, a 16 year-old minor was remanded in custody on 3 August 2017 as co-offender for aggravated theft. On 21 February 2018, Wouri High Court delivered a ruling declining jurisdiction in the case and no further proceedings were ordered by the Legal Department. By Ruling of 7 March 2018, the unlawfulness of his detention was established and he was immediately released.

## SECTION 4: STATISTICS ON VIOLENT CRIME

**76-** Statistics on violent crime in 2018, which reflect the violation of some Human Rights, indicate the persistent violation of physical and moral integrity through the increase in number of certain offences. By way of illustration, 6,240 offences relating to the violation of the right to life and physical or moral integrity were recorded in 2018. With regard to torture in particular, 17 cases were reported, as against 22 in 2017. From a global perspective, it is important to present statistics from the Police, Gendarmerie and Courts.

### §1: Police Statistics

**77-** In 2018, the Police recorded various offences and sent 8,105 reports to various Legal Departments with suspects, as shown in the following table:

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**Table 1: Police Statistics on Crime**

Offences	Number of investigation reports drawn up
Capital murder	480
Murder	366
Kidnapping	1,434
Rape	226
Armed robbery	1,004
Burglary	1,474
Slight, simple, grievous harm following an attack	3,023
Slight, simple, grievous harm following highway robbery	144
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,151</b>

**Source:** DGSN

## §2: Gendarmerie Statistics

78- The table below summarises criminal activities recorded by the Gendarmerie:

**Table 2: Gendarmerie statistics on violent crime**

Offences	Number of investigation reports drawn up
Capital murder	258
Murder	413
Kidnapping	634
Rape	757
Armed robbery	824
Burglary	1,187
Slight, simple, grievous harm following highway robbery	276
Drug addiction	706
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,055</b>

**Source:** Gendarmerie

## §3: Court Statistics

79- The table below presents court statistics on violent crime:

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**Table 3: Court Statistics on Violent Crime**

Offences	Investigation Reports received	Number of proceedings initiated			Number of persons acquitted/discharged	Number of victims			Number of victims compensated		Perpetrators of the offence	
		At preliminary inquiry	Before trial courts	Number of persons convicted		M <sup>16</sup>	W	Children	B	G <sup>17</sup>	Number of law enforcement personnel (Specify the duty of the offender: Judicial/Legal Officer, Police and Gendarme Officers, Penitentiary Administration Personnel, Auxiliary of Justice)	Number of persons with authority over the victim (family relation, subordination relationship)
Capital murder	479	261	219	241	66	354	64	27	8	51	18	17
Murder	369	275	209	142	33	178	38	11	3	44	3	10
Unintentional killing	904	38	1014	564	64	712	208	81	45	218	13	6
Assault occasioning death	160	129	103	83	18	119	20	14	11	14	0	8
Assault occasioning grievous harm	105	31	110	78	22	50	15	0	0	4	0	0
Torture	17	13	12	4	7	12	2	0	1	2	0	0
Grievous harm	130	78	132	100	37	118	81	14	15	29	5	2
Simple harm	773	50	771	606	173	469	227	29	21	179	0	5
Slight harm	1779	34	1617	1043	220	1008	397	84	49	297	16	1
Rape	233	127	164	104	34	12	107	5	52	17	0	8
False Arrest	95	51	74	57	22	115	26	9	7	19	3	9
Forced labour												
Trafficking in persons	12	7	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Offences	Investigation Reports Received	Number of proceedings initiated			Number of persons sentenced / retried	Number of victims			Offenders			
		At preliminary inquiry	Before trial courts		Number of persons acquitted / retried	M	W	Children			Number of law enforcement personnel (Specify the duty of the offender: Judicial / Legal Officer, Police and Gendarme Officers, Penitentiary Administration Personnel, Auxiliary of Justice)	Number of persons with authority over the victim (family relation, subordination relationship)
								B	G	Number of victims compensated		
Trafficking in persons	32	21	27	15	5	12	52	12	0	0	2	8
Kidnapping of child	174	72	98	62	11	20	4	40	75	11	4	16
Kidnapping by fraud or force	55	34	32	34	6	59	27	4	13	11	0	1
Indecency to child under 16 years	659	570	498	449	58	49	184	9	471	68	4	21
Indecency to minor between 16 - 21 years	259	177	199	173	17	56	25	3	173	23	1	0
Forced marriage	5	2	4	6	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	5
Prostitution	17	3	6	3	1	9	3	0	0	0	5	0
Incest	10	7	6	1	2	0	17	0	4	0	0	3
Homosexuality	13	9	11	7	0	60	2	0	9	1	0	1

Source: MINJUSTICE

<sup>16</sup> M: Men; W: Women; C: Children

<sup>17</sup> B: Boy; G: Girl

<sup>17</sup> M: Men; W: Women; C: Children

<sup>17</sup> B: Boy; G: Girl

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**80-** Judicial response to the phenomenon of crime led to the sanctioning of perpetrators and compensation of victims for multifaceted damages suffered.

**81-** An illustration is the Yaounde Military Tribunal judgement of 20 September 2018 sentencing **D.M. Lazare Leroy** to 30 months in prison for acts of torture inflicted on **Moussa Moupain** in a cell at the Central Service of Judicial Research of the Gendarmerie in Yaounde in March 2016. The victim finally died due to these acts of torture. The State of Cameroon was equally sentenced to pay the sum of CFAF 10,000,000<sup>18</sup> as damages to the rightful claimants of the deceased.

**82-** Moreover, other law enforcement personnel were prosecuted and sanctioned in 2018.

## SECTION 5: SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF

**83-** As a duty to fight against impunity of law enforcement personnel, disciplinary and judicial sanctions were inflicted notably on Gendarme and Police Officers and on Civil Servants of Penitentiary Administration for violation of physical and moral integrity as well as against liberty of persons. The following tables present the statistics for the year 2018:

**Table 4: Situation of administrative and disciplinary sanctions in 2018**

SERVICES	TYPES OF SANCTIONS									
	Query	Written Warning	Lay-off	Delayed promotion	Demotion of incremental position	Demotion of grade	Reprimand	Suspension from duty	Temporary Suspension	Dismissal
<b>Gendarmes</b>										
<b>Police Officers</b>		1	4	3	3	5	9			1
<b>Penitentiary Administration</b>							2			
<b>TOTAL</b>										

**Source:** MINJUSTICE, MINDEF, DGSN, SED

<sup>18</sup> About 15,267.17 Euros

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**84-** Statistics on the situation of proceedings and convictions for the year 2018 are presented in the table below.

**Table 5: Statistics of Proceedings and Sanctions imposed on Law Enforcement Personnel**

Initials of persons prosecuted or convicted	Grade	Offences	Court	State of proceedings
D.M. Lazare Leroy	Gendarme	Torture, assault occasioning death, violation of instructions	Yaounde Military Tribunal	Judgment of 20 September 2018: -guilty -CA -30 months imprisonment -Damages: CFAF10,000,000 <sup>19</sup>
M.D. Martial (on remand)	Senior Prison Warder	Inhuman treatment of an escapee detainee	Bafia CFI	Pending before the court
M. Aubain (on remand)	Prison warder	Inhuman treatment of an escapee detainee	Bafia CFI	Pending before the court
D. Romanus (on remand)	Prison Warder	Inhuman treatment of an escapee detainee	Bafia CFI	Pending before the court
M.B. Willy Macaire (on remand)	Prison Warder	Inhuman treatment of a detainee	Bafia CFI	Pending before the courts

**Source:** MINJUSTICE, MINDEF

**85-** As a follow-up to some proceedings, it should be noted that at the end of preliminary inquiry into the **Ibrahima Bello** case, the accused persons were committed for trial before Mbam and Inoubou High Court in Bafia where the case was pending.

\*

\* \*

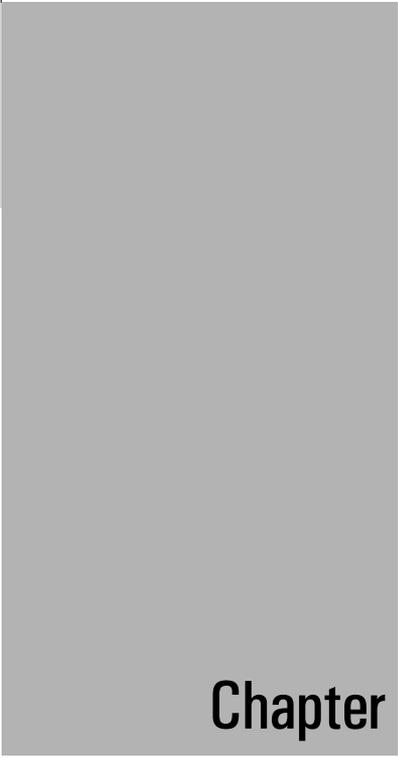
**86-** On the whole, notwithstanding the increase in traffic accidents and persistent crime associated with the practice of torture, actions taken by the Government, with the support of some of its partners, resulted in a signifi-

<sup>19</sup> About 15,267.17 Euros

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cant guarantee of the right to life, physical and moral integrity, liberty and the right not to be subjected to torture. Capacity building of stakeholders of the protection chain and punishment of those guilty of Human Rights violations continued in 2018.



**Chapter** **2**  
**RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL**



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**87-** The strengthening of the right to access justice through the setting up of the Constitutional Council, the improvement of economic and geographical access to justice, guarantees relating to access to courts and proceedings as well as those provided to litigants are the objective criteria that could be used to assess the guarantee of right to fair trial in 2018.

## **SECTION 1: STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT TO ACCESS JUSTICE**

**88-** In 2018, the right to access justice was enhanced thanks to the effective setting-up of the Constitutional Council, the improvement of geographical access to justice in view of prospects for the evolution of the judicial and economic map and the granting of legal aid.

### **§1: Setting-up of the Constitutional Council**

#### **A: Operationalisation of the Constitutional Council**

**89-** As an institution which participates in upholding the Rule of Law, the Constitutional Council was established pursuant to Section 51 of the Constitution and the status of its members was laid down by Law No. 2004/5 of 21 April 2004. In a bid to make this institution operational, two instruments were signed in 2018. These instruments are Decree No. 2018/104 and Decree No. 2018/105 of 7 February 2018 relating to the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Council on the one hand, and the appointment of its members on the other hand.

#### **B: Access to the Constitutional Judge**

**90-** As the guarantor of the regularity of the electoral process, the Cameroonian constitutional Judge implemented guarantees relating to fair trial in electoral litigation. The guarantee of the right to fair trial was observed before the Constitutional Council during the hearing of electoral disputes relating to presidential and senatorial elections of 2018. Indeed, a major innovation was made through the live television broadcast of the hearings of the presidential election disputes. This approach respects the

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principle of public hearing and the right of access to information for a wider audience.

**91-** Besides the management of senatorial and presidential elections disputes, the Constitutional Council was also seized, within its sphere of competence, with 3 applications relating to the constitutionality of laws. Furthermore, it gave its opinion on the issues referred to it.

**92-** The 3 matters on constitutionality review examined pursuant to the law, concerned respectively the proposal to draft a new Constitution, its submission to a referendum by the President of the Republic as well as annulment of the heading “the 1996 Constitution of Cameroon” resulting from the 2 June 1972<sup>20</sup> constitutional revision, on the application of Paragraph 3 of the 1996<sup>21</sup> Constitution and lastly with an arbitral award as regards Article 65 of the Constitution which provides that “the Preamble is an indivisible part of the Constitution”<sup>22</sup>.

**93-** These 3 matters were declared inadmissible for lack of *locus standi* and also considering that the 1996 Constitution and Law No. 2004/4 of 21 April 2004 to lay down the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Council restrict subject matters that can be brought before the Council as well as persons who can seize it.

**94-** As regards conflict of authority, a decision<sup>23</sup> was rendered in a case on the subject matter:

- conflict of authority between Decree No. 2001/61 of 12 March 2001 and Decree No. 2012/539 of 19 November 2012, regulatory conflict of authority between the Decree generally applicable and that of retroactivity;
- reconstitution of career by the executive power with retroactive effect, and

<sup>20</sup>Decision No. 1/GCC of 11 June 2018 following the appeal No. 1/G/CC/2018 of 11 June 2018 lodged by Mr **ENGOULOU VOUNDI Vincent**.

<sup>21</sup>Decision No. 3 of 5 July 2018 following the appeal No. 3/ 2018 of 18 June 2018 lodged by Mr **Charles EPIE SONE AJANG** for the application of paragraph 3 of the preamble of the 1996 Constitution.

<sup>22</sup> Decision No. 1/G/SCT/CC/2018 of 30 July 2018 following the appeal No. 1/G/ST/CC/2018 of 16 July 2018 lodged by **GLOBAL CONCERN CAMEROON**.

<sup>23</sup> Decision No. 2/CC/2018 of 5 July 2018 following the appeal No. 2/G/CC/2018 of 22 May 2018 lodged by Mr **KOUNGOU Pierre**.

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- damages for losses suffered.

**95-** The Constitutional Council stated that the said case was inadmissible for lack of capacity of the plaintiff as the law has restricted persons entitled to seize the Council regarding conflict of authority.

## **§2: Improvement of Geographical and Economic Access to Justice.**

**96-** The right to access justice has improved with the resumption of activities of some legal aid commissions and prospects to expand the judicial map.

### **A: Resumption of Activities in Some Legal Aid Commissions**

**97-** Legal aid commissions generally face various operational problems mostly related to lack of remuneration of their members, since no provisions related thereto were laid down by the Law. In order to curb this lethargy that affects the right to access justice, incentive measures taken by some Heads of Court led to the resumption of activities in some legal aid commissions. For instance, in 2018, the Legal Aid Commission of the Wouri High Court received 67 applications 47 of which resulted in full grants of legal aid and 8 in partial grants, while 12 were rejected.

**98-** Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that legal aid was withdrawn from some litigants who used fraudulent means to benefit from it. This is the case in *Société des Provenderies du Cameroun vs Mrs M. Jeanette* who benefited from legal aid by Decision No. 2/AJ of 24 January 2018 of the Legal Aid Commission of the Mifi High Court. Following an application by the said enterprise, the fraudulent nature of the documents provided by the above-named person to justify her indigence was proved. Through Decision No. 6/AJ of 18 December 2018, the Commission annulled the legal aid granted to Mrs **M. Jeanette**.

**99-** Moreover, national statistics on the processing of applications for legal aid are as follows:

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**Table 1: Examination of Applications for Legal Aid in 2018**

Courts	Number of applications for legal aid recorded	Number of applications for legal aid rejected	Number of applications for legal aid granted		Number of beneficiaries		
			Decision of full grant	Decision of partial grant	Number Men	Number Women	Others (detainees, refugees, internally displaced persons, indigenous populations (Pygmies, Mbororos) + persons with disabilities)
CFI	52	17	17	05	12	11	1
HC	128	22	70	17	48	27	1
CA	52	13	15	05	15	03	0
SC	24	08	08	00	11	05	0

Source: MINJUSTICE

## B: Prospects for Improving the Judicial Map

**100-** As part of the Programme to increase judicial infrastructure to better guarantee the right to access justice, the Government continued to build courts on the one hand, and to identify sites for the construction of Courts of First Instance on the other hand.

**101-** In 2018, construction of the Yaounde Modern Complex of Judicial Services continued and its completion rate was at 35%. The Complex consists of a ground floor + 13-storey tower, two buildings of 2-storeys+ ground floor and two buildings 3-storeys +ground floor. Construction of the Mbouda, Mbalmayo, and Nanga-Eboko court houses also continued, with completion rates of 50%, 65% and 95% respectively.

**102-** Concerning the identification of sites for the construction of Courts of First Instance, prospective study missions were carried out in 2018 and appropriate sites were identified in certain localities, including:

- Ngaoundal (1 hectare) and Belel (6 hectares) in the Adamawa Region;
- Lomie (4 hectares), Messamena (2 hectares), Mbang (4 hectares) and Betare-Oya (5.58 hectares) in the East region;

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- Bafut (1.47 hectare), Nwa (1 hectare), Mentchum-Valley (2 hectares) and Njinikom (2,800 m<sup>2</sup>) in the North West Region;
- Lolodorf (2 hectares) and Mvangane (2 hectares) in the South Region; and
- Eyumedjock (1 hectare), Mbonge (3.5 hectares), Ekondo-Titi (8,000 m<sup>2</sup>) and Menji (4,048 m<sup>2</sup>) in the South West Region.

**103-** Other localities likely to host a court were also identified. They include the following cities:

- Garoua-Boulai and Moloundou in the East Region;
- Magba and Tonga in the West Region;
- Mbandjock, Obala, Sa'a, Bokito, Ndikinimeki, Soa, Esse, Bot-Makak, Ngoro and Yoko in the Centre Region ;
- Martap, Mbe, Ngaoui and Bankim in the Adamawa Region;
- Bogo, Maga, Moulvoudaye and Bourha in the Far North Region;and
- Tcheboa, Pitoa, Beka and Rey-Bouba in the North Region.

## SECTION 2: GUARANTEES RELATING TO COURTS AND PROCEEDINGS

**104-** Independence and impartiality of the Court, the right to a public trial and the fight against judicial delays are the main areas of guarantees relating to courts and proceedings that shall be analysed.

### §1: Reaffirming the Need for an Independent and Impartial Judiciary

**105-** In 2018, measures were taken to entrench the independence and impartiality of courts in Cameroon.

#### A: Measures to Strengthen the Independence of the Judiciary

**106-** The independence of courts was guaranteed not only through capacity building, but also through assessing the compliance with ethical obligations by stakeholders involved in the administration of justice and increasing budget allocations for the functioning of the justice system.

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**107-** In line with this, a capacity building workshop for Judicial/Legal Officers on Human Rights titled «**Cameroon Judiciary and International Human Rights Litigation Involving the State**» brought together 35 Judicial/Legal Officers from the courts and ministries, including 25 civilian Judicial/Legal Officers and 10 military Judicial/Legal Officers, from the Courts of Appeal of the Centre, Littoral, North West and South West, Military Tribunals of Buea, Bamenda, Douala, Yaounde and Maroua, and Legal Officers of the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Military Justice of the Ministry of Defence. The objective of this Workshop was on the one hand, to identify the most recurrent complaints concerning the Judiciary in relation international litigation before international and regional Human Rights mechanisms involving the State, to identify the shortcomings that led to the violations observed and to share good practices that could help prevent the recurrence of violations. On the other hand the Workshop aimed to raise awareness on the impact of judicial action on the State's international responsibility in relation to Human Rights violations.

**108-** The observance of ethical rules by judicial personnel caught the attention of the Inspectorate General of Judicial Services and the Anti-Corruption Unit of the Ministry of Justice. In this connection, from 15 to 23 January 2018, missions to assess the perception of corruption were carried out in courts, particularly the Courts of First Instance of Bertoua, Abong-Mbang and Batouri.

**109-** The study and follow-up of complaints denouncing infringements and abuses made it possible to obtain results which reveal that in 2018, 10 investigations were ordered, 7 queries and 31 observation letters were issued, 8 disciplinary files were initiated, out of which 4 were transferred to disciplinary bodies. Concerning sanctions, by Decree No. 2018/763 of 10 December 2018 to dismiss a Judicial/Legal Officer, a Judicial/Legal Officer was dismissed for abandoning his duty post.

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**110-** Of the State budget for 2018, balanced in income and expenditure at CFAF 4513, 500, 000 000<sup>24</sup>, CFAF 63,454,000,000<sup>25</sup> was allocated to the Ministry of Justice compared with CFAF 59,498,000,000<sup>26</sup> in 2017, indicating an increase of 37.75%. Out of this allocation, CFAF 58,778, 000,000<sup>27</sup> was earmarked for the operating budget and CFAF 4,676,000,000<sup>28</sup> for the investment budget. The budget allocated to the Supreme Court for the 2018 financial year was CFAF 3,336,000,000<sup>29</sup> compared to CFAF 2,362,000,000<sup>30</sup> in 2017, that is, an increase of 0.07%.

**111-** Furthermore, in line with the new budgetary nomenclature and for a better visibility of actions carried out, the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court are hence responsible for the implementation of 6 programmes with the annual budgetary allocations.

**112-** The Programme concerning the guarantee of the independence of courts implemented by the Ministry of Justice is the Programme “*Improvement of court activities*”. Its objective is to improve access to and quality of justice, and its performance indicator is the average time taken to process cases. At the level of the Supreme Court, the Programme dubbed “*Contribution to the Rule of Law*” was set up. Its objective is to improve the management of the judicial and administrative litigation of the Supreme Court. Its performance indicator is the processing rate of appeals received.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>24</sup> About 6,890,839,694.65 Euros

<sup>25</sup> About 96,876,335.87 Euros

<sup>26</sup> About 90,836,641.22 Euros

<sup>27</sup> About 89,737,404.58 Euros

<sup>28</sup> About 7,138,931.30 Euros

<sup>29</sup> About 5,093,129.77 Euros

<sup>30</sup> About 3,606,106.87 Euros

<sup>31</sup> The other four Programmes include: Governance and Institutional Support of the Justice Sub-sector, Improvement of Penitentiary Policy for the Ministry of Justice, Governance and Institutional Support of Control of Financial Transparency in Budget Management and the Quality of Public Accounts in the Supreme Court.

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## B: Guaranteeing Impartiality of Courts

**113-** As an indicator of the guarantee of impartiality which is based on the ability of Judicial/Legal Officers to deliver justice without bias, the number of applications challenging Legal/Judicial Officers increased in 2018. Thus, out of 33 applications challenging Judicial/Legal Officers, 20 were found to be substantiated, one was rejected and 5 were pending, as shown in the table below:

**Table 2: Overview of applications challenging Judicial/Legal Officers in 2018**

Courts	Proceedings on applications challenging Judicial/Legal Officers				Action for miscarriage of justice		
	Number of applications registered	Granted	Rejected	pending	Number of applications registered	Granted	Rejected
CA	24	20	01	03	00	00	00
SC	09	02	00	07	00	00	00

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

## §2: Right to a Public Trial

**114-** In 2018, the practice of public hearings was reaffirmed, although an upward trend in cases tried in camera was observed. Upon analysis, this increase, which is in no way an infringement of the right to a public trial, is legally justified by the high number of proceedings against minors, since it is a legal requirement to hold them in camera. The overall trends are summarized in the following table:

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**Table 3: Public hearings in 2018**

Courts	Number of public hearings	Number of proceedings in camera		
		On the court's own motion		At the request of the parties
		Minors		
		Offenders	Victims	
CFI	99,384	493	145	227
TPD	49,303	05	06	58
HC	5,164	22	04	24
CA	41,966	00	06	00
SC	1,208	29	00	00

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

## §3: Fight against Judicial Delays

**115-** As part of the implementation of the Programme “*Improvement of Court activities*”, which has as performance indicator the average time taken to process cases, the fight against judicial delays was taken into account in activities of the Inspectorate General of Judicial Services for the year 2018. Thus, in compliance with the provisions of Circular Letter No.8/68/ISGJ of 29 April 2014, a control of the situation of unwritten and signed court decisions was carried out in the courts within the jurisdictions of the 10 Courts of Appeal.

### SECTION 2: GUARANTEES TO LITIGANTS

**116-** In 2018, in order to enable litigants to benefit from a fair trial, the preservation of the rights of the defence and the right to appeal were guaranteed.

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

**117-** The preservation of the rights of the defence was reflected by the guarantee of the right to Counsel and the services of an Interpreter.

### A: Right to Counsel

**118-** Lawyers were highly sought after by litigants to defend their interests before courts. The number of Lawyers briefed by parties was once again higher than that of Lawyers assigned by Courts, as shown in the following table:

**Table 4: Guarantee of the Right to Counsel in 2018**

Courts	Number of Accused Persons(AC) / Complainants (CMP) / Applicants (APL) / Defendants (DFT) assisted by a Counsel											Number of Counsels assigned by Courts	Number of Counsels paid by the accused
	Civil		Labour		Customary Law		Misdemeanour		Criminal				
	APL	Dft	APL	Dft	APL	Dft	CMP	AC	CMP	AC			
CFI	3695	3234	984	1070	5369	2732	8151	11959	88	241	313	1572	
HC	1166	1106	197	149	109	94	00	00	1055	1429	686	780	
CA	4278	1793	361	114	163	26	1138	1297	228	476	39	813	
SC	263	263	259	259	0	81	119	22	46	08	251	00	

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

### B: Right to an Interpreter

**119-** During various proceedings in 2018, litigants were assisted by an Interpreter as illustrated by the following table:

**Table 5: Assistance by Interpreters in 2018**

Courts	Number of Interpreters	Number of appeals concerning quality (identity, age, swearing-in...) and qualification (language...) of the Interpreter	
		Appeals relating to quality	Appeals relating to qualification
CFI	23	0	0
HC	26	0	0
CA	03	0	0

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

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## §2: Right to Appeal

**120-** Overall, litigants had access to Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court in 2018 despite the persistence of certain obstacles related to the non-payment of fees for reproduction of record of proceedings and failure to forward complete files on time to the court which had to hear the matter anew. Moreover, the right to appeal is summarised in the following table:

**Table 6: Appeals in 2018**

Appeals	Number of appeals received					Appellants				Number of appeals not transferred due to non-payment of reproduction fees					Outcome of appeal									
															Number of inadmissible appeals					Number of decisions amended or quashed				
	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	SC	LD	Parties	Others	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	SC	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	SC	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	SC	
Third party proceedings	142	68	14	25	00	00	128	17	00	06	03	00	02	02	00	00	23	02	18	01	00	174	00	
Application to set aside judgment in default	156	1007	176	224	00	24	883	101	00	00	06	00	02	08	50	00	10	02	21	35	07	38	00	
Appeal	314	4277	1572	3839	08	785	6606	213	14	394	78	00	00	00	00	22	65	00	01	08	72	116	00	
Appeal before the Supreme Court	01	01	11	1215	627	16	980	79	00	00	00	158	60	00	00	00	112	103	00	00	00	163	70	
Review	00	00	00	10	00	04	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**121-** It should be noted that a concern emerged with regard to the transfer of detainees who had lodged appeals before courts. These detainees are generally unable to appear before the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court. Upon analysis, it was determined that difficulty to transfer detainees was not only as a result of inadequate logistics which depended on the Administration, but also the desire of certain detainees who did not want to be far from their families.

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**122-** The preservation of guarantees related to courts and the promotion of the rights of the defence as well as the establishment of the Constitutional Council enabled the right to fair trial to remain dynamic in 2018. Certain challenges, such as judicial delays, inefficiencies observed in activities of legal aid Commissions and infringements regarding impartiality of Judges are concerns that must still be addressed to ensure a better administration of justice.

**Chapter** 3

**FREEDOM OF  
EXPRESSION AND  
COMMUNICATION**



# MINJUSTICE

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Human Rights in Cameroon in 2018

**123-** In a bid to guarantee freedom of expression and communication in 2018, Government's actions were geared towards improving the quality of access to information and communication technologies, promoting media activity and regulating freedom of expression and communication. In addition to these traditional actions, the exercise of freedom of communication in an electoral context required specific measures by media and Internet regulatory bodies, especially as regards the presidential election.

## **SECTION 1: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

**124-** The quality of access to information and communication technologies is one of the levers which the Government relied on during the year under review. In addition to the preparation of a statistical yearbook of telecommunications, actions were centred on strengthening infrastructure<sup>32</sup>, the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the audit of the quality of services offered by telecommunications operators and the fight against cybercrime.

### **§1: Development of a Statistical Yearbook of Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies**

**125-** The yearbook is the result of a study carried out by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS). It was officially handed over to the Minister of Posts and Communication by the General Manager of the NIS on 7 August 2018. This document contains the most up-to-date data in the sector. Five main themes were discussed, namely ICT infrastructure, access to and use of ICT, telecommunications traffic and information system security, ICT development, telecommunications and the national economy.

<sup>32</sup>According to the World Bank, in 2018, Cameroon's Information and Communication Technologies sector represents only 3.5% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and only 25% of the population has a stable access to the Internet (compared to about 19% in 2017). According to the same source, the country ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in terms of Internet penetration among 48 Sub-Saharan African countries.

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**126-** The statistical yearbook which is the first of its kind, will enable the Government to know what has actually been done in terms of achievements. The figures will be an indicator for policy planning. It also meets the needs for encrypted information regarding figures and gives visibility to the actions undertaken by the Government with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

## **§2: Strengthening Infrastructure**

**127-** The strengthening of infrastructures concerned the electronic communication sub-sector. Thus, note should be taken of the diversification of international connectivity with a capacity of nearly 3 Terabits with 4 landing points of submarine cables. These are SAT3 in Douala (40 Gbits), WACS in Limbe (40 Gbits), Nigeria to Cameroon Submarine Cable System (NCSCS) (10 Gbits) in Kribi. Moreover, the South Atlantic Inter Link (SAIL), a Cameroon-Brazil cable with a capacity of 2.8 Terabits, was commissioned. In addition, a functional cyber incident response centre (CIRT) was established.

## **§3: Implementation of Recommendations Resulting from the Audit of the Quality of Services offered by Telecommunications Operators**

**128-** On 26 April 2018, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications conducted a field trip to public institutions in charge of electronic communications, including Cameroon Telecommunications (CAMTEL), the National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC) and the Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART), to assess the implementation of recommendations<sup>33</sup> and corrective measures of the audit on the quality of services of electronic communications operators' networks<sup>34</sup>.

<sup>33</sup>These included the definition of a plan to correct shortcomings identified for each operator, with six-month limitation period for the implementation; the strengthening of ART's technical capacities in terms of training and equipment; the inclusion of the audit results in ongoing renegotiation of agreements with mobile telephone operators.

<sup>34</sup>Regarding the audit of the quality of services, see §182 to 187 of the 2017 Report.

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**129-** According to the ART report,<sup>35</sup> the overall rate of remedial work was estimated at 64% as of 11 April 2018. According to the Report, the implementation rates of the recommendations are variable: 54.27% for CAMTEL, 61.71% for NEXTEL, 89% for Orange and 98% for MTN.

**130-** Orange and MTN also negotiated and signed amendments to their concession agreements with the State in April and May 2018. These concessions include in particular, service quality and experience obligations as well as 4G network coverage indicators. Their roadmaps provide for coverage of all regional capitals, divisional capitals, university areas, areas with significant economic activities and localities with at least 10,000 inhabitants by the end of the concession. Thus, the operators concerned were allocated frequency channels in the 700 and 800 MHz bands.

## §4: Fight against Cybercrime

**131-** ANTIC carried out several actions to combat cybercrime, in particular information systems security audits of certain public or private law bodies, with a view to detecting threats and possible security loopholes in electronic communications network systems. These audits were accompanied by reports containing action plans to correct security loopholes detected.

**132-** Statistics obtained in 2018 on security audits reveal that 11 ministries<sup>36</sup>, 11 public bodies<sup>37</sup>, 10 credit institutions<sup>38</sup>, 4 mobile phone oper-

<sup>35</sup> This institution has also put into service a number (1515) to denounce acts of corruption or to complain about poor service provision by an operator.

<sup>36</sup> MINTOUL, MINDHU, MINREX, MINT, MINTSS, MINFOF, MINSEP, MINEPDED, MINCOM, MINCOMMERCE, MINEPIA.

<sup>37</sup> CAMRAIL, ANOR, PAD, SIC, SRC, SOPECAM, SODECOTON, CRTV, GUCE, ANTIC, CUD and CDC.

<sup>38</sup> ACEP, ADVANS CAMEROUN, AFRILAND FIRST BANK, SCB, CITI BANK, ALPHA PHUND, CCA BANK, FINACIAL HOUSE, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK.

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ators<sup>39</sup>, and 2 Internet service providers<sup>40</sup> were audited. A total of 2387 vulnerabilities were identified out of 38 audit missions carried out.

**133-** As regards the security monitoring of Cameroon's cyberspace, statistics indicate that there were 1,187 cases of identity theft<sup>41</sup>, 2 cases of website defacement<sup>42</sup> and 23 cases of websites infected by malware. During the same year, 996 requisitions from Judicial Police Officers and 15 user complaints were processed, including 5 files sent to the Legal Department and 10 tendered as evidence before courts in civil matters. Vulnerabilities detected on government and private sites amounted to 12,413.

## SECTION 2: PROMOTION OF MEDIA ACTIVITY

**134-** The promotion of media activity can be seen through the examination of the advantages linked to the possession of a press card and the continued increase in support to private audiovisual communication companies.

### §1: Advantages of Possessing the Press Card

**135-** The Commission for the issuance of the press card received 60 applications in 2018. After scrutiny, 28 of them were granted, 20 were granted subject to additional documents and 12 were rejected ineligibility for the profession. At the end of the year, 500 cards were distributed.

**136-** In general, press card holders are entitled to several benefits. As far as the Orange fleet<sup>43</sup> is concerned, 451 requests for chips were received and only 382 were actually delivered by Orange Cameroon since 25 October 2017. In 2018, less than 20 chips were distributed, as the beneficiaries did not collect them. At the end of the year, 48 cards were still to be distributed.

<sup>39</sup> CAMTEL, ORANGE, MTN, NEXTTEL

<sup>40</sup> ZTE, VODACOM.

<sup>41</sup> Mainly on social media.

<sup>42</sup> Websites of the Prime Minister's Office and Taxation Department.

<sup>43</sup> L'opérateur de téléphonie Orange a notamment mis à leur disposition une flotte qui permet de communiquer

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**137-** The contract signed with Brussels Airlines to reduce by 15% the cost of airline tickets for journalists was terminated due to lack of requests during the reference year.

## **§2: Increase in Public Assistance to Private Audiovisual Communication Companies**

**138-** A budget of CFAF 240,000,000<sup>44</sup> was earmarked for private communication for the 2018 fiscal year. This amount increased compared to the previous year when it amounted to CFAF 216,000,000<sup>45</sup>. The number of privately owned press organs and communication structures that requested this public assistance was 135, as against 150 in 2017. The amount of this budget was allocated by Decision No. 111/MINCOM/CAB of 26 October 2018 of the Minister of Communication to 45 community radio stations, 4 commercial radio stations, 2 television stations, 1 audiovisual producer, 55 print media, 1 cybernetic press, 4 professional organisations and 3 printing press.

## **SECTION 3: THE SUPERVISION OF THE EXERCISE OF THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION**

**139-** Freedom of expression and communication was exercised under the control of regulatory bodies, in particular the National Communication Council (NCC) and courts either to safeguard the interests of the community, or to protect private interests.

### **§1: Control by the National Communication Council**

**140-** In 2018, the Council rendered 20 decisions on cases involving breaches of ethics and professional conduct. These, include 8 warnings, 10 temporary suspensions for a period of less than 6 months, 1 temporary suspensions for a period of 6 months, and 1 no case ruling. These deci-

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<sup>44</sup> About 366,412.21 Euros

<sup>45</sup> About 329,770.93 Euros

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sions were taken against 4 print media, 4 television channels, and 2 sound broadcasting stations as shown in the table below:

**Table 1: NCC Decisions in 2018**

PARTIES	DECISIONS RENDERED
Mr. <b>Vincent NJI NDUMU</b> , Delegate to the Bamenda City Council vs <b>EZEKIEL NKUNAWE DOTTA</b> , Publisher at <i>Watchdog Tribune</i> Newspaper	On 15 March 2018, Watchdog Tribune was suspended for 3 months and its Publisher for 3 months from publication and exercise as a Journalist, due to a publication in its issue No.248 of ungrounded and offensive information against Mr Vincent NJI NDUMU constituting a breach of professional ethics of social communication
Mr. <b>Samuel AWASUM</b> , ITC Consultant Vs <b>Antoine Valentin WONGO AHANDA</b> , Publisher and <b>Abraham NDJANA MODO</b> , a Journalist of <i>L'Essentiel du Cameroun</i> Newspaper	On 15 March 2018, the Publisher of <i>L'Essentiel du Cameroun</i> and his Journalist author of an article were warned for professional misconduct due to the publication in issue No.125 of ungrounded and offensive information against Mr <b>Samuel AWASUM</b> constituting a breach of the professional ethics of social communication
Afriland First Bank vs <i>Horizon Plus</i> Newspaper and the Publisher <b>SALIHOU SOULE à BETCHEM</b>	On 15 March 2018, <i>Horizon Plus</i> was suspended for 1 month and its Publisher was suspended from office for 1-month, and from exercising the profession of Journalist in Cameroon, for publishing in its issue No. 679 of unfounded and offensive information against the banking institution Afriland First Bank, constituting a breach of professional ethics of social communication.
NCC vs <b>Dieudonné Ernest OBAMA NANA</b> , a Journalist of Vision4, television Station	On 15 March 2018, the Journalist <b>Dieudonné Ernest OBAMA NANA</b> of Vision 4, presenter of "Club d' Elites" was suspended for three months from practising the profession of Journalist in Cameroon, for broadcasting on 24 September 2017, offensive and insinuating remarks against the Bamoun community, constituting an attack on the ethics and professional conduct of social communication.
Mr. <b>MOHAMADOU ABBO OUSMANOU</b> , Company Director vs <b>Armand MBIANDA</b> , Publisher and <b>Basile OTTU MODO</b> , a Journalist at <i>Le Soir</i> , Newspaper	On 15 March 2018, the Publisher of <i>Le Soir</i> and the Journalist author of the article in issue, were suspended for publishing in its issue No.679 unfounded and offensive statements against Mr. <b>MOHAMADOU ABBO OUSMANOU</b> , constituting a breach of the professional ethics of social communication

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<p>Mr. <b>Pierre HELE</b>, Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development  vs Publisher <b>André MBALLA</b> and <b>BILE EKWO</b>, a Journalist of <i>L'Orphelin</i> Newspaper</p>	<p>On 15 March, 2018, the Publisher of <i>L'orphelin</i> and his Journalist were suspended from office for 3 and from practising the profession of journalism in Cameroon for publishing in its issue No.230 unfounded and offensive statements against Mr. Pierre HELE, constituting a breach of professional ethics of social communication</p>
<p>Mr. <b>Jean Claude Paul NOAH</b>, <i>Organisation Patronale des Syndicats des Transporteurs et Auxiliaires du Cameroun</i> vs Publisher <b>Jean-Marie NGA KOUMDA</b>, Serge Olivier ABENA, Journalist and <b>Dominique TITA</b>, Journalist of <i>NB1 Radio</i></p>	<p>On 15 March 2018, the Publisher of NB 1 Radio, were warned and 2 of his Journalists co-presenters of the programme "<i>Yaoundé Expresse</i>" broadcasted on 23 August 2017 was suspended for 3 months from practising the profession of journalist in Cameroon and the programme was suspended for 3-months, due to lack of supervision leading to tendentious and offensive statements against Mr. <b>Jean Claude Paul NOAH</b>, constituting a breach on professional ethics of social communication</p>
<p>NCC vs <b>Jean Pierre AMOUGOU BELINGA</b>, Publisher, Dieudonné <b>Ernest OBAMA NANA</b>, Journalist, of Vision 4 television Station</p>	<p>On 15 March 2018, the Publisher of Vision 4 was warned and the journalist, presenter of the programme "Club Elites" was suspended for 3 months from practising the profession of Journalism in Cameroon, for broadcasting on 4 November 2018 statements inciting tribal hatred and violence.</p>
<p>Mr. <b>Gabriel FOKA</b>, Director General of <i>Société Civile Immobilière FOK</i>, vs Prince <b>Adalbert HIOL</b>, Publisher of <i>Ades-Infos Jeunesse en Action</i>, Newspaper</p>	<p>On 19 December 2018, the press organ was suspended for 2 months of publication and its Publisher for 2 months from office and practice as a Journalist in Cameroon, for publishing of unfounded statements against Gabriel FOKA</p>
<p>NCC vs/ <b>Benjamin ZEBAZE</b>, Publisher of Ouest Littoral, Newspaper</p>	<p>On 19 December 2018, the press organ was suspended for 2 months publication and the Publisher was suspended from office for 2 months of and from practising journalism in Cameroon, for publishing of unfounded statements against the President of the Republic Cameroon.</p>
<p>Mr. <b>Lucien BIDIMA BISSO</b>, Service head for Employment  NSIF-Mimboman vs <b>Pierre Thierry MBIA</b>, Publisher and <b>Jacques MBARDE</b>, Journalist at <i>La Revue Du Patriote</i> Newspaper</p>	<p>On 19 December 2018, the Publisher of <i>Revue Du Patriote</i> was warned and a Journalist of the said press organ was suspended from office for two months and from practising journalism in Cameroon, for publishing of unfounded statements against Mr. <b>Lucien BIDIMA BISSO</b></p>
<p>El Hadj <b>LAWAN BAKO</b>, Chairman of United Democratic Party vs Publisher <b>EZEKIEL NKUNAWÉ DOTTA</b> of <i>Watchdog Tribune</i>, Newspaper</p>	<p>On 19 December 2018, <i>Watchdog Tribune</i> was suspended for 2 months of publication and its Publisher from office for 2 months and from practising the profession of Journalism, for publication unjustified accusation against <b>El Hadj LAWAN BAKO</b></p>

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Brasseries du Cameroun/ <b>Jérémie BALIKO</b> , Publisher of <i>Première Heure</i> Newspaper	On 19 December 2018, <i>Première Heure</i> was suspended for 2 months of publication and its Publisher from office for 2 months and from practising the profession of journalism, for the publication of unjustified statements against Brasseries du Cameroun.
Mr. Godfroy PEPHOUHO vs <b>Eric FOTSO</b> , Director General and Mireille Flore MANEH, Journalist of <i>Canal2 International</i> , television Station	On 19 December 2018, the Director General of <i>Canal2 International</i> was warned and a journalist was suspended for 6 months from practising journalism in Cameroon, because of the broadcast on the 8 p.m. TV News on 6 October 2018 of a report which unfairly portrayed Mr. <b>Godfroy PEPHOUHO</b> as a paedophile.
NCC vs <b>Jean Pierre AMOUGOU BELINGA</b> , Publisher and <b>Nadine Patricia MENGUE</b> , Journalist, of Vision 4, television station	On 19 December 2018, Vision 4 was suspended for 1 month, and the Publisher and his Journalist warned, for broadcasting in the 8 p.m. TV News programme on 27 October 2018 an unfounded statement announcing the death of the President of the Republic of Gabon.
NCC vs Publisher <b>Soleil NYASSA NYASSA</b> And his Journalist <b>Michael Doppas DOM PIPELASSI</b> of <i>Soleil FM</i> , radio station	On 19 December 2018, the programme <i>Sports et Investigation</i> of <i>Soleil FM</i> was suspended for 2 months, its publisher warned and the Journalist-Presenter of the programme suspended for 2 months, for broadcasting ungrounded statements against the Cameroonian footballer Samuel ETO'O.
Mr. <b>MOHAMANE LAMINE</b> , CPDM Member vs <i>L'Anecdote</i> , Newspaper	No case ruling on 19 December 2018
Mr. <b>Félix NGOPA</b> , former Deputy Director General of CAMWATER vs <b>Pierre Thierry MBIA</b> , Publisher and <b>Jacques MBARDE</b> , Journalist of <i>La Revue du Patriote</i> , Newspaper	On 19 December 2018, the Publisher of <i>La Revue du Patriote</i> was warned and his Journalist was suspended for 2 months from exercising his profession in Cameroon, for publication of a slanderous insinuation against Mr. <b>Félix NGOPA</b>
Mr. <b>Manuel-Nso OBIANG ADA</b> , Executive Secretary of the Organization of Coordination for the Control of Endemic Diseases in Central Africa (OCEAC) vs/ <i>Echos Santé</i> , Newspaper	On 19 December 2018, the Publisher of <i>Echos Santé</i> was warned for publishing an unfounded statement against Mr. <b>Manuel-Nso OBIANG ADA</b> .
Cargolux Company vs/ <b>Benoît Thierry EKOUTI</b> , Publisher, Joseph Roland <b>DJOTIE</b> , Journalist of <i>Le Quotidien de l'Economie</i> , Newspaper	On 19 December 2018, the Publisher of <i>Le Quotidien de l'Economie</i> was warned and a Journalist of the press organ suspended for 1 month from practising journalism in Cameroon, for publishing of unfounded information concerning Cargolux

Source: NCC

**141-** From 2013<sup>46</sup>, the Administrative Court of Yaounde rendered 134 decisions on appeals against NCC decisions. In 2018, the number of ap-

<sup>46</sup>Pursuant to article 6 (3) of the Decree of 23 January 2012 to reorganize the NCC, which states that «the sanctions of the Council may be appealed against under the conditions and modalities laid down by the laws and regulations in force».

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peals registered was 27. The number of decisions rendered was 10, that is, 7 in favour of the NCC and 3 in favour of journalists and press organs.

## §2: Control by Courts

**142-** Besides the cases reported against media professionals in previous reports, others were recorded during the period under review.

### A: The Status of some Cases Reported in Previous Reports

**143-** In the 2016 Report, a number of proceedings, most of which were pending, were mentioned. This includes the case of Mrs. **KETCHA Célestine COURTES** vs **NDANGA Alain, Malika Océane SHEKINHH Sagay** and *Productive* newspaper vs **C. SOBZE Jérôme Narcisse** (newspaper promoter), **KEMTCHAM Jean Paul** and the newspaper *Le Ndé* before the Bangangte Court of First Instance for defamation and insults under Sections 74, 305 and 307 of the Penal Code.

**144-** These two cases were pending before the Supreme Court, which is called upon to rule on the request to refer the case to another court on the grounds of legitimate suspicion. This request was made by the accused persons.

### B: Prosecution of Media Professionals

**145-** The courts were seized both to preserve the interests of the community and to protect private interests.

#### 1) Preservation of the Community's Interests

**146-** The following cases were aimed at protecting the community's interests:

In the People vs. **Michel BIEM TONG**, the accused, a promoter of the online news site «Hurinews» was arrested on 23 October 2018 and prosecuted for advocating acts of terrorism, spreading false news, acclaiming offences against the State security<sup>47</sup> as provided for and punishable by

<sup>47</sup> He is the author of the following publications, among others :

-“ Cameroon-Anglophone crisis “Paul BIYA, an outlaw President of the Republic leading an army of thugs and criminals « Post of 20 April 2018 ;

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Section 8 of Law No.2014/28 of 23 December 2014, and sections 113 and 267 of the Penal Code. He was remanded in custody on 15 November 2018 by the State Prosecutor at the Yaounde Military Tribunal, and subsequently proceedings against him were discontinued following a decision of the Minister Delegate to the Presidency in charge of Defence.

In the case, the People vs. **Mimi MEFO**, the accused, an employee of Equinoxe television Station, she was arrested on 7 November 2018 and remanded in custody for spreading false news likely to harm public authorities or national cohesion, contempt of public bodies and public servants as provided for and punishable under sections 74, 113 and 154 of the Penal Code. She was released on 10 November 2018 following a decision by the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence to discontinue proceedings.

## 2) Protection of Private Interests

**147-** The preservation of private interests can be illustrated by the case, the People and **WAPIE Jean Pierre vs. AMADOU TALLA TAMTO**. By Judgment No. 520/COR of 4 June 2018, the Bertoua Court of First Instance found the accused (Publisher of «*Le Temps Express*» Newspaper) guilty of spreading false news and defamation under Sections 74, 240 and 305 of the Penal Code, found mitigating circumstances in his favour and sentenced him to a fine of CFAF 100,000<sup>48</sup> and ordered him to pay the civil party the sum of CFAF 200,000<sup>49</sup> as damages on all the counts<sup>50</sup>.

-“Here is how Paul BIYA has been terroring and killing English-speakers for 36 years” ;

-“ it is the Cameroonian army that kills civilians and not a few lost sheep ” ;

-” the Power of Yaounde is preparing to slaughter other young people in Nda-Mbatou (Northern zone of Southern Cameroon) « Post of 27 August 2018;

-« Red Alert : The government of Yaounde wants to create an armed group to fight the restoration forces of Southern Cameroon «AMBABOYS» in Tombel « Post of 7 September 2018;

-”the Cameroonian army uses heavy weapons against civilians in Southern Cameroon « Post of 28 September 2018;

-” how to force Paul BIYA and his clan to leave power» Post of 15 October 2018.

<sup>48</sup> About 152.67 Euros

<sup>49</sup> About 305.35 Euros

<sup>50</sup>At page 11 of *Le Temps Express* Newspaper, No. 39 from 30 May to 15 June 2014 and at page 5 of the same Newspaper, No. 49 of 29 June to 9 July 2015, the accused wrote as follows:

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## SECTION 4: THE EXERCISE OF FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATION DURING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**148-** The importance of access to information<sup>51</sup> for the integrity of the electoral process and for governance is recognised in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, as well as in other sub-regional treaties and soft laws such as the Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa. In order to ensure a balanced and equitable coverage of the elections, in addition to the involvement of regulatory bodies, the media published information for the smooth running of the election campaign.

### §1: Proactive Publication by the Media of Election-related Information

**149-** In its 24 September 2018 issue, the Cameroon Tribune newspaper proactively published Orders Nos. 20 and 21/MINCOM of 21 September 2018 of the Minister of Communication. This is one of the requirements of the above-mentioned Guidelines, which provide in Article 29 (h) that « Print, broadcast and online media, whether publicly or privately owned, shall proactively disclose actual allocation of airtime or news coverage for political campaign advertisements and activities».

**150-** The first aforementioned Order laid down<sup>52</sup> the conditions for production, programming and broadcasting of election campaign programmes in the audiovisual media of the public communication service, for the election of President of the Republic on 7 October 2018. The aim was to guarantee fair and free access of all candidates in the audiovisual media of the public communication service, by ensuring uniform conditions for produc-

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“WAPIE Jean Pierre elected residence at marabouts’ premises..... », he stated that the plaintiff managed the Bertoua Council in a disastrous manner embezzling CFAF 38,000,000 (About 58,015.26 Euros) and nicknamed him “ **MEBUTU SESSE SEKO WAZA BANGA KOUK-OUWENDOU**”.

<sup>51</sup>Access to information at all stages of the electoral process is a key element in ensuring that elections are free, fair and credible.

<sup>52</sup>Proactive advertisement refers to information systematically made available to the public on a regular basis without request.

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tion, programming and broadcasting. Article 4 of that Decree set the overall airtime at 120 minutes per day for sound broadcasting and 60 minutes per day for television.

**151-** The second Order specified the sequence and airtime allocated in the public service audio-visual media for communication to candidates as part of election campaign programmes, for the election of President of the Republic on 7 October 2018, as illustrated in the table below.

**Table 2: Sequence and Airtime allocated to Candidates in the Public Service Audio-visual Media for Communication in the Context of Election Campaign Programmes.**

Sequence	Names of candidates	Political Parties	Airtime at sound broadcasting per day	Airtime on sound television per day
1	<b>BIYA Paul</b>	Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM)	13mn20s	6mn40s
2	<b>GARGA HAMAN ADJI</b>	Alliance for Democracy and Development	13mn20s	6mn40s
3	<b>KAMTO Maurice</b>	Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM)	13mn20s	6mn40s
4	<b>LIBII LI NGUE NGUE Cabral</b>	Union for Integration Towards Solidarity (UNIVERS)	13mn20s	6mn40s
5	<b>MATOMBA Serge Espoir</b>	United People for Social Renovation (UPSR)	13mn20s	6mn40s
6	<b>MUNA AKERE TABENG</b>	Popular Front for Development (PFD)	13mn20s	6mn40s
7	<b>NDAM NJOYA ADAMOU</b>	Cameroon Democratic Union (CDU)	13mn20s	6mn40s
8	<b>NDIFOR AFANWI Franklin</b>	Cameroon National Citizen Movement (CNCM)	13mn20s	6mn40s
9	<b>OSIH Joshua NAMBAGI</b>	Social Democratic Front (SDF)	13mn20s	6mn40s

Source: MINCOM

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## §2: Involvement of Regulatory Bodies in the Smooth Functioning of Elections

**152-** As far as media and Internet regulatory bodies are concerned, the Guidelines assign to them specific tasks in the electoral process. These bodies, namely the Telecommunications Regulatory Board and National Communication Council in Cameroon were no exception.

### A: The Role of the Telecommunications Regulatory Board

**153-** On 18 July 2018, ART set up monitoring committees in each of the country's regions to ensure that there was no disruption of electronic communication networks throughout the election period. These commissions were made up of mobile telephone operators, regional delegations of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Communication and the operator of the electricity sector. The Commissions worked to provide the operator of the electricity sector with a list of strategic sites to be supplied with continuous electrical power and ensured the proper functioning of emergency phone lines for the gendarmerie, police, fire brigades as well as hospitals. This mechanism not only made communication as smooth as possible, but also avoided blocking access to the Internet or any other media during the electoral process, in accordance with article 26 of the Guidelines.<sup>53</sup>

### B: Role of the National Communication Council

**154-** The National Communication Council mainly carried out awareness-raising measures through the publication of press releases and the organisation of workshops.

**155-** Through a communiqué dated 3 August 2018, the President of this body reminded public and private media professionals that, pending the

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<sup>53</sup>The body responsible for regulating radio and television broadcasting media and other bodies, public or private, responsible for national security and involved in the provision of telecommunications services shall refrain from blocking access to the Internet or any other media during the process.

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entry into force on 22 September 2018 of the special provisions governing the electoral campaign, any publication or dissemination of information of any kind must respect professional principles underlying the exercise of the journalistic profession, namely soundness, objectivity and impartiality.

**156-** Several seminars were also organised on various and varied topics. The following can be underscored:

- Capacity building workshop for journalists on media coverage of elections and promotion of peaceful elections in Cameroon, Douala from 3 to 5 July 2018. This workshop concerned the media in the Centre, South and Littoral Regions. It followed the one held in Ngaoundere for journalists from the Far North, North, Adamawa and East Regions, before the one in Bafoussam, which brought together media men and women from the West, North West and South West Regions;
- The capacity-building workshop for community radio executives and hosts on election coverage and the promotion of peaceful elections in Cameroon, Mbalmayo, from 26 to 28 July 2018. This workshop was organised in partnership with Agencies of the United Nations System to clarify the role of Community Radios in covering the electoral process. On this occasion, the NCC made a presentation on the theme, Media regulation during elections: What community radio stations should know and do during an election period / What community radio stations should not do during an election period;
- The national seminar on hate speech in the media in Cameroon held in Yaounde at Hotel Mont-Febe on 11 September 2018. The aim of the seminar was to make a general diagnosis on hate speech in the media and to find solutions appropriate to the Cameroonian context, with a view to eradicating this phenomenon, (which encourages intolerance and radicalisation) by promoting the essential values of sincerity, objectivity, honesty and patriotism.

**157-** It should also be noted that in order to facilitate communication and avoid blockages in access to the Internet or any other media during the electoral process, the Information Technology Unit of the Ministry of Communication developed and updated the website in the back office, created a page dedicated to the presidential election of 7 October 2018, config-

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ured and distributed tablets to officials of central services and regional delegates of communication, equipped (including computers) the monitoring room, increased the bandwidth, and produced and published articles on the website.

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**158-** Efforts were made to guarantee freedom of expression and communication by improving the quality of access to information and communication technologies and promoting media activity. However, ethical and deontological concerns of media professionals remained present in a context marked in particular by the senatorial and presidential elections conducted without major incidents thanks to the combined efforts of all stakeholders.



**Chapter** **4**

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



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**159-** In 2018, Cameroonian citizens, as members of the society and stakeholders in the political and democratic sphere, exercised their civil and political rights in a context marked by multiple security challenges and enhancement of the institutional structure with the establishment of the Constitutional Council. Thus, besides the right of access to public service, the right to participate in the management of public affairs was actuated by the promotion of political rights, especially through the organisation of 4 elections out of the four initially scheduled<sup>54</sup>, the replacement of deceased elected representatives<sup>55</sup>, as well as the legalisation of new political parties<sup>56</sup> and acceleration of the process of decentralisation to facilitate participatory local development.

## SECTION 1: PROMOTING ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE

**160-** In 2018, efforts to update the State Payroll Database and increase the number of workers in the Public service continued.

### §1: Pursuing efforts to update the State Payroll Database

**161-** With the aim to establish a reliable database, the Ministry of Finance launched an operation for the Physical Headcount of State Personnel

<sup>54</sup> Senatorial and presidential elections were both organised in 2018, but owing to an overlap in the electoral calendar, the term of office of Members of Parliament and Municipal Councillors, which also expired in 2018 was extended by one year (Decree No. 2018/406 of 11 July 2018 to extend the term of office of Municipal Councillors and Law No. 2018/13 of 11 July 2018 to extend the term of office of Members of the National Assembly).

<sup>55</sup> In 2018, the number of deceased Heads of Municipal Executive bodies was 8. Mayor **KADJI DEFOSSO Joseph** of the Bana Council in the West Region, who died on 23 August 2018, was replaced by **Mr. SANGA Jean Baptiste**. However, the replacement of 4 Mayors was not yet effective by the end of the year. They are **Célestin SINGAI KANGOU** of the Figuil Council who died on December 10, **MOH David NGONFE LOMA** of the Nwa Council who died on October 14, **ATANGANA EBANA Christian** of the Bengbis Council who died on July 19, 2018, **Daniel TCHATO FONGANG** of the Makénéne Council who died on May 10, 2018 and **Alfred MGONGO NGOE** of the Ekondo Titi Council who died on February 2. Finally, **Mayor ASAMBA Luc** of the Council of Yaounde 2 Subdivision who died on November 16, 2018 and **Mayor MONGUI SOSSOMBA Jean** of the Dimako Council who died on 19 May 2018 were respectively replaced by **Mr. AYISSI Yannick** on 18 January 2019 and by **Mr. EBONGUE EBONGUE Onésime** in September 2018.

<sup>56</sup> In 2018, with the legalisation of 7 new political parties, the number of political parties was 316 compared to 316 in 2017

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(COPPE)<sup>57</sup> in April 2018 which was completed on 4 January 2019. This operation, which mainly targeted active Civil Servants who received at least a month's salary between January and March 2018, was conducted in banking institutions where salaries are domiciled, as well as in National Treasuries, assigned accounting stations, Sub divisional treasuries and Paymaster's Offices abroad. To reduce the risk of fraud, persons were required to appear physically and there was a possibility to report irregularities via several channels, including reporting forms prepared by MINFI, telephone numbers (242942413 / 663170104) for reporting, social media (WhatsApp number 663170104 or the Facebook page «fb./coppe2018»), e-mail (denonciation.coppe2018@minfi.cm) or online (www.minfi.gov.cm).

**162-** As at 22 October 2018, out of the 310,786 active staff targeted by the operation, 285,092 were confirmed while 4,621 census files were invalidated, indicating a coverage rate of 91.73%.

**163-** As a result, salaries of 645 employees who died while in active service and whose wages were still being transferred to their accounts were suspended as from October 2018. From 23 October 2018, 25,049 unregistered employees were switched to cash vouchers and salary payments of 2,732 unspecified pensioners were also suspended.

**164-** As at 31 December 2018, at the end of the pre-litigation phase, 12,492 people had their salaries suspended for not having been identified. This suspension measure had a financial impact amounting to CFAF 32,500,000,000<sup>58</sup> on the State's wage bill, with a monthly average of CFAF 2,800,000,000<sup>59</sup>.

<sup>57</sup> In Circular No.1/CAB/PRC of 20 June 2017 to lay down the general guidelines for the State Budget Policy for the 2018 financial year, the President of the Republic ordered a headcount of civil servants during the 2018 financial year. The aim of this operation is to combat the phenomenon of ghost civil servants, organise and control public expenditure.

<sup>58</sup> About 49,618,320.61 Euros

<sup>59</sup> About 4,274,809.16 Euros

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## §2: Promoting Equal Access to Public Service

**165-** Prior to recruitment into the Public Service, Government authorities identified activity sectors in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) likely to generate high added value and boost the country's economic recovery in view of emergence by 2035. These include the Agriculture sector with the implementation of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Agriculture, Public Works sector with the construction works relating to the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2021, the Health sector with the refurbishing of technical facilities as part of the emergency plan, or youth and animation with the 2017-2019 Three-year Special Youth Plan.

**166-** As at 31 December 2018, results of the recruitment process into the Public service for the 2018 financial year showed that 2,467 staff had been recruited through various competitive examinations and selection tests out of the 4,035 projected.

**Table 1: Number of Candidates by Type of Competitive Entrance Examination**

Type of Recruitment	Candidates
Competitive examination for training	615
Direct competitive examination	1,193
Selection test	325
Special competitive examination	268

**Source:** MINFOPRA

These statistics highlight the gender approach, age and language of expression.

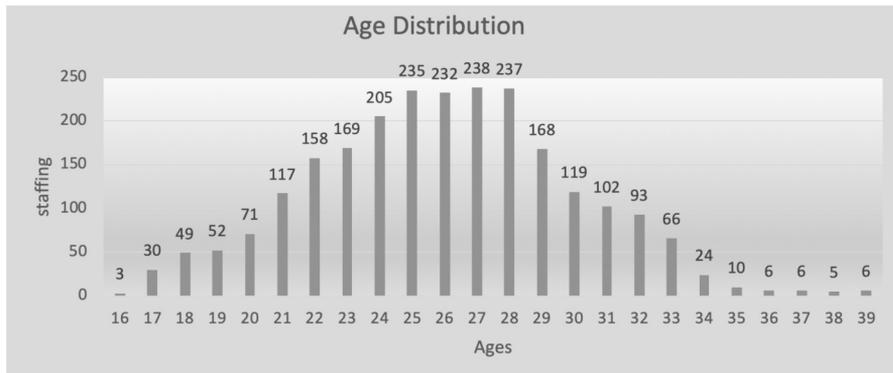
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**Table 2: Results of Public Service Recruitment according to the Gender Approach in 2018**

Distribution according to sex	Women	Men
Percentage of persons admitted	46.44%	53.56%

**Source:** MINFOPRA



**Source:** MINFOPRA

**Table 3: Representation by language of expression**

Distribution according to language of expression	English	French
Distribution of persons admitted	399	2002
Percentage of persons admitted	17%	83%

**Source:** MINFOPRA

## SECTION 2: ORGANISATION OF TWO ELECTIONS

**167-** As evidence of representative democracy as a fundamental value in Cameroon’s political agenda, senate and presidential elections were held, which required prior preparation by the election body. There was litigation at each phase of the election, the most iconic of which were claims brought before the Constitutional Council after the said elections.

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## §1: Preparation of Elections by the Body in Charge of Elections

**168-** Preliminary operations focused on continuing registrations in the Biometric database, distribution of cards and capacity building.

### A: Continuation of Biometric Registration on Electoral Lists and Distribution of Cards

**169-** Voter registration operations, which began in January 2018, did not end on 31 August 2018 when registration normally ends, but rather on 9 July 2018 with the convening of the electorate for presidential election, in accordance with the provisions of Section 75 (2) of the Electoral Code. Registration operations were conducted both in and out of the national territory.

**170-** As at 7 February 2018<sup>60</sup>, when the electorate was convened for senatorial elections, Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) had registered 150,000 new voters.

**171-** With regard to the Presidential election, on the day it was convened, ELECAM had recorded 6,493,665 new voters, whose data are detailed according to sex, age and disability in the table below:

**Table 4: Status of Voter Registration by 9 July 2018**

Place	Women	Men	Total	Youths	People with Disabilities
Adamawa	189 844	233,822	423,666	213,350	3,596
Centre	482,140	627,829	1, 109, 969	463,027	7,766
Diaspora	5,447	10,251	15,698	6,245	37
East	139,328	172,978	312,306	129,093	2,228
Far North	554,670	560,562	1, 115, 232	520,939	11,788
Littoral	384,090	523,425	907,515	360,266	5,290

<sup>60</sup>Before the set date, and to encourage the mobilisation of the population, ELECAM organised discussions with stakeholders in the electoral process, including the Administration and political parties, particularly from 15 to 27 January 2018.

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Place	Women	Men	Total	Youths	People with Disabilities
<b>North</b>	318,359	350,125	668,484	309,983	8,294
<b>North West</b>	313,380	273,164	586,544	245,080	3,593
<b>West</b>	113,593	139,078	252,671	104,502	1,840
<b>South</b>	171,213	200,706	371,919	146,015	1,926
<b>South West</b>	386,220	343,441	729,661	274,272	7,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,058,284</b>	<b>3,435,381</b>	<b>6,493,665</b>	<b>2,772,772</b>	<b>53,938</b>

**Source:** ELECAM

**172-** The biometric file as published ahead of the 7 October 2018 presidential election, showed 6,648,334 registered voters, including 19,420 from the Diaspora.

**173-** As at 31 December 2018, the fine-tuned electoral register had 6,617,854 voters, including 3,502,797 men and 3,115,057 women, 2,823,878 youths and 34,103 people with disabilities.

**174-** Special measures were taken for mass distribution of electoral cards, including through outreach campaigns. As at 31 December 2018, the National Elections Biometrics Centre had produced 6,091,795 cards since the electoral register was fine-tuned and distributed a total of 5,837,051 cards, with a remainder of 254,744 cards, indicating a distribution rate of 95.82%.

## **B: Strengthening ELECAM's Operational Capacities for Elections**

**175-** With regard to human resources, the Staff of the Directorate General of Elections was renewed particularly with the appointment of its Director General and Deputy Director General by Decrees No. 2018/340 and No. 2018/341 of 28 May 2018 of the President of the Republic. The General Management subsequently redeployed staff and improved work-

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ing conditions. Thus, 4 Regional Delegates were replaced<sup>61</sup> and 4 Division Heads redeployed.

**176-** In addition, a Procedures Manual was prepared for the organisation of various elections and training sessions were organised for ELECAM staff. For instance, a Workshop for experience and knowledge sharing was jointly organised by ELECAM and the United Nations System in Douala from 26 to 30 November 2018, which was attended by members of the Electoral Board, officials of the Directorate General of Elections and political stakeholders.

**177-** Regarding the training of staff assigned to polling stations, ELECAM organised an in-service training activity 3 days before the presidential election for approximately 5,000 people, including presidents of polling stations and officials of the administration. The training was on compliance with legislation, particularly reception of voters and management of polling stations, as well as handling of result sheets<sup>62</sup>.

## §2: Organisation of Senatorial and Presidential Elections

**178-** While election of Members of Parliament and Municipal Councillors whose terms of office expired on 30 September 2018 was postponed by 12 months as indicated above, senatorial elections and presidential election were effectively organised.

### A: Organisation of Senatorial Elections

**179-** By Decree No. 2018/103 of 7 February 2018, the President of the Republic convened the electorate in view of the election of Senators on 25 March 2018. The organisation of the senatorial elections took place in 3 phases: the pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral phases.

<sup>61</sup> Those concerned are the Regional Delegates of the Far North, Centre, South West and Adamawa Regions.

<sup>62</sup> It should be noted that ELECAM's result sheets prevail in case of any claim.

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## 1) The Pre-electoral Phase

**180-** This phase featured disbursement of financial resources, material and logistics preparation of the election, reception of candidatures and the electoral campaign.

**181-** The State disbursed the sum of CFAF 2,000,000,000 to the Directorate General of Elections for the organisation of the elections. Allocations by item are presented as follows:

**Table 5: Distribution of Public Finance Disbursed for the Organisation of Elections**

No.	Item	Amount (in CFAF)
1	Preparations prior to the convening of the Electoral College	565, 000, 000 <sup>63</sup>
2	Steps taken after convening the Electoral College	480,000,000 <sup>64</sup>
3	Management of electoral operations	335,000,000 <sup>65</sup>
4	Post-election operations	545,000,000 <sup>66</sup>
5	Preparation and printing of the General Report of the Election	75,000,000 <sup>67</sup>
<b>Total</b>		<b>FCFA 2,000,000,000<sup>68</sup></b>

**182-** The material and logistics preparation of the elections consisted in the publication of the electoral lists and distribution of voters' cards to Municipal Councillors constituting the Electoral College, in accordance with the provisions of Section 242 of the Electoral Code<sup>69</sup>.

**183-** At the end of the operation, the fine-tuned electoral register compared to that of 2013 was as follows:

<sup>63</sup> About 862,595.42 Euros

<sup>64</sup> About 732,824.43 Euros

<sup>65</sup> About 511,450.38 Euros

<sup>66</sup> About 832,061.07 Euros

<sup>67</sup> About 114,503.82 Euros

<sup>68</sup> 3,053,435.11 Euros

<sup>69</sup> Section 240 provides: «in case the Senate is set up before the Regions are set up, the Electoral College for the election of Senators is composed exclusively of Municipal Councillors».

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**Table 6: Senate Electoral Register for 2013 and 2018**

Region	Number of elected Municipal Councillors in 2013	Fine-tuned register of Municipal Councillors as at 25 March 2018	Variation
Adamawa	597	571	26
Centre	1,946	1,851	95
East	857	805	52
Far North	1,537	1,465	72
Littoral	1,026	965	61
North	699	667	32
North West	1,088	1,040	48
West	1,216	1,164	52
South	769	719	50
South West	897	865	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,632</b>	<b>10,112</b>	<b>520</b>

Source: ELECAM

**184-** With regard to candidatures, ELECAM received 42 lists representing 9 political parties by 22 February 2018, deadline for submission of candidacies. After scrutiny by this body<sup>70</sup> 36 lists were retained and 6 rejected<sup>71</sup> for various reasons, including non-compliant files of substitute candidates and lack of proof of payment of a deposit by candidates.

**185-** The rejection of these lists gave rise to litigation before the Constitutional Council, which received 6 petitions, including 3 requesting the cancellation of political party lists, 1 challenging the rejection of a candidate by

<sup>70</sup> See Resolution No. 6/R/ELECAM/CE of 7 March 2018 to publish the list of candidates for the Senatorial elections of 25 March 2018

<sup>71</sup> Six lists were rejected at the level of ELECAM, out of which 5 lists of candidates not fulfilling conditions required by Law were unanimously rejected by members of the Electoral Board, while the Board took note of the withdrawal of the SDF in the Centre Region.

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a political party at the time of the nomination of candidates, 1 relating to the ineligibility of a candidate and 1 petition against the Regional Commission for the receipt of candidatures of the Cameroon People's Democratic Party (CPDM) in the West for not having sent a list as received. Having completed hearings during its sessions held on 15 and 19 March 2018, the Constitutional Council declared 4 petitions inadmissible, stroke one case off the cause list and rejected the other two as unfounded.

**186-** The following persons requested the cancellation of the lists of political parties, including the CPDM, **Pierre Flambeau NGAYAP** of National Union for Democracy and Progress (NUDP), **TCHATCHOUANG Paul** of Social Democratic Front (SDF) and **ENGONO Valentin** of the Cameroonian Union for Democracy and Innovation (UCDI).

**187-** Petition No. 6/CCES/2018 of 9 March 2018 was made by outgoing Senator **NGAYAP Pierre Flambeau** requesting the rejection of the CPDM list in the Adamawa Region due to the fact that the extract of the birth certificate of candidate No. 5, **SOUADATOU DJALLO** épouse **KALKABA** was made on the basis of a fake birth certificate established at the Tibati Civil Registry. At the request of the Petitioner, the Constitutional Council stroke off the petition from the cause list.

**188-** Petition No.1/CCES/2018 of 8 March, 2018 by rejected candidate **TCHATCHOUANG Paul** and outgoing SDF Senator seeking the rejection of the CPDM list, was based on 3 grounds which were that candidate No.7, **Joseph TEINGNIDETIO** is a fictitious and non-existent person in the civil status registers of the West Region, a non-existent candidate could not have submitted an application file and the suppression of fraudulent acts of the CPDM.

**189-** By Decision No. 7/CE/CC/2018 of 19 March 2018, the Constitutional Council declared **Mr TCHATCHOUANG Paul's** petition admissible in form, but on the merits, rejected the 3 requests by the petitioner as

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unfounded and validated CPDM's list after a certificate of individuality was produced for Mr **TEINGNIDETIO Joseph**.

**190-** For his part, President **Valentin ENGONO** of UCDI, by petition No. 4/CCES/2018 of 8 March 2018 applied for the cancellation of the CPDM, UNDP, UPC, SDF, UDC, ANDP, FSNC, UDP, UMS lists, on the grounds, of «discrimination, obstructive acts, obvious errors and the use of unconstitutional laws», as well as the annulment of ELECAM's decision to reject other lists on the grounds that they did not comply with the Common Law principle of equity follows the law, and administrative case law in exceptional circumstances in Cameroon and on other subsequent grievances. Ruling at last instance in electoral matters after a public hearing of both parties, the Council by Decision No.2/CE/CC/2018 of 15 March 2018, unanimously declared **Mr ENGONO Valentin's** petition inadmissible. Since the petitioner failed to meet the eligibility criteria for candidacy and political representation prescribed by law, he could not institute an action for annulment in relation to acceptance and rejection of candidacies by ELECAM.

**191-** With regard to petitioning against the rejection of a candidate by a political party at the time of the nomination of candidates, petition No. 1/CCES/18 of 8 March 2018 by **SAKI Lamine**, outgoing CPDM Senator for the Far North Region, wherein she accused her party of not nominating her for the election of Senators, was declared inadmissible by the Constitutional Council.

**192-** With regard to the ineligibility of a candidate within his/her own party, the Constitutional Council declared petitions inadmissible for lack of jurisdiction to entertain litigation within the same party. This was the case with petition No. 2/CCES/2018 of 8 March 2018 by **MGBAMINE MGBAMINE Zacharie**, militant of the CPDM, against **NDJOLE Assouho Isabelle épouse TOKPANOU**, candidate of the CPDM of the East Region, as well as petition No. 5/CCES/2018 of 9 March 2018 by **AHMADOU AHIDJO**, president of the Dibango Mbororo CPDM Sub-section in the

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Noun Division, against the CPDM Regional Commission for reception of candidacies for the West, for not taking into account the mbororo minority during the investiture for senatorial elections.

**193-** Overall, 9 political parties were authorised to participate in the elections, namely CPDM<sup>72</sup>, NUDP<sup>73</sup>, UPC<sup>74</sup>, CDU<sup>75</sup>, NADP<sup>76</sup>, SDF<sup>77</sup>, UDP<sup>78</sup>, NSFC<sup>79</sup> and UMS<sup>80</sup>.

**194-** The election campaign served as a springboard for the presentation of all candidates' political agenda. The State provided CFAF 200,000,000<sup>81</sup> as public funding<sup>82</sup> for the campaign for the 25 March 2018 senatorial elections. This grant was divided into two equal instalments. The first instalment, amounting to CFAF 100,000,000 was allocated to political parties before the election, in proportion to the lists accepted in the various electoral constituencies, as follows:

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<sup>72</sup> In the 10 Regions of the country

<sup>73</sup> In the 10 Regions of the country

<sup>74</sup> In 2 Regions

<sup>75</sup> In 2 Regions

<sup>76</sup> In 3 Regions

<sup>77</sup> In 4 Regions

<sup>78</sup> In 1 Region

<sup>79</sup> In 1 Region

<sup>80</sup> In 1 Region

<sup>81</sup> About 305,343.51 Euros

<sup>82</sup>Section 284 of the Electoral Code stipulates that the State shall contribute to the financing of electoral campaigns and referendums. This includes covering certain expenses of political parties or candidates.

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**Table 7: Distribution of Public Funds earmarked for Financing the 25 March 2018 Campaign for Senate Elections.**

No.	Recipient political parties	Number of lists presented	Amount (in CFAF)
1	CPDM	10	27,777,777.778 <sup>86</sup>
2	NUDP	10	27,777,777.778
3	SDF	5	13,888,888.889 <sup>87</sup>
4	NADP	4	11,111,111.111 <sup>88</sup>
5	UPC	2	5 555 555,556 <sup>89</sup>
6	CDU	2	5 555 555,556
7	NSFC	1	2 777 777,778 <sup>90</sup>
8	UMS	1	2 777 777,778
9	UDP	1	2 777 777,778
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>100,000,000<sup>91</sup></b>

**Source:** MINFI

**195-** In addition, public media<sup>89</sup> provided time on air for political parties to communicate in accordance with the law. Also, 3,723 electoral observers were accredited, including 3,309 nationals and 414 international observers.

## 2) The Electoral Phase for Election of Senators

**196-** Electoral operations took place with the distribution of 10,112 voters across 81 polling stations<sup>90</sup>. To promote inclusive participation, measures

<sup>83</sup> About 42,408.82 Euros

<sup>84</sup> About 21,204.41 Euros

<sup>85</sup> About 16,963.52 Euros

<sup>86</sup> About 8,481 761.21 euros.

<sup>87</sup> About 4,240.88 euros.

<sup>88</sup> About 152,672.76 Euros

<sup>89</sup> See chapter on Freedom of Expression and Communication, §150

<sup>90</sup>As at 23 March 2018, all polling stations located in Division Headquarters, were supplied with operating kits.

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were taken to ensure that people with disabilities could vote. Thus, some polling stations were adapted for accessibility by 5 electors identified as physically impaired, while Braille ballots were printed to take into account visually impaired voters<sup>91</sup>.

**197-** Sporadic disruptions of peace occurred in some parts of the North West and South West Regions of the country<sup>92</sup>. Security measures were redoubled in response to these disruptions, in view of the start of operations, even if late.

### 3) The Post-electoral Phase for Senatorial Elections

**198-** At the end of the election, 3 petitions were lodged before the Constitutional Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 132 of the Electoral Code. The grievances concerned the annulment of the results of the entire senate elections, the annulment of its results in Lebialem, Kupe-Manengouba, in the entire South West Region and the West Region.

**199-** Having completed the hearing on 3 April 2018, the Constitutional Council rendered 10 decisions, holding that the said petitions were inadmissible, either for lack of capacity<sup>93</sup>, failure to respect procedural deadlines<sup>94</sup> or unjustified demands<sup>95</sup>.

<sup>91</sup>The label for a political party was basically in bold black print on one side and in Braille on the other.

<sup>92</sup>Late start of electoral operations was observed in Fontem in the Lebialem Division and in Bangem in the Kupe-Manengouba Division.

<sup>93</sup>This includes the petition for annulment lodged on 28 March 2018 by **NJENJE Valentin Kleber**, a voter and representative of SDF against ELECAM and 3 other parties, concerning the results in Lebialem, Kupe-Muanengouba and the whole South West Region due to the general climate of insecurity. The Council declared it inadmissible for lack of standing.

<sup>94</sup>Concerning the petition for annulment lodged on 2 April 2018 by **Mr MBEM Jean Delor**, National President of the *Parti Egalité Sociale Démocratique* du Cameroun (*Social Democratic Equality Party of Cameroon* - ESDC) against ELECAM and 9 other parties, concerning the absence of Regional Councillors in the Electoral College, the Council declared it inadmissible on the basis of lateness and lack of standing.

<sup>95</sup>As regards the petition for annulment of Mr **ADAMOU YOUNMO KOUPIT**, head of the UDC list v/ ELECAM and 8 other parties, lodged on 28 March 2018 for violation of voting secrecy, substitution of one candidate by another in Polling Station B of the

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**200-** After the decisions of the Constitutional Council which are not appealable pursuant to the provisions of Section 136 of the Electoral Code, the results of the election were published, reflecting a participation rate of 97.92%. There were 83 invalid ballots and 9,819 valid votes cast. National statistics for the election of Senators on 25 March 2018 are presented in the table below:

**Table 8: Votes Validly Cast in Favour of each Political Party**

Region	CPDM	SDF	CDUC	NUDP	UDP	UMS	UPC	CNSF	NDPA
Adamawa	354	10	0	199	0	0	0	0	0
Centre	1,735	0	0	13	0	0	86	0	0
East	754	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0
Far North	1,275	0	0	153	0	0	0	0	6
Littoral	735	131	6	14	0	0	52	0	6
North	422	0	0	160	0	0	0	75	0
North West	496	517	0	2	16	0	0	0	0
West	933	42	152	0	0	26	0	0	0
South	706	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
South West	556	146	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,966</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>13</b>

**Source:** Constitutional Council

**Table 9: Distribution of Seats obtained by Political Party**

Region	CPDM	SDF	CDU	NUDP	UDP	UMS	UPC	CNSF	NDPA
Adamawa	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Centre	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Far North	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Littoral	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North West	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South West	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>						

**Source:** Constitutional Council

Lycée Classique de Dschang, the results published in relative value influenced the vote against them, the Council declared it admissible in the form, but rejected it as unfounded.

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**201-** For this 2<sup>nd</sup> term of office (2018-2023) for elected senators, the representation rate of SDF dropped from 20% in 2013 to 10% in 2018, while that of the CPDM increased from 80% in 2013 to 90% in 2018. It can also be noted that 39 former Senators were re-elected while 31 new persons joined the Senate, representing a renewal rate<sup>96</sup> of 44.28%. With regard to gender<sup>97</sup>, the number of elected female Senators increased from 17 in 2013 to 22 in 2018.

**202-** Using his constitutional prerogatives, the President of the Republic, by Decree No. 2018/242 of 12 April 2018, appointed 30 other Senators, that is, 3 Senators per Region, bringing the total to 100 Senators<sup>98</sup>.

**203-** An analysis of the distribution of seats in the Senate revealed 87% for the CPDM, 7% for the SDF, 2% for the NUDP, 1% for each of the other political parties, namely the UPC, NDPA, CNSF and MDR. The term of office of 61 out of the 100 Senators was renewed. Out of the 39 new Senators, 31 were elected and 8 appointed. The number of female Senators increased to 26 from 20 in 2013.

**204-** The second instalment of public funding<sup>99</sup> was provided after the proclamation of results to the CPDM and the SDF, in proportion to the number of seats obtained.

**205-** The Senators of this 2<sup>nd</sup> term of office received their attributes during the Session that began on 2 May 2018.

<sup>96</sup> Adamawa, West and North West Regions each had a 100% renewal rate.

<sup>97</sup> East, Littoral and North Regions had the highest female representation rate with 3 female Senators elected in each Region in 2018. It should be noted that the East Region already had 42.85% of women on its list of Senators in 2013.

<sup>98</sup> After validation of the 4 Reports of the Incompatibility Verification Offices, on 2 May 2018 during the plenary of the official ceremony for the award of attributes to the 100 Senators, 16 appointed or elected Senators declared on their honour that they had chosen to resign from the incompatible office and remain Senators. Those particularly concerned were **Chief Victor FON MUKETE, ABDOULAYE ABDOULAYE, ZE NGUELE René, SALE Charles and ZANG OYONO Calvin.**

<sup>99</sup> It should be recalled that funds received as part of the financing granted by the State remain public assets, the use of which complies with the rules of public accounting, as provided for in Section 276 of the Electoral Code.

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## B: Organisation of the Presidential Election

**206-** Following Decree No. 2018/391 of 9 July 2018, the Head of State convened the electorate to elect the President of the Republic on 7 October 2018.

**207-** The presidential election is made up of 3 phases: pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral.

### 1) Pre-election Operations

**208-** In addition to the provision of financial resources, the pre-electoral phase of the presidential election involved logistical preparation for the election, training of staff assigned to polling stations, reception and validation of candidature forms, pre-electoral litigation and campaign for the said election.

**209-** With regard to logistical preparation for the elections, ELECAM set up a chain of sector-based Commissions. With the guidance of ELECAM staff, a Work Plan was put in place to ensure the availability of election materials in the field at least 2 weeks before the election.

**210-** As concerns measures to ensure that internally displaced persons cast their vote, polling stations made of local material were built and tents acquired for the purpose.

**211-** Out of the 28 applications registered by ELECAM, 19 were rejected<sup>100</sup>. Some rejections were appealed before the Constitutional Council from 7 to 9 August 2018. All these appeals were subsequently dismissed at the hearing on 17 August 2018, as presented in the table below:

<sup>100</sup>List of candidates whose applications were rejected

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**Table 10: Petitions and Decisions of the Constitutional Council on Pre-electoral Litigation for the Presidential Election**

Parties	Reasons for Petitions	Decision
<b>Aboubakar KAMALDINE</b> , Independent Candidate vs ELECAM	Unapproved candidacy; file submitted to ELECAM office in Douala and never sent to Yaounde	Inadmissible for lack of capacity
<b>Kum Ane IHIMS</b> , President of the Bilingual Yaounde Political Party (BIYA Party) vs ELECAM and CPDM	Declare Paul BIYA's candidacy ineligible; consider him as an eligible candidate, there can be no Paul BIYA and BIYA Party in the same election, for it will lead to confusion	Admissible in form but rejected as unfounded
<b>Vincent Sosthène FOUDA</b> , Candidate of the Cameroonian Movement for Social Democracy vs ELECAM	Approval of his candidacy; file had all the required elements	Admissible in form but rejected as unfounded
<b>Rev. Rigobert GABAN MIDANHA</b> , Independent Candidate vs ELECAM	Requalification of his candidacy through an examination on the merits	Admissible in form but rejected as unfounded
<b>Geneviève ZEH AMVENE</b> , Independent Candidate vs ELECAM	Approval of her exceptional candidacy; claimed to be the Jewish Messiah for Cameroon	Admissible in form but rejected as unfounded
<b>Olivier Anicet BILE</b> , Candidate of the Union for Fraternity and Prosperity (UFP)	Reinstatement of his candidacy; claimed to have completed his application file at a later date by producing his certificate of payment of deposit	Admissible in form but rejected as unfounded
<b>Léopold Steves NDJOU MOU</b> , Declared Candidate of the Union pour le Redressement Economique du Cameroun (UREC) vs ELECAM and RDPC	Objection to ELECAM's rejection of his candidacy	Admissible in form but rejected as unfounded
	Invalidation of <b>BIYA Paul</b> 's application; <b>BIYA Paul</b> replaces <b>BIYA'A Bi MVONDO Paul Barthélémy</b>	Admissible in form but rejected as unfounded
<b>Bertin KISOB</b> , National President and Candidate of Cameroon Party for Social Justice vs ELECAM and State of Cameroon	Rejection of <b>Paul BIYA</b> 's candidacy; Intelligence with foreign powers	Declines jurisdiction
	Annulment of ELECAM's decision rejecting his application	Admissible in form but rejected as unfounded
	Cancellation of the Decree convening the electoral body; 6 out of 10 Regions are in a state of insecurity	Declines jurisdiction
Valentin EGONO, President of the Cameroonian Union for Democracy and Innovation vs ELECAM	Approval of his candidacy file; Not having received the notification of rejection from ELECAM, silence is equivalent to acceptance	Admissible in form and rejected as unfounded

**Source:** Constitutional Council

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**212-** At the end of pre-election litigation, 9 candidates were retained namely **BIYA Paul** (CPDM), **LIBII LI NGUE NGUE CABRAL** (UNIVERS), **GARGA Haman Adji** (DDA), **KAMTO Maurice** (CRM), **MATOMBA Serge Espoir** (PURS), **AKERE Muna TABENG** (PDF), **Adamou NDAMNJOYA** (CDU), **Franklin NDIFOR AFANWI** (CNCM) and **Joshua NAMBANGIOSIH** (SDF).

**213-** Funds intended for the financing of the electoral campaigns, i.e. CFAF 270,000,000<sup>101</sup>, were divided into two equal instalments for candidates. The first instalment, CFAF 135,000,000<sup>102</sup>, was made available after the publication of the list of approved candidates as illustrated below.

**Table 11: Distribution of the First Instalment of State Funding for the Campaign**

Candidate	Amount (in CFAF)
Mr Biya Paul	15,000,000 <sup>106</sup>
Mr Garga HAMAN ADJI	15,000,000
Mr KAMTO Maurice	15,000,000
Mr LIBII LI NGUE NGUE Cabral	15,000,000
Mr MATOMBA Serge Espoir	15,000,000
Mr AKERE MUNA TABENG	15,000,000
Mr ADAMOU NDAM NJOYA	15,000,000
Mr NDIFOR AFANWI Frankline	15,000,000
Mr Joshua NAMBANGI OSIH	15,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,000,000</b>

**Source:** MINFI

**214-** ICTs were highly used as a medium of communication<sup>104</sup> in the declaration of candidatures and presidential election campaigns. Various can-

<sup>101</sup> About 412,213.74 Euros

<sup>102</sup> About 206,106.87 Euros

<sup>103</sup> About 22,900.76 Euros

<sup>104</sup> Candidate **BIYA Paul** made known his candidacy by publishing a message in social networks such as Tweeter and Facebook, while other candidates like **KAMTO Maurice** and

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didates were granted platforms to express themselves<sup>105</sup> in compliance with regulatory provisions<sup>106</sup>, as well as facilities, including security for their movements and meetings.

**215-** In this context, ELECAM held a national consultation on 6 September 2018 in Yaounde, with political parties, with a view to adopting the Code of Good Practice aimed at freely validating what was known as the «Citizens' Charter», some sort of agreement between the parties to the 2018 presidential election. On 10 September 2018, the Conference of Governors on the theme «*Administrative Authorities and the Security of the Electoral Process*» was an important step in the preparation of the administrative mechanism for the preservation of peace before, during and after elections.

## 2) The Electoral Phase

**216-** To facilitate the electoral process, 24,988 polling stations were opened on the national territory and 66 others in diplomatic and consular missions.

**217-** Measures taken to allow internally displaced persons to vote included their transfer to polling stations in their new places of residence.

**218-** In localities affected by insecurity, Polling Stations were grouped around Special Polling Centres in areas secured by law enforcement officers. Thus upon ELECAM's Decision, the 2,744 polling stations in the North West and South West Regions were relocated and grouped around 77 special secured polling centres, meanwhile 32,729 and 57,084 voters respectively were registered in these stations<sup>107</sup>.

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**MATOMBA Serge Espoir** drove in vehicles upon which their image was printed.

<sup>105</sup> On the night of 6 October 2018, the day before the presidential election, candidate **AKERE MUNA TABENG** declared, through the press that he was withdrawing from the competition, and invited his supporters to vote for candidate **KAMTO Maurice**.

<sup>106</sup> See Chapter on freedom of expression and communication, §150

<sup>107</sup> See Decision No. 30/EC/CC/2018 of 18 October 2018, Joshua OSIH v ELECAM and others.

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**219-** In addition, in order to assess the credibility and genuineness of the electoral process, 4,094 electoral observers were present at polling stations on voting day, including 3,662 national observers and 432 international observers.

**220-** At the end of the voting process, votes were counted by the National Commission for Vote Counting from 10 to 15 October 2018. After the counting exercise, 2 of its 22 members did not sign the result sheets<sup>108</sup> which were forwarded to the Constitutional Council on 15 October 2018.

### 3) The post-electoral Phase

**221-** After the presidential election, 5 applicants, including 3 candidates, lodged petitions with the Constitutional Council. The grievances articulated concerned the total or partial cancellation of the electoral process, invalidation of results obtained by the CPDM in the North West Region, cancellation of the Decree convening the electoral body and reprogramming of the presidential election, incompetence of the Constitutional Council, suspension of ELECAM management team, suspension of the CPDM, as well as recusal of members of the Constitutional Council. These petitions were declared inadmissible either for lack of capacity or failure to comply with the deadline for filing petitions, rejected as unfounded, or resulted in the Constitutional Council declining jurisdiction.

**222-** Petitions rejected on grounds of lack of standing were mainly lodged by applicants who were not candidates in the presidential election, and therefore did not justify standing before the Constitutional Council in accordance with provisions of Section 132 of the Electoral Code. This was the case with an applicant named **KISOB Bertin**, who brought 14 petitions before the Constitutional Council for annulment of the election. By Decision No. 25/CE/CC/2018 of 16 October 2018, the Constitutional Council consolidated 11 petitions and declared them inadmissible and by Decision

<sup>108</sup> They are Professor **Prosper NKOUMVONDO**, representative of Candidate **LIBII LINGUE NGUE Cabral** who finally participated in the session and Mr **NLEND Tarsicius**, representative of candidate **AKERE MUNA TABENG**, absent for the entire session.

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No. 26/CE/CC/2018 of 16 October 2018 declared itself incompetent to rule on the 3 others. In the latter cases, the Constitutional Council relied on Section 48 (1) of the 1996 Constitution and 132 of the Electoral Code, which limit its powers in electoral matters; and ruled that, as it stands<sup>109</sup>, Mr **KISOB Bertin**'s requests were not under its jurisdiction.

**223-** Candidates also raised grievances before the Constitutional Council. Thus, **LIBII LI NGUE NGUE Cabral** requested the total annulment of the election, which in his opinion had been marred by fraud. By Decision No. 28/EC/CC/2018 of 16 October 2018, the Council declared the application inadmissible on grounds that it did not reflect grounds in fact and law, in violation of Article 133 of the Electoral Code and was not based on any principle or rule of law.

**224-** Candidate **Joshua NAMBANGI OSIH** requested the annulment of the election, on the following grounds among others: the populations of the North West and South West Regions were excluded from the election due to the security crises in the said Regions, preventing them from exercising their right to participate in the management of public affairs in violation of Articles 21 of the UDHR, as well as articles 25 and 26 of the ICCPR; the illegality of measures restricting freedoms; the illegality of the special measure of grouping polling stations; the illegality of registering certain persons after the lists were closed; the illegality of voting in polling stations where the persons concerned were not registered; failure to address the issue relating to the vote of internally displaced persons as a result of the crises.

**225-** In response to these grievances, ELECAM advanced the following answers: security measures had been taken to ensure that these persons vote; the transfer of a voter from one polling station to another does not constitute a new registration; voters displaced at their request were transferred

<sup>109</sup> In petitions 34, 35 and 36, Mr **KISOB Bertin** had respectively asked the Constitutional Council to declare itself incompetent for the supervision and proclamation of results of the presidential election of 7 October 2018; to suspend the ELECAM management team and to suspend CPDM Political Party for at least 25 years.

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to existing polling stations close to them; polling stations were grouped for security reasons<sup>110</sup>.

**226-** At the end of the hearing, the petition was deemed unfounded by Decision No. 30/EC/CC/2018 of 18 October 2018. The Council noted that, despite the security situation, the voting process took place in both Regions owing to measures taken by the Administration and ELECAM to protect voters and guarantee their freedom of movement<sup>111</sup>.

**227-** As regards the petitions of candidate **KAMTO Maurice**, they were based on 2 main grievances, namely the recusal of 5 of the 11 members of the Constitutional Council on grounds of legitimate suspicion and referral of the dispute to another jurisdiction on the one hand, and partial annulment of the presidential election on various grounds on the other hand<sup>112</sup>.

**228-** By Decision No. 24/CE/CC/2018 of 16 October 2018, the Constitutional Council consolidated the first 6 petitions and declared them inadmissible for lack of capacity on grounds that the functions of a member may only be terminated by the Council acting by a two-thirds majority of its members either on its own motion or at the request of the appointing authority<sup>113</sup>.

<sup>110</sup> The 2,344 polling stations were grouped into 77 Polling Centres.

<sup>111</sup> In order to reach such a decision, the Constitutional Council explains that there is no guarantee that, in the event of the election being cancelled, the security constraints mentioned would be resolved within the time period provided for in the Constitution for the expiration of the President of the Republic's term of office, which cannot be extended.

<sup>112</sup> The alleged grievances concerned in particular the illegal posting of candidate **BIYA Paul**'s campaign materials; failure to respect the deadline for posting polling station lists, the vote of the Military corps in Buea, failure to deploy security to ensure his safety, the expulsion of CRM Representatives in polling stations; depletion of candidate **KAMTO Maurice**'s ballots, the presence of **AKERE Muna TABENG**'s ballots in some polling stations.

<sup>113</sup> Article 18 of Law No. 2004/5 of 21 April 2004 to establish the status of members of the Constitutional Council, as amended and supplemented by Law No. 2012/16 of 21 December 2012 on the organisation and functioning of the Constitutional Council.

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**229-** By Decision No. 29/G/SRCER/CC/2018 of 17 October 2018, the 7<sup>th</sup> petition was declared unfounded, as all the 9 grounds in law put forward by the applicant did not convince the members of the Constitutional Council.

**230-** In total, post-electoral litigation before the Constitutional Council ended with 7 decisions that were not subject to appeal under the provisions of Article 136 of the Electoral Code. By Decision No. 31/CC/2018 of 22 October 2018, this body pursuant to the provisions of article 137 of the same Code, proclaimed the results of the vote. It should be noted that prior to this decision by the Constitutional Council, on 8 October 2018, candidate **KAMTO Maurice** declared himself winner of the presidential election.

**231-** Overall, 6,667,754 voters were registered and 3,590,681 voted, representing a participation rate of 53.85%. With regard to the votes cast, 52,716 invalid ballots were counted, while 3,537,965 valid votes were cast and 3,077,073 abstentions were recorded. The table illustrates the votes cast in Cameroon and abroad.

**Table 12: Distribution of Votes Cast in Cameroon and Abroad during the Presidential election**

Places	Registered	Voters	Participation rate	Invalid ballots	Valid Votes
<b>Adamawa</b>	433,873	242,529	55.90	3,848	238,681
<b>Centre</b>	1, 155, 161	677,987	58.69	5,374	672,613
<b>East</b>	322,376	203,865	63.24	2,314	201,551
<b>Far North</b>	1, 135, 942	821,311	72.30	17,122	804,189
<b>Littoral</b>	935,531	512,516	54.78	5,089	507,427
<b>North</b>	671,611	368,454	54.86	11,078	357,376
<b>North West</b>	627,068	33,582	5.36	280	33,302
<b>West</b>	726,351	465,079	64.03	5,566	459,513
<b>South</b>	266,194	196,369	73.77	1,182	195,187

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Places	Registered	Voters	Participation rate	Invalid ballots	Valid Votes
South West	374,227	59,647	15.94	667	58,980
Diaspora	19,420	9,342	48.11	205	9,137
<b>Total</b>	<b>6, 667, 754</b>	<b>3,590,681</b>	<b>53.85</b>	<b>52,716</b>	<b>3,590,965</b>

Source: ELECAM

**232-** At the end of the vote counting process, on 22 October 2018, the Constitutional Council, declared the candidate **BIYA Paul** of the CPDM<sup>114</sup> the winner, with a percentage of 71.28% of valid votes cast.

**Table 13: Votes per Candidate in the Presidential Election of 7 October 2018**

Rank	Candidate	Votes cast	Percentage
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>BIYA Paul</b> - CPDM	2 521 934	71.28%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>KAMTO Maurice</b> - CRM	503,384	14.23%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>LIBII LI NGUE NGUE Cabral</b> - UNIVERS	221,995	6.28%
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Joshua NAMBANGI OSIH</b> - SDF	118,706	3.36%
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Adamou NDAM NJOYA</b> - CDU	61,220	1.73%
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GARGA Haman Adjii</b> - ADD	55,048	1.55%
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Franklin NDIFOR AFANWI</b> - CNCM	23,687	0.67%
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MATOMBASerge Espoir</b> - PURS	19,704	0.56%
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AKERE Muna TABENG</b> - FPD	12,262	0.35%

Source: ELECAM

**233-** Once results was proclaimed, the President-elect was sworn in<sup>115</sup> on 6 November 2018 before the Cameroonian people, in the presence of Members of Parliament, the Constitutional Council and the Supreme Court, in a formal session.

**234-** Besides, the process for the acceleration of decentralisation was launched.

<sup>114</sup>The President-elect was sworn in before the people of Cameroon, in the presence of members of parliament, the Constitutional Council and the Supreme Court in a formal sitting.

<sup>115</sup> This swearing-in ceremony was a first of its kind before all these institutions.

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## SECTION 3: ACCELERATING THE PROCESS OF DECENTRALISATION

**235-** In 2018, the process of decentralisation was marked by the creation of a ministry dedicated to increasing the funding of decentralisation on the one hand, and pooling Councils to support municipalities exposed to the abuses of the *Boko Haram* terrorist group in the Far North Region on the other hand.

### §1: Creation of a Ministry dedicated to Decentralisation

**236-** The creation of the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL) announced by the Head of State in his end-of-year speech on 31 December 2017, became a reality through Decree No. 2018/190 of 2 March 2018 to supplement certain provisions of Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 to organise the Government. He also reshuffled the Government by Decree No. 2018/191 of 2 March 2018.

**237-** Decree No. 2018/449 of 1 August 2018 on the organisation and functioning of the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development states that MINDDEVEL is responsible for developing, monitoring, implementing and evaluating the government's decentralisation policy<sup>116</sup>, as well as promoting local development<sup>117</sup>. With a view to effectively starting activities, a budget allocation was granted to MINDDEVEL by Ordinance of the President of the Republic, in particular to finance decentralisation.

**238-** On 13 March 2018, the President of the United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (UCCC) submitted to MINDDEVEL, a document containing an Advocacy of Mayors of Cameroon to accelerate the decentralisation process.

<sup>116</sup> In the field of decentralisation, it is responsible for drafting legislation and regulations relating to the organisation and functioning of Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs); evaluating and monitoring the implementation of decentralisation; monitoring and controlling RLAs; enforcing legislation and regulations on civil status; and, under the authority of the President of the Republic, exercising State supervision over RLAs.

<sup>117</sup> As concerns local development, it is responsible for promoting the socio-economic development of RLAs; and for promoting good governance within RLAs.

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## §2: Increasing Funding for Decentralisation

**239-** Various modes to fund undertakings of Municipalities in the context of decentralisation are provided for by Law No. 2004/18 of 24 July 2004 on the orientation of decentralisation, consisting either in allocations or in the transfer of taxation, or both.

**240-** With regard to the first mode, the distribution of the General Budget for Decentralisation for the 2018 financial year was set by Decree No. 2018/293/PM of 10 April 2018, and the total amount of resources allocated to the General Budget for Decentralisation for the 2018 financial year was CFAF 10,000,000,000<sup>118</sup> including CFAF 5,000,000,000<sup>119</sup> for the General Operating Budget and CFAF 5,000,000,000 for the General Investment Budget.

**241-** The distribution of the General Operating Budget by post was determined according to the following table:

**Table 14: Distribution of the General Operating Budget by post in 2018**

No.	DISTRIBUTION OF THE GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET (FINANCIAL YEAR 2018)	Amount in CFAF
1	Remuneration of Mayors	3,000,000,000 <sup>123</sup>
2	Functioning of the National Decentralisation Council	190,000,000 <sup>124</sup>
3	Functioning of the Interministerial Committee of Local Services	210,000,000 <sup>125</sup>
4	Dissemination of the National Decentralisation Strategy	40,000,000 <sup>126</sup>
5	Functioning of the National Local Finance Committee	40,000,000
6	Functioning of the Interministerial Commission for Decentralised Cooperation	30,000,000 <sup>127</sup>
7	Financing of Regional Training Workshops for certain Council Officials in the programme budget	80,000,000 <sup>128</sup>
8	Support to the National Training Programme for City Professions	40,000,000
9	Support to Council's trade Unions	30,000,000

<sup>118</sup> About 15,267,175.57 Euros

<sup>119</sup> About 7,633,587.78 Euros

<sup>120</sup> About 4,580,152.67 Euros

<sup>121</sup> About 290,076.34 Euros

<sup>122</sup> About 320,610.69 Euros

<sup>123</sup> About 61,068.70 Euros

<sup>124</sup> About 45,801.53 Euros

<sup>125</sup> About 122,137.40 Euros

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No.	DISTRIBUTION OF THE GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET (FINANCIAL YEAR 2018)	Amount in CFAF
10	Functioning of the State's Decentralized Services providing assistance or support to Councils and City Councils	180,000,000 <sup>129</sup>
11	Special or emergency operating expenses in favour of certain Councils or City Councils	1,160,000,000 <sup>130</sup>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5 000 000 000</b>

**Source:** National Decentralisation Council

**242-** The distribution of the General Investment Budget according to the projects referred to in Article 6 above was determined according to the following table:

**Table 15: Distribution of the General Investment Budget (2018 financial year)**

No.	PROJECTS	Amount (in CFAF)
1	Construction, rehabilitation, equipment of classrooms, latrines and on-site housing for teaching staff	1,000,000,000 <sup>131</sup>
2	Construction, rehabilitation, equipment of Health Centres, latrines and on-site housing for medical staff	1,000,000,000
3	Construction of boreholes and water supply	1,000,000,000
4	Electrification	1,000,000,000
5	Road maintenance and construction of crossing structures	500,000,000 <sup>132</sup>
6	Construction of commercial equipment	500,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,000,000,000</b>

**Source:** National Decentralisation Council

**243-** In addition, resources transferred concurrently for the implementation of the corresponding competences increased from CFAF 24,000,000,000,<sup>130</sup> in 2010 to CFAF 75,000,000,000<sup>131</sup> in 2018.

**244-** Besides these measures geared towards increasing local funds, it is worth mentioning the cardinal role assigned to the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance (FEICOM) in the funding of Council and Regional Projects, which was strengthened by the status of Public Institu-

<sup>126</sup> About 274,809.16 Euros

<sup>127</sup> About 1,770,992.37 Euros

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

<sup>129</sup> About 763,358.78 Euros

<sup>130</sup> About 36,641,221.37 Euros

<sup>131</sup> About 114,503,816.79 Euros

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tion of Economic and Financial nature conferred on it by Decree No. 2018/635 of 31 October 2018 to reorganise it<sup>132</sup>.

**245-** Thus, as part of its mission to centralise and redistribute additional council taxes and other council taxes subject to equalisation, FEICOM raised and made available to regional and local authorities (RLAs) the sums of CFAF 81,751,021,402<sup>133</sup> in 2017 and CFAF 88,147,412,035<sup>134</sup> in 2018. FEICOM adopted an Intervention Strategy in December 2018<sup>135</sup> in a bid to better fulfil its support mission to RLAs .

**246-** It is also necessary to take into account additional funding from the National Community-Driven Development Programme (PNDP), which provides assistance to almost all Councils, by participating in the funding of micro-projects, in the implementation of various Studies, as well as in the preparation of Council Development Plans. It is worthy of note that the PNDP organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Council Award ceremony on 31 October 2018, to reward 30 Councils<sup>136</sup> with bonuses to the tune of CFAF. 1,250,000,000<sup>137</sup>

<sup>132</sup>The confirmation of this competence in terms of support to Councils, Regions and Council Unions broadened its scope of action, just like this decree which offers it many openings in terms of additional resources.

<sup>133</sup> About 124,810,719.69 Euros

<sup>134</sup> About 134,576,201.58 Euros

<sup>135</sup>This Strategy includes the following 3 axes: support for the implementation of decentralisation and promotion of local governance; sustainable financing of RLAs; and enhancement of the organisation's performance.

<sup>136</sup> The Bamendjou Council located in the West Region received CFAF 50,000,000 (About 76,335.87 Euros) as the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of for Council Award for presenting the best management of local public finances and for ensuring the implementation of participatory development processes within the Council.

<sup>137</sup> About 1,908,396.95 Euros

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## §3: Decentralised Cooperation for Resilience against the *Boko Haram* Terrorist Group in the Far North Region

**247-** In April 2018, a workshop was organised in Maroua with the support of the UCCC, to provide solutions adapted to the needs of the populations living in various municipalities of the Far North Region, such as security and climate threats which led to a dire situation of vulnerability, particularly with the spread of poverty, school drop-out, social and generational gap, community tensions and poor connection with the rest of the country.

**248-** In this context, capacity building activity of Council Executives concerned those in charge of Projects in 47 Councils of the Far North Region and the Maroua City Council, to bolster decentralised cooperation and support of its partners. The activities made it possible to highlight achievements obtained thanks to the PNDP with funds from the Debt Reduction and Development Contract and the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa with a budget of CFAF 6,600,000,000<sup>138</sup> to finance 26 artificial pools and farm to market roads projects.

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**249-** In 2018, access to Public Service was characterised by efforts to uphold equity. This was reflected by updating the State Payroll Database in order to put an end to undue salary expenditure, and also to ensure visibility of available job positions with a view to organising recruitment into the Public Service.

**250-** Regarding the promotion of political rights, the organisation of senatorial and presidential elections gave citizens, be they voters or candidates, the opportunity to exercise their right to directly or indirectly participate in the management of public affairs. In its capacity as electoral judge, the Constitutional Council played a major role. However, the security crisis in

<sup>138</sup> About 10,076,335.88 Euros

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the North West and South West Regions deprived some citizens from enjoying this right, due to threats and attacks by secessionists with regard to the organisation of the elections in this part of the territory. This situation reveals how urgent it is to find solutions to this crisis. In this regard, one of the strong institutional measures taken was the creation of a ministry in charge of decentralisation and local development. This measure augurs well for the completion of the decentralisation process, which also includes the establishment of Regional Councils.



**CONCLUSION OF**

**PART ONE**



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**251**-In a nutshell, as regards the promotion and protection of civil and political rights in Cameroon, Government made great strides in 2018.

**252**-Regarding the right to physical and moral integrity, authorities tasked with the implementation of laws benefited from capacity building activities. However, administrative, disciplinary or judicial sanctions were meted on those found wanting with respect to Human Rights.

**253**-As concerns the right to access justice and guarantee of the right to fair trial, in addition to improved geographic and economic access to justice, the Inspectorate General of Judicial Services continued the control of court activities in a bid to reduce judicial delays.

**254**-Furthermore, the holding of the presidential election in a context favourable to the expression of democracy, owing to measures taken by the State to secure the electoral process in the Regions affected by security crises made it possible to appreciate the openness of the Constitutional Court to a wider audience with the live broadcast of its hearings.

**255**-Finally, the creation of the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development on 2 March 2018 and the first actions carried out by this Ministry contributed to speeding up the decentralisation process in Cameroon.

**256**-Despite this significant progress, some constraints were persistent. These include the violation of the right to physical integrity by law enforcement authorities, high costs of telecommunications, low participation of some social groups in the management of public affairs and unmet expectations of the decentralisation process.

**257**-Although considerable progress made to enforce civil and political rights needs to be sustained, such progress augurs well for a better guarantee of economic, social and cultural rights.



**PART TWO:**

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



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART TWO

**258-** The effectiveness of economic, social and cultural rights was a great challenge in 2018. Indeed, States may set themselves objectives, the attainment of which may serve as one of the criteria for assessing the implementation of the rights concerned. Cameroon, which is no exception, faced various constraints that had a considerable impact on the implementation of these rights. Besides these constraints, other challenges resulting from the security crisis in some regions of the country emerged. In this particularly difficult context, the State however strove to guarantee at best a decent and adequate standard of living to individuals.

**259-** In this context, the approach was to strengthen or reorganise the normative, institutional or strategic frameworks with a view to adapting them to the current context so as to be more effective in addressing the specific concerns relating to the various rights, which include economic, social and cultural rights.

**260-** The following shall be developed in this part:

- Right to Education (Chapter 1);
- Right to Health (Chapter 2);
- Right to an Adequate Standard of Living (Chapter 3);
- Right to Work and Social Security (Chapter 4);
- Right to Culture and Leisure (Chapter 5);
- Right to a Healthy Environment (Chapter 6);
- Right to Land Ownership (Chapter 7)



**Chapter**

**1**

**RIGHT TO EDUCATION**



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**261-** Despite several economic fluctuations owing to continuous insecurity in the Far North, North West and South West Regions, public authorities made efforts to provide the education sector with financial means for the setting-up, construction, rehabilitation and equipment of several schools and universities and also the recruitment and training of Teachers for the teaching of pupils and students. All these measures contributed to guarantee the right to education, the implementation of which was effective at the primary, secondary and higher education levels in 2018.

## SECTION 1: IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AT PRIMARY LEVEL

**262-** The budget allocation of the Ministry of Basic Education dropped from CFAF 222,122,500 000<sup>139</sup> in 2017, to CFAF 210,553,000,000<sup>140</sup> in 2018<sup>141</sup>, representing a reduction of CFAF11,695,000,000<sup>142</sup> in absolute value and 5.55% in relative value.

**263-** Given this financial resource, the State was not only able to pursue its investments in view of improving access to nursery and primary school education but also to strengthen literacy and informal basic education.

<sup>139</sup> About 339,118,320.61 Euros

<sup>140</sup> About 321,454,961.83 Euros

<sup>141</sup> Out of the total budget CFAF 210,553,000,000, (About 321,454,961.83 Euros) the amount exempt salary was CFAF 50,009,000 00, (About 76,349,618.32 Euros) the amount allocated for infrastructure development and purchase of school material was CFAF 14,727,757,000 (About 22,485,125.19 Euros) and the amount for operating funds of Government schools stood at CFAF 6,764,373,000 (About 10,327,287.02 Euros). Moreover, in a context characterised by significant efforts towards decentralisation, credits allocated to Councils for construction, rehabilitation maintenance and purchase of school material also increased from CFAF11,704,072,000 (About 17,868,812.21 Euros) in 2017 to CFAF14,727,757,000 (About 22,485,125.19 Euros) in 2018, that is, an increase of CFAF 3,023,685,000 (About 4,616,312.98 Euros) in absolute value and 20.53% in relative value.

<sup>142</sup> About 17,854,961.83 Euros

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## §1: Continuous Efforts to improve Nursery Education

**264-** Resources deployed in terms of infrastructure, equipment and human resources made it possible to witness progress in nursery school indicators at the level of community-based nursery while at classical nursery level, such progress remained unsettled.

### A: Community-based Nursery and Community Schools

**265-** During the year under review, the map of community-based nursery and parents' schools<sup>143</sup> expanded with the setting-up of 60 new Community Nursery Centres compared to 10 in 2017. Among these Centres, 10 were completely constructed and equipped. The number thus increased to 320 in 2017/2018 as opposed to 230 in 2016/2017.

**266-** As concerns Teachers, the number rose from 347 in 2016/2017 to 355 in 2017/2018 to manage a student population which increased from 9,568 in 2016/2017 to 15,198 in 2017/2018.

### B: Classic Nursery School

**267-** Besides the opening of 83 new nursery schools, development of classic Government nursery schools included the construction of 26 nursery blocks, 37 classrooms, 5 fences and 12 latrine blocks. Also, 2 nursery schools were rehabilitated.

**268-** Furthermore, regarding facilities, 43% of nursery schools had electricity, 55% have a water point within the premises, 67% were equipped with toilets, 44% have a security fence and 10% a school canteen.

**269-** Authorities also demonstrated their support to private nursery schools by offering financial assistance to the tune of CFAF 955,197,000,000<sup>144</sup>.

<sup>143</sup> Community schools are those with a system quite similar to the formal system. However, school time may differ to adapt to the local situation. These schools result from the initiative of communities (parents' schools), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or private individuals often with support from some technical and financial partners (UNICEF, World Bank, French Development Agency).

<sup>144</sup> About 1,458,316,030.53 Euros

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**270-** The table below illustrates an increase in the number of nursery schools for the 2017/2018 academic year compared to 2016/2017 owing to these efforts and much more.

**Table 1: Situation of Nursery Schools by Type of Education, Sub-system and Location in the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 Academic years**

No.	Designation	Number of nursery schools		
		2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	
1	Type of Education	Government	4,147	3,837
		Private	4,450	5,100
		<b>Total</b>	<b>8,624</b>	<b>8,937</b>
2	Sub-system	English-speaking	3,201	3,387
		French-speaking	5,602	5,870
		<b>Total</b>	<b>8,803</b>	<b>9,257</b>
3	Location	Rural	4,175	4,148
		Urban	4,628	5,109
		<b>Total</b>	<b>8,803</b>	<b>9,257</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

**271-** Out of the 9,257 nursery schools registered during the 2017/2018 academic year, 320 were community schools as opposed to 230 in 2016/2017.

**272-** The other indicator with a sharp increase concerns Teachers. The table below illustrates how their number progressed during the 2017/2018 academic year as compared to 2016/2017.

**Table 2: Teaching Staff Population in Preschool by Level of Education, Sub-system and Location in the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Academic years**

No.	Designation	Number of Teachers		
		2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	
1	Type of Education	Public	9,993	9,638
		Private	14,205	15,469
		<b>Total</b>	<b>24,198</b>	<b>25,107</b>
2	Sub-system	English-speaking / Government	2,731	2,480
		French-speaking / Government	7,262	7,158
		<b>Total</b>	<b>9,993</b>	<b>9,638</b>
3	Location	Rural/Government	4,939	4,629
		Urban/Government	5,054	5,009
		<b>Total</b>	<b>9,993</b>	<b>9,638</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

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**273-** If we add the 355 Teachers from the Community, the total number of Teachers for the 2017/2018 academic year will be 25,462 with 7,189 men and 18,273 women. Gender distribution in the various groups is as follows: Private (6,769 men and 8,700 women); Government (195 men and 9,443 women); Community (255 men and 130 women).

**274-** Compared to demand, the number of pupils in preschool dropped during the 2017/2018 academic year as illustrated in the table below:

**Table 3: Distribution of Preschool Pupils by Type of Education, Sub-system and Location in the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years**

No.	Designation		Number of pupils	
			2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Type of Education	Public	201,487	181,937
		Private	315,472	318,760
		<b>Total</b>	<b>516,959</b>	<b>500,697</b>
2	Sub-system	English speaking/Government	182,644	165,985
		French speaking/Government	339,555	349,910
		<b>Total</b>	<b>522,199</b>	<b>515,895</b>
3	Location	Rural/Government	172,026	155,266
		Urban/Government	150,173	360,629
		<b>Total</b>	<b>522,199</b>	<b>515,895</b>

**source:** MINEDUB

**Table 4: Distribution of Pupils according to Gender**

Designation	Number of Pupils					
	2016-2017			2017-2018		
	B	G	Total	B	G	Total
Government	100,741	100,746	201,487	90,916	91,021	181,937
Private	158,064	157,408	315,472	159,344	159,416	318,760
Community	4,756	4,812	9,568	7,600	7,598	15,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,561</b>	<b>262,966</b>	<b>526,527</b>	<b>257,860</b>	<b>258,035</b>	<b>515 895</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

**275-** At the national level, girls represented 50.1% in the 2016 - 2017 academic year compared with 49.99% in 2017 - 2018.

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## §2: Improving Access to Primary Education

**276-** In response to the education demand, several actions were carried out to strengthen access to education. Moreover, public authorities were mainly concerned about quality and maintenance of efficiency at this level of education.

### A: Strengthening Access to Education

**277-** To strengthen access to education at primary level, infrastructure was developed and equipment acquired for Government primary education emphasising on the provision of subsidies and setting-up of private primary schools. However, the number of Teachers remained a challenge. It should also be noted that community/parents' schools contributed to improve the said number.

#### 1) Infrastructure Development and Equipment Purchase in Government Primary Education

**278-** In addition to setting-up schools, infrastructure development comprised construction and rehabilitation of schools as well as the provision of equipment.

##### a) Setting-up of Government Primary Schools

**279-** In 2018, 78 new Government primary schools were created, as compared to 100 in 2016/2017.

##### b) Construction and Rehabilitation of Schools

**280-** Concerning infrastructure, a total of 1,700 classrooms were constructed all over the nation thanks to diverse funding<sup>145</sup>. It should be noted that the need for classrooms was estimated at 14,901 classes all over the nation, that is, 1,591 in rural areas and 13,310 in urban areas. Furthermore, 52 Government primary schools were rehabilitated and 16 of these were former MINEDUB cooperation projects (Japanese donation and

<sup>145</sup> Among this, 847 were based on Public Investment Budget (PIB) funds, 613 on C2D funding and 240 on Islamic Development Bank (IDB) funding under the Programme for Support to Schooling in Priority Zones (PASZEP).

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PAQUEB). Classrooms to be rehabilitated were estimated at 3,522 in 2016/2017 that is 883 classrooms in urban areas and 2,639 in rural areas.

**281-** The table below presents the situation of primary schools in Cameroon irrespective of type of education, sub-systems or location.

**Table 5: Situation of Primary Schools according to Level of Education, Sub-system and Location during the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 Academic Years**

No.	Designation	Number of primary schools		
		2016-2017	2017-2018	
1	Type of Education	Government	12,590	12,327
		Private	5,592	5,800
		<b>Total</b>	<b>18,182</b>	<b>18,127</b>
2	Sub-system	English-speaking/Government	5,167	5,102
		French-speaking /Government	13,429	13,475
		<b>Total</b>	<b>18,596</b>	<b>18,577</b>
3	Location	Rural/Government	12,784	12,412
		Urban/Government	5,812	6,165
		<b>Total</b>	<b>18,596</b>	<b>18,577</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

## c) Equipment

**282-** Government primary schools were equipped with 32,581 benches<sup>146</sup> and 300 micro-science kits. School libraries received a total of 60,000 civic and moral education books.

**283-** In terms of amenities, 26% of primary schools are connected to an electricity source, 48% to a potable water source, 19% have libraries and 4% have a school canteen. In order to improve hygiene and sanitation in schools, 80 latrine blocks were built during the year under review. The table below presents the ratio of equipment made available to pupils.

<sup>146</sup> Of which 17,797 were based on PIB funds and 14 784 on C2D and IDB funding.

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**Table 6: Ratio of equipment in Government Primary School Classrooms**

Region and National	Pupil/seat ratio	Blackboard/classroom Ratio	Cupboard/classroom Ratio	Furniture (table + chair) for Teacher/classroom ratio
<b>Cameroon</b>	153/100	102/100	17/100	60/100
<b>Adamawa</b>	165/100	96/100	14/100	40/100
<b>Centre</b>	104/100	110/100	19/100	41/100
<b>East</b>	145/100	105/100	19/100	41/100
<b>Far North</b>	281/100	86/100	15/100	29/100
<b>Littoral</b>	105/100	121/100	19/100	86/100
<b>North</b>	293/100	82/100	10/100	30/100
<b>North West</b>	122/100	138/100	32/100	104/100
<b>West</b>	112/100	107/100	12/100	85/100
<b>South</b>	101/100	108/100	11/100	39/100
<b>South West</b>	120/100	80/100	16/100	88/100

**Source:** MINEDUB

## 2) Provision of Subsidies and Setting-up of Private Primary Education Schools

**284-** To run the private primary education sector, a CFAF 2,270,973,000<sup>147</sup> subsidy was granted. Also, 127 new private primary schools were created during the 2017/2018 academic year out of a total of 5,648 schools in 2016/2017 as against 5,775 in 2017/2018.

## 3) Number of Teachers

**285-** Despite the recruitment on contract of 2,970 Teachers in 2016/2017, the table below reveals that the number of Teachers did not increase.

**Table 7: Distribution of Teaching Staff by Type of Education, Sub-system and Location in the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Academic Years**

No.	Designation	Number of teachers		
		2016-2017	2017-2018	
1	Type of Education	Government	61,040	56,386
		Private	35,659	36,622
		<b>Total</b>	<b>96,699</b>	<b>93,008</b>
2	Sub-system	English speaking/Government	13,239	10,912
		French speaking/Government	47,801	45,474
		<b>Total</b>	<b>61,040</b>	<b>56,386</b>
3	Location	Rural/Government	41,953	38,028
		Urban/Government	19,087	18,358
		<b>Total</b>	<b>61,040</b>	<b>56,386</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB 2018 Statistical Yearbook

<sup>147</sup> About 3,467,134.35 Euros

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**286-** Including the 715 Teachers from Community schools, the total number of Teachers for the 2017/2018 academic year was 93,723 with 44,149 men and 49,574 women. Gender distribution in the various groups reveals for Private (14,104 men and 22,518 women), for Government (29,831 men and 26,555 women) and for Community schools (214 men and 501 women).

**287-** It should be noted that in the Regions in crisis, only schools operating were taken into consideration. Furthermore, the number of Teachers is influenced by retirements, deaths and migration to other Ministries.

**288-** Out of the 93,723 registered Teachers, 56.93% were women compared to 43.07% men in Government primary schools, while 40.07% were men, compared to 59.93% women in private primary schools. Apart from the recruitment of Teachers, a recurrent problem was their qualification especially in the private sector, while in the public sector all Teachers hold the required professional diploma. Employment of personnel who are not always qualified for the private sector resulted in an average teaching rate of 25% in this sector compared to 55.3% in Government primary education.

#### 4) In Community/Parents' Schools

**289-** Indicators at the community/parents schools level show an increase in enrolment indicators. Thus, the number of such schools increased from 394 in 2016/2017 to 428 in 2017/2018. Classrooms increased from 729 in 2016/2017 to 817 in 2017/2018.

**290-** The number of students increased from 56,179 in 2016/2017 to 65,720 in 2017/2018. The number of Teachers decreased from 850 in 2016/2017 to 715 in 2017/2018. The social crisis in the North West and South West Regions explains the decrease observed in the number of Teachers, as they were not identified.

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## B: Demand for Education at Primary level

**291-** To boost the demand for education, which has declined, incentives were provided with a particular focus on education of the young girl.

### 1) Number of Pupils

**292-** At primary school level, potential demand was made up of the population aged from 6 to 11. The number of students enrolled at this level decreased from 4,346 811 in 2016/2017 to 4 191 992 in 2017/2018. This drop in enrolment was due to the persistence of areas of «abandoned schools» in the North West and South West Regions, which does not enable availability of statistics on the number of pupils enrolled at this level.

**Table 8: Distribution of Pupils by Level of Education, Sub-system and Location in the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Academic Years**

No.	Designation	Number of pupils		
		2016-2017	2017-2018	
1	Type of Education	Government	3,376,179	3,214 310
		Private	916 688	911 962
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4 292 867</b>	<b>4 126 272</b>
2	Sub-system	English-speaking	902,669	735,351
		French-speaking	3,444,142	3,456,641
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4,346,811</b>	<b>4,191,992</b>
3	Location	Rural	2,743,999	2,553,421
		Urban	1,602,812	1,638,571
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4,346,811</b>	<b>4,191,992</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

**Table 9: Distribution of Pupils according to Gender in the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Academic Years**

Designation	Number of pupils					
	2016-2017			2017-2018		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Government	1,817,001	1,572,955	3,389,956	1,724,146	1,490,164	3,214,310
Private	468,030	455,782	923,812	460,606	451,356	911,962
Community	31,134	25,045	56,179	36,494	29,226	65,720
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,316,165</b>	<b>2,053,782</b>	<b>4,369,947</b>	<b>2,221,246</b>	<b>1,970,746</b>	<b>4,191,992</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

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**293-** The student-classroom ratio in the public sector was 90.1/1 on average for viable classrooms built with concrete. Including classrooms built with temporal material and those built with semi-finished material, this ratio is reduced to an average of 64.6 students per classroom. However, this national average should not overshadow the very wide disparity between the Regions<sup>148</sup>. The most overcrowded classes were in the North (138/1) and Far North (135/1) Regions but also generally in urban or semi-urban areas with an average ratio of 91/1 against 89.7/1 in rural areas.

## 2) Incentive Measures

**294-** Incentive measures were taken to enhance economic accessibility to demand. As a result, 1,007,757 readers, 721,411 mathematics books, 347,801 sciences books, 466,142 English/French books were distributed to students of SIL/Class 1, CP/Class 2 and CE1/Class 3 within the framework of the Equity and Quality Education Improvement Programme (PAEQUE) implemented with the support of the World Bank.

## 3) Equal Access to Education

**295-** Equity concerns led to the promotion of the education of the girl child. As a result, 569 school kits and foodstuffs were distributed in support to young girls' education. Besides, trainings and outreach campaigns were organised on issues specific to them. The said outreach campaigns done in conjunction with UNICEF, Plan Cameroon and the GRS NGO among others, focused on topics related to the importance of children's education, especially the girl child.

**296-** The objective was to present the right reasons for educating the young girl who is the woman of tomorrow, so that she knows her rights and obligations, can be a better educator to her children, can better protect her life and her home, can take useful decisions for her family and better support her husband, can properly manage family property, can take care of

<sup>148</sup> Adamawa 98.2/1; Centre 61/1; Littoral 55.4/1; North West 83.6/1; West 83.8/1; South 54/1; South West 77.7/1; East 96.8/1.

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her health and that of her children, can choose economic activities that improve her situation and that of her family, in order to make her a citizen who participates in the development of her village, community and country.

**297-** It should be noted that the distribution of foodstuffs and school kits, as well as outreach campaigns organised for some years now led to the increase of the percentage of girls in primary education, from 46.94% in 2016-2017 to 47.01 % in 2017-2018.

## **C: Integrating Concerns about the Quality of Education**

**298-** Actions taken to enhance the quality of education helped to improve working conditions of staff and to fight against illegal schools and corruption. In addition, taking into account the need to adapt school to its environment, the teaching of national languages continued and school health was promoted.

### **a) Improving Teachers' Working Conditions**

**299-** In order to improve the life and working environment of Teachers<sup>149</sup>, on site houses were constructed<sup>150</sup> for Head teachers and Teachers in rural areas and areas difficult to access. Several administrative buildings were also rehabilitated, namely decentralised services of MINEDUB. Thus, the construction works of the Regional Delegation of the North West and of the Inspectorates of Basic Education of the Tokombere and Garouaboulai Sub-Divisions continued, while 4 vehicles were purchased for the Regional Delegates of the Littoral, West, South West and North Regions.

**300-** Furthermore, 300 Teachers in charge of *Cours moyen 1* and *Cours moyen 2* (Class 5 and Class 6) in 68 schools were trained in the inclusive education approach.

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<sup>149</sup> A total of 840 offices were acquired.

<sup>150</sup> 21 blocks of two on-site housings were constructed.

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## b) Fighting Illegal Schools

**301-** As is customary, the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB) published the list of schools banned from operating for the 2018-2019 year, pursuant to Order No. 329/11/14/A/MINEDUB/SG/DSEP/SDAAP of 18 July 2018 to ban some private schools under MINEDUB for the 2018-2019 academic year, for lack of documents authorising the establishment and opening of those schools, and for non-authorised cycles or sections. In total, 179 schools were banned all over the country, including 18 in the Centre Region, 126 in the Littoral Region, 24 in the West Region and 11 in the South West Region.

## c) Fighting Corruption in Public Primary Schools

**302-** The fight against corruption was effected through sensitisation on Rapid Result Initiatives (RRI). As a result, 11,298 Head teachers of public primary schools, or 87.10% of all Head teachers, were once again trained in the RRI approach for the third consecutive year since the 2015 academic year.

**303-** The sensitisation was followed by an assessment of RRI's implementation which revealed that the rate of illegal fees collected at the start of the 2017/2018 school year was 0.017%, given that 2 primary school Head teachers only out of the 11,260 evaluated were found to be faulty.

**304-** All in all, the initial objective which was to reduce the collection of illegal fees in the school milieu by 80% was largely achieved since the result was 95.88% in 2012, 98.98% in 2013, 100% in 2014, 99.95% in 2015, 99.97% in 2016 and 99.99% in 2018. Despite these statistics, the Government must continue to work at discovering all persisting schemes of collection of illegal fees.

## d) Teaching of National Languages

**305-** The table below presents the situation of the teaching of national languages since 2012.

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**Table 10: List of Pilot Schools where National Languages are taught**

No.	Languages	Regions concerned	Number of schools Phase I (2012-2015)	Number of schools Phase II (2012-2015)	Differential	Number of multilingual classes (Phase II 2019-2020)
01	Ewondo	Centre	10	12	+ 2	66 (for 10 schools, from <i>SIL</i> to <i>CM2</i> and from <i>SIL</i> to <i>CE1</i> for the 2 new schools)
02	Bassa	Littoral	6	8	+ 2	24( <i>SIL-CE1</i> )
03	Ghomala	West	6	8	+ 2	24( <i>SIL-CE1</i> )
04	Fulfulde	Far North	6	8	+ 2	24( <i>SIL-CE1</i> )
05	Duala	Littoral from the second phase	0		+5	15( <i>SIL-CE1</i> )
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>+13</b>	<b>153</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

## e) Promoting Health in Schools

**306-** Within the framework of promoting health in schools, emphasis was put on the fight against HIV, diseases and drugs.

**307-** Concerning HIV, 3,333 Teachers and 4,500,000 students<sup>151</sup> in 67 Sub-Divisions were sensitised and trained in the fight against this pandemic during the celebration of the International Women's Day and through the programme to fight STDs/HIV Aids in schools called "Social Vaccine Programme".

**308-** Some 6,800,000 children<sup>152</sup> were de-wormed. Emphasis was also laid on the fight against cholera.

**309-** Concerning drugs, 48 Teachers were trained in the prevention and fight against the cultivation, trafficking and consumption of cannabis and other drugs in schools.

<sup>151</sup>This initiative concerns the three types of education.

<sup>152</sup>This figure includes out-of-school children.

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## D: Significant Improvement in School Results

**310-** Policies implemented had a positive impact on official examination results. The table below presents the statistics of the 2017 and 2018 official examinations

**Table 11: Statistics of 2017 and 2018 Official Examinations**

No.	EXAMINATIONS		2017	2018
1	CEP	Registered	294,674	304,516
		Sat	287,942	298,535
		Passed	221,032	250,073
		% of success	<b>78.09</b>	<b>83.77</b>
2	FSLC	Registered	103,026	73,805
		Sat	66,848	71,852
		Passed	50,763	66,517
		% of success	<b>77.86</b>	<b>92.57</b>
3	CE	Registered	92,721	64,467
		Sat	59,803	62,260
		Passed	43,806	53,569
		% of success	<b>73.44</b>	<b>85.22</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

**311-** The completion rate of the primary cycle stood at 76.7%.

### §3: Constant Efforts in Literacy and Non-formal Basic Education

**312-** The Ministry of Basic Education, with the support of development partners and Councils, worked to progressively improve literacy rate through the education of persons of 15 years and above. Furthermore, training in Non-Formal Basic Education Centres (CEBNF) was enhanced. Thus, 50 Functional Literacy Centres (CAF) were equipped with literacy kits, a total of 100 CAF and CEBNF in 10 Regions were supplied with minimum package and were granted financial support amounting to CFAF 150,000,000<sup>153</sup>.

**313-** In addition, the procedure manual for the implementation of the *get it done strategy*<sup>154</sup> in literacy and non-formal basic education was drafted.

<sup>153</sup> About 229,007.63 Euros

<sup>154</sup>The “*get it done*” is a strategy that enables the State and its partners to develop a key for functional and efficient allocation of roles in the execution of Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Ed-

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Studies on the typology of literacy programmes and teaching time in Functional Literacy Centres were initiated.

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

**314-** Thanks to an envelope of CFAF 365,211,730,000<sup>155</sup> in 2018 as against CFAF 318,997,000,000<sup>156</sup> in 2017, the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC) took some actions to support education supply and improve the quality of the education system, in order to make it more competitive. Also, the cross-cutting policy of one-textbook which is a concern to both MINEDUB and MINESEC became effective.

### **§1: Support to Education Supply**

**315-** In order to support education supply, emphasis was placed on the development of school infrastructure to efficiently meet the demand despite persistent insecurity in the North West and South West Regions.

#### **A: Development of School Supply**

**316-** The development of school supply took into consideration public and private secondary education. Public Authorities were also concerned with maintaining a sufficient number of Teachers in schools.

##### **1) Government Secondary Education**

**317-** At the level of Government secondary education, the development of education supply focused on the opening of schools, the increase of infrastructure and the acquisition of school facilities.

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ucation Programmes. It is not a disengagement of the State from its obligations to provide basic education to all citizens. Rather, it is a conscious and organised delegation of duties to design and implement curricula adapted to the educative approach as expressed on the field, through known and capable stakeholders who comply with the reference framework established by the State.

<sup>155</sup> About 557,575,160.31 Euros

<sup>156</sup> About 487,018,320.61 Euros

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## a) Opening of Schools

**318-** New schools were opened in order to expand the school map. For example, 3 Bilingual Technical High Schools, 16 Government Technical, Colleges (GTC), including 1 bilingual, 8 Government Secondary Schools (GSS), 9 Government High Schools were also opened.

## b) Development of Infrastructure and Acquisition of Facilities

**319-** Constructions were carried out in several Government secondary schools, including 1 block of 2 classrooms built using local materials in schools in the Centre Region, 21 laboratories for practicals in GTC and Technical High Schools, 1 classroom for Tourism speciality at the Technical High School Dschang, 2 dormitories with canteens at the Akwa-Bakassi Government Teacher Training College (GTTC), 1 administrative block at the Doukoula Government High School and an on-site housing at the Nyom Government High School.

**320-** The acquisition of school equipment was characterised by the purchase of 18,000 desks for 600 classrooms, professional practice kits for 69 laboratories for practicals, 184 complete computers for 92 schools and teaching materials for 30 laboratories for practical. Also, 15 Multimedia Resource Centres were equipped with computers and an agreement was signed with *MTN Foundation* for the equipment of multimedia classrooms with computers in some schools.

## 2) Private Secondary Education

**321-** In addition to the signing of 111 Authorisations to establish, open and expand private institutions of General Secondary Education, the development of private secondary education was characterised by a grant of CFAF 1,500,000,000<sup>157</sup> for private education to 473 private schools on the one hand, and the functioning of National Secretariats (SENAT) and Secretariat for Education (SEDUC), on the other hand. The grant was shared as follows:

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<sup>157</sup> About 2,290,076.34 Euros

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**Table 12: Distribution of the Grant allocated for Private Education**

No.	Private Education Organisations	Functioning of SENAT & SEDUC	Types of Education			Total
			Normal <sup>158</sup>	Technical	General	
1	Catholic	17,641,608	8,393,896	100,421,508	239,149,709	<b>365,606,721</b>
2	Protestant	1,827,588	5,799,419	2,136,628	114,920,058	<b>124,683,693</b>
3	Islamic	4,577,835	2,441,860	2,136,628	34,033,430	<b>43,189,753</b>
4	Secular	5,952,969	35,254,361	291,344,480	633,961,023	<b>966,519,833</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30,000,000</b>	<b>51,889,536</b>	<b>396,039,244</b>	<b>1,022,071,220</b>	<b>1,500,000,000</b>

**Source:** MINEDUB

### 3) Number of Teachers

**322-** MINESEC staff, estimated at 90,645 during the reference year, were working in Central Services, Decentralised Services and schools.

**Table 13: Distribution of MINESEC Staff**

No.	Region	Number of Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff /Staff recruited by Decision and by Contract	Total
1	Adamawa	4,078	127	<b>4,205</b>
2	Centre	21,132	1,115	<b>22,247</b>
3	East	4,466	150	<b>4,616</b>
4	Far North	7,754	224	<b>7,978</b>
5	Littoral	9,751	440	<b>10,191</b>
6	North	5,429	147	<b>5,576</b>
7	North West	10,981	514	<b>11,495</b>
8	West	9,393	204	<b>9,597</b>
9	South	5,229	184	<b>5,413</b>
10	South West	7,973	486	<b>8,459</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>86,186</b>	<b>3,591</b>	<b>89,777</b>
11	Central Services	703	165	<b>868</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>86,889</b>	<b>3,756</b>	<b>90,645</b>

**Source:** MINESEC

**323-** Out of these various personnel, 66,598 were effectively teaching in schools, based on the following distribution:

<sup>158</sup> Education at Government Teacher Training Colleges (GTTC) and Higher Technical Teacher Training Colleges (HTTTC)

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**Table 14: Distribution of Teaching Staff in Schools**

Categories	GSS	Gov't Technical Colleges (GTC)	Gov't High Schools (GHS)	Technical and Vocational High Schools	Gov't Teacher Training Colleges (G TTC)	Higher Technical Teacher Training Colleges (HTTC)	Total
Teachers	6,174	6,431	34,430	16,969	1,811	783	<b>66,598</b>
School Officials	2,449	1,781	9,942	3,016	745	100	<b>18,033</b>
Others	36	28	999	182	146	5	<b>1396</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,659</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>4,5371</b>	<b>2,0167</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>86,027</b>

**Source:** MINESEC

## **B: Secondary Education Demand**

**324-** Due to some constraints, namely the socio-political crisis in the North West and South West Regions, education demand could not be properly assessed. However, actions taken took into account the general tendency of the increase in demand.

## **C: Persistent Insecurity in the North West and South West Regions**

**325-** The insecurity resulting from the socio-political crisis in the North West and South West Regions caused several malfunctions. These include a sharp decline in attendance rate (74.56% in the North West and 64.68% in the South West)<sup>159</sup>, a low rate of students' assiduity, a considerable delay in covering school programmes and other educational activities compared to the other 8 Regions of the country, the closing of some schools, the non-payment of required fees, very few registrations for official examinations and the displacement of some students to more secured Regions.

**326-** In order to guarantee the right to education for children affected or displaced by the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, 4 Bilingual Technical Schools (3 Government Technical High Schools<sup>160</sup> and 1

<sup>159</sup>This situation is especially serious in the Boyo and Momo Divisions in the North West, the Lebialem, Kupe Manengouba, the Meme and Ndian Divisions in the South West.

<sup>160</sup> They are the Yaounde Industrial and Commercial Technical High School, the Bonadoumbe

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Government Bilingual technical college) were opened, as indicated above. Furthermore, a special recruitment of 1,000 young bilingual graduates put 865 new personnel at the disposal of MINESEC, 681 of who were posted, that is 78.73%. Moreover, the Minister instructed School Heads all over the national territory to admit students from these Regions without condition. The students continued to register for official examinations until the eve of the exams, the situation pending regularisation.

## §2: Improving the Quality of the Education System

**327-** The quality of the secondary education system was improved thanks to actions taken within the framework of enhancing pedagogical activities, school counselling, governance, improving career conditions, matching training to socio-economic environment and promoting inclusive education<sup>161</sup>.

### A: Enhancing Pedagogical Activities

**328-** In view of enhancing pedagogical activities, study programmes for secondary education were redefined and teaching contents reviewed. The pedagogic supervision of Teachers and continuous training of School Inspectors also continued. Lastly, the promotion of bilingualism in schools was effected through the organisation of the National Bilingualism Week, from 29 January to 2 February 2018, under the theme: *“Bilingualism, the bedrock of national unity and Peaceful co-existence”*.

### B: School Counselling

**329-** School counselling was enhanced due to the posting of Counsellors to various schools, bringing their number to 2,261, distributed in the various Regions as follows:

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Technical High School, the Bonaberi Technical High School and the Mewoulou Bilingual GTC of Yaounde 6.

<sup>161</sup>See the Chapter on the Rights of Socially Vulnerable Persons.

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**Table 15: Number of School Counsellors per Region**

Region	AD	CE	EA	FN	LT	NO	NW	WE	SO	SW	TOTAL
CPO	176	567	119	317	199	218	179	143	147	196	2,261

**Source:** MINESEC

**330-** Besides, 215 of them or 9.51% were trained, monitored and assessed.

## **C: Continuing the Promotion of Good Governance**

**331-** In order to continue the promotion of good governance, public authorities took measures to fight against mismanagement of public funds by Officials in charge of Public Institutions and to clean up the school map of private secondary education.

**332-** Members of the Anti-corruption Unit of MINESEC attended a seminar organised by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). They were briefed on the methodology to detect corruption, related infringements and new guidelines on drafting reports. As a result of the seminar on capacity building of members of School Councils, 25 schools were assessed in the Adamawa, Centre, East, Littoral and South Regions.

**333-** In view of sanctioning administrative mismanagement and other irregularities, various controls carried out led to 25 cases of withdrawal of confidence from Officials in charge of Central and Decentralised Services, 9 observation letters, 5 letters of call to order, 1 warning and 9 reprimands. In order to clean up the organisation of official examinations and competitive examinations, 12 cases of withdrawal of confidence were recorded, and 556 cases of fraud and fault were detected and sanctioned (132 at the Department of Exams, Competitive Examinations and Certification (DECC), 108 at the OBC and 316 at the General Certificate of Education Board (GCE Board)).

**334-** Concerning the fight against illegal schools and institutions, control carried out in general education schools of the private sector led to the

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closing of 53 private schools for breaching legal requirements to establish and open schools.

## **D: Improvement of Career Management**

**335-** Activities carried out in this context focused on the reorganisation of the salary payroll database and staff, with 185,458 updates carried out. Furthermore, the management of staff careers was strengthened, with 39,890 career-related documents entered in the system, 86,118 documents transferred to the National Application of Data Processing and Logistics of State Personnel (ANTILOPE), 43,142 career-related documents processed and 10,087 absorption files.

**336-** Besides, 4,600 files for payment of entitlements and 9,752 salary files were quickly processed. In addition, 10,000 career records of staff were archived. The Convention signed with Polaris, a company that sells software tools, may contribute in strengthening the digitization of MINESEC data and information.

**337-** Finally, 6,562 Higher Teacher Training College (HTTC) and Higher Technical Teacher Training College (HTTTC) graduates were posted upon completion of their training. Within the framework of the clearance of salary arrears due to graduates of the 2012 to 2018 batches, CFAF 3,500,000,000,000<sup>162</sup> was paid monthly from September to December.

## **E: Matching Training with Socio-Economic Environment**

**338-** In a bid to match training with the socio-economic environment, focus was on two areas, namely diversification of vocational training offer and development of entrepreneurship in schools. In addition, in a view to matching school curricula with the social environment, a controversy erupted as to the content of certain school textbooks.

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<sup>162</sup> About 5,343,511.45 Euros

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## 1) Diversifying Vocational Training Offer

**339-** To diversify vocational training offer, construction work on the Government Reference Technical High schools of Maroua and Nsam were taken forward within the framework of the Technical Secondary Education Project ((PEST) with the support of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). Moreover, technical and architectural studies for the construction and equipment of the Construction and Public Works Technical and Vocational High School of Ekounou were completed. Finally, 10 trainers in motor vehicle assembly were sent on internship and the first session of the *Probatoire* examination in agriculture was organised

## 2) Development of Entrepreneurship in Schools

**340-** To promote entrepreneurship in schools, open door Days were organised, followed-up and assessed throughout the country in technical schools under the theme *open-door Days: Showcase of the professionalisation of second-generation secondary education*.

**341-** In addition, 500 Teachers in refresher courses were placed in about 100 companies to improve the professionalisation of teaching. Also, the school/ work- training of 1025 students was carried out. The said open-door days took place on 14 and 15 March 2018.

## 3) Controversy Over the Content of some Textbooks

**342-** A controversy arose within the national educational community over some images of deviant sexual practices in the science book of 5<sup>eme</sup> (*L'Excellence en Sciences*). The competent authority instructed to urgently delete Page 59 from the said manual.

## §3: Effectiveness of Secondary Education

**343-** The 2017/2018 examination session was marked by innovations undertaken during the examinations preparatory stage, results obtained and awarding of prizes of excellence to the best students and trainers.

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## A: Examinations Preparatory Phase

**344-** The examinations preparatory phase was marked by the introduction of many innovations as well as by the implementation of special measures for students of the North West and South West Regions.

### 1) Innovations

**345-** The aim of one of the innovations is to check the actual identity of candidates. In this light, candidates from private schools aged over 24 are required to present national identity card, in addition to the school card. In the same vein, files of independent candidates should contain two copies of their national identity card in addition to the copy of their birth certificate.

**346-** These innovations also included the introduction of a software to manage the *concours d'entrée en (common entrance in) 6<sup>ème</sup>* and 1<sup>st</sup> year in technical fields. This software named *Spider*, is part of the decentralisation process of the said common entrance. This digital application eases the management of candidates from selected schools, from registration to the publication of results, with their duplicates of files remaining in schools.

**347-** Finally, a convention was signed between MINESEC on the one hand and CAMPOST, Express-Union, MTN and Orange on the other hand for the payment of required fees and examinations fees by mobile money in order to establish traceability of fees payable for official and competitive examinations. Thus, for the 2018/2019 school year, these fees were better secured into the Public Treasury, making it possible to avoid concealing the number of pupils and embezzlement of examination fees of some candidates by certain stakeholders involved in the collection chain.

### 2) Special Measures for Students of the North West and South West

**348-** Regarding the situation in the North West and South West Regions, measures taken to facilitate the holding of examinations revolved around the prohibition of motorcycle traffic in the vicinity of examination centres, the

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prohibition of the transport of examination documents by motorcycles or public transport buses, the day and night protection of the buildings of the GCE-Board sub-centres, the Regional and Divisional Delegations by a mixed team made up of security forces and local vigilante committees, relocation of examination sub-centres in the event of proven threats and care for Officials in charge of relocated sub-centres.

**349-** The various policies implemented for innovations and special measures resulted in the registration of:

- 576,877 candidates to the Department of Examinations and Competitions, as against 595,056 in 2017, that is, a decrease of 18,179 candidates;
- 361,090 candidates to the Cameroon Baccalaureat Board as against 359,345 in 2017, , an increase of 1,160 candidates;
- 128 852 candidates to the *General Certificate of Education Board*, as against 121, 215 in 2017, that is a decrease of 399 candidates.

**350-** In total, 1,066,819 candidates were registered as against 1,083,652 in 2017, a decrease of 16,833 candidates in absolute terms and -01.55% in relative terms.

## **B: Official Examinations Results**

**351-** The analysis of results of the 18 official examinations held during the 2018 session excluding the *Baccalauréats* and Advanced Level of the GCE Board shows that success rates were on the rise in 11 examinations and decreased in the other 7. This led to a national success rate in official examinations of 56.19% compared to 43.34% in 2017, representing an increase of 12.85%.

**352-** This increase could be explained in particular by:

- measures taken to ensure a smooth educational supervision of pupils throughout the national territory;
- proper application of the provisions of Letter No. 14/17/MINESEC/IGE of 23 August 2017 relating to the catch-up classes and covering of curricula in the North West and South West Regions during the 2017/2018 school year;

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- introduction of innovations in the organisation of some examinations for assessment of candidates to be in line with the professionalisation of teaching.

**Table 16: Results of all the Institutions in Charge of Examinations**

EXAMINATIONS	Registered	Present	Participation rate		Successful candidates	Success Rate	Success Rate	Success rate
			2018	2017		2018	2017	2016
DECC Examinations	331,459	326,482	98.50	95.55	198,936	60.93	48.60	41.15
OBC Examinations	349,847	342,613	97.93	96.87	176,325	51.46	42.23	40.99
GCE Board Examinations (without Bacc and others.)	129,226	127,319	98.52	65.84	72,258	56.75	29.21	61.88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>810,532</b>	<b>796,413</b>	<b>98.26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>447,520</b>	<b>56.19</b>	<b>43.34</b>	<b>45.09</b>

**Source:** MINESEC

**353-** A retrospective glance shows that the national success rate in official exams fluctuated over the past 5 years: 50.24% in 2014; 44.80% in 2015; 45.09% in 2016; 43.34% in 2017 and 56.19% in 2018.

## C: Various Awards

**354-** The MINESEC Excellence Award, initiated in 2017, continued to be awarded. At the end of the second edition, which was held on 16 September 2018 in partnership with the *Société Anonyme des Brasseries du Cameroun* (SABC), 556 prizes were awarded, including 457 to students and 99 to deserving Teachers for an amount of CFAF 51,895,000<sup>163</sup>. The 457 prizes awarded to students are distributed as follows: 242 laureates for official examinations, 115 girls from technical and technological fields, 100 best bilingual students were also awarded prizes.

**355-** In the same vein, 963 Teachers from various types of education were awarded the rank of Knight of the Order of Academic Palms.

<sup>163</sup> About 79,229 Euros

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## §4: Single Book Cross-cutting Policy

**356-** In 2018, the provisions of instruments signed by the Prime Minister on 23 November 2017 were implemented, notably, Circular No. 2/CAB/PM and Decrees No. 2017/11737/CAB/PM and 2017/11738/CAB/PM relating to the national policy on textbooks and other teaching materials.

**357-** The aim of public authorities is to guarantee the accessibility and availability of school books and other teaching materials at a lower cost, throughout the national territory, by ensuring not only the involvement of local authorities through municipal libraries, but also the digitalisation of these teaching tools through digital libraries.

**358-** Moreover, it is worth recalling that the validity period of textbooks is six years, while underlining that any subject included in the programme must be taught across the country using a single textbook for each subject.

**359-** Despite the delay in the availability of textbooks throughout the country, this policy, which was implemented during the year under review experienced contrasting results. However, during the first year of implementation of this government policy in this area, it can be noted that the costs of textbooks were reduced to the great satisfaction of parents.

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

**360-** At higher education level, activities carried out fostered access to this level of education, strengthened the quality of teaching and teaching tools to make education more efficient.

### §1: Implementation of Measures Promoting Access to Higher Education

**361-** Public authorities continued to strengthen university offer in order to absorb all students at higher education level.

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## **A: Continued Strengthening of University Offer**

**362-** The strengthening of university offer was marked first of all by the opening of new institutions. Furthermore, to cope with the flow of new students, infrastructure and equipment were increased on the one hand and the number of Lecturers to train them maintained on the other hand.

### **1) Opening of New Schools**

**363-** In 2018, two new institutions were set up, respectively by Decree No. 2018/005 of 8 January 2018 for the Bertoua Higher Teachers' Training College and No. 2018/004 of 8 January 2018 for the Garoua Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

### **2) Increase of In-Take Capacity and Facilities**

**364-** The in-take capacity of many public universities increased through the construction of buildings and the provision of equipment as well as their rehabilitation.

**365-** At the University of Bamenda, 2 teaching blocks were built at the Higher Teacher Training College (HTTC) and the Faculty of Health Sciences respectively; various routes and networks were developed and the electrical circuit installed.

**366-** At the University of Buea, 2 teaching blocks were built at the HTTC in Kumba and the Advanced School of Translation and Interpretation (ASTI) respectively. In addition, the laboratories and workshops of the Faculty of Health were equipped.

**367-** At the University of Yaounde I, these rehabilitations included a laboratory at the HTTC and the Biotechnology Centre of the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

**368-** At the University of Ngaoundere, teaching blocks were built as well as laboratories at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences and the School of Geology and Mining Engineering of the University of Ngaoundere (EGEM) respectively.

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**369-** At the University of Douala, teaching blocks were built as well as laboratories and workshops equipped at the Faculty of Industrial Engineering, of the University Institute of Technology and the Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

**370-** At the University of Dschang, teaching blocks were built at the Faculty of Wood, Water and Energy Professions as well as workshops at the Fotso Victor Institute in Bandjoun and the Fouban Institute of Fine-Arts

**371-** At the University of Yaounde II Soa, work began for the construction of the Headquarters of the Pan-African University, the library was renovated and the Amphi 500 multifunction equipped.

**372-** It is worth noting that 5 Private Institutions of Higher Education (IPES) were opened and 6 were set up, for a total of 242 IPES actually allowed to operate.

### 3) Number of Lecturers

**373-** In 2016/2017, the number of Lecturers was estimated at 4,562. By 2017-2018, it decreased to 4,442, comprising 959 Assistant Lecturers, 1978 Senior Lecturers, 998 Associate Professors and 407 Professors. To maintain an acceptable Lecturer/student ratio of about 1/109, Government embarked on the recruitment on 13 November 2018 of 2000 Lecturers over a period of 3 years<sup>164</sup>. In addition, cooperation contracts are signed with Lecturers who have reached retirement age.

<sup>164</sup>On 14 February 2019, the terms of the operation were clarified as part of the first phase involving the authorization of 1,000 Lecturers to be recruited in 2019, and the profiles of applicants make it possible to target *Doctorate* or PhD holders aged 45 or over as at 1 October 2019. The number of available positions per institution and per university was set by the Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Office.

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## **B: Higher Education Demand**

**374-** The demand is made up of the number of students on the one hand and the incentives likely to support the economic accessibility of these students on the other hand.

### **1) Number of Students**

**375-** The public and private student population was estimated at 451,504 in 2018-2019 and 500,000 in 2016-2017.

### **2) Incentive Measures**

**376-** To support economic accessibility, scholarships and financial support were granted to some students:

- within the framework of cooperation, 11 countries gave scholarships to 141 students ;
- 240 financial supports were also granted to students in Cameroon and abroad;
- 382 students benefited from holiday internships in various MINESUP Institutions and Schools;
- 212 others benefited from the Work Study Program for a period of 3 months.

**377-** In State Universities and Private Institutes, 100,000 students benefited from the academic excellence grant.

## **§2: Quality of Teaching and Pedagogical Tools**

**378-** The quality of teaching was further improved, as well as the quality of teaching tools which better suit the professionalisation of teaching.

## **A: Improving the Quality of Teaching**

**379-** To provide quality teaching, the working conditions of Lecturers continued to be taken into account and ethics promoted in the long run.

### **1) Considering Lecturers' Working Conditions**

**380-** The working conditions of Lecturers continued to be at the heart of MINESUP's concerns. To this end and in 2018, 5,000 Lecturers Researchers

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benefited from the academic research grant of CFAF 10,500,000,000<sup>165</sup> under the special allocation account for the modernisation of research, as compared to CFAF 9,600,000,000<sup>166</sup> in 2017. Though this amount is increasing, it remains insufficient.

**381-** In addition, 53 Lecturers benefited from mobility grants or scholarships for internship abroad. These scholarships aim at improving the quality of teaching.

## 2) Sustained Promotion of Ethics

**382-** As part of the promotion of ethics, 99 students were punished for examination fraud and indiscipline, as against 144 in 2017. In addition, at the University of Yaounde II and the University of Ngaoundere, disciplinary sanctions were melted on 2 lecturers for sexual harassment. In addition, 2 students were dismissed for sexual harassment and rape.

## B: Academic Tools more Adequate to Professionalization of Teaching

**383-** For academic tools to be more adequate for the professionalisation of teaching, innovative fields continued to be introduced in the technological and vocational components of higher education, programmes were harmonised and validated<sup>167</sup> at the University Institute of Technology (UTI), quality assurance standards developed in technological and vocational courses as well as a framework document for the professionalisation of university courses.

**384-** Furthermore, the completion of the approval process for the Higher National Diploma (HND) curricula and the modernisation and professionalisation of traditional faculties continued<sup>168</sup>

<sup>165</sup> About 16,030,534.35 Euros

<sup>166</sup> About 14,656,488.55 Euros

<sup>167</sup> Such as the nutrition education curricula.

<sup>168</sup> This is the implementation of the National Qualification Framework in Higher Education or Tuning Cameroon.

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**385-** In addition, a fair on career guidance was organised as well as a forum bringing together MINESUP/University and Agro-Industries to assess the level of implementation of work-linked training. Thus, *Société Camerounaise des Palmerais* SOCAPALM presented the terms of supervision for students admitted for internships in the said company.

**386-** Finally, to encourage entrepreneurial spirit among students, the National Incubation Programme, the objective of which is to structure and provide technical and financial support to public and private incubation centres set up in 2017, continued. Against this background, the Binguela Agricultural Practising School (EPAB) and the Advanced School of Information and Communication Sciences and Techniques (ESSTIC) received funding of CFAF 150, 000, 000<sup>169</sup> each.

### §3: Higher Education Effectiveness

**387-** Results recorded in various national examinations during the 2017/2018 academic year improved compared to 2016/2017, as shown by the statistics in the table below:

**Table 17: National Examinations results in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018**

Examinations	Years	Number of candidates registered	Number of successful candidates	Percentage
DSEP	2016/2017	2,361	1,652	69.97%
	2017/2018	2,608	1,930	74.00%
BTS	2016/2017	14,691	10,552	71.83%
	2017/2018	14,627	10,974	75.02%
HND	2016/2017	2,081	1,665	80.01%
	2017/2018	7,003	5,873	83.86%
HPD	2016/2017	101	98	97.03%
	2017/2018	411	397	96.59%

**Source:** MINESUP

**BTS** : *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur*

<sup>169</sup> About 229,007.63 Euros

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**DSEP** : *Diplôme Spécialisé de l'Enseignement Professionnel*

**HND** : Higher National Diploma

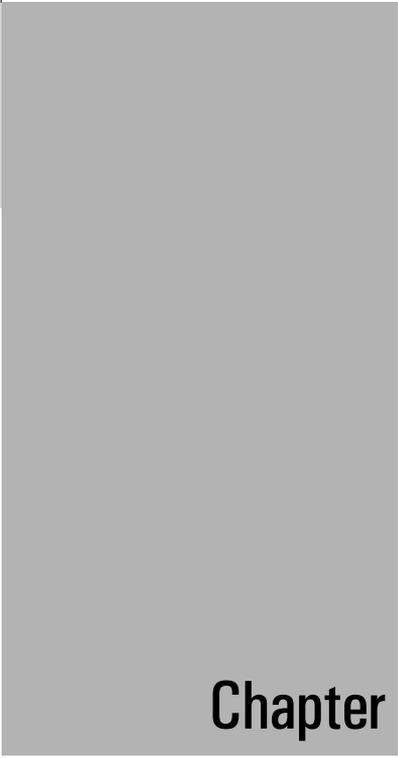
**HPD** : Higher Professional Diploma

**388-** Finally, 4,416 certificates of equivalence were issued in 2018 as against 1225 in 2017. They enabled several students to take part in the 75 administrative competitive examinations organised.

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\* \* \*

**389-** During the year under review, and despite various security, economic and structural constraints, the State continued its efforts to implement the right to education. In this respect, while the beneficial adoption of the single book policy was at the heart of measures aimed at improving the quality of education, the professionalisation of teaching was not neglected. In any case, the upward trend in school results reflects the positive impact of these Government measures, which nevertheless deserve to be consolidated through a reassessment of financial and human resources and an intensification of the fight against the phenomenon of illegal schools.



**Chapter** **2**  
**RIGHT TO HEALTH**



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**390-** In 2018, guaranteeing the right to health continued to be an important aspect of public life. Hence measures taken by the State based on the Health Sector Strategy 2016 – 2027 were related to health promotion, disease prevention, case management, health system strengthening, and governance and strategic management. A new impetus was given to the fight against HIV/AIDS with the start of the implementation of the 2018-2022 National Strategic Plan for the Fight against HIV/AIDS and STDs, and the cost of treatment of some diseases was reduced.

**391-** From the national budget of CFAF4,513,000,000,000<sup>170</sup> the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE) was allocated CFAF175,200,000,000<sup>171</sup> to cater for the health of the population, compared with CFAF208.200,000,000<sup>172</sup> in 2017.

## SECTION 1: HEALTH PROMOTION

**392-** In order to meet up with the strategic objective of health promotion which is to make the population adopt a healthy lifestyle, efforts made included improving the living environment of the population, the promotion of family planning as well as combating malnutrition and the use of illicit or harmful substances.

### §1: Living Environment of the Population

**393-** With regard to sanitation in rural areas, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, with the support of UNICEF developed the National Strategy for Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and the implementation guide for same. These documents which were developed and validated in 2017 were published in 2018. The Strategy aims to put an end to open defecation by 2035, an essential step towards increasing the rate of access

<sup>170</sup> About 6,890,076,335.89 Euros

<sup>171</sup> About 267,480,916.03 Euros

<sup>172</sup> About 317,862,595.45 Euros

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to hygiene and sanitation<sup>173</sup> of households and schools in rural areas. Some 20% of Health Districts were implementing the CLTS.

## §2: Family Planning

**394-** As regards family planning, the Norms and Standards of Reproductive Health-Family Planning in Cameroon set out components of family planning services which include, counselling on the choice of method, provision of family planning services, case management and supervision. See further information in §435,436 and 437 under maternal health. Family planning offer expanded with new contraceptive methods like Sayana Press which was distributed in the 10 regions of the country.

**395-** Furthermore, health staff was trained on family planning.

**396-** MINSANTE in partnership with *Association Camerounaise pour le Marketing Social*—within the framework of the Access to Reproductive Health Services Programme, organised from 24 to 27 September 2018 in Garoua, a campaign to raise awareness and promote family planning, on the occasion of the celebration of World Contraception Day. The objective was specifically to raise awareness, especially of women of childbearing age on the range of modern contraceptive methods available and the use of the hot line (8188) of the programme and ensure women of child bearing age were referred to health facilities in the ProFam network. Close to 3,000 men and women were educated on the benefits of family planning and modern contraceptive methods.

## §3: Combating Illicit or Harmful Substances

**397-** As part of the measures to combat the use of illicit or harmful substances, officials of the Ministry of Public Health presented a new tobacco packaging policy in Yaounde on 7 June 2018. This followed a Joint Order

<sup>173</sup> It will increase this rate from 15% in 2014 to 75% in 2035.

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of the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Trade on 3 January 2018 that defines new packaging and labeling modalities for tobacco products in Cameroon. The new policy to take effect from 3 January 2019 requires that all packaging carry specific health warnings on the effects of tobacco use, illustrated by images. Such warnings will cover at least 60% of the external part of the packet.

**398-** Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development embarked on the promotion of the cultivation of healthy food crops in substitution for the cultivation of cannabis sativa.

## **§4: Combating Malnutrition**

**399-** At the national level, there were 47, 956 cases of severe acute malnutrition of which 84 deaths and 4,902 cases of severe acute malnutrition with complications of which 111 deaths. To improve the nutritional status of the population, the National Nutrition Policy was validated and Law No.2018/020 of 11 December 2018 - Framework Law on Food Safety promulgated.

## **SECTION 2: DISEASE PREVENTION**

**400-** The objectives of disease prevention include reducing the prevalence of major communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases.

### **§1: Communicable Diseases**

**401-** Prevention concerned priority communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases and epidemic prone diseases.

#### **A: Priority Communicable Diseases**

**402- As regards HIV/AIDS,** 2018 marked the start of the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the Fight against HIV/AIDS and STDs (2018-2022). The Plan aims to respond to the expectations and needs identified by the evaluation of the 2014-2017 National Strategic Plan. Measures with respect to HIV/AIDS were taken in line with the Plan which lays

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emphasis on the strengthening of HIV prevention for key populations, young people and adolescents, strengthening the follow-up of HIV-positive pregnant women on antiretrovirals (ARVs) and increasing the availability of ARVs and other medical inputs.

**403-** Awareness raising activities were carried out on HIV including educative talks, one-on-one conversations and programmes over the radio, television and the press. Some 18,519 inmates (17,706 males and 813 females) were educated at least once through these educational talks. As concerns persons with disabilities, only the Mfoundi Division was covered where some 13 educational talks were organised for 267 persons living with disabilities (131 males and 136 females).

**404-** Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare (CAMNAFAW) and CARE International trained 1,234 peer educators and organised 5 964 educative talks and 21,717 one-on-one conversations which reached 124,550 key populations, like out-of-school girls and boys, and prostitutes and their children.

**405-** Besides, a total of 51,977,744 (5,291,170 female and 46,686,574 male) condoms were distributed, an increase of 38.58% compared to 2017 and 3,079,382 people screened for HIV in 2018, out of which 96,124 tested HIV-positive representing a rate of 3.1%. This rate is down compared with 2017 when it was 3.5%. The HIV prevalence rate stood at 3.4%.

**406- Concerning malaria,** one of the strategies used was the administration of intermittent preventive treatment. For more information, see § 439 under maternal health

**407- As regards tuberculosis,** during week long activities to mark World Tuberculosis Day on March 24, 2018, campaigns on the fight against tuberculosis was organised during which there were radio and TV programmes and visits to secondary and high schools. The week was closed by a walk in Yaounde.

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**408-** During the 2018 National month for the prevention of **hepatitis** under the theme *screen and treat hepatitis*, MINSANTE carried out a campaign for key populations including sex workers and their clients and homosexuals. A total of 854 of them were screened and 35 tested positive. The campaign also led to the screening of 54 persons in the general population.

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

**409-** Concerning the prevention of neglected tropical diseases, particularly intestinal worms, 1,365,762 children of school age were de-wormed.

**410-** As regards the use of Community-Directed Treatment with Ivermectin (CDTI) to prevent Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic Filariasis, some 7,327,106 persons were treated. There was routine screening for buruli ulcer and treatment of persons who tested positive.

**411-** In order to accelerate the reduction of morbidity and mortality due to snake bites in 60 priority health districts, communication tools and management algorithms were produced and distributed. Furthermore, 200 health staff were trained on monitoring and care of snakebites.

## **C: Epidemic-Prone Diseases (EPDs)**

**412-** Some 12 Epidemic-Prone Diseases are targeted by the routine Expanded Programme on Immunization<sup>174</sup>. Immunization coverage was as follows: BCG, 88%; Penta 1, 86%; ROTA 2, 78%; VPO 3, 78%; VPI, 78%; PCV-13-3, 79%; VAA, 71%; Td2+, 66%; TAS, 8%; TAG 23%; RR, 71%; and Penta 3, 70%.

**413-** To strengthen epidemiological surveillance and response to public health emergencies and other public health events, the Centre for Public Health Emergency Operations was inaugurated on 3 December 2018 in Yaounde. In addition, the capacity of the staff was enhanced through Incident Management System and Field Epidemiology training programmes.

<sup>174</sup> Tuberculosis, Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Hemophilus Infection, pneumococcal infection, Rotavirus Diarrhoea, Yellow Fever, Measles and Rubella

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## §2: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

**414-** Screening to detect cancer early is one of the strategies adopted to prevent cancer. It is within this framework that screening campaigns were carried out. For example, from 11 to 13 July 2018, the NGO *Run for Cure Africa* organised a free screening campaign for cancer of the breast and cancer of the cervix in Yaounde. Furthermore, throughout the month of October 2018, *Association des femmes médecins du Cameroun (ACAFEM)* et *l'Association des femmes dynamiques de la CNPS (ADY-NAF)* organised a campaign at the National Social Insurance Fund Hospital in Yaounde for the screening of cancer of the breast and cervix. Services offered included a mammography, ultrasound and cervico-vaginal smear at a cost of CFAF15,000<sup>175</sup> instead of CFAF75,000<sup>176</sup>.

**415-** Awareness raising campaigns were carried out as concerns hypertension, diabetes, kidney and respiratory diseases, especially during the celebration of days dedicated to same.

### SECTION 3: CASE MANAGEMENT

**416-** The objective as concerns the management of diseases is to reduce the overall mortality in health facilities and in the community through appropriate treatment. In pursuit of this goal, persons with communicable and non-communicable diseases were cared for.

#### §1: Management of Diseases

**417-** This is aimed at ensuring curative management of all communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as their complications according to standards.

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<sup>175</sup> About 22.90 Euros

<sup>176</sup> About 144.50 Euros

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## A: Communicable Diseases

### 1) HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Cholera, Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis

**418-** As concerns HIV/AIDS, on 16 February 2018, the Minister of Public Health signed a Circular reorganising the provision of care for HIV / AIDS in health facilities in Cameroon. It provides that health facilities from the first to sixth categories are now approved to offer general services on the management of HIV/AIDS compared to before when health facilities of the fifth and sixth categories were only allowed to offer prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV services. It emphasizes on the test and treat option. There is also emphasis on retaining patients for treatment, which consists of continuous monitoring of the patient through different check-ups to monitor the evolution of the disease.

**419-** Some 408,450 persons were estimated to be living with HIV among whom 272,267 women and 136,183 men. A total of 281,083 persons living with HIV/AIDS were on antiretroviral drugs (ARV) treatment among whom 198,119 women and 82,964 men, as shown in the table below.

**Table 1: Distribution of PLWHV on Antiretroviral per Region and by Sex**

Region	Sex		Total	Percentage
	Male	Female		
Adamawa	4,218	8,764	12,982	4,62
Center	20,836	48,825	69,661	24,78
East	5,954	13,119	19,073	6,79
Far North	5 ;599	10,897	16,496	5,87
Littoral	14,986	38,144	53,130	18,90
North	5,036	11,421	16,457	5,85
North West	9,375	24,270	33,645	11,97
West	6,113	15,954	22,067	7,85
South	3,977	9,820	13,797	4,91
South West	6,870	16,905	23,775	8,46
<b>National</b>	<b>82,964</b>	<b>198,119</b>	<b>281,083</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** National AIDS Control Committee

**420-** Some 848 health facilities in 190 health districts were providing comprehensive HIV hospital care services, including 17 ARV dispensing sites in

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enterprises. Regarding the monitoring of PLWHVs in the community, there is an increase in the number of community based organisations involved in the dispensing of ARVs from 73 in 2017 to 100 in 2018. As regards key populations, 83,9% were on ARVs as against 60% in 2017.

**421-** With regard to the availability of ARV, 17.5% of treatment centres at some time during the year went out of stock of at least one of the 4 ARV tracer drugs.

## 2) Malaria

**422-** The proportion of public spending on malaria was 9.81% of the public health budget in 2018 (CFAF 17,199,813,853<sup>177</sup>). Total number of persons diagnosed with malaria in 2018 stood at 2,126,039. For further actions taken on the management of malaria, § 457 under Neonatal, Infant and Child Health.

## 3) Cholera

**423-** The first two suspicious cases of cholera were signalled in May 2018 in the Mayo-Oulo Health District in the North Region. By 14 July 2018, MINSANTE declared a cholera epidemic in Cameroon. Statistics between 2 May 2018 and 19 January 2019 showed that there had been 997 suspicious cases with 81 confirmed (70 in the North Region, 3 in the Far North, 4 in the Littoral and 4 in the Centre Region).

**424-** The number of deaths from the outbreak stood at 58 persons (40 in the North Region, 17 in the Far North Region and 1 in the Centre Region). Measures taken in response to the epidemic including the revision of the contingency plan in the North, Far North and Adamawa Regions were successful in controlling the outbreak, although by the end of 2018, there were still some sporadic cases in the North Region. The national mortality rate was 5.8%.

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<sup>177</sup> About 26,259,257.79 Euros

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## 4) Tuberculosis

**425-** The number of persons infected with tuberculosis, all on treatment stood at 23,757 including 14 278 (60%) men and 9 479 women (40%). The cure rate stood at 84.4%. The rate of co-infection of HIV and tuberculosis was 29% (6,457). In September 2018 at Mfou, 30 medical doctors were trained on the management of tuberculosis. Some 40 nurses were also trained at Edea and Pitoa as well as some pharmacists on the management of tuberculosis

## 5) Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

**426-** One of the areas where action was taken as regards NTDs was the management of snakebites. Thus, material relating to the management of snakebites was disseminated in 60 priority health districts and 200 health staff trained.

## B: Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

**427-** Among non-communicable diseases catered for were hepatitis, cancer, diabetes, kidney diseases and mental disorders.

### 1) Hepatitis

**428-** The cost of drugs for the treatment of Hepatitis B, C and D were reduced through Decision No. 13/6/c/CAB/MINSANTE of 5 January 2018 of the Minister of Public Health. For hepatitis C, the price of Sofosbuvir 400mg + Ledipasvir (box of 28 tablets per month) moved from CFAF280,000<sup>178</sup> to CFAF120,000<sup>179</sup>, Sofosbuvir 400mg + Ribavirine 200 mg (box of 28 tablets per month) from CFAF150,000<sup>180</sup> to CFAF100,000<sup>181</sup>, and Ribavirine 200 mg from CFAF30,000<sup>182</sup> to

<sup>178</sup> About 427.48 Euros

<sup>179</sup> About 183.21 Euros

<sup>180</sup> About 229.01 Euros

<sup>181</sup> About 152.67 Euros

<sup>182</sup> About 45.80 Euros

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CFAF20,000<sup>183</sup>. For the hepatitis B and D protocol, the price of Tenofovir 300mg + Emtricitabine 200mg (box of 30 tablets) was reduced from CFAF5,500<sup>184</sup> to CFAF3,500<sup>185</sup>, Tenofovir 300mg (box of 30 tablets) from CFAF5000<sup>186</sup> to CFAF3000<sup>187</sup>, Lamivodine 150 mg (box of 30 tablets) from CFAF3000 to CFAF 2,500<sup>188</sup> and Interferon pegylated alpha 180mg from CFAF57,000<sup>189</sup> to CFAF50,000<sup>190</sup>. By the same decision, patients on Sofosbuvir 400mg + Ledipasvir were offered free treatment in January 2018.

## 2) Cancer

**429-** There were 9,429 new cases of the following types of cancer in Cameroon in 2018 as shown in the table below:

**Table 2: Incidence of Cancer in 2018**

Type of Cancer	Number of new cases	percentage
Colorectal	832	9%
Liver	919	10%
Prostate	2064	22%
Cervix	2349	25%
Sein	3265	35%

**Source:** MINSANTE

**430-** Comprehensive cancer care was provided in 6 health facilities<sup>191</sup>. The Chantal Biya Foundation began treatment of children with cancer in 2018. There was trained staff in all areas of cancer care, however there

<sup>183</sup> About 30.53 Euros

<sup>184</sup> About 8.39 Euros

<sup>185</sup> About 5.34 Euros

<sup>186</sup> About 7.63 Euros

<sup>187</sup> About 4.58 Euros

<sup>188</sup> About 3.82 Euros

<sup>189</sup> About 87.02 Euros

<sup>190</sup> About 76034 Euros

<sup>191</sup> Yaounde Reference Hospital, Douala Reference Hospital, Yaounde Gynaeco-Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital, Douala Gynaeco-Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital, University Teaching Hospital, Yaounde Central Hospital and the Chantal Biya Foundation

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were only 3 surgical oncologists, 5 radiation oncologists and 7 medical oncologists and who worked only in Douala and Yaounde.

### 3) Diabetes

**431-** With the support of SANOFI, there were 7 diabetes clinics in some district hospitals and through funding from the World Diabetic Foundation, 22 diabetes clinics were functional in the Centre and North West Regions. Insulin was sold at these clinics at FCFA3,000 FCFA instead of FCFA12,000<sup>192</sup> FCFA.

**432-** Furthermore, on 1 May 2018, the World Diabetic Foundation offered medical material to MINSANTE worth 130.660 euros (about CFAF85.507.570) to foster quality management of diabetes and hepatitis in some health facilities.

### 4) Chronic Renal Diseases

**433-** Some challenges were faced in the management of chronic renal diseases with patients carrying out demonstrations due to stock out of dialysis kits and insufficient number of dialysis machines. In order to improve on the quality of care of patients with renal failure on dialysis, 25 new dialysis machines were acquired for the Yaounde and Douala Reference Hospitals.

### 5) Mental Health Disorders

**434-** The crisis in some parts of the country posed a risk to mental health considering the trauma that comes with situations of conflict. From 25 to 26 September 2018, the second meeting on mental health of MINSANTE was held in Yaounde under the theme MINSANTE / Humanitarian: Situational analysis and perspectives at the time of the transfer of mental health skills.

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<sup>192</sup> About 18.32 Euros

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## §2: Maternal, Neonatal, Infant, Child, and Adolescent Health

**435-** The aim as concerns maternal, adolescent and child health is ensuring comprehensive management in health facilities in order to enable a reduction in mortality rate.

### A: Maternal Health

**436-** With regard to maternal health, the policy framework was strengthened, actions were taken for quality and affordable reproductive health and family planning services, enhancing the capacity of medical staff including on the management of obstetric and neonatal emergency care and the treatment of reproductive health disorders including obstetric fistula.

**437-** In order to improve on the quality of reproductive and family planning services, Norms and Standards of Reproductive Health-Family Planning in Cameroon were updated in March 2018 and disseminated. The Document lays out reproductive health rights which include the right to information, right to access services, right to a choice, right to have an opinion and the right to security, intimacy, confidentiality, dignity, comfort and continuity of services respectively.

**438-** The Norms and Standards also contain information on standards for specific services by component including family planning, care during pregnancy, delivery and after delivery, infertility, emergency obstetric and neonatal care, the management of obstetric fistula, sexual violence and genital cancers.

**439-** Out of 915,605 pregnant women expected, 761,283 of them attended the first prenatal consultation representing a coverage rate of 83.2%.

**440-** Some 729,172 of 761,283 (95,7% as against 91.1% in 2017) pregnant women received during prenatal consultation or in the delivery room were tested for HIV and 23,983 of them tested positive ( a coverage rate of 3,2%, as against 3,9% in 2017) and 21,716 of this number was put on ARVs.

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**441-** As regards malaria prevention in pregnant women, 476 382 of them received the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of intermittent malaria preventive treatment, 358,290 the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose and 246,266 the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose. Of the women who went for prenatal consultation, 42% of them received 3 doses of the intermittent treatment and 91% received Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets. Some 140,150 pregnant women were diagnosed with malaria.

**442-** In a bid to improve on maternal healthcare, new maternities were constructed and others rehabilitated. This is the case for instance with the inauguration on 20 July 2018, of a modern maternity ward at the Ngo-vayang Catholic Hospital, around Lolodorf, built with funding from Japan. The Orange Cameroon Foundation renovated the maternity ward of the Akonolinga District Hospital.

**443-** As regards the treatment of obstetric fistula, the non governmental organisation Operation Fistula, UNFPA and MINSANTE organised a free campaign in Ngaoundere from 16 to 29 July 2018 on the treatment of obstetric fistula during which 23 patients were treated. There was also a free campaign in Bertoua during which women were treated. The total number of women treated in Ngaoundere and Batouri stood at 49. Women suffering from obstetric fistula were also operated upon during the Mercy Ships mission.

**444-** Furthermore, the capacity of health staff was enhanced on obstetric and neonatal emergency care in the Adamawa, Far North, North and East Regions including 21 health providers during a campaign for the repair of obstetric fistula in Batouri and Ngaoundere. Moreover, healthcare providers were trained in the reproductive health of the mother and adolescents, and the health of newborns in the Adamawa, Far North, North and East Regions

**445-** In 2018, the number of deliveries by a skilled birth attendant stood at 365,332 .

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## B: Adolescent Health

**446-** Government continued to promote adolescent friendly health services, provide care for the management of diseases including AIDS and fight drug consumption by youths.

**447-** With regard to adolescent friendly health services, in a bid to provide comprehensive Sexual Education to young people, Government partnered with UNFPA to open an adolescent clinic in Garoua-Boulai on 19 May 2018. Moreover, within the framework of the 2018 Youth Day celebrations, the Yaounde Gynaecological Obstetric Hospital organised from 7 February 2018, a week long talks for youths aged between 9 and 30 on topics such as sexual and reproductive health, family planning, first aid, and methods of preventing diseases such as cholera. Services rendered also included the operation of 19 youths with cleft lip.

**448-** Furthermore, as part of the hotline (8188) on reproductive health information, ACMS recorded 4,580 calls against 2,646 calls for the year 2017.

**449-** With regard to the fight against diseases in adolescents, the awareness of more than 3,000,000 youths was raised on HIV/AIDS in the 10 regions of the country, through institutions and associations working with youths. During the 2018 edition of the AIDS free holidays campaign which took place from 10 to 30 August 2019 for example, 4,288 educational talks and 12,940 one-on-one conversations were conducted by 680 peer educators. The campaign reached 736,571 youths.

**450-** As regards treatment, in 2018, 9,404 (27.2%) out of 34,566 youths between 10 and 19 years living with HIV were on ARVs: 6,053 out of 20,716 girls (29,2%) and 3,351 out of 13 850 boys (24.1%).

**451-** Concerning drug consumption by youths, within the framework of the celebration of the national youth day, a campaign was organised on the fight against drugs during which public media broadcast from 22 January to 20 February 2018 on the dangers of the cultivation, trafficking and con-

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sumption of cannabis sativa and other drugs. The campaign was focused mainly on youths in and out of school. Mobile telephone operators also sent out messages on the dangers of the cultivation, trafficking and consumption of drugs. Besides, a campaign by MINSANTE was started on 8 February 2018 wherein 100 psychologists, psychomotor therapists and specialised nurses were deployed in 86 schools. The role of these professionals was to listen to and advise students on the dangers of drug consumption.

## C: Neonatal, Infant and Child Health

**452-** Government kept the ball rolling in guaranteeing the health of the child. Measures were taken to prevent diseases in children and to treat them when sick.

### 1) Prevention of Diseases

**453-** Action to prevent diseases included vaccination, seasonal malaria chemoprevention, the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV and the fight against malnutrition.

**454-** Campaigns were carried out to vaccinate children. The number of children aged 0 to 11 months who received Penta 3 vaccine in 2018 stood at 681,976 compared to 719,157 in 2017, a decrease of 37,181 children (5.5%). Most unvaccinated children were found in the Far North (29.4%), North West (16.6%), South West (13.5%) and North (11.8%) Regions. BCG vaccination coverage was 88%, while Rota 2 (rota virus) was 78%. For VPO3 (poliomyelitis) coverage was 78%.

**455-** The number of children who took sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine + amodiaquine (SPAQ) for Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention in the North and Far North Region for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cycles respectively stood at 1,581 527, 1,639 764, 1,656 636 and 1,669,594.

**456-** To prevent malnutrition, micronutrient-based powder was distributed to more than 25,000 children from 6 to 23 months for improved diets in 9 health districts in the North and East Regions. Vitamin A supplementation was also given to more than 5,000,000 children aged 6 to 59 months in

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the 10 regions of the country during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2018 and more than 2,500,000 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in the northern regions and East Region.

**457-** In order to improve on the prevention from mother to child transmission of HIV, 90.55% of HIV-positive pregnant women received ARVs, an increase of 5.5% compared to 2017. A total of 14,378 (83,5%) of 17,214 children born of HIV positive mothers were given nevirapine as prophylaxis treatment. Some 16,638 of the 17,214 children born of HIV positive mothers were screened for HIV and 958 were positive.

## 2) Treatment of Sick Children

**458-** The total number of children below 5 years diagnosed with malaria stood at 684,875 (401,719 for simple and 283,156 for severe malaria). Of this number, 216,869 of them with simple malaria and 125,724 with severe malaria were treated free of charge. Some 68,550 children aged 6 to 59 months in the northern regions and the East Region with severe acute malnutrition were cared for.

**459-** Of the 968 children born of HIV positive mothers, 536 (55, 94%) were put on ARV treatment. The number of children below 10 years who were on ARV in 2018 stood at 6,423 (23.7%) out of the 27,839 infected.

**460-** Furthermore, through the NOVATIS Changing Diabetes in Children Programme, each of the 10 regions had a clinic where children with diabetes were treated free of charge.

## SECTION 4: HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

**461-** The strategic objective of health system strengthening which is to increase the institutional capacities of health facilities for a sustainable and fair access of the population to quality health care and services was pursued.

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## §1: Availability of Healthcare Facilities and Human Resources

**462-** Measures were taken to improve on the availability of healthcare facilities as well as strengthening the capacity of health providers.

### A: Availability of Healthcare Facilities

**463-** At the end of the first half of 2018, a total of 5,817 health facilities of which 49% in the public sector, 37% in the for-profit private sector, and 14% in the faith-based private sector. The percentage of health facilities per region were as follows: Centre Region, 23%, Littoral Region, 20.1%, West Region, 13.5%, North West Region, 9.5%, South West Region, 8.4%, Far North 7.7%, South Region 5.2%, North Region, 5%, East Region 4.4% and Adamawa Region 3.1%. Nationally, there was 1 health facility for ,274 inhabitants, the South and West Regions having the best performance with 1 health facility for 2,602 and 1 for 2634 respectively.

**464-** However, the torching of healthcare facilities in the context of the crisis in the North West and South West Regions affected the availability of same. In the North West, buildings in 14 health facilities had been destroyed as well as material in 17 health facilities from the start of the crisis.

### B: Human Resources

**465-** There were new graduates from medical institutions including 275 from the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of Douala. Graduates included doctors, pharmacists, students in clinical biology, ethnopharmacology and applied botany.

**466-** Capacity building activities were carried out for healthcare providers. The capacity building team of the Mercy Ships Mission which sojourned in Cameroon between August 2017 and June 2018 trained and mentored 1,564 local health professionals in a variety of specialties. Some 1,492 health staff benefited from short courses in different medical fields. Also, a total of 764 of these professionals received training in the WHO's Surgical Safety Checklist in 37 hospitals across Cameroon.

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**467-** A train-the-trainer workshop for gynecologists, psychiatrists, midwives and other health staff involved in the medical care of rape victims was organised from 16 to 22 July 2018 in Ebolowa.

**468-** In 2018, MINSANTE received a total of 726 new health staff.

**469-** The crisis in the North West Region led to the killing of 2 nurses and the displacement of health staff from some health facilities, thus there was a deficit in health care provision.

## §2: Accessibility to Healthcare

**470-** Measures were taken to provide low cost treatment to the population and make drugs accessible.

### A: Access to Low Cost Healthcare

**471-** Accessibility of the population to low cost healthcare services was promoted through a number of initiatives including the acceptance of the Mercy Ships mission in Cameroon. Healthcare services were offered by the Mission free of charge. There was a total of 13,519 interventions for 11,499 patients in diverse fields. Some 2,746 surgeries were performed including 82 orthopaedic surgeries, 442 maxillofacial surgeries, 164 reconstructive plastic surgeries, 237 general surgeries, 1,542 ophthalmic surgeries and 113 Women's health surgeries and 165 obstetric fistula surgeries. In addition, the Mercy Ships dental team delivered a total of 10 774 procedures.-

### B: Accessibility to Medicines

**472-** A total of CFAF3,700,579,284<sup>193</sup> that is 2.1% of the budget of MINSANTE was set aside for the purchase of essential medicines while international partners of the State mobilised CFAF27,700,000,000<sup>194</sup> (17.9%) for the said drugs.

<sup>193</sup> About 5,649,739.36 Euros

<sup>194</sup> About 42,290,076.35 Euros

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**473-** In order to ease acquisition by health facilities of essential drugs, the Minister of Public Health signed Order No. 3827 / MINSANTE of 5 December 2018 defining the modalities for the supply of essential drugs and other pharmaceutical products to health facilities. This Order permits health facilities to order directly from wholesale pharmaceutical distribution companies if *Centrale Nationale d'Approvisionnement en Médicaments Essentiels (CENAME)*, or its regional branches do not respond to their request within 7 days.

**474-** The number stock out days for drugs-tracers was 10 days which is same as for 2017.

**475-** To strengthen local drug production capacity, on 21 February 2018, Africure Pharmaceuticals Cameroon SA was inaugurated in Douala. It specialises in the production of generics, essential drugs and broad-spectrum antibiotics. Its annual capacity includes the production of CFAF440,000,000<sup>195</sup> tablets, CFAF198,000,000<sup>196</sup> capsules and CFAF138,000,000<sup>197</sup> sachets.

**476-** Furthermore, the prices of some medicines like those for hepatitis were dropped. See § 427 under management of diseases.

## SECTION 5: GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

**477-** In order to increase the performance of the health system at all levels, measures were taken to enhance controls, the computerization of the management process as well as planning tools. Actions were taken under the Governance and Institutional Support Programme for the health sector. Numerous inspection missions were conducted, denunciations examined and penalties imposed, where necessary.

**478-** In view of establishing a file of all approved health facilities and the application of sanctions against offenders, Order N ° 063 / CAB / PM of

<sup>195</sup> About 671,775.73 Euros

<sup>196</sup> About 302,290.08 Euros

<sup>197</sup> Soit 210,687.02 Euros

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19/07/2018 relating to the creation, organization and functioning of the National Mixed Commission in charge of cleaning up the health map was signed.

**479-** As part of the development of the health information system and health research, the process of harmonisation of health data collection and reporting tools through the monthly activity register and the DHIS2 software was strengthened.

**480-** Furthermore, the Report, Tracking 100 Core Health Indicators in Cameroon for 2017 was published. It offers a framework for analysing the country's health situation with key figures. For some indicators, the Report presents an overview of the level of achievement towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is a useful tool for decision making.

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**481-** Even though the crisis in some regions of the country affected the provision of healthcare, Government did not relent its efforts to guarantee the right to health. Progress was made in the management of some diseases including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, the policy framework was improved, and the outbreak of cholera contained. However, the health sector continued to suffer from shortage of health staff and inadequate resources as the budget allocated to same was 3,86% of the national budget which is far below the 15% recommended by the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases of 2001.

**Chapter** 3

**RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE  
STANDARD OF LIVING**



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**482-** In spite of various constraints, the realisation of the right to an adequate standard of living recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was carried against the backdrop of security, climate and structural challenges. The right to food, the right to water and energy and the right to decent housing which are respectively part of Sustainable Development Goals No. 1, 2, 6 and 7, were among the main concerns of public authorities in order to guarantee to each person, the right to live in dignity and free from poverty.

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

**483-** Physical and economic access of the population to sufficient food or means to get it was assessed through three indicators: availability of food-stuffs, accessibility and above all, appropriateness to the needs of population as concerns food. Yet, the implementation of this right was hampered by issues relating to food security in Cameroon.

### **§1: Food Security Situation in Cameroon in 2018**

**484-** Food security in Cameroon was assessed after 2 analyses in 7 Regions<sup>198</sup> and resulted in corrective measures.

#### **A: Variable Food Security Data in Cameroon**

**485-** The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) carried out quarterly analyses of the food and nutritional situation in Cameroon according to the "harmonised framework" method, with the support of technical and financial partners. These analyses were carried out in 21 Divisions considered as areas at risk in Cameroon. According to the results of the Analysis, no starvation situation was noticed. However, there were some areas at risk and some areas under the pressure of food and nutritional insecurity.

<sup>198</sup>The Far North, North, Adamawa, East, North West, South West and West Regions.

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**486-** Thus, 16% of households suffer from hunger (about 3.9 million people), of which 1% in serious food insecurity situation (211,000 people). The Far North (33.7%), Adamawa (14.4%) and North (15.3%) Regions are the most exposed, due to disorganised production systems resulting from insecurity related to atrocities from the *Boko Haram* group and climate change.

**487-** The East Region is not spared. There is a discrepancy between the significant increase of the population due to the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic and available food resources.

**488-** There were high food insecurity rates (respectively 18.1% and 18% of households) in the North West and South West Regions due to the insecurity resulting from the sociopolitical crisis in this part of the country.

**489-** At the national level, more than 1/5 of rural households (22%) suffer from food insecurity, as against 10.5% of urban households. About 22% of households have inadequate food consumption, 18% of which have a borderline food consumption and 3% have a poor food consumption.

**490-** In general, food security was acceptable during the period under review, as agro-pastoral covered most of the needs of households, since they rarely buy foodstuffs. In spite of sociopolitical factors which had a negative impact on the food and nutritional security of households<sup>199</sup>, no Division analyzed<sup>200</sup>, was found in phases of emergency, crisis or famine. These results called for corrective actions.

<sup>199</sup>These factors include : the disruption of agricultural seasons due to scarce and irregular rains and a prolonged dry season ; the humanitarian crisis in some Regions ; the transborder and civil insecurity ; the increase of prices due to speculations on the market ; abandoned holdings in some Sub-divisions of the North West and South West Regions ; the destruction of crops by cattle in the West and the destruction of the banana parking unit in Tiko reduced the revenue of households; defoliating catapillars and some bush fires in the East Region.

<sup>200</sup>Out of the 24 Divisions that were analysed, 14 (3 in the East, 4 in the North West, 5 in the South West and 2 in the West) were classified into the pressure phase, while 10 (3 in the North West, 1 in the South West and 6 in the West) were in the minimal phase.

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## **B: Actions to Suppress Food Insecurity Pockets**

**491-** In response to food insecurity risk, Government continued budgeting the Multi-sector Action Plan for the implementation of the National Policy on Hunger and Malnutrition by 2020 which was adopted in 2017, through the mobilisation of development partners during a press briefing organised in Yaounde on 23 October 2018 by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Minister of Livestock.

**492-** Moreover, priority was given to affected population through actions meant to anticipate on the deterioration of livelihoods. In this regard, the implementation of interventions aimed at improving the population's resilience during the pressure phase, the release of humanitarian aid for populations in crisis in the 7 Regions under analysis<sup>201</sup> and the strengthening of the food security alert mechanism can be mentioned.

## **§2: Availability of Foodstuffs through Enhanced Productivity and Competitive Agriculture Sectors**

**493-** In order to enable the population feed in dignity, public authorities ensured an enabling environment for easy production of foodstuffs. Though the materialisation of the General Census of Agriculture and Livestock (RGAE) that was launched in 2015 is delaying due to lack of financing, the efforts geared towards the availability of means of production have led to laudable production results according to the type of speculation.

## **A: Availability of Production Means**

**494-** In order to produce enough food, measures were taken to ease the producers' access to production means and factors. So, second generation agriculture was adopted as a strategy to intensify the production in a bid to modernize agriculture as a driver of economic growth. This strategy was implemented alongside the development of small and medium-sized agricultural holdings to meet the needs of communities and families.

<sup>201</sup>See infra chapter on the Protection of the Rights of persons in situation of involuntary displacement.

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**495-** The budget allocated to the development of crop production fields amounted to CFAF 23,231,500,000<sup>202</sup> to support the production activities of strategic fields undergoing a high food security challenge. Also, the amount of CFAF 4,085,000 000<sup>203</sup> was disbursed for small and medium-sized agricultural holdings to increase production. As concerns animal production, MINEPIA received a budget allocation of CFAF 35, 099,510,000<sup>204</sup>, that is, a decrease of CFAF 4,453,044,000<sup>205</sup> as compared to 2017.

**496-** With regard to **access to land**, Government started a soil mapping in 2018 to classify Cameroon's soils according to their potential. The situation of soils was presented on 5 March 2018 in Yaounde during a workshop the aim of which was to review all the cultivation suitabilities of soils in Cameroon.

**497- Agricultural research** was conducted by the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) and concerned the technical and structural capacity building of producers from the grain sector (with more than 500 producers trained) and from the roots sector for the increase and the dissemination of enhanced seeds variety

**498-** Moreover, the improvement of professional skills of stakeholders of the rural world was materialised by the **training** of 714 persons in trades of the rural world in 132 professional training schools and centres. In the agropastoral sector, 255 food manufacturers were trained on animal nutrition. In view of the RGAE, 61 trainers and 3,273 enumerators were trained.

**499-** As concerns the **availability of seeds**, the distribution of a new line of production should be mentioned. Some 1,050 000 cashew plants were distributed by IRAD in 2018 in the Far North Region.

<sup>202</sup> About 35,467,938.93 Euros

<sup>203</sup> About 6,236,641.22 Euros

<sup>204</sup> About 53,587,038.17 Euros

<sup>205</sup> About 6,798,540.46 Euros

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## B: Production Results Per Sector

**500-** Country planning economic programme for the Promotion of Medium and Large-Sized Enterprises (AGROPOLES), the end of which is scheduled for 2020 had a result of 49 Agropoles throughout the country. However, the production results under this Programme in 2018 revealed low performances, except for some lines of production<sup>206</sup>.

**501-** In general, there was a growth of 3% in subsistence crops, as compared to 2017. This growth was mainly due to grain, with a growth of about 10% and legumes, 4%. The decrease recorded in the group of tubers (-3%) is mainly imputable to cassava and cocoyam/ taro. The production volume of fruits and vegetables improved by 2% in 2018 as compared to 2017. The production of beans increased by 1.4% between 2017 and 2018. This growth is due to regular rainfall and increase of cultivated areas.

**502-** The following table below presents production volumes of the main agricultural production lines in 2018.

**Table 1: Production Statistics of Subsistence Crops (in tons)**

Subsistence Crops	2017	2018
Cereal	3,498,354.8	3,860,907.2
Maize	2,142,641.1	2,254,041.7
Rice	289,219.0	331,191.9
Millet/Sorghum	1,066,494.6	1,275,673.7
Legumes and Oleaginous plants	1,321,376.9	1,375,743.3
cowpea	220,113.0	226,961.5
Bambara groundnuts	4,903.3	5,414.6
Sesame	62,504.3	62,705.6
Groundnuts	633,470.9	660,485.3
Soya bean	20,543.6	35,117.0
Beans	379,841.8	385,059.3
Tubers	8,297,750.9	8,137,889.9
Cocoyam/Taro	1,470,495.5	1,405,716.7
Cassava	5,617,375.7	5,499,306.4
Yam	523,823.5	482,273.9
Irish potatoes	373,418.8	394,540.8
Sweet potatoes	312,637.4	356,052.1

<sup>206</sup> Among the reasons for the low performance, the Programme's financial difficulties and/or the crisis in the North West and South West Regions can be mentioned.

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<b>Vegetables and fruits</b>	7, 343, 696.5	7, 494, 405.9
<b>Pineapple</b>	230, 579.4	238, 547.2
<b>Onion</b>	331, 843.3	428, 956.7
<b>Tomato</b>	1, 107, 543.8	1, 083, 193.0
<b>Okra</b>	83, 851.8	97, 293.1
<b>Pepper</b>	11,891.9	7, 147.0
<b>Water melon</b>	79, 981.1	85, 678.7
<b>Cucumber</b>	19, 727.5	6, 993.1
<b>Ginger</b>	4, 109.5	3, 693.0
<b>Plantain</b>	4, 352, 787.3	4, 457, 512.7
<b>Banana</b>	1, 121, 381.0	1, 085, 391.5

**Source :** MINADER

**Table 2: Comparative Volume of Main Agricultural Production (Agropoles):**

Indicators	Agropole Programmes		
	Goals set	Goals achieved	Rate
<b>Pineapple</b>	42,620	23,253	54.53
<b>Palm Oil</b>	21,630	9,015	41.68
<b>Maize</b>	29,669	11,745	42.45
<b>Cassava</b>	18,700	7,050	37.70
<b>Irish potatoes</b>	62,400	66,000	105.8
<b>Avocado</b>	5134	1,437	28
<b>Soya bean</b>	8000	35,000	437.5

**Source :** AGROPOLES, 2018

**503-** Animal and fish sector production development has evolved positively thanks to various measures taken<sup>207</sup> by public authorities as shown in the following table:

<sup>207</sup>These measures consisted in issuing: 219 authorisations to set-up poultry farms (123), pig farms (42), cattle farms (17), sheep farms (6), hatcheries (8), bee farms (2) and dog kennels (3); 25 technical advices on the import of day-old chicks; 70 authorisations to set-up animal industry units and 18 Technical Advices on the import of animal industries, 75 authorisations to manufacture products meant for animal feeding, 11 authorisations to sell food for livestock.

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**Table 3: Comparative Balance Sheet of Animal Production in 2017 and 2018.**

Sectors	2017 Production (in tons)	2018 Production (in tons)
Cattle (meat production)	132, 551	142, 436
Pig (pork production)	60, 026	53, 878
Apiarian (honey production)	5, 040	5, 461
poultry (chicken production)	140, 218	140, 787
Dairy (milk production)	239, 174	274, 630

**Source :** MINEPIA

**504-** As concerns the fishery sector, promotion of intensive aquaculture continued through the implementation of the Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Promotion Project (PEEA) and the Support Project for the breeding of Caged Tilapia. In all, 5, 206 tons of fish from aquaculture, 368,880 tons of capture fisheries products, 259,340 tons of imported fish and 181 tons of prawns were obtained in 2018 to meet the needs of the population.

## §2: Accessibility to Foodstuffs

**505-** Access to foodstuffs by the population was achieved at economic level and physical level through opening up of production areas.

### A: Economic Accessibility: Means of Fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion

**506-** As the incidence of poverty was at 37.5% in 2014, the economic and physical access of the population to sufficient food remained a concern. Considering that economic accessibility means the population has enough resources to buy foodstuffs, measures were taken concerning the level of poverty, inflation rate and fluctuation of prices on the market.

**507-** Structural measures to fight against poverty concerned the continuation of the *Social Nets Project* and the distribution of foodstuffs to the most vulnerable population. The first phase of the Project ended in 2013 and was extended till 2022 with the support of the World Bank<sup>208</sup>. In 2018,

<sup>208</sup>In fact, each beneficiary received CFAF 360,000 (About 549.62 Euros) to carry out his activities, that is, CFAF 20,000 (About 30.53 Euros) per month during the 24 months spent within the

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about 25, 000 beneficiaries received a total of CFAF 4,278,160,000<sup>209</sup> within the framework of the Direct Cash Transfer Scheme whereas 6, 000 persons received CFAF 1,035,000,000<sup>210</sup> under the Emergency Cash Transfer Scheme for persons in an extremely vulnerable situation. Some 15,000 persons benefited CFAF 936,000,000<sup>211</sup> from the Labour Intensive Public Works Programme. Direct distribution of foodstuffs to the population was carried out within the framework of the management of humanitarian emergencies by the Government and its partners<sup>212</sup>.

**508-** Concerning inflation and variation of prices on the market, the market regulation and the promotional sales for consumers were adopted as palliative measures to the risk of food insecurity. These measures included the follow-up of convenience products stock management to ensure their stability and prevent shortage<sup>213</sup>.

**509-** With regard to market regulation to eradicate fraud and illicit commercial practices, 16,532 missions for the control of quality, quantity and prices of products were carried out. The results were as follows: 15,630 sanctions imposed for practices related to prices and competition, 12, 764 sanctions related to metrology and 1,902 sanctions related to quality and after-sales services.

**510-** As concerns promotional sales, 2,264 operations were carried out in 170 localities, with the participation of 157 economic operators.

**511-** In the same vain, as part of guaranteeing purchasing power to households, the Consumer Product Supply Regulation Authority (MIRAP) contributed in improving the distribution chain of consumer products. In analysing these operational tools of direct sale to consumers, 185 Roving

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Project. The Project is about to be perpetuated.

<sup>209</sup> About 6,531,541.98 Euros

<sup>210</sup> About 1,580,152.67 Euros

<sup>211</sup> About 1,429,007.63 Euros

<sup>212</sup> See Chapter on refugees and internally displaced persons, §1181

<sup>213</sup> Case of sugar and rice, MINCOMMERCE

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Periodic Markets (MTP), 315 Street Markets (MF) and 45 Roving Shops (MTV) were organised in 2018 for a mass supply distributed as follows:

**Table 4: Disaggregated data on Supplies**

Type of Supply	General supply	Corresponding financial flows
<b>Animal</b>	1,048,781.61 kg	CFAF1,551,443,992 <sup>214</sup>
<b>Plant</b>	11, 424, 210.10 kg	CFAF1,623,552,998 <sup>215</sup>
<b>Manufactured products</b>	957, 208. 29 kg	CFAF 263,403,010 <sup>216</sup>

**Source :** MIRAP

## **B: Physical Accessibility: Opening-up Production Areas and Developing Rural Infrastructure**

**512-** To facilitate transportation of foodstuffs from landlocked production areas, 96.5 km of farm to market roads were opened, 633 km of farm to market roads were rehabilitated and 40 km of roads were tarred.

**513-** Moreover, CFAF 5,000,000,000<sup>217</sup> was disbursed for the development of agricultural infrastructure and the rural world, especially the construction of community houses, foodstuffs markets, roads and boreholes. Also, 1 smoking house<sup>218</sup> and 7 fishery centres were equipped, thus contributing to guarantee the quality of foodstuffs.

### **§3: Guaranteeing the Quality of Foodstuffs**

**514-** In accordance with the food safety principle, food and objects in contact with food, including ingredients, packing and production utensils should not be risky for human health. Due to this principle, Cameroon adopted a Law on food safety to serve as a framework for the sanitary control of foodstuffs.

<sup>214</sup> About 2,368,616.78 Euros

<sup>215</sup> About 2,478,706.87 Euros

<sup>216</sup> About 402,142 Euros

<sup>217</sup> About 7,633,587.79 Euros

<sup>218</sup> Built at Meyomessi in the South Region.

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## A: Adoption of a Law on Food Safety

**515-** Through Law No. 2018/20 of 11 December 2019- Framework Law on Food Safety, a legal framework was laid down to ensure food safety.

**516-** This Law sets the general principles that now regulate food safety, especially the food safety principle, the risk analysis principle and the caution principle. The Law provides for the adoption of a food safety policy and strategy Document, the food control procedure, conditions for authorisation of consumption and food inspection. Administrative sanctions are provided against contravening companies.

**517-** In 2018, the Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR) approved 108 standards on fertilizers.

## B: Sanitary Control of Foodstuffs

**518-** Sanitary control was carried out on imported industrial products, plant and animal products.

### 1) Control of Imported Products

**519-** The MINCOMMERCE Brigade for Control and Repression of Fraud seized imported products deemed unfit for human consumption. This is the case with a huge stock of canned maize and frozen vegetables seized in July 2018 in Douala. Furthermore, baby milk *Lactalis* imported from France was withdrawn from the market because of suspicions on salmonella contamination.

**520-** Hence, 45 tons of milk and 36 tons of tinned food were seized, though it was revealed after analysis that the stock was not toxic<sup>219</sup>.

**521-** As concerns certification on conformity to standards, ANOR received and examined 113 applications for certification of local products. In all, 146 notes on corrective measures were issued, 77 certificates of conformity were issued, 373 products were certified, 7 certifications of compliance were issued and 19 products were branded in the animal foodstuffs (AF1),

<sup>219</sup> The suspension of *Lactalis* products was lifted on 6 April 2019

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plant foodstuffs (PF 27), dairy products (DP4), spirits(S 8), soft drinks (SD 17) and alcoholic drinks (AD 05) sectors.

## 2) Control of Animal Products

**522-** The sanitary quality of animal and fish products was improved through the limitation of the impact of animal diseases.

**523-** The poultry sector started functioning again in the West Region after the restrictive measures on production, distribution and marketing of poultry products were lifted by an Order of the Governor signed on 18 January 2018. Such measures were taken in 2016 after the resurgence of the avian influenza epidemic.

**524-** With regard to animal health and public veterinary health, the final Report on the feasibility study of the sanitary mandate and the adoption of the support plan to the sanitary mandate were disseminated during a Workshop held in Mbalmayo from 26 to 29 June 2018. A policy Document on animal health in Cameroon was drafted to consolidate the achievements thereto.

**525-** Moreover, vaccination against the main diseases was among prevention measures, especially with the acquisition of 10,000,000 doses of vaccines by the National Veterinary Laboratory. Also 1,000,000 small ruminants were vaccinated against the sheep and goat plague in the Logone-and-Chari and Mayo-Sava Divisions. A total of 4 operational plans for the fight against priority animal diseases (foot and mouth disease, Newcastle disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and African Swine fever) were drafted.

**526-** Emphasis was also laid on veterinary services, with the reorganisation of the distribution chain of veterinary products. In this light 89 marketing authorisations were issued while 30 veterinary drug marketing and distribution establishments were controlled.

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### 3) Control of Plant Products

**527-** The quality of plant foodstuffs was guaranteed through control of the quality of agricultural inputs, especially fertilizers, plant protection products sold in local markets and the quality of seeds used in the rural sector.

**528-** Hence 165 authorisations to import fertilizers and 456 authorisations to import pesticides were issued. Some 84 permits were granted for the importation of plant products. The first catalogue on species and varieties in Cameroon<sup>220</sup> was published and lists about 600 species and varieties. The phytosanitary index which comprises approved pesticides listed 111 of these, including products registered anew<sup>221</sup>.

**529-** With regard to the inspection of agricultural inputs sold in the market, 80 samples of fertilizers and about 40 places for marketing of pesticides were controlled. After the control, more than 12,000 litres of products of questionable quality were seized. Moreover, to guarantee the safety of agricultural products, 2000 samples of coffee and cocoa meant for export were controlled for pesticide residue and a surveillance plan was established for vegetables meant for local consumption. In addition to the various actions to ensure quality food, the right to water and energy was implemented.

## SECTION 2: PRESERVATION OF THE RIGHT TO WATER AND ENERGY

**530-** Preserving the population's right to water and energy with regard to the escalating demand and the need for urgent concrete solutions was among the challenges that Government faced in 2018.

<sup>220</sup>This catalogue was published pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 of Decree No. 2005/3091/PM of 29 August 2005 to lay down modalities for the production, marketing and control of the quality of seeds that was drafted pursuant to Law No. 2001/14 of 23 July 2001 relating to seed production and marketing.

<sup>221</sup>In fact, plant protection products are registered for 10 years, after which they should be registered again.

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## §1: Right to Water

**531-** To improve the average rate of access to drinking water which stands at 77% in urban areas and at 45% in rural areas<sup>222</sup>, the State reconfigured the water sector institutional framework and developed water production and distribution infrastructure.

### A: Restructuring the Water Sector Institutional Framework

**532-** The water supply sector in urban areas underwent new reforms to make it more efficient, thus ensuring better <sup>223</sup> public service. These reforms included especially the end of the lease signed between the State and the *Camerounaise Des Eaux* (CDE). The agreement which ended on 30 April 2018 resulted in the total transfer of CDE's activities and staff to CAMWATER, the functioning and missions of which were reorganised by in Decree No. 2018/144 of 20 February 2018.

**533-** In fact, within the framework of the lease contract signed on 18 December 2007, Government entrusted the management of public water supply in 106 urban and suburban centres to CDE, for a period of 10 years. The lease contract which came into effect on 2 May 2008 ended on 2 May 2018.

### B: Infrastructure Development for Production and Distribution of Drinking Water

**534-** The infrastructure development for production and distribution of drinking water continued in urban, suburban and rural areas.

#### 1) Urban Areas

**535-** Many projects were continued during the reference year, especially the Drinking Water Supply Project in Yaounde and its environs from River Sanaga (PAEPYS). Concerning the technical level, the global evolution rate was 30%, that is 81% for execution studies, 15% for the construction of the

<sup>222</sup>That is, a gap of 23% and 55% respectively.

<sup>223</sup>An audit, prescribed by the Head of State, concluded that CDE did not fulfill its mission.

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water collection and pumping station at Nachtigal for the water treatment plant at Emana-Batchenga, 43% for the construction of a 90 KV/30 KV transformer substation at Nkometou, 18% for the relay pumping station at Nkometou and 60% for equipment supply.

## 2) Suburban Areas

**536-** Works for the Drinking Water Supply Enhancement in Yaounde and Three Secondary Towns (Edea, Bertoua, Ngaoundere) continued with execution rates of 42% in Bertoua, 32% in Edea while the works in Ngaoundere were just beginning. Phase 1, Sangmelima, Kribi, Bafoussam and Bamenda (PAEPSKBB), of the Drinking Water Supply Project in 9 towns was being finalized at the end of 2018<sup>224</sup>. Moreover, the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Semi-Urban Areas was at (PAEPA-MSU) 70% rate of execution. Finally, the execution rate of the Drinking Water Supply Project in 7 Secondary Centres for lot 1 which concerns the localities of Kette, Messamena and Botmakak stood at 95 %<sup>225</sup>.

## 3) Rural Areas

**537-** Apart from continuing the Drinking Water Supply and Hygiene in Rural Areas Project (PAEA MRU) which was financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), many works were carried out within the framework of the Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth. The first phase of the project whose execution rate stood at 93%, saw the construction of 900 boreholes in 9 Regions and 19 mini water supply systems 5 (MWSS) in the North West Region. The second phase envisages the construction of 3,000 boreholes in the Far North, North and Adamawa Regions. Works to construct 588 boreholes which started in March 2017 stood at 31% at the end of 2018<sup>226</sup>.

<sup>224</sup>The second phase, the financing agreement of which was signed, will help to increase the supply by 1,800 m<sup>3</sup> in Garoua-Boulai, 7,000 m<sup>3</sup> in Dschang, 600 m<sup>3</sup> in Yabassi, 650 m<sup>3</sup> in Maroua and 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> in Garoua.

<sup>225</sup> For Lot 2 concerning the localities of Akom II and Olamze, the Service Order for commencement of works was notified to the company. Mobilisation and supplies are ongoing.

<sup>226</sup> Concerning the remaining 2,412 boreholes, the search for financing is ongoing.

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**538-** In all, activities carried out consisted in production, transportation and storage works which led to a national production level of 731,080 m<sup>3</sup>/day in suburban areas in 2018, for needs of about 826,392 m<sup>3</sup>/day, as compared to 692,480 m<sup>3</sup>/day in 2017 and a storage capacity of 253,374 m<sup>3</sup> in 2018 as compared to 249,884 m<sup>3</sup> in 2017.

**539-** Moreover, interventions made and social connection campaigns took the number of subscribers in urban areas to 427,902 in 2018, out of about 2,118,930 applications, as compared to 411,874 subscribers in 2017, that is, a progress of 4%.

**540-** In rural areas, boreholes and mini drinking water supply systems provided water to 450, 000 persons. The central Public Investment Budget, the localities of Febe collines, Messamendongo, Mbeyengue, Zinlah, Sodibanga, Nkolbiyen (mbankomo), Nkiltam (mbalelon), Minkan, Meyila, Nkolmetet were concerned.

## §2: Right to Energy

**541-** To improve the coverage of needs in energy, the increase of which is due to accrued urbanization, the State chose to restructure the institutional framework of the electric energy sector, diversify energy production infrastructure and intensify production.

### A: Restructuring the Institutional Framework of the Electric Energy Sector

**542-** This restructuring was done through the extension of the Energy of Cameroon (ENEO) concession by signing Amendment No. 3 to the said contract on 1 November 2018, for an additional 10 years, in the area of electric energy production and distribution in Cameroon. In fact, electricity transportation was withdrawn from the company's mission for the benefit of *Société Nationale de Transport d'Electricité* (SONATREL). This transfer featured in amendment No. 2 to the concession.

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**543-** ENEO was also appointed offtaker of the energy that will be produced by the Natchigal Hydro dam. In the said amendment, a new contractual obligation was provided for, that is, the increase of the rate of access to electricity, especially in rural areas and the rehabilitation of the hydroelectric dams in Songloulou, Lagdo and Edea.

## **B: Diversifying Energy Production Infrastructure**

**544-** This diversification may be observed through the promotion of various sources of energy: electricity, petrol and gas products<sup>227</sup>.

### **1) Electrical Energy**

**545-** The electrical energy capacity in Cameroon was 1,442 MW against a backdrop of increase in electricity demand of about 7.5% per year. In all, there is a need for 120 MW per year to meet such a demand. Actions taken to reduce this gap concerned urban, suburban and rural areas.

**546-** In urban and suburban areas, services related to the exploitation of the Lom Pangar hydroelectric dam<sup>228</sup> started and helped to regulate the outflow of the Sanaga river from 720 m<sup>3</sup>/s to 1040 m<sup>3</sup>/s, thus enabling the management of low flow in 2018. So, there were additional 170MW in the South Interconnected Network<sup>229</sup> through the optimum functioning of the Songloulou and Edea dams.

**547-** Concerning the Memve'élé Dam<sup>230</sup>, the main structure was being completed. As to the construction works of the power outgoing transmission line of 225 Kilovolts (kV) and the associated lines of Nyabizan-Ahala-Nkolkoumou, the execution rate stands at 55%.

<sup>227</sup> An Agreement was signed (8 June 2018) between MINEE and CMLNG S.A company for the installation and exploitation of a floating LNG in the Etinde Block. This 25-year Agreement will be implemented from 2023. It will allow the production of 150 metric tons of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) per year, 1,3 million of liquified natural gas (LNG), 70,000,000 cubic feet per day of natural gas transported by pipeline towards the bend and 30, 000 barrels of condensate/.

<sup>228</sup> See § 507 of the 2017 Report.

<sup>229</sup> South Interconnected Network.

<sup>230</sup> See § 508 of the 2017 Report.

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**548-** As to the Mekin dam<sup>231</sup>, major works (dam, plant, station) were completed. Commissioning tests were ongoing at the end of 2018.

**549-** In rural areas, it is worth mentioning the completion of the electrification Project of 166 localities. This Project was allocated the amount of CFAF 1,500,000,000<sup>232</sup> of counterpart funds for year 2018. Some 166 solar power stations and distribution networks were built. In all, there were 6,159 power stations as at 30 September 2018.

## 2) Petroleum and Gas Products

**550-** In 2018, 14 new petrol stations were built and made operational to enhance the population's access to petroleum and gas. Thus, in all, there were 818 petrol stations throughout the national territory as at 31 December 2018.

**551-** For Liquefied Gas and Petroleum, the storage capacity increased from 6,488 metric tons (MT) in 2017 to 7,488 metric tons in 2018 as two new spheres of 500 MT each were built by the National Hydrocarbons Corporation (SNH) in Bipaga.

## C: Enhancing Distribution

**552-** Such enhancement may be observed with regard to electrical energy, petroleum and gas products.

**553-** As concerns electrical energy, the number of ENEO subscribers increased from 1,100,000 in 2017 to 1,200,000 in 2018.

**554-** As concerns the petroleum and gas sector, there was a consumption of 1,368,000 m<sup>3</sup> of liquid petroleum products as at 30 September 2018 as against 1,315,000 m<sup>3</sup> at the same period in 2017, representing an increase rate of 3.9%.

<sup>231</sup> See § 509 of the 2017 Report.

<sup>232</sup> About 2,290,076.34 Euros

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**555-** Also, it is worth mentioning that 84,164 MT of gas were made available for the 9 first months of the year 2018 as against 76 121 MT at the same period in 2017, that is, an increase rate of 10.6%.

**556-** During the first 9 months of 2018, 79,428 TM of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) were imported as compared to 71 068 MT at the same period in 2017, that is, an increase rate of 11.8%.

## **D: Management of Incidents related to the Use of Electrical Energy**

**557-** The Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL) made efforts to protect the interests of electricity customers, organise high-level regulatory meetings between “the Regulator and Regulated” and to promote universal access to electricity.

### **1) Protecting the Interests of Electricity Consumers**

**558-** The protection of consumers’ interests and the defense of their rights were achieved through numerous activities, especially managing disputes between *ENEO Cameroon* and consumers’ and through control missions on the quality of marketing service.

#### **a) Management of Disputes between *ENEO Cameroon* Consumers**

**559-** Through its conciliation Committee and its call Centre, ARSEL settled many disputes between *ENEO Cameroon* and electricity consumers. During the year, 346 complaints were registered and fixed for hearing by the conciliation Committee. Some 29 meetings were organised, including 20 in Yaounde and 9 in Douala. In addition, 9 field visits were carried out to find efficient and adequate solutions with regard to some applications pending before ARSEL.

**560-** Besides, 3 consultative meetings and meetings on monitoring-evaluation of resolutions from conciliation sessions were held, including 1 in Yaounde and 2 in Douala. The global rate of dispute resolution was 80.83% as against 80.55% in 2017.

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**561-** The following table recapitulates the statistics of applications by some electricity customers that were recorded and processed in 2018.

**Table 5: Summary of Applications for Conciliation**

TOWN	NUMBER OF CONCILIATION SESSIONS HELD IN 2018	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS REGISTERED	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS LISTED FOR HEARING	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PENDING LISTING FOR HEARING	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TREATED	NUMBER OF CASES SETTLED	NUMBER OF CASES PENDING HEARING
Yaounde	20	239	239	00	45	180	59
Douala	09	107	100	17	20	78	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>82</b>

**Source :** ARSEL

## b) Control Missions on Marketing Service Quality

**562-** Control missions on the marketing service quality were organised in five (5) Regions, namely the West, North West, Adamawa, Far North and North. These missions were carried out in fifteen (15) ENEO agencies to verify the quality of service provided to electricity customers. At the end of these missions, many recommendations were made and their execution reduced the number of complaints from these Regions.

### 2) High-Level Regulatory Meetings

**563-** High-level regulatory meetings were launched by ARSEL in 2017 with the goal to improve the "Regulator-Regulated" relationship. These meetings helped to appreciate difficulties encountered by operators of the electricity sector and find solutions with them. These meetings enabled the Regulator to ensure compliance with the obligations assigned to operators in order to meet the needs of customers.

**564-** These meetings were held in 2018 between Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL) and ENEO, ARSEL and DPDC<sup>233</sup> and ARSEL and KPDC<sup>234</sup>. At the end of these meetings many recommendations were made, executed and followed-up for an effective electricity sector.

<sup>233</sup> Dibamba Power Development Corporation ;

<sup>234</sup> Kribi Power Development Company ;

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## 3) Promotion of Universal Access to Electricity and Issuance of Documents

**565-** In 2018, stakeholders of the electricity sector made various applications for documents to ARSEL, as well as requests for necessary information to carry out activities in the electricity sector and requests for assistance of the Regulatory Agency.

**Table 6: Summary of Requests received from enterprises in 2018.**

Companies	Subject	Activity	Source of energy
SONATREL	Request for concession(2)	- transportation; - Management transportation network	/
NHPC	Request for licence	Sale of electricity	Hydraulic
MGSC	Request for licences (3)	Production and sale	Solar
MEKIN	Request for documents	Production/sale	Hydraulic
MAECI	Request for documents	Production/sale	Solar
GDS ORION SOLAIRE NGAOUNDERE	Request for two licences	Production and sale	Solar
PERENCO	Request for authorization	Production/sale	Thermic/Gas
PTAB	Request for documents	Production/sale	Hydraulic
GAZ DU CAMEROUN/ALTAQ AA	Support	Production/sale	Thermic/Gas
JCM Greenquest	Assistance	Production/sale	Solar
BERKELEY/MINEE	Assistance	Production	Hydraulic
JOULE AFRICA	Assistance	Production/sale	Hydraulic
CRES Cameroun SA	Assistance	Production/sale	Solar
ERANOVE/SPM	Assistance	Production/sale	Thermic/Gas
EDC	Assistance	Water storage	Hydraulic
WIETC-CAM Sarl	Assistance	Production and sale	Solar
GRAND EWENG	Assistance	Production/sale	Hydraulic
ADECO Ltd	Information	Production /sale	Thermic/Gas
SONARA	Information	Autoproduction	Thermic/Gas
SOTRICAQ-CMR	Information	Auto production	Biomass/solar
Complexe Anour Sarl	Information		
GRECOR	Regularisation	Production/sale	Thermic/Gas
AGGREKO	Regularisation	Production/sale	Thermic/Gas

**Source :** ARSEL

**566-** After these files were examined, the two requests for transportation and management of transportation network concession by SONATREL resulted in ARSEL signing and forwarding relating assents and no-objections to Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE), in accordance with

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the regulations in force. The same action was taken by ARSEL on Nachtigal Hydro Power Company (NHPC)'s request for sales licence.

**567-** Some procedures were not closed because of difficulties such as promoters' incomplete files, poor mastery by promoters of statutory provisions regulating the electricity sector, non-compliance with procedures relating to obtaining documents and non-maturation of projects.

## **SECTION 3: RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING**

**568-** At the end of 2018, Cameroon lacked about 2,000,000 decent houses. In order to improve access to decent housing, the State took measures to enhance housing, improved urban environment, develop urban transport infrastructure and Real Estate Financing Aid.

### **§1: Housing Enhancement**

**569-** Emphasis was laid on studies carried out prior to development operations and progress in the construction of new houses.

#### **A: Studies Prior to Development Operations**

**570-** Various studies were carried out or were being carried out prior to development operations within the framework of various projects and programmes. Examples include studies carried out before the launching of the invitation to tender for the realisation of infrastructure in the towns of Bafoussam, Garoua and Bertoua, as part of the C2D Urban Programme for Regional Headquarters or the start of studies for the development of a multipurpose pole at the Yaounde suburbs (Nkozoa) on 102 ha.

#### **B: Progress in the Construction of New Houses**

**571-** Within the framework of the Programme for the construction of 10, 000 social housing units, construction of the first 1,675 houses at Olembe and Mbanga-Bakoko entrusted to local Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises continued and the execution rate was 90% and 60% respectively at the end of 2018. In Yaounde, out of 440 houses that were on

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sale, 237 were completely paid for while 75 were bought through a long-term loan from the Cameroon Housing Loan Fund (CFC).

**572-** Furthermore, construction works of 100 houses in each Regional Headquarters, except in Yaounde and Douala continued within the framework of the Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth (PLANUT). The construction was completed in Ebolowa. The completion rate varied according to towns and stood at about 62% in Bertoua, 62% in Buea, 55% in Bafoussam, 90% in Ngaoundere, 65% in Garoua, 60% in Maroua and 10.5% in Bamenda. These rates improved as compared to Year 2017<sup>235</sup>.

**573-** Moreover, the construction of 530 houses out of 1050 in Douala was ongoing as well as the construction of 500 houses out of 900 in Yaounde<sup>236</sup>. The completion rate stood at 65% in Douala and at 90% in Yaounde.

**574-** Besides in 2018, the Cameroon Housing Corporation (SIC) continued the construction works of a 24 medium-standard apartments block in Yaounde (Cité-verte). This building is worth CFAF 1,440,555,725<sup>237</sup>. The completion rate stood at 60%.

## §2: Improved Urban Environment

**575-** In order to improve urban environment, the construction of 39 km of drain in Douala continued and completion rate was 57.5% at the end of 2018. As to the Yaounde Phase II Sanitation Project (PADY 2) on 14 km, its completion rate stood at 93%.

**576-** With regard to the Participatory Programme for the Improvement of Slums (PPAB), the implementation of pilot projects relating to phase 3 launched in August 2015 in Nkolbikok were completed. Within the frame-

<sup>235</sup> Execution rates were as follows: Ebolowa 80%, Bertoua 25%, Buea 29%, Bafoussam 20%, Ngaoundere 30%, Garoua 27%, Maroua 25% and Bamenda 6.1%.

<sup>236</sup> The first phase of the Project dubbed “*Cité des Cinquantenaires*”.

<sup>237</sup> About 2,199,321.72 Euros

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work of community funds, the six projects selected relate to the cleaning-up, access to water, job creation and health sectors. The implementation of this Programme enabled the substantial improvement of living conditions of 25,000 inhabitants of Nkolbikok in Yaounde.

## §3: Developed Urban Transport Infrastructure

**577-** The aim was to continue the already started process of modernization of two metropolis, Yaounde and Douala and to step up road infrastructure in secondary towns, in order to facilitate urban mobility. In this regard, 35.648 km of tarred road were rehabilitated in Yaounde, Douala, Monatele, Tcholire, Ngaoundere, Tignere and Galim.

**578-** Moreover, construction works of the Yaounde-Nsimalen highway which were at road opening stage were ongoing and the completion rate stood at 85.56%. The execution rate of the construction of an access road to the Olembe stadium in Yaounde stood at 26%.

**579-** Besides, works on the opening up of Golf Quarters in Mbankolo stood at 32%. Works relating to the asphaltting of the access road to the MAGZI industrial area in Bamenda on 1.15km were commenced.

**580-** As regards the part of the Triennial Emergency Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth relating to roads<sup>238</sup> that was scheduled in two phases, the first<sup>239</sup> was entirely completed and the second<sup>240</sup> is completed at 75%.

## §4: Real Estate Financing Aid

**581-** Within the framework of real estate financing aid, the CFC designed measures to ease access to lodging. From 1 January to 31 December 2018, 480 loans for a global amount of CFAF 22,764,487,019<sup>241</sup> were

<sup>238</sup> The aim was to rehabilitate 116,381 km of secondary roads in Douala and Yaounde.

<sup>239</sup> It concerns the rehabilitation of 32,411 km of roads for a total amount of CFAF 32,000,000,000 (About 48,854,961.83 Euros).

<sup>240</sup> It deals with the rehabilitation of 84.301 km of roads for a total amount of CFAF 92,000,000,000 (About 140,458,015.27 Euros).

<sup>241</sup> About 34,754,942.01 Euros

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granted at preferential rates for the construction of 2,090 houses and 13 building plots. Loans were granted as follows:

- Classical housing loan: 336 loans granted for an amount of CFAF 7, 999,151,553<sup>242</sup> for the construction of 317 houses and the purchase of 18 building plots;
- Rental housing loans: 138 loans granted for an amount of CFAF 12,275,492, 632<sup>243</sup>;
- Promotion housing loans: 7 loans granted within the framework of a real estate programme financed at CFAF 269,012,700<sup>244</sup>.

**582-** Besides, within the framework of the FEICOM budget line for Councils for the construction of municipal houses, 6 financial grants for a total amount of CFAF 2,742,787 572<sup>245</sup> were granted to Councils by the Cameroon Housing Loan Fund.

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**583-** Against a backdrop of economic and security challenges, public authorities took note of the impact of these issues on living conditions. To avoid a decrease in the population's living standards, an analysis of the food security situation was carried out which revealed that people were vulnerable to food insecurity to an extent. This is why actions were taken to enable the population to have access to quality food in sufficient quantity to meet their needs. The same applies to access to water and energy which justified the reconfiguration of the institutional framework of stakeholders in charge of the production and distribution of water. Decent housing remained a major challenge, as the quest for decent houses continued to be an issue of concern.

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<sup>242</sup> About 12,212,445.12 Euros

<sup>243</sup> About 18,741,210.13 Euros

<sup>244</sup> About 410,706.41 Euros

<sup>245</sup> About 4,187,461.94 Euros

**Chapter** **4**  
**RIGHT TO WORK AND  
SOCIAL SECURITY**



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**584-** The assessment of the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) in 2017 allowed its extension until 2019. Despite economic constraints exacerbated by various security crises, actions geared towards promoting the right to work and social security continued to be structured around the three main pillars of the DWCP which include decent employment, social dialogue and social protection. The aim was not only to pursue the employment strategy, but also to improve working conditions and ensure social protection for as many people as possible.

## **SECTION 1: CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY**

**585-** Implementation of the Employment Strategy defined in the Growth and Employment Strategic Paper (GESP) was pursued in 2018 with the aim to increase job offer, match training and employment and improve the efficiency of the labour market.

### **§ 1: Actions to Increase Job Offer**

**586-** Though the Public Service was able to offer jobs as noted above<sup>246</sup>, such offer alone could not meet the high demand. It is on this basis that the job offer increase policy was structured around supporting companies, particularly Small and Medium-sized Entreprises (SMEs) and Small and Medium-sized Industries (SMLs) in the formal sector, promoting self-employment and fostering migration from the informal to the formal sector. In this context, emphasis was also laid on specific programmes for the disadvantaged, notably, the Three-Year «Special Youth» Plan.

### **A: Support to Companies for the Promotion of Employment**

**587-** Measures envisaged in the GESP to support SMEs included lifting institutional constraints, ensuring the emergence of growth poles and setting up a general incentive framework for the creation of paid jobs.

<sup>246</sup> See Chapter on the right to participate in the management of public affairs §164,165.

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**588-** In addition to initiatives in terms of investment incentives and support to SMEs/SMI which will be expatiated below<sup>247</sup>, the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP) disseminated Decree No. 2014/0611/PM of 24 March 2014 to fix the conditions for the use and implementation of the High Labour Intensive Approach (HIMO).

**589-** In view of ensuring the creation of paid jobs, particularly as part of the promotion of the Public-Private Partnership in 2018, several Agreements were signed with public organisations such as the Cameroon National Order of Opticians, *Sud Hévée* and ENEO, as well as with international partners in the field of employment, guidance and vocational training.

**590-** MINEFOP organised consultations with the private sector during visits to some companies in the Far North, Littoral and South Regions, with the aim of enquiring about obstacles hampering companies from creating jobs and receiving suggestions from them as to how these obstacles could be addressed and socio-professional integration improved.

**591-** All these actions contributed to the creation of 506,025 jobs in 2018 in the modern sector of the economy.

## **B: Promoting Self-Employment**

**592-** Measures to promote self-employment targeted the agriculture, crafts and services sectors against the backdrop of migrating to the formal sector. Thus, financial support amounting to CFAF710,000,000<sup>248</sup> compared with CFAF650,000,000<sup>249</sup> in 2017 was granted by Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Entreprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) to Social Economy Organisations for the implementation of 143 micro-projects in the sectors of agriculture, agro-processing, livestock and small industry. Some 49 persons, i.e 34.26% applicants, were granted this support.

<sup>247</sup> See Chapter on the promotion of good governance and fight against corruption

<sup>248</sup> About 1,083,969.47 Euros

<sup>249</sup> About 992,366.41 Euros

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**593-** Thus, as part of the Integrated Support Programme for Informal Sector Stakeholders (PIAASI), in 2018 the implementation of more than 100 micro-projects led to the creation of 400 direct and indirect jobs, coupled to 555 other jobs created as part of the Agriculture Investment and Market Development Project (PIDMA). In addition, more than 3,000 promoters were supported in various sectors, such as livestock, agriculture and fish farming in the 10 PIAASI Regional Offices as part of the Interactive Workshops coordinated by Master Craftsmen.

**594-** At the National Employment Fund (NEF), out of the 75,000 job-seekers projected, 55,059 were received, interviewed and guided as at 31 December 2018, representing 74.41% of the annual objectives. In addition, the NEF financed 2,780 project developers in 2018, creating 5,785 jobs.

**595-** Emphasis was laid on migration from the informal to the formal sector by continuing to ease and simplify business creation procedures on the one hand, and registering craftsmen in registers at Councils<sup>250</sup> on the other hand.

## **C: Specific Programmes (Youths, Women, Persons with Disabilities, etc.)**

**596-** The implementation of the Special Youth Emergency Plan (PLUS-JEUN) to boost civic education and youth integration is an illustration of the attention given to specific groups. Thus, as at 31 December 2018, more than 136,551 youths were registered with the National Youth Observatory (ONJ), including 32,378 on-line<sup>251</sup>. Among those registered, 11,008 were referred to various support<sup>252</sup> and financing structures, including

<sup>250</sup> See Chapter below on promotion of good governance and combatting corruption § 164, 165.

<sup>251</sup> The ONJ on-line platform was operationalised in 2018 and is accessible through the following internet address: [www.onjcameroun.cm](http://www.onjcameroun.cm)

<sup>252</sup> The training of 300 senior officials by PAJER-U and ONJ to support SMEs/SMIs can as well be mentioned here.

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4,000 to the National Fund for Youth Integration (FONIJ) for an amount of CFAF 3,317,674,720<sup>253</sup>, as shown in the table below:

**Table 1: Distribution of the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of financed projects by Region and gender**

Region	Gender				Total	
	Men		Women		Number of projects	Amount
	Number of projects	Amount	Number of projects	Amount		
Adamawa	55	114,968,586	26	24,868,660	81	139,837,246
Centre	315	477,221,540	162	255,179,923	477	732,401,463
East	43	58,384,800	15	13,886,000	58	72,270,800
Far North	216	661,251,352	72	95,947,596	288	757,198,948
Littoral	418	295,115,660	199	185,536,835	617	480,652,495
North	135	343,481,499	97	216,762,580	232	560,244,079
North West	53	109,016,124	38	47,223,000	91	156,239,124
West	75	97,404,328	37	46,639,868	112	144,044,195
South	54	94,574,578	45	45,019,287	99	139,593,865
South-West	49	79,688,786	46	55,503,720	95	135,192,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 413</b>	<b>2,331,107,252<sup>254</sup></b>	<b>737</b>	<b>986,567,468<sup>255</sup></b>	<b>2 150</b>	<b>3,317,674 720<sup>256</sup></b>

**Source:** MINJEC

**597-** At the end of 2018, 7,032 youth projects were pending validation by the Monitoring and Implementation Committee of the Three-Year “Special Youth” Plan.

**598-** In addition, in 2018, as part of its administrative performance, FONIJ financed 77 projects to the tune of CFAF 66,373,000<sup>257</sup>.

**599-** A part from the Three-Year “Special Youth” Plan, other specific actions were implemented. Thus, in 2018, as part of activities carried out by MINJEC, 1,158 youth project developers were trained in entrepreneurship.

**600-** Furthermore, the Socio-Economic Resilience Support Project for Vulnerable Youths of the North, Adamawa and the Far North (PARSE) was

<sup>253</sup> About 5,065,152.24 Euros

<sup>254</sup> About 3,558,942.37 Euros

<sup>255</sup> About 1,506,209.87 Euros

<sup>256</sup> About 5,065,152.24 Euros

<sup>257</sup> About 101,332.82 Euros

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launched. The Project includes among others the vocational and entrepreneurial training of 3,200 youths in these Regions.

**601-** The Support Programme for the Return and Integration of Youths from the Diaspora (PARI-JEDI) through the European Union Trust Fund, supported the International Organization for Migration, to set-up 850 business plans for returnee migrants towards their socio-economic integration. In addition, 439 of these migrants received financial and material support to start socio-professional activities, and 300 community liaisons were sensitised in the Centre, West and Littoral Regions on irregular migration.

**602-** To mark the official launching of the Cameroon International Certification House and Outsourcing (CHICHO) Project, on 24 May 2018, an agreement was signed in Yaounde for socio-professional integration in digital economy as part of the Rural and Urban Youth Support Programme (PAJER-U) and the AdmeUp Digital Academy (ADA), an institution which offers certifications in digital marketing,. This certification programme shall enable Cameroon to conduct on its own, local training courses of less than 2 months and thus obtain its own certifications, with the support of pioneering institutions recognised worldwide. Moreover, in 2018, PAJER-U implemented other projects aimed at enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of 2,006 young people.

**603-** In the implementation phase of the National Plan of Action for Youth Employment (PANEJ), the Green Jobs Promotion Programme (2018-2022), estimated at CFAF21,000,000,000<sup>258</sup> was launched with the aim to create 108,500 new jobs. Also, the Steering Committee and the Management Unit (PMU) of the Project were set up, including the map of green jobs in Cameroon.

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<sup>258</sup> About 32,061,068.70 Euros

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## §2: New Impetus in Matching Employment Demand

**604-** A law was voted regarding vocational training which is considered a national priority while demand for this type of training continued to increase, as well as access facilities.

### A: Enactment of a Law on Vocational Training

**605-** At the normative level<sup>259</sup>, the highlight of 2018 was the enactment of Law No. 2018/010 of 11 July 2018 governing vocational training in Cameroon. Article 2, paragraph 1, of the said Law provides: "The State shall grant vocational training a national priority status..." This has as aim to satisfy national economy priorities by matching training to employment.

**606-** Guiding principles for the implementation of the national vocational training policy include equality of access and training opportunities at the social level, fairness by the inclusion of women and people with disabilities, professional flexibility and permeability of fields of study, or transparency of the vocational training system, involvement of partners from the socio-professional sector in its preparation, validation and implementation.

**607-** In order to spur the advancement and diversification of vocational training supply, the Law provides that private partners may contribute to it, either by financing or creating vocational training centres. Furthermore, in the development and consistency of this policy, Law No. 2018/10 supra, provides for the creation of the National Council for Career Guidance and Vocational Training, which monitors and evaluates the implementation of vocational training policy and strategies.

### B: Increasing Supply of Vocational Training

**608-** In terms of supply, the number of both public and private vocational training centres increased. The construction of the National Institute for Trainer Training and Programme Development (INFFDP) in Yaounde and

<sup>259</sup> It is worth mentioning the ongoing revision of the entire legislative and statutory framework governing the exercise of vocational training activity in Cameroon with a view to renewing the vocational training system and providing a mechanism for its financing.

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the Trades Training Centre (CFM) in Nkongsamba was completed, raising the number of vocational training centres to 5; (3 Vocational Trainin Centers of Excellence, 1 INFFDP,1 CFM)<sup>260</sup> In addition, 370 private vocational training centres were accredited, increasing the number of private structures to 730.

**609-** Concerning the quality of offer, 6 competency based professional training standards were defined and validated in 2018 in the fields of database administration, metal or wood carpentry, building and public works architecture, 3D and 4D image synthesis animation technics, maintenance of construction and handling machinery and equipment, computer security and quality, health, safety and environment. Thus the number of training standards increased to 55 as at 31 December 2018.

**610-** This increase in offer made it possible to host a larger number of people. Thus, in 2018, accredited public and private structures received more than 39,731 learners compared to 38,160 in 2017. Also, the number of candidates for the Professional Qualification Diploma (PQD) examination in the 253 accredited specialties increased from 2,857 in 2017 to 3,081 for the December 2018 Session. The number of candidates for supervised examinations on new fields increased from 1,820 in 2017 to 2,247 in 2018.

**611-** Furthermore, in 2018, as part of in-service training, the technical capacities of 200 workers were strengthened in the Advanced Vocational Training Centres of Douala, Limbe and Sangmelima. In pedagogical engineering, 33 workers strengthened their technical capacities according to the competency-based approach.

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<sup>260</sup> The Advanced Vocational Training Centres mentioned are those of Douala, Sangmelima and Limbe.

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## **C: Developing Easier Access to Vocational Training Offers**

**612-** Emphasis was laid on optimising the information and career guidance system. Thus, the School, University and Professional Guidance Centres<sup>261</sup> (COSUP) of Douala and Yaounde received and guided nearly 8,200 young people and 1,665 job seekers. Similarly, Open-door Days and the Pedagogical Day of Vocational Training in all training and vocational guidance centres were organised.

**613-** To promote access to vocational training, 78 foreign scholarships<sup>262</sup> and 308 national scholarships were awarded to young people.

### **§3: Actions to Improve the Efficiency of the Labour Market**

**614-** In order to make the labour market more transparent and successfully integrate as many job-seekers as possible, the National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training (ONEFOP) continued to make information on employment and vocational training available to the public. Thus, the statistical yearbooks on employment and vocational training indicated that, as at 15 November 2018, 494,533 out of the 700,000 jobs projected for 2018 were provided.

**615-** With regard to intermediation activities, the NEF placed 650 young graduates in pre-employment internships and integrated 48,851 job-seekers out of 70,500 targeted. Mechanisms for monitoring/evaluating the employment strategy were also set up in Councils, with Municipal Employment Offices, the legal status of which was clarified, the specifications and practical guide prepared, its architecture defined and pilot Municipal Employment Offices provided with computer equipment. The pilot Councils are those of Ndop, Mokolo and Yaounde.

<sup>261</sup>The COSUP of Maroua and Ngaoundere were completed in 2018.

<sup>262</sup>For youths seeking for professional qualification, 30 training scholarships were offered by Morocco and 48 scholarships were granted to young Cameroonians selected in collaboration with the Embassies of the countries offering same.

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**616-** With regard to strategies, the 1<sup>st</sup> National Forum on management employment planning, trades and skills in companies in Cameroon was organised in 2018 in addition to the career fairs in the 10 Regions.

**617-** To improve labour market transparency, ONEFOP contributed by boosting its network of partners and focal points to improve the visibility of labour market trends, as well as by updating the statistical yearbook on employment and vocational training.

## SECTION 2: PROMOTION OF DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS

**618-** To guarantee fair and equitable conditions for workers, the promotion of health and safety at work was the pillar of actions taken as well as the promotion of social dialogue to encourage the expression of relevant concerns. The control of the quality of working conditions was also strengthened.

### §1: Pursuing Promotion of Health and Safety at Work

**619-** The number of Health and Safety Committees (HSCs) whose aim is preventing risks in the workplace increased from 128 in 2012 to 1,096 in 2018. Moreover, 6 training and capacity-building manuals for Labour Inspectors and members of HSCs<sup>263</sup> were prepared with the support of the ILO as part of the implementation of the DWCP. They were validated during the Session of the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission held at MINTSS from 24 to 25 May 2018.

**620-** The rate of companies with Medical Doctors licensed to practice occupational medicine or having an autonomous or inter-company medical service, and those that signed a healthcare check-up agreement rose from 24.4% in 2011 to 55% in 2018. Authorisations to practice occupational

<sup>263</sup>With the support of BIT, the Government drafted 3 training manuals for labour inspectors on health and safety at work and 3 training manuals for Security and Hygiene Committees (SHC) facilitators. These documents will be submitted to National Commission for health and Safety at work for adoption.

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medicine were granted to 11 Doctors and 4 occupational nurses, while 101 healthcare check-up agreements were signed in 2018.

**621-** Regarding response to HIV/AIDS, at the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the National Commission for Health and Safety at Work in 2018, the Framework Document for the Fight against HIV/AIDS in the Workplace 2018-2022 was reviewed. At the same time, the Draft Order setting the minimum content of the training of labour inspectors on occupational safety and health was validated. In addition, as part of the VCT@work<sup>264</sup> initiative, nearly 180,000 people were informed on their HIV status in 2018 and at least 80% of workers screened received care. More than 40,000 workers and their families benefited from this initiative.

## §2: Promoting Social Dialogue

**622-** Activities of the Social Dialogue Consultation and Monitoring Committee implemented in 2018 include the holding of 4 Sessions, the signing of several National Collective Agreements and Company Collective Agreements in different sectors of activity (especially Bakery, Pastry, Biscuit factories and related activities, Port Handling, Hydrocarbons), the signing of Collective Business Agreements as regards the English version of FEICOM (17 October 2018) and that of SONARA (13 December 2018); those signed are currently being reviewed. In addition, the negotiation framework for the National Microfinance Collective Agreement was established by an Order.

**623-** With regard to maintaining a serene social climate, negotiations with stakeholders to ensure peace and calm in the various sectors of activities or establishments concerned resulted in the lifting and control of 62 strike notices and social uprisings. For example, on 26 November 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between employees and officials of CAMPOST<sup>264</sup> to consolidate peaceful settlement of the conflict between

<sup>264</sup>This initiative is ongoing, notably through screening campaigns conducted in Work Units in the informal sector, with a view to promoting health at workplace.

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them. Similarly, having been informed of the gradual reduction of salaries of CDC and PAMOL staff and the possible dismissal of many of them due to the ongoing socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions, the President of the Republic, on 11 July 2018, ordered the absolute prohibition of any dismissal of CDC staff for the reasons mentioned above, then instructed MINADER to take appropriate measures to draw up an economic and technical restructuring plan in collaboration with the governing bodies of this structure.

**624-** Moreover, the protection of workers' rights in companies was improved by organising elections at the workplace throughout the country, which resulted in the election of 12,014 Staff Representatives for the 2018-2020 term of office. Also, MINTSS held working sessions in various Regions with elected Staff Representatives to raise their awareness on their institutional missions and their social responsibility.

**625-** Actions geared towards promoting and protecting trade union rights were reflected by the continuation of the construction of the Trade Union Organisations Information and Training Centre (Trade Unions Help-desk) and the reorganisation of the trade union file<sup>265</sup>, which could contribute to improve the monitoring of activities of professional organisations and ensuring a better readability of the trade union file in Cameroon.

**626-** Furthermore, the process to simplify procedures for awarding Labour Medals of Honour continued in 2018, with the file-processing time reduced to six weeks. In connection to this, 3,982 Labour Medals of Honour were awarded to workers to reward professional merit.

### §3: Multiplying Controls on Working Conditions

**627-** The system for inspection of international labour standards was strengthened. The number of labour inspectors increased from 50 in 2016 to 130 in 2017, then to 244 in 2018. In addition, it should be noted that

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<sup>265</sup>This process was completed in the Ministry in charge of Labour and was transmitted to the Prime Minister's Office

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10 sworn Regional Service Heads of Occupational Health and Safety were appointed and assumed duty. They have the rank of Labour Inspectors. This staff enhancement had a positive impact on the number of inspection visits to companies, which increased from 1,771 in 2017 to 2,500 in 2018.

**628-** At the end of these visits, the most recurrent findings made related to employers' failure to comply with labour legislation and regulations, particularly, the failure to pay salaries or irregular payment of salaries, non-compliance with contractual clauses binding parties as concerns the right to reclassification, advancement and other benefits due under the employment contract, failure to register workers with the NSIF, failure to pay social security contributions deducted from workers' salaries, and non-compliance with hygiene and safety measures in the workplace. The inspection visits resulted in observation letters, formal notices and infringement reports.

## §4: Judicial Guarantee of Workers' Rights: Protecting Workers from Wrongful Dismissal

**629-** At the pre-litigation phase, 6,399 conciliation reports were drafted in 2018. In the event of non-conciliation, some cases were brought before courts. The table below shows trends in dismissal proceedings in some courts.

**Table 2: Proceedings relating to Wrongful Dismissals in some courts in 2018**

Courts	Cases filed by employers	Cases filed by employees	Cases heard	
			Decisions in favour of the employee	Decisions in favour of the employer
CFI	49	2,110	878	279
HC	340	652	386	169
CA	768	533	548	407
SC	108	151	20	27

**Source:** MINJUSTICE<sup>266</sup>

<sup>266</sup>The national statistics from courts does not include those from the CFI of Tiko, Tombel, Limbe, Buea and Bali, respectively, as well as the Courts of First Instance and High Courts respec-

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## SECTION 3: SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MORE PEOPLE

**630-** With the adoption of its Strategic Plan 2018-2022<sup>267</sup> and the reform of its structure, the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF) was able to improve the quality of services to social security contributors, whose number increased in 2018. Litigation enabled the assessment of the regularity of actions on social security.

### §1: Structural and Strategic Reorganisation of the NSIF

**631-** In the process of harmonising the texts relating to the organisation of public companies and establishments, Decree No. 2018/354 of 7 June 2018 relating to the reorganisation and functioning of the National Social Insurance Fund was signed.

**632-** There is a major change in financial management, which now complies exclusively with the international standards and principles of the Accounting Plan of the Inter-African Conference on Social Security (CIPRES) and the performance ratios set by its Council of Ministers. This accounting and financial management is now implemented by a Director in charge of Finance and Accounting under the direct supervision of the Director General. Another change requires employers to prioritise the payment of NSIF contributions after salaries.

**633-** In addition to the rules relating to the management and supervision of the Institution, which are in line with those of other public companies, it is provided that Representatives of employers owing social security contributions to NSIF shall not sit in the Board of Directors.

**634-** Beyond the organisational framework, the NSIF adopted a Strategic Plan 2018-2022 the vision of which is to improve the quality of services pro-

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tively of Mamfe/Manyu, Ndop/Ngoketunjia, Kumbo/Bui, Mbengwi/Momo, Wum/Menchum and Fundung/Boyo as well as the High Court Fako, besides the Buea, Ebolowa and Garoua administrative Courts

<sup>267</sup>NSIF will disburse close to CFAF 100,000,000,000 (About 152,671,755.73 Euros) to finance the development of Cameroon, that is, an increase of about CFAF 60,000,000,000 (About 91,603,053.44 Euros) compared to the Strategic Plan 2013- 2017.

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vided to social security contributors. Indeed, the mission of the NSIF is to collect social security contributions from tax payers and directly pay social benefits due to beneficiaries.

## §2: Increase in the Number of Insured Persons

**635-** The number of new insured persons registered at the NSIF witnessed a drop as it stood at 81,578 compared to that of the previous year which was 93,695. Thus, for the compulsory scheme, there were 65,362 new insured including 21,196 women and 44,166 men, compared to 59,104 in 2017. For the voluntary scheme, the number was 16,216 including 6,678 women and 9,538 men, compared to 33,499 in 2017.

**636-** This decrease can be justified by the fact that after various awareness-raising campaigns, potential social security contributors to the said scheme became aware of the scope of the voluntary insurance scheme which only covers old-age, disablement and death pensions, unlike the compulsory scheme, which also covers occupational risks and family allowances<sup>268</sup>.

## §3: Improvement in the Quality of Services Provided to Insured persons

**637-** To ensure the payment of social benefits, the amount of contributions recovered from the 35,555 employers, including the 5,349 new employers, increased. It rose from CFAF168,032,075,670<sup>269</sup> in 2017 to CFAF178,500,000,000<sup>270</sup> in 2018, representing an increase of CFAF 10,467,924,330<sup>271</sup>. This amount recovered made it possible to pay the sum of CFAF93,900,000,000<sup>272</sup> as social benefits in various NSIF branches.

<sup>268</sup>See Article 2 of Decree No. 2014/2377/PM of 13 August 2014 to lay down conditions and terms for the coverage of voluntary insurance.

<sup>269</sup> About 256,537,520.11 Euros

<sup>270</sup> About 272,519,083.97 Euros

<sup>271</sup> About 15,981,563.86 Euros

<sup>272</sup> About 143,358,778.63 Euros

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**638-** As concerns family benefits, the sum of CFAF71,400,000,000<sup>273</sup> was recovered, and an amount of CFAF11,800,000,000<sup>274</sup> worth of benefits was paid<sup>275</sup> to 70,417 beneficiaries in 2018 compared to 64,202 in 2017, representing an increase rate of 9.76%.

**639-** In the old-age, invalidity and death pensions sector, out of CFAF87,800,000,000<sup>276</sup> recovered, the sum of CFAF78,300,000,000<sup>277</sup> was paid to 117,628 beneficiaries in 2018 compared to 111,004 in 2017, that is an increase of 5.96%.

**640-** In the occupational risks branch, out of CFAF18,900,000,000<sup>278</sup> received as contributions, the sum of CFAF3,800,000,000<sup>279</sup> was paid to the 684 declared victims of occupational accidents in 2018 against 771 declared the previous year, that is a decrease of 11.28%.

**641-** Beyond the effective payment of benefits, the speedy processing of cases should be highlighted. Thus, 97.7% of cases relating to Family Benefits were settled in less than 15 days, an improvement compared to 95.48% the previous year. For old-age, disablement and death pensions, 95.44% were treated, of which 89.02% in less than 15 days, 4.62% between 15 and 45 days and 6.35% in more than 45 days. Pending cases represent 4.16% of the total number of cases filed, well below the CIPRES standard <sup>280</sup>of 15% maximum. With regard to family benefits, 47.79% of

<sup>273</sup> About 109,007,633.59 Euros

<sup>274</sup> About 18,015,267.18 Euros

<sup>275</sup> Concerning payments, a partnership agreement was signed between NSIF and MTN Cameroon, mobile telephone company on 26 April 2018 to ease the provision of family benefits to beneficiaries. To this end, a code for the authentication of beneficiaries was available on mobile phones.

<sup>276</sup> About 134,045,801.53 Euros

<sup>277</sup> About 119,541,984.73 Euros

<sup>278</sup> About 28,854,961.83 Euros

<sup>279</sup> About 5,801,526.72 Euros

<sup>280</sup> At the end of the deliberations of the High Level Working Group (HLWG) of Directors General of Social Security Organizations (OPS) members of CIPRES held in Gabon from 19 to 21 March 2018, the Director General of CNPS Cameroon was appointed Chair of the Steering Committee of the African Investment Fund (AIF), a structure set up in 2017 by CIPRES to mobilise at least CFAF 500,000,000,000 (About 763,358,778.62 Euros) over the next 5 years, to

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cases were completed, 29.28% in less than 15 days, 17.32% between 15 and 45 days and 55.85% in more than 45 days.

## §4: Social Security Litigation

**642-** With regard to social security litigation in 2018, pre-litigation complaints and actions challenging decisions issued by the NSIF were filed.

**643-** Disputes relating to the recovery of social security contributions claims were first heard by the Pre-litigation Complaint Committee, then by Administrative Courts.

**644-** In 2018, out of the 43 pre-litigation complaints filed by employers contesting the orders for recovery issued by the NSIF, 3 were re-investigated and re-examined and 40 were implicitly rejected.

**645-** Concerning litigation proper before Administrative Courts in 2018, out of the 177 cases brought by employers before administrative courts, 1 Ruling declining jurisdiction and 22 Judgments were rendered at first and last instance by the said courts (15 in favour of the NSIF, 1 against and 1 partially in favour of it and 6 approvals for withdrawal). Some 144 cases were pending. Concerning appeals filed before the Supreme Court against some decisions by some employers, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court, sitting in joint Divisions and ruling on disputes, rendered 4 judgements, 2 in favour of NSIF and 2 against it. Most of the appeals filed before the Supreme Court were declared inadmissible and in one case, the appeal by the plaintiff was dismissed.

- As per Ruling No. 3/2017 of 1 March 2017 rendered in favour of NSIF ( The appeal of Bao Company before the Supreme Court was declared inadmissible for having been made verbally and not in writing as required by the law).
- As per Judgement No. 9/QD/2018 rendered on 14 February 2018 in favour of the NSIF, **KOUMOUGNE WANKO Charlotte's** appeal was declared inadmissible for having been made verbally and not in writing as required by the law;
- As per Judgement No. 21/QD/2017 rendered on 12 April 2017, the appeal of NSIF was declared inadmissible;

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ensure a better return on fund reserves.

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- As per Judgement No. 24/QD/2018 rendered on 14 February 2018, the appeal of NSIF was dismissed for lack of memorandum of submissions.

**646-** In addition, as regards cases concerning social benefits pending before the Pre-litigation Complaints Committee, 219 pre-litigation complaints were filed by social security contributors in 2018. As part of investigations, 27 were reconsidered. Out of the 56 cases examined, 55 decisions were rendered in favour of NSIF, compared with 1 in favour of the insured.

**647-** With regard to contentious appeals lodged by social security contributors in 2018 before the Regional Commission on Social Security Disputes, out of the 43 cases registered and regularly examined by the Commission, 7 decisions were rendered, 3 in favour of the NSIF, compared to 4 in favour of social security contributors. Out of the 44 appeals lodged before Courts of Appeal, 4 decisions were rendered, including 3 in favour of insured persons, 1 in favour of the NSIF while 40 were pending. The 3 cases brought before the Supreme Court (2 by NSIF and 1 by an insured person) were pending.

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**648-** Clearly, the year 2018 was characterised by the continuation of efforts aimed at stimulating supply and access to employment through the structuring of vocational training, the improvement of working conditions with the increase of hygiene Committees and the enhancement of social security through the adoption of a new strategic plan.



**Chapter** 5

**RIGHT TO CULTURE AND  
LEISURE**



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**649-** Measures were taken to enhance availability of cultural goods and services while a multitude of events were organised to promote accessibility to cultural goods and services. With regard to the moral and material interests of artists, a key moment of 2018 was the licencing of 3 collective management bodies of copyrights which brought to 5 the number of such bodies, hence each of the 5 fields of arts has a collective management body. Measures continued to be taken to make Cameroon more visible as a tourist destination and initiatives were also taken with regard to the cleaning up of the tourism and leisure sector.

## **SECTION 1: AVAILABILITY OF CULTURAL GOODS AND SERVICES**

**650-** Cultural Goods and Services were enhanced, and Cultural Goods preserved including the National Archives and cultural sites.

### **§1: Enhancement of Cultural Goods and Services**

**651-** Measures were taken to carry out an inventory of and provide subvention for Cultural Goods and Services as well as to fight against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods. Cultural Centres were also authorized to function.

#### **A: The Continuation of Inventory and Subvention for Cultural Goods and Services**

**652-** In 2018, several traditional Chiefdoms benefited from a financial assistance of CFAF100,000,000<sup>281</sup> from the State for the construction, renovation, and rehabilitation of the Chiefdoms, museums, culture houses and other traditional cultural spaces.

**653-** Following the inventory of cultural goods launched in 2016 and which led to the inventory of goods in Centre, West, Littoral and North West regions, MINAC launched the inventory in the East and Adamawa regions of Cameroon on 19 April 2018.

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<sup>281</sup> About 152,671.76 Euros

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## **B: Fight against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods**

**654-** In order to combat illicit trafficking in cultural goods, Article 55 of Law n°2013/003 of 18 April 2013 governing cultural heritage in Cameroon, provides that cultural goods classified or recognised as well as their copies cannot be exported without the prior authorisation of the of the minister in charge of cultural heritage. Only copies of goods can be definitively exported. It is in line with this that Cameroonian officials participated at a regional workshop in September 2018 in Yaounde on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property in Central Africa. The workshop organised by UNESCO was aimed at providing participants with tools to combat the phenomenon of illegal export of African cultural goods to museums in Western countries where they produce significant capital, to the detriment of their creators in Africa.

## **C: Opening of a Cultural Centre**

**655-** Institutions relating to arts and culture were authorised to open their doors including the *international centre for cultural and artistic heritage* (CIPCA) which was officially opened by the Minister of Arts and Culture in Yaounde on 4 April 2018. The official opening was followed by a picture and sculpture exhibition. Sculptures displayed at CIPCA are made from recycled objects.

## **§2: Preservation of Cultural Goods**

**656-** Preservation efforts concerned the National Archives and cultural sites.

## **A: Preserving the National Archives**

**657-** On the occasion of the 2018 edition of International Archives Day, commemorative activities were organised from 9 to 15 June 2018. The National Archives together with MINAC organised exhibitions and open

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door days of the National Archives on the memory and documentary heritage of Cameroon<sup>282</sup>.

**658-** Additionally, from 24 to 30 November 2018, Cameroon hosted the 2018 Annual World Conference of the International Council of Archives in Yaounde. Activities at this event included conference-debates and scientific presentations on various topics related to the conservation, dissemination, promotion and importance of archives. A key moment of the Conference was the training and swearing-in session of some 100 Cameroonian archivists. The ceremony took place on 26 November 2018 at the Court of Appeal of the Centre.

## **B: Preservation of Cultural Sites**

**659-** In November 2018, the National Museum hosted a Reflection Workshop on the Preservation and Development of the Bimbia Slave Trade Site. The said preservation and development of the Site is aimed at its inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

## **SECTION 2: ACCESSIBILITY TO CULTURAL GOODS AND SERVICES**

**660-** In order to guarantee accessibility to cultural goods and services, cultural and artistic events were organised, access to books was promoted as well as access to the National Museum.

### **§1: Organisation of Cultural and Artistic Events**

**661-** The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *National Arts and Culture Festival* (FENAC) was organised in Bertoua from 16 to 21 July 2018. More than 3,000 artists from the 58 divisions of the country and from the Diaspora came together for this event to celebrate national unity. Events at the Festival included mu-

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<sup>282</sup>Participants came from the Archive Services of the Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV), the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF), the National Civil Status Bureau (BUNEC), the National Assembly, the National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC), the Special Criminal Court (TCS) and the University of Maroua.

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sical shows, traditional dances, exhibitions, a Mini Youth Book Fair, debates and traditional games.

**662-** Furthermore, the World Storytelling Day, World Theatre Day, and the World Poetry Day were commemorated respectively on 2, 3 and 10 April 2018 through a number of activities at the Cameroon Cultural Centre in Yaounde. As regards the Storytelling Day, 12 selected stories were presented, while there were theatrical performances for the Theatre Day and presentations of renowned poems by Cameroonian poets for the Poetry Day.

**663-** The National Artistic and Cultural Relaunch (RECAN) was held in Ngaoundere in the Adamawa Region from 24 to 28 January 2018. Over 100 amateur Artists from the Region had the opportunity to present their know-how to the population. Activities at RECAN included Conferences-debates on themes related to the impact of culture in the consolidation of peace and coexistence, exhibitions of visual and graphic arts and musical performances.

**664-** On the occasion of the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of International Music Day on 21 June 2018, MINAC organised a big concert at the esplanade of the National Museum. Some 200 musicians, writers, composers, singers, and performers from all over the country participated at the concert which had as aim showcasing the country's rich musical culture. The event was attended by 10,000 spectators.

## **§2: Promotion of a Reading Culture**

**665-** The International Book Fair organised in Yaounde from 8 to 13 May 2018, saw the participation of professionals from over 15 countries. Professionals raised public awareness on the importance of books and reading, and in the case of Cameroon, the contribution of books to the preservation of stability and multiculturalism. Other activities included conferences, book launches, theatre, the exhibition of outstanding figures of Cameroonian literature, and the exhibition by some 60 bookstores, print-

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ing houses and publishing houses. Books on exhibition ranged from academic works to science-fiction and entertainment. Some 50,000 persons visited the Fair.

**666-** MINAC's Mobile Library (Bibliobus) continued to make books more accessible to the public. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of RECAN in Ngaoundere, the mobile library moved to different schools in the town to enable children read. The Mobile Library was also present at FENAC in Bertoua and facilitated reading sessions.

### **§3: Access to the National Museum**

**667-** On 18 May 2018, the National Museum opened its doors to the public free of charge, as part of the celebrations marking the International Museum Day on 25 May 2018. Thousands of visitors were able to discover and appreciate the cultural diversity of the country which was materialised by visual arts objects.

## **SECTION 3: THE PROTECTION OF THE MORAL AND MATERIAL INTERESTS OF ARTISTS**

**668-** Some progress was made in the consolidation of collective management of copyrights and neighbouring rights including the increase in the number of collective management bodies, the collection of a high amount of outstanding royalties and distribution of same to artists and their beneficiaries.

### **§1: Licencing of Collective Management Bodies**

**669-** On 11 June 2018, the Minister of Arts and Culture signed Orders No. 001 / MINAC, No. 002 / MINAC and No. 003 / MINAC granting authorisations to 3 collective management bodies (CMB) of copyrights<sup>283</sup>. They are namely Copyright Cooperation for Literature and Dramatic Arts

<sup>283</sup>The 3 CMBs came to add to 2 authorised in 2017 namely, *Société Nationale Camerounaise de l'Art Musical (SONACAM)* in the B category and *Société Camerounaise des Droits Voisins (SCDV)* in the E category.

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(SOCILADRA) in the A category (literary and dramatic arts), Copyright Society for Audio visual and Photographic Arts (SCAAP) in the C Category (audiovisual and photographic arts) and Copyright Cooperation for Plastic and Graphic Arts (SOCADAP) in the D category (graphic and plastic arts). The Minister also signed 3 decisions relating to specifications for the said collective management bodies namely, Decisions No. 0127 / MINAC, No.0128 / MINAC and No.0129 / MINAC, of 4 July 2018.

## **§2: The Recovery of Arrears of Copyrights and Neighbouring Rights Royalties**

**670-** Under the supervision of the Commission for the Control of Collective Management Organizations (CCOGC)<sup>2</sup> which protects the general interest of artists, a campaign for the recovery of the arrears of royalties took place nationwide with focus on users who in the absence of collective management bodies, continued to exploit copyrighted works without paying royalties. To this end, 13 decisions were signed by the Minister of Arts and Culture setting out the conditions and practical modalities for the execution of the duties of CCOGC. One of such was Decision No. 0055 / MINAC / CAB of 29 March 2018 securing funds collected as royalties. The purpose of this decision is to prevent money collected as royalties from being used for purposes other than distribution of same to artists.

## **§3: The Distribution of Royalties**

**671-** As a result of the campaign for the collection of royalties, the sum of CFAF 570,000,000<sup>284</sup> was deposited in the new Special Deposit Account for royalties opened at CBC Bank. Under the authority of CCOGC, the said amount was distributed to the 5 collective management bodies pursuant to Communiqué No. 0037 / MINAC / 018 of 14 December 2018, as contained in the table below.

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<sup>284</sup> About 870,229.01 Euros

<sup>285</sup> About 138,029.77 Euros

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Collective Management Body	Global Amount received (in CFAF)	Share reserved for Functioning of CMB in CFAF (35% of global amount)	Share Distributed to Beneficiaries in CFAF (65% of global budget)
SOCILADRA	90,409,500 <sup>285</sup>	31,643,325 <sup>286</sup>	58,766,175 <sup>287</sup>
SONACAM	257,597,625 <sup>288</sup>	90,159,169 <sup>289</sup>	167,438,456 <sup>290</sup>
SCAAP	82,538,825 <sup>291</sup>	28,888,589 <sup>292</sup>	53,650,236 <sup>293</sup>
SOCADAP	50,728,350 <sup>294</sup>	17,754,923 <sup>295</sup>	32,973,428 <sup>296</sup>
SCDV	88,725,700 <sup>297</sup>	31,053,995 <sup>298</sup>	57,671,705 <sup>299</sup>

**Source:** MINAC

**672-** Distribution of royalties to beneficiaries effectively started on 21 December 2018. In total, more than 4,000 artists, beneficiaries and successor in title of deceased artists benefited from this distribution. For the first time, each CMB kept 10% of the amount distributed for payment to artists of undocumented works where same can prove that they are entitled to royalties.

## §4: Support to Artistic and Cultural Actors

**673-** Subsidies continued to be provided for Cultural and Artistic Works and awards given to winners of competitions.

<sup>286</sup> About 48,035.61 Euros

<sup>287</sup> About 89,719.35 Euros

<sup>288</sup> About 393,278.82 Euros

<sup>289</sup> About 137,647.59 Euros

<sup>290</sup> About 255,631.23 Euros

<sup>291</sup> About 126,013.74 Euros

<sup>292</sup> About 44,104.72 Euros

<sup>293</sup> About 81,908.76 Euros

<sup>294</sup> About 77,447.86 Euros

<sup>295</sup> About 26,831.94 Euros

<sup>296</sup> About 50,341.11 Euros

<sup>297</sup> About 135,459.08 Euros

<sup>298</sup> About 47,410.67 Euros

<sup>299</sup> About 88,048.40 Euros

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## A: Subsidies for Cultural and Artistic Works

**674-** By Press Release No. 0027 / MINAC / CAB / CASSPC / CAL / SAT of 20 September 2018, the State allocated financial subsidies worth CFAF 222,900,000<sup>300</sup> to 427 artists and culture professionals as follows:

- Musical Art, CFAF138,850,000<sup>301</sup> to 269 beneficiaries;
- Cinema and audiovisual, CFAF26,850,000<sup>302</sup> to 32 beneficiaries;
- Festivals and others, CFAF47,000,000<sup>303</sup> to 96 beneficiaries; and
- Literature and dramatic arts, CFAF10,200,000<sup>304</sup> to 30 beneficiaries.

**675-** However, by the end of 2018, the subsidies were pending payment due to budgetary constraints of the State.

## B: Awards to Winners of various Competitions

**676-** On 7 May 2018 in Eseka, the Minister of Arts and Culture presided over the award giving ceremony of the winners of the Eseka Stele Competition which was launched to commemorate the railway disaster of 21 October 2016. The prizes were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup>, CFAF 2,000,000<sup>305</sup>;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> CFAF 1,000,000<sup>306</sup>;
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, CFAF 700,000<sup>307</sup>;
- and 4<sup>th</sup>, CFAF500,000<sup>308</sup>.

**677-** As regards the winners of the Miss Arts and Culture Competition, on 18 July 2018, MINAC awarded the following prizes to them during FENAC 2018 in Bertoua:

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<sup>300</sup> About 340,305.34 Euros

<sup>301</sup> About 211,984.73 Euros

<sup>302</sup> About 40,992.37 Euros

<sup>303</sup> About 71,755.73 Euros

<sup>304</sup> About 15,572.52 Euros

<sup>305</sup> About 3,053.44 Euros

<sup>306</sup> About 1,526.72 Euros

<sup>307</sup> About 1,068.70 Euros

<sup>308</sup> About 763.36 Euros

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Miss Arts and Culture, CFAF 1,500,000<sup>309</sup>;  
2<sup>nd</sup> CFAF 1,000,000;  
3<sup>rd</sup> CFAF 800,000<sup>310</sup>;  
and 4<sup>th</sup> CFAF 7 00,000<sup>311</sup>.

The 21 other participants received CFAF100,000 each.

**678-** The winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Young Writers National Contest launched under the theme *Cultural Diversity, Identity and National Unity* were also awarded prizes.

## SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND LEISURE

**679-** To ensure Government's policy in the tourist and leisure sector in 2018, the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL)'s roadmap focused on the development of offer and visibility, strategic axes for promoting tourism and leisure as well as cleaning up of the said sector.

### §1: Development of Offer and Enhancing Visibility in the Tourism and Leisure Sector

**680-** As part of the implementation of its 2018 Action Plan, MINTOUL in collaboration with promoters, public and private partners, and civil society worked to enhance and develop the tourism and leisure potential of Cameroon. Measures were also taken to enhance visibility of the sector.

#### A: Development of Offer in the Tourism and Leisure Sector

**681-** The number of tourism and leisure infrastructure increased just as was the case in 2017. The number of accommodation establishments moved from 785 in 2017 to 1029 in 2018 and restaurants rose from 429 to 470, meanwhile tourist agencies increased from 265 to 275. Leisure establishments increased from 1,476 in 2017 to 1,516 in 2018.

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<sup>309</sup> About 2,290.08

<sup>310</sup> About 1,221.37 Euros

<sup>311</sup> About 1,068.70 Euros

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**682-** Following the holding of 7 sessions of the National Technical Commission of Tourism Establishments, new authorisations were granted. Out of the 207 applications for the construction of hotels, 127 were granted. Of the 87 applications for the opening of hotels, 76 were granted. Of the 36 applications for the opening of restaurants, 29 were granted. As for leisure establishments, out of 56 applications, 45 were granted. Regarding Tourism Agencies, out of 42 applications, 21 were granted. Furthermore, a gatehouse was constructed at the Bimbia historic site and the existing structure there rehabilitated.

## **B: Promoting Visibility**

**683-** MINTOUL participated in international and national fairs and conferences and other events where it had the opportunity of showcasing the tourism potential of the country.

### **a) At the International Level**

**684-** MINTOUL was present at events including the 7<sup>th</sup> World Summit on Urban Tourism in the Republic of South Korea from 16 to 19 September 2018, the seminar on Tourism Statistics in Morocco from 20 to 23 July 2018, the FITUR International Tourism Fair in Madrid, Spain from 17 to 23 January 2018, the 61<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Africa (CAF / UNWTO) in Abuja, Nigeria from 4 to 6 June 2018, and Tunis International Tourism Fair in Tunisia from 5 to 8 April 2018.

### **b) At the National Level**

**685-** MINTOUL put up stands at events to showcase the tourism potential of the country. This included the Douala International Fair for Development (FIDD) from 31 March to 16 April 2018, the International Youth Fair from 8 to 12 August 2018, and the «Ecrans Noirs» Cinematographic Festival in Yaounde in July 2018.

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## § 2: Strategic Axes for Promoting Tourism and Leisure

**686-** Certain strategies were developed to promote both the tourism and leisure sectors.

### A: In the Tourism Sector

**687-** Action to boost tourism activities likely to make Cameroon a «tourist destination», included the publication of the 2018 edition of the Yearbook on tourism and leisure statistics, as well as the production and distribution of promotional material including brochures, flyers, leaflets and documentaries to showcase Cameroon as a tourist destination.

### B: In the Leisure Sector

**688-** In relation to this rapidly expanding area, one of the strategies used to enhance the sector was the organisation of leisure activities. Thus, from 15 to 30 July 2018 in Edea and from 12 to 24 July 2018 in Ngaoundere, 2 holiday camps were respectively organised for children. Leisure activities were also organised for children with hearing impairment from 5 to 7 April 2018 in Yaounde. Also, healthy and educational leisure activities were promoted in universities and professional schools.

## §3: Cleaning up of the Tourism and Leisure Sector

**689-** The cleaning up of the tourism and leisure sector involved control and inspection missions and measures to enhance the security of tourists.

**690-** Control and inspection missions of tourism and leisure establishments were carried out. As regards inspection, some 307 accommodation establishments, 168 catering establishments, 75 leisure establishments, 98 tourism agencies and 22 tourist sites were concerned. The Central Control Brigade imposed fines on 72 accommodation establishments, 15 leisure establishments and 5 tourism agencies.

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**691-** Furthermore, measures were taken to enhance the security of tourists including the visible display of a protection and safety plan, the use of security screening gates and the installation of video surveillance system at touristic infrastructure.

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**692-** Progress was made in the management of the interests of artists including the licencing of 3 new collective management bodies and allocating part of royalties collected for the running of collective management bodies. The number of tourism and the leisure infrastructure increased and measures for the cleaning up of the sector continued including control and inspection missions. This progress notwithstanding, subsidies to artists allocated were pending payment at the end of the year due to budgetary constraints.

**Chapter** **6**

**RIGHT TO A HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT**



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**693-** The right to a healthy environment is a fundamental right guaranteed by the State. In 2018, Government measures led to the review of the normative and institutional framework, mainly as concerns the use of mercury and the management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Other measures to guarantee the right to a healthy environment focussed on the conservation and management of natural resources and the fight against pollution, nuisance and harmful and/or dangerous chemical substances.

## **SECTION 1: IMPROVING THE REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**694-** The improvement of the regulatory and institutional framework for the protection of the environment was characterised by the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the institution of the legal framework for conditions to use polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) up to their elimination, and the setting up of the PCBs Technical Committee.

### **§1: Ratification of the Minamata Convention**

**695-** The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an international Convention drafted under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. It was signed by Cameroon on 23 September 2014 and ratified by Decree No. 2018/794 of 18 December 2018. The ratification was done after the enactment of Law No. 2018/17 of 11 December 2018 by the Parliament to authorise the President of the Republic to ratify the said Convention.

**696-** However, it should be noted that Cameroon had already participated actively in negotiation meetings on the Minamata Convention before attending the first Conference of Parties (COP1).

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## §2: Legal Framework for PCBs

**697-** PCBs are chlorinated organic chemical products used for their high thermal stability and their electric characteristics. They are used as electrical insulators for transformers and capacitors (pyranol), heat transfer fluids in various industrial installations. However, these products were rapidly proven to be harmful to the environment and to man. Though they are insoluble in water, they are soluble in most organic solvents and in stable yet non-biodegradable vegetable oil (classified as dangerous for the environment), accumulative in the food chain (concentration in living tissues), degradable at high temperature leading to the formation of furans and dioxins (toxic and carcinogenic). That is why their use is governed by Decree No. 2018/2939 of 12 April 2018 to lay down conditions for the use, manipulation, storage, transportation, decontamination and final elimination of PCBs and assimilated compounds in Cameroon. This Decree includes several appendices, among which Appendix A1 which is the list of products likely to contain PCBs.

## §3: Setting up of the PCB Technical Committee

**698-** The setting up of the PCB Technical Committee is governed by Order No. 2/MINEPDED/CAB of 9 April 2018 on the setting-up, organisation and functioning of the PCB Technical Committee. This Committee is in charge of supporting the Government and companies holding PCB materials in the environmentally sound management of these materials. As such, it ensures the execution of planned PCB management activities, proposes major directives for environmentally sound management of PCBs, assesses risks inherent to PCB-related activities and proposes appropriate solutions for the prevention, reduction or elimination of PCBs.

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## SECTION 2: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**699-** The conservation and management of natural resources was characterised by promotion and restoration of nature, and sustainable management of biodiversity.

### §1: Promotion and Restoration of Nature

**700-** The promotion and restoration of nature was implemented through the fight against desertification, actions against climate change, including the increase of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

#### A: Fight against Desertification

**701-** The fight against desertification consisted in the continuation of the «Green Sahel» Project, the management of the Benoue Watersheds and reforestation activities.

**702-** The «Green Sahel» Project continued in 2018 in the Far North Region. Thus, 1,250 ha of land spread out on 5 sites of 250 ha each were restored and about 150,000 tree seedlings were planted. On the Maroua University site, 10,000 trees were planted at the request of the Head of the Institution.

**703-** On the other hand, the development of the banks of the Benoue Watersheds in the North Region led to the stabilisation of 9 km of banks and the planting of 10,000 plants over 25 ha.

**704-** As far as reforestation activities are concerned, the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) grants support to target sectors (Councils, Common Initiative Groups/Associations and Traditional Chiefdoms) for the establishment and maintenance of forest plantations, and for urban reforestation. In this connection and for the 2018 reforestation campaign, support was granted to the 10 Regions and reforestation stakeholders

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through grants allocated amounting to a total of CFAF 1,258,600,000<sup>312</sup>. A total budget of CFAF 50,000,000<sup>313</sup> was also allocated for the maintenance of old plantations established within the framework of the national reforestation campaign.

**705-** Furthermore, after signature by Cameroon showing its commitment to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), MINEPDED by representing the country in all meetings, strengthened determination to restore about 12 million hectares of degraded landscapes.

**706-** In this regard, Cameroon was selected among the four African countries to benefit from the BMU Programme (Ministry of Environment of the Federal Republic of Germany) titled *“Large scale Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Africa- tree rich Landscapes to foster biodiversity, climate change resilience and better livelihood”* .

**707-** Moreover, to strengthen Cameroon’s commitment in the AFR100 initiative, support was sought from the BMZ (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany) through the KfW for another project of landscape restoration.

## **B: Fight against Climate Change**

**708-** In 2018, within the framework of the fight against climate change, implementation of the REDD+ mechanism was pursued with the validation of the national REDD+ strategy and the preparation of the first draft of the emission reduction programme document (ER-PD).

**709-** With regard to the NDC, related activities carried out during the year under review include consultation with the sectors within the framework of the setting up of a National Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory System (SN-IGES). There was also capacity building of sectoral representatives on the inventory of greenhouse gases in various sectors (Agriculture,

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<sup>312</sup> About 1,921,526.72 Euros

<sup>313</sup> About 76,335.88 Euros

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Forestry, Energy, Waste and Industrial Processes) proposed by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

**710-** It is worth noting that the process of joining the Green Climate Fund was ongoing. In 2018, among the four conditions to access the Green Fund, Cameroon had met the first three (3) conditions, namely:

- Appointment by the country of the *National Designated Authority* or the focal point;
- Drafting a *Readiness Proposal*; and
- Selection of an implementing agency which is UICN.

**711-** Cameroon, through Ministry of Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) is in consultation with some national entities to be accredited by the Green Fund as an implementing agency. As the last condition, Cameroon was awaiting approval from the Readiness Proposal by the Green Fund Secretariat.

**712-** Besides, in 2018, the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC) actually entered its operational phase. Thus, four (4) quarterly climate forecast bulletins applicable in the socio-economic activity sectors in Cameroon's agro-ecological zones were prepared and disseminated, two (2) studies analysing the evolution and prospect of climate parameters for the period from 1950 to 2015 in the Far North and South West Regions were published and disseminated, twelve (12) monthly climate reports and one (1) annual climate report were prepared.

**713-** Within the context of resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change, MINEPDED organised capacity building workshops on adaptation to the effects of climate change and on best agropastoral practices through the REPPEC programme. These sessions were attended by 150 participants representing Counselling, Orientation and Support Centres (CEOCA), Mayors, Producers' Organizations (POs), community development agents and community radios.

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## §2: Sustainable Biodiversity Management

**714-** Sustainable biodiversity management aims at restoring mangrove ecosystems and degraded streams. In 2018, key actions carried out to this effect include strengthening environmental assessment, reinforcing the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biological Biodiversity and preserving protected areas.

### A: Strengthening Environmental Assessments

**715-** Several dissemination and capacity-building workshops were organised for regional and local authorities as well as other stakeholders for a better mastery of the national strategy for sustainable development. In addition, ordinary sessions of the Inter-ministerial Committee on the Environment (ICE) were held during which 260 mandates, 170 Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and Environmental and Social Audit Reports (ESAs) were examined and 155 certificates of conformity were issued.

**716-** Development activities carried out within the framework of large scale infrastructure construction projects were accompanied by the drafting of a key tool: the Guide for the preparation and assessment of environmental and social impact studies, and by MINEPDED's involvement in multisectoral working groups on these infrastructure.

### B: Strengthening Implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biological Biodiversity

Key actions carried out in 2018 include:

- launching the drafting of Cameroon's 6<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Report and submission of a preliminary report. The validation and submission of the final report were expected at the end of the year;
- the submission of study commissions on sustainable tourism in the Dzen Council, which served as basis for several consultation workshops with the community, the Ministry of Environment and partners;

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- the speeding up of the national strategy on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use (APA) which led to the drafting of a bill on the APA and a set of enabling instruments; and
- the Contribution to the implementation of the system for verifying the legality of voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs)/FLEGTs by signing nineteen (19) Certificates of Conformity with Environmental Obligations (AROE).

**718-** In the coastal area, efforts to restore mangroves continued. Thus, 2.5 ha of mangroves were restored with 23,200 mangrove plants produced in tree nurseries and transplanted by MINEPDED. In addition, MINEPDED continued its fight against water hyacinth and other invasive aquatic plants by transferring powers to the Councils of Douala IV and V, Ngaoundere III, Lagdo and Akono.

**719-** Within the framework of the Bakassi post-conflict ecosystem development project, activities consisted in the development of a communication strategy and plan, and awareness-raising programmes targeting all stakeholders in the mangrove area.

## **C: Preservation of Protected Areas**

**720-** In 2018, the network of protected areas in Cameroon covered a total area of nearly 9,833,929.07 ha, that is, 20.12% of the national territory.

**721-** Having largely achieved the 10% target of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Cameroon has surpassed the 30% of the territory dedicated to permanent forests and is at more than 32.95% (permanent domain forest). The Douala -Edea National Park, covering 262.935 ha, was established and the Government is considering the establishment of 6 new national parks, 4 nature reserves and 2 sanctuaries. These ongoing initiatives are expected to cover a total area of 754,777 ha. In the short term, protected areas could represent 21.50 % of the national territory with these new sites.

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## SECTION 3: FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION, NUISANCE AND HARMFUL AND/OR DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

**722-** Pollution and damage control aims at reducing pollution, nuisance and the emission of harmful and/or dangerous chemical substances. In this regard, emphasis was laid on waste management sanctions were imposed in the event of violation of instruments on environment.

### §1: Waste Management

**723-** Waste management control required the organisation and conduct of a mission to monitor and assess waste management plans of environmental license holders in the ten (10) Regions of the country, followed by eight (8) sessions of the Environmental Permit Review Committee, at the end of which 102 environmental permits were issued.

**724-** In addition, sixty-one (61) technical visas for quality control of electrical and electronic equipment and two hundred and twenty-one (221) technical visas for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) were issued.

**725-** To further combat waste, 37 sub divisional councils received financial support for the collection of plastic waste. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning the drafting and transmission to the Prime Minister's Office of the waste recycling report through the prospect of setting up the national waste exchange in Cameroon.

**726-** Within the framework of the implementation of the project titled «*Elimination of persistent and obsolete organic polluting pesticides (POPs) and the strengthening of the rational management of pesticides in Cameroon*», the following activities were carried out: exporting 45 tonnes of obsolete POPs pesticide waste to France for disposal (Contract with Veolia), training of fourteen (14) members of the national Commission for the approval of pesticides and certification of treatment equipment.

**727-** As part of the implementation of the PCB - *Reduction in Cameroon through the use of the local expertise and the development of national ca-*

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*pacities* project, inventories were conducted on PCB equipment throughout the country while the University of Ngaoundere was equipped with a chromatograph (apparatus to determine the chlorine peak) for PCB oil analysis. In addition, a temporary storage warehouse was built for PCB equipment in New Bonako in Tiko. Several campaigns were carried out to raise awareness among owners of PCB equipment on the dangers associated with them.

**728-** As part of the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a detailed inventory of mercury releases was compiled between 2017 and 2018 across the national territory and the initial assessment report of the Mercury Convention was drafted and validated in May 2018. Cameroon has submitted its survey reports to United Nations Environment Programme's Global Mercury Partnership for approval.

## **§2: Inspections and Sanctions imposed for Violations of Laws**

**729-** With regard to inspections to ensure compliance with environmental standards, it must be said that 919 vessels were inspected in the Autonomous Sea Ports of Kribi and Douala to ensure that they comply with the standards contained in the Marpol Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, duly ratified by Cameroon. In addition, joint environmental monitoring and inspection missions were carried out in 4,947 classified institutions.

**730-** On 8 August 2018, MINEPDED published a list of 395 companies located in Cameroon that are guilty of environmental pollution for the period from 2013 to 2015. These are mainly companies operating in the mining sector, processing industry, pharmaceutical, oil and retail sectors. The financial sanctions imposed on these companies range from CFAF1,000,000 to CFAF 50,000,000. These companies are accused of polluting the air, soil, subsoil, surface and groundwater, as well as poor waste management and of failing to carry out audits or environmental impact studies.

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**731-** MINEPDED also seized and destroyed 110.25 tonnes of plastic packaging across the country.

**732-** As far as disputes before courts are concerned, they are few. As a result, in 2018, there were only 33 cases pending before courts. However, it should be noted that nearly 70 investigation reports were drawn up. During the same period, approximately 87 persons were remanded in custody for acts relating to violations of environmental laws.

**733-** As for wildlife protection, in 2018, 500 elephant tusks were seized, mainly in Djoum. This is a decrease compared to 2017 when the number of tusks seized was 600.

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**734-** Actions carried out by the State with the support of its partners made it possible to ensure a satisfactory level of enjoyment of the right to a healthy environment. Moreover, the Programme on Best Practice in agropastoralism continued to be deployed with a view of improving cultivation practices. In addition, social dialogue was strengthened to address challenges related to environmental preservation in a concerted way. This enabled regional and local authorities as well as various stakeholders to take ownership of the national sustainable development strategy.

**735-** Despite challenges related to household waste management in large cities, several initiatives were developed, ranging from follow-up and assessment missions of waste management plans to preserve the right to a healthy environment. Although commendable efforts were made in terms of training and awareness raising, the lack of information remains a major constraint.

**Chapter** **7**  
**RIGHT TO LAND  
OWNERSHIP**



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**736-** In 2018, the promotion of the right to land ownership consisted in guaranteeing access to land, limiting infringement of land rights by the State and providing mechanisms for settling disputes, which include administrative and legal settlement.

## **SECTION 1: GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO LAND OWNERSHIP**

**737-** Guaranteeing access to land ownership includes issuing the *instrumentum* which establishes the existence of real rights and security of the survey, land and property system to ensure its stability and sustainability. The specific case of women's access to land ownership shall be discussed in detail.

### **§1: Issuing Land Titles**

**738-** National statistics on the issuing of land titles reveal an increasing number of persons interested in protecting their land rights. It should be noted that pursuant to Article 1 of Decree No. 76-165 of 27 April 1976 to establish the conditions for obtaining land titles as amended and supplemented by Decree No. 90/1482 of 9 November 1990 and by Decree No. 2005/481 of 16 December 2005, "the land certificate shall be the official certification of real property rights. Subject to the provisions of Articles 2 (3) and 24 of this Decree, land certificates shall be unassailable, inviolable, and final". The increasing number of land titles issued illustrates the shorter time frame required by applicants to fulfil the necessary conditions and for Government to issue the titles.

**739-** This increase is really noticed in 2018 after some stagnation between 2014 and 2016 as presented in the table below:

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**Table 1: Number of land titles issued between 2014 and 2018**

Status of the Applicant	Statistics on land titles issued all over the country					Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
<b>Men</b>	9,298	9,091	8,268	8,884	8,975	44,516
<b>Women</b>	2,769	2,854	2,667	2,629	3,304	14,223
<b>Communities</b>	1,816	1,889	2,577	3,252	3,860	6,282
<b>Total</b>	<b>13, 883</b>	<b>13, 834</b>	<b>13, 512</b>	<b>14, 765</b>	<b>16, 139</b>	<b>65, 021</b>

**Source:** MINDCAF

**740-** However, the increase as shown by national statistics in the table below conceals disparities from one Region to another.

**Table 2: Statistics of Land Titles issued in Land Registries per Region between 2014 and 2018**

Regions	Status of the Applicant	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
<b>Adamawa</b>	Men	425	291	466	516	459	2157
	Women	89	96	78	75	209	547
	Communities	40	27	159	101	3	330
	<b>Total</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>3034</b>
<b>Centre</b>	Men	2,945	2,728	2,472	2,537	3,206	13,888
	Women	1,163	1,126	1,083	909	1,427	5,708
	Communities	684	916	948	1132	1472	5152
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,792</b>	<b>4,770</b>	<b>4,503</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>6,105</b>	<b>24,748</b>
<b>East</b>	Men	379	371	220	148	158	1276
	Women	53	82	45	39	23	242
	Communities	60	163	80	27	48	378
	<b>Total</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1,896</b>
<b>Far North</b>	Men	732	910	769	811	513	3735
	Women	164	79	127	148	113	631
	Communities	99	44	156	117	104	520
	<b>Total</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>4,886</b>
<b>Littoral</b>	Men	1,638	1,703	1,306	1,565	1,549	7,761
	Women	572	578	377	480	465	2472
	Communities	304	149	255	562	460	1730
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>2,474</b>	<b>11,963</b>
<b>North</b>	Men	434	314	251	318	546	1,863
	Women	77	59	47	64	154	401
	Communities	5	10	13	66	470	564
	<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>2,828</b>
<b>North West</b>	Men	794	805	711	820	632	3,762
	Women	244	306	273	337	233	1,393
	Communities	25	37	61	69	284	476
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>1,226</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>5,631</b>
<b>West</b>	Men	1,184	1,135	982	1068	868	4,053
	Women	232	274	311	290	295	1170
	Communities	428	356	289	332	366	1343
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>6566</b>

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<b>South</b>	Men	318	247	396	401	507	1,869
	Women	57	66	140	91	198	552
	Communities	113	111	482	426	375	1,507
	<b>Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>3,928</b>
<b>South West</b>	Men	449	587	695	700	537	2968
	Women	118	188	186	196	187	875
	Communities	58	76	134	420	278	966
	<b>Total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>4,809</b>

**Source:** MINDCAF

**741-** Although affected by the security crises, the North West and South West Regions recorded a higher than average rate of issuance of land titles compared to the other Regions. This can be explained by the different means of securing real estate property.

**742-** The operation to certify 103,356 land titles listed and transcribed in the Mfoundi and Wouri Divisions led to the certification of 18,000 land titles in 2018.

## §2: Securing Real Property

**743-** To secure real estate property and effectively protect documents related thereto, the State embarked on modernising management of the survey, land, property and patrimonial system by computerising services, procedures and products of the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure. Thus, in Yaounde, 91,277 survey files and 232 land registers were digitalised. Similarly, in Douala, 107,233 technical files from surveys were digitalised. The aim is to extend this process throughout the national territory.

**744-** Modernisation of Surveys is carried out through the implementation of the geodesic network. Hence, 608 geodesic points were built. The construction of geodesic points began on 27 September 2018 and was to extend over a period of 6 months. In this light, 40 geodesic points will be built at Guider; 100 points at Kousseri, 80 points at Yabassi, 80 points at Edea and 80 points at Nkongsamba.

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**745-** The process of physical transcription of information in the new Land Registers which is aimed at effectively decongesting Land Registries and speed up the treatment of files was completed for Special Land Registries (A, B and C) in the Mfoundi and Wouri Divisions.

### §3: Women's Access to Land Ownership

**746-** Throughout the year in review, women's access to land ownership remained low compared to ownership by men or the community. Yet, it should be noted that since 2014, this year recorded the highest number of registered land belonging to women.

**747-** Causes of the low access of women to lands registered in their names could be both economic and cultural. However, the fact that more and more women are having their names included in land titles issued to customary communities should be noted and commended. The table below however considers only progress made regarding the proportion of women who are holders of a land titles issued solely in their name.

**Table 3: Progress in the Issuance of Land Titles to Women 2014 -2018**

Status of the Applicant	Statistics of land titles issued all over the country					Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Men	9,298	9,091	8,268	8,884	8,975	44516
Women	2,769	2,854	2,667	2,629	3,304	14223

Source: MINDCAF

## SECTION 2: LIMITING INFRINGEMENT ON LAND OWNERSHIP BY THE STATE

**748-** The right to property is a fundamental right which, pursuant to provisions in the Preamble to the Constitution, no person shall be deprived thereof save for "public purposes and subject to the payment of compensation".

**749-** Hence, only the State can limit the right to land ownership for public purpose. Although the regulatory framework on expropriation for public purposes, was discussed in the 2016 Report, it shall be recalled here what

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happened to land expropriated in 2018. Indeed, they were added to land reserves after compensation of all those who had a rightful claim thereto.

## §1: Constituting Land Reserves

**750-** Land reserves are national State-owned lands that have been incorporated into the private property of the State or lands owned by private persons that have been expropriated for public purposes. The following Decrees clearly illustrate the sources of land reserves:

**751-** Decree No. 2018/527/PM of 14 February 2018 relating to expropriation for public purposes, incorporation into the private property of the State, of land needed to secure sites to resettle populations affected by the construction of the Yaounde-Nsimalen urban Highway in the Mefou and Akono Division, Centre Region and compensation for persons who lost their rights to land and/or property.

**752-** Decree No. 2018/1573/PM of 5 March 2018 on incorporation into the Private Property of the State, land needed for building land reserves situated at "Lagdo", "Nyakira", "Bascheo", "Lomodou", "Dembo", "Gaschiga"; "Sanguere-Paul", "Ngong-Antenne", "Barndake", "Touroua", "Bibemi-Centre" respectively in the Lagdo, Garoua II, Bascheo, Garoua I, Dembo, Demsa, Garoua III, Tcheboa, Mayo-Hourna, Touroua and Bibemi Sub-divisions, Benoue Division in the North Region.

**753-** Land reserves are intended for State-owned housing estates, social housing and agro-industry mainly.

**754-** Thus, State-owned housing estates were set up under land reserves in Olembe (Yaounde) (Land title 23105/Mfoundi A; Mbalngong (Ngoumou) Land title No. 1153/Mefou and Akono; and MbwangBakoko (Douala) Land titles No. 5365, 5365 and 5367/Wouri B. It should be noted that on 4 October 2018, the official ceremony to launch the marketing of the Olembe and Mbalngong State lots took place. This transaction concerns 680 State lots for which ownership is granted by private sale, pursuant to

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the provisions of Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Decree No. 76/167 of 27 April 1976 to establish the terms and conditions of management of the private property of the State and Decree No. 2014/3211/PM of 29 September 2014 to fix the minimum prices applicable to transactions on land under the private property of the State.

**755-** With regard to social housing, sites were identified and regulated by legislative act to ensure their security, through Decrees No. 2018/4331/PM of 30 May 2018 concerning Dja and Lobo Division and No. 2018/083/PM of 27 October 2018 concerning Mundemba and EkondoTiti.

**756-** In 2018, 736,828.6815 ha of land was allocated for agro-industry projects. Some 4 Decrees were published relating to these lands. They are Decree No. 2018 /5133/PM of 10 November 2018, Decree No. 2018/3692/PM of 15 May 2018, Decree No. 2018/8402/PM of 11 October 2018 and Decree No. 2018/9167/PM of 21 November 2018. The localities concerned are Mayo-Danay, Mbere, Djerem and Noun.

## **§2: Compensation and Petitions against Expropriation Decisions**

**757-** In 2018, payment of compensation to persons affected by expropriation continued. It should be noted that there are possibilities of redress for victims of expropriation for public purposes.

**758- Petitions against compensation allocated by Decree.** Through this Petition, a person affected by a project complains about the amount received on the basis that amounts fixed do not correspond to the real value of the property listed and evaluated. To illustrate this, in 2018, Mr **BIDJOGO Theodore** requested for revision of compensation provided for by Decree No. 2018/4/PM of 10 January 2018.

**759- Petitions for Omission.** An example of this is the petition on the omission of land title No. 4324/Ocean by Mrs **KOTTO Mireille** during the construction project of the Kribi deep sea port (2018), the appeal by Mr

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**NGOKO** regarding the non-consideration of land titles No. 4021 and 4024 in Decree No. 2018/527/PM of 14 February 2018 in the context of work to secure resettlement sites for people affected by the construction of the Yaounde-Nsimalen highway in Mefou and Akono Division (2018), appeal by **KOITCHOU MABEKE Laure** and **KOITCHOU NGANKAM Romuald** concerning an omission following expropriation Decree No. 2018/527 of 14 February 2018 relating to the construction project of the Yaounde-Nsimalen highway.

**760-** Petitions can be filed to establish the invalidity of the Order declaring land is to be used for public purposes and those to withdraw the Order declaring land is to be used for public purposes or petitions against expropriation and/or compensation Decrees. Finally, there are petitions for retrocession.

**761-** Regarding compensation for customary property and occupants without titles, it should be noted that only land owners whose direct registration procedures have been initiated and the opinion of the Land Consultative Board issued before notification of the declaration for the use of land for public purposes to those concerned shall be eligible for compensation. This dispensation is based on Decree No. 87/1872 of 16 December 1987 to implement Law No. 85/9 of 4 July 1985 to lay down the procedure governing expropriation for public purposes and conditions for compensation which states in Article 14 that "(...) the expropriation order for public purposes shall suspend all transactions, development and issuance of building permits. However, it shall not bar the continuation of registration procedures of the first category of national lands for the benefit of their occupants or exploiters".

**762-** These avenues of redress available to victims of expropriation exist alongside other mechanisms for settlement of land disputes.

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## SECTION 3: PLURALITY OF MECHANISMS FOR SETTLING LAND DISPUTES

**763-** A distinction should be made between administrative and judicial mechanisms.

### §1: Administrative Mechanisms for Settling Land Disputes

**764-** There exist two such mechanisms:

#### **the Land Consultative Board**

**765-** It was set up by Ordinance No. 74/1 of 6 July 1974 to establish rules governing land tenure in order to guarantee development and rational use of national land. Article 5 (3) New of the afore-mentioned Ordinance provides that "Land Consultative Boards shall hear land disputes relating to objections to the registration of land and claims or disputes on unregistered land "

#### **the role of the Minister of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure**

**766-** Pursuant to article 2 of Decree No. 76-165 of 27 April 1976 to establish the conditions for obtaining land titles<sup>314</sup>

(1) Any person whose rights have been violated as a result of registration, has no use for the building, but only in case of fraud, a personal action for damages against the perpetrator of the fraud.

(2) The action is brought before the civil court of the location of the building.

(3) However, the Minister of Land Affairs may, in case of fault of the administration, particularly due to irregularity in the procedure for obtaining land title, and in view of authentic products, process withdrawal of land title issued irregularly.

<sup>314</sup>As amended and supplemented by Decree No. 90/1482 of 9 November 1990 and by Decree No. 2005/481 of 16 December 2005

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(4) The withdrawal of land title issued mutation causes the toll of Title in the name of the original owner, whether a building is registered. The building is handed over to the same and similar state it was in before the issuance of the title, if a building is not registered.

(5) The withdrawal of the land referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article shall, except in cases of fraud by the beneficiary, made within the time allowed for appeal litigation

(6) A land title is no public policy in the following cases:

- Where several land titles are issued on the same land, in which case they are declared null and void, and procedures are reviewed to determine the rightful owner. A new land title is then drawn in favour of the latter;
- When the title deed is issued arbitrarily without following any procedure or obtained by a process other than those provided for this purpose;
- When the land title is prepared in whole or in part on a length of the public domain;
- When the land title is set partly or wholly on a parcel of private property of the State, a public authority or a public body in violation of the regulations.

(7) The invalidity of title to land under paragraph 6 above is established by a decree of the Minister of Land Affairs, subject to appeal before the competent administrative court.

**767-** The Minister in charge of Land matters therefore has the power to annul and withdraw any illegal land certificate.

## **§2: Legal Mechanisms for Settling Land Disputes**

**768-** Legal mechanisms include settling land disputes before Administrative, Civil and Criminal Courts.

**769-** There are many cases of land disputes before Administrative Courts. Thus, during the year under review, the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court processed 169 cases of annulment of land certificates and

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rendered 135 decisions, of which 110 were in favour of the State and 25 against the State. Some 34 cases were pending.

**770-** Concerning disputes on the rectification of land certificates, the Court received 30 cases and rendered 10 decisions, 8 of which were in favour of the State and 2 against the State, and the other 20 were pending.

**771-** With regard to litigation on the suspension of effects of land certificates, the Administrative Bench received 57 cases, rendered 40 decisions, 35 of which were in favour of the State and 5 against it. The other 17 were pending hearing. Land disputes brought before Administrative Courts show the various appeals lodged by citizens to protect their land rights. The table below portrays the situation of land disputes in various Regions.

**Table 4: Cases of Land Litigation brought before some Administrative Courts**

Regions	Number of cases received	Number of decisions rendered	Annulment of Land title	Rectification of Land title	Suspension of the effects of land certificates
Adamawa	19	4	4	0	0
North	12	7	6	0	1
West	2	2	2	0	0
Littoral	1,191	258	1,041	78	72
North West	33	30	28	0	0

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**772-** The criminal judge has a dual function since he intervenes both in cases related to possessory right and property right, and he can end property infringements by issuing an order to evict.

**773-** As a matter of fact, Section 239 of the Penal Code punishes whoever, in manner liable to disturb the public peace, enters upon land quietly enjoyed by another to whomsoever belonging. In order to be protected by the criminal court judge, the enjoyment of the land must have been peaceful and continuous. Most cases of land disputes brought before courts had

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to do with disturbances of quiet enjoyment as showed by the table below, especially at the Yaounde Court of First Instance, *Centre Administratif*:

**Table 5: Some land disputes brought before the Yaounde Court of First Instance/*Centre Administratif***

SUBJECT	Number of decisions enlisted	of	Number of decisions rendered	of	Number of convictions	of	Number of acquittals
Infringement on land ownership	138		23		13		10
Disturbance of quiet enjoyment	458		134		24		110

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**774-** Property right is protected under Article 2 (a) of Law No. 80/22 of 14 July 1980 to repress infringement on landed property and State lands<sup>315</sup> which punishes “persons who use or occupy land without prior authorization of the owner”. This Law gives the criminal judge jurisdiction often reserved for the civil judge. Indeed, Section 3 states that “In the case referred to in Section 2 (a) above, the court with jurisdiction shall order the eviction forthwith of the occupant at his own expense. Further, development work on the said land in the form of farms, buildings or structures of any kind shall automatically belong to the owner, without any compensation being paid to the occupant. If the owner of the estate requires that buildings, farms or structures should be destroyed, the destruction shall be carried out at the expense of the occupant who shall not be paid any compensation and who may, in addition, be fined to pay damages for the prejudice, if any, suffered by the owner of the estate.”

**775-** It should be highlighted that this Section also applies to persons who use or occupy a parcel of private property of the State or an appurtenance of public or State property.

**776-** The Civil Judge has jurisdiction to hear cases regarding conditions of property acquisition, and also to guarantee acquisition. His duties include taking preventive actions, as concerns for example cases on the denunciation of new farms, buildings or structures and all sorts of cessation of work, as well as remedial actions, such as destruction of those farms, buildings or structures.

<sup>315</sup> Amended by Law No. 81/2 of 27 November 1981 and Law No. 85/5 of 4 July 1985.

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**777-** Applications for preventive measures are heard by the Judge entertaining urgent matters and constitute a good part of litigation in cities like Yaounde or Douala. During the year under review, at the Yaounde Court of First Instance, *Centre Administratif*, 19 decisions relating to cessation of works were rendered, 9 of which ordered for cessation of works, 6 rejected the application of cessation and 4 declared the application inadmissible.

**778-** Remedial actions for the destruction of farms, buildings or structures are heard by the Trial Judge. They are governed by Section 555 of the Civil Code.

\*

\* \*

**779-** Efforts to facilitate access to land ownership are slow in producing concrete results. Yet, Decree No. 2005/481 of 16 December 2005 to amend and supplement certain provisions of Decree No. 76/165 of 25 April 1976 to establish the conditions for obtaining land certificates provides for the reduction of the time-limit in such a way that land titles can now be delivered within a period of 6 months. Nevertheless, some challenges still exist which the State is seeking to identify and progressively overcome.

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## CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

**780-** Government spared no effort to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights which include the right to education, to health, to culture and leisure, to food, to water, to energy and decent housing, and the right to land ownership. In addition to significant progress made in the treatment of certain diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, a cholera epidemic was contained. Furthermore, the single book policy was a response to the improvement in the quality of education, which continued to be professionalised. Also, a legal framework was put in place to ensure food safety, notably Law No. 2018/20 of 11 December 2018: framework law, on food safety. Furthermore, in a bid to make the water sector more efficient and ensure better quality service to the public, its institutional framework was reconfigured through the complete transfer of CDE activities to CAMWATER.

**781-** In spite of these developments challenges exist, particularly that of providing safety in insecure areas for staff, the number of which is insufficient, for hospitals and schools. Apart from the lengthy time frame preceding issuance of land titles which impedes access to land ownership, the non-payment of grants allocated to artists was also a concern in 2018.

**782-** Moreover, the effective implementation of regulatory, institutional and strategic reforms as concerns economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the re-evaluation of financial and human resources in both the health and education sectors and the intensification of the fight against illegal establishments, could contribute in reducing a number of constraints, or at least mitigate their effects in a bid to improve the population's enjoyment of these rights.



**PART THREE:**

**CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES  
AND RIGHTS OF SPECIFIC  
GROUPS**



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## INTRODUCTION TO PART THREE

**783-** The impact of multiple security constraints imposed specific obligations on public authorities during the year under review.

**784-** In the context of guaranteeing the right to peace and security, the State took steps to integrate respect for Human Rights in the multiple responses to the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, the abuses of the *Boko Haram* terrorist group and repeated incursions by armed gangs in the East and Adamawa Regions. This is why the stabilisation and consolidation of peace and living together were chosen as an option.

**785-** Upgrading the quality of governance by modernising the management of public finances and improving governance in the public contracts sector, as well as fighting against corruption and misappropriation of public property contributed in enhancing public management for the coherent implementation of all Human Rights.

**786-** The pursuit of equity also had an impact on the management of specific categories such as detainees, socially vulnerable persons, women and persons in situation of involuntary displacement such as refugees and internally displaced persons. With regard to the latter category, various measures taken by the State reflected a strong national will to coordinate humanitarian response.

**787-** All these issues are addressed in Part III of the Report which includes the following chapters:

- Right to Peace and Security (Chapter 1);
- Promotion of Good Governance and Combatting Corruption and Misappropriation of Public Property (Chapter 2);
- Detention Conditions (Chapter 3);
- Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Socially Vulnerable Persons (Chapter 4);
- Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights; and
- Protection of the Rights of Persons in situation of Involuntary Displacement (Chapter 6).



**Chapter**

**1**

**RIGHT TO PEACE AND  
SECURITY**



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**788-** As the Head of State<sup>316</sup> affirmed, “considering that security is a *sine qua non* for civil peace and economic and social progress”, it was important to make the guarantee to the right to peace<sup>317</sup> and security an obligation during the period under review, given various security constraints. Indeed, attacks by *Boko Haram* terrorist group in the Far North, incursions of armed groups in the Eastern border owing to the instability in neighbouring countries and the violent turn of the crisis in the North West and South West Regions affected peace. In this respect, actions to guarantee the right to peace and security included the respect of Human Rights in the multidimensional responses deployed but also constitute a renewed option for stabilisation, consolidation of peace as well as living together.

## SECTION 1: OVERVIEW OF CURRENT THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY

**789-** The most burning security threats come from the terrorist group *Boko Haram*, armed secessionist groups and armed groups in the East.

### §1: Persistent Threat from *Boko Haram* Terrorist Group

**790-** Ever since the terrorist group *Boko Haram* extended its tentacles from neighbouring Nigeria to the Far North Region of Cameroon in 2013, it has remained a threat to peace and security, despite a decline in its activities in 2018 and its fighters surrendering. However, sporadic *Boko Haram*

<sup>316</sup>Message of the Head of State **Paul BIYA** to the Nation on 31 December 2018, published in Cameroon Tribune, 2 January 2019 edition, Page 2.

<sup>317</sup>René Cassin, affirmed: *Peace is a state in which Human Rights are first recognised and then respected however, it is an illusion to believe that Human Rights can be respected in a world where war, that is to say the denial of the existence of man, is asserted every day.*

The right to peace and security is guaranteed at the international level notably through the provisions of Article 23 (1) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights which states that “All peoples shall have the right to national and international peace and security. The principles of solidarity and friendly relations implicitly affirmed by the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed by that of the Organization of African Unity shall govern relations between States.”

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suicide attacks as well as kidnappings were recorded in 2018. Some examples include: Gangawa attack on the night of 11 January 2018 during which the throats of 4 civilians were slit and 2 others were kidnapped; suicide bombing in the night of Sunday to Monday 5 February 2018 in the locality of Hitawa, Mokolo Sub-Division during which 6 civilians died; the attack on 16 June 2018 at Limani involving 2 young girls, barely 6 years old who detonated the explosive vests they were wearing; and the 15 March 2018 attack at Sandawadjiri causing the death of 3 persons. Defeated on military front, the group developed a new operating strategy which consisted in burning down houses, hence reducing to ashes over 100 villages.

**791-** Thanks to the bravery of the Defence and Security Forces, the capacity of this sect to cause trouble reduced significantly. However, vigilance remains crucial as *Boko Haram* has established cells all along the border with Nigeria which shares boundaries with the North West and South West Regions.

## **§2: Emerging Threats from Armed Secessionist Groups in the North West and South West Regions**

**792-** The Head of State, in an overview on the violent acts of armed separatist groups in the North West and South West Regions, noted that: *"socio-professional grievances, which the Government nonetheless strove to address adequately, were exploited by extremists seeking to impose their secessionist plans through violence. We all witnessed the seriousness of the spillover. The symbols of the Republic were desecrated. Our children's education was compromised by criminal arsonists who did not hesitate to burn down schools and attack students. Economic and social activities were disrupted by irresponsible strike calls imposed on the population through threats, intimidation and violence. Bomb attacks were carried out. Many of our compatriots lost their lives in violence perpetrated by secessionists.*

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*Members of our defence and security forces were assassinated in cold blood in the line of duty<sup>318</sup>».*

**793-** In 2018, the crisis in the North West and South West Regions escalated violently, having a significant impact on the enjoyment of freedoms and violating fundamental rights: capital murder of citizens including religious authorities<sup>319</sup>, traditional rulers<sup>320</sup> and officers of the defence and security forces, rape, kidnapping of authorities and civilians followed by ransom, destruction of public and private property, particularly schools, courts and even hospital infrastructure. All in all, investigations were launched with or without complaints from victims.

**794-** As concerns violence against students and teachers precisely, a series of actions were carried out to dissuade members of the educational community and prevent the normal flow of classes. Thus, in the night of 1 to 2 September 2018 notably, the Head Teacher of Bamali primary school was murdered, while on 3 September 2018, 6 students of the Presbyterian Girls Secondary School, Bafut in Mezam Division were kidnapped alongside the principal of the institution. On 4 September 2018, unknown individuals stormed Government High School Melin in Kumbo and vandalised administrative offices causing students and teachers to escape.

**795-** Moreover, the administration of justice was hindered in the localities of Batibo, Tombel, Muyuka and Menji where judicial infrastructure (Court

<sup>318</sup>**Paul BIYA**, Head of State's 2017 end of year message to the Nation, published in the newspaper *Cameroon Tribune*, 2 January 2018 edition.

<sup>319</sup>To illustrate, the case of the **MUZAM** couple, murdered in cold blood on Saturday 20 June 2018 in BATIBO because of their commitment to revive schools in this sub-division, the catholic priest **Cosmas ONDORE OBOTO** of Kenyan nationality on 21 November 2018 at Kembong in Eyumojock Sub-division, of the American Pastor Reverend **Charles TRUMAN WESCO** of the Cameroon Bible Fellowship on Tuesday 30 October 2018. The Tunisian engineer, **Khaled TINSIA**, one of 4 employees of the construction company of the Kumba-Isangele road, kidnapped on 4 March 2018 was killed by his abductors before the Defence and Security Forces could intervene and rescue the others.

<sup>320</sup>On 20 May 2018, the traditional ruler of Matazem, a locality situated 2 kilometres from Santa was kidnapped, with two of his daughters who were later raped by the abductors.

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House and Prisons) was destroyed, physical integrity of personnel violated<sup>321</sup> and their security threatened.

**796-** In fact, data collected on 11 June 2018 reveal 1,043 attacks leading to many deaths including 86 soldiers and Gendarmes, 37 Police Officers, 2 Prison warders, 1 Eco-guard and 158 civilians in relation to the Crisis in the North West and South West Regions.

**797-** Furthermore, over 74,994 internally displaced persons and 21,291 refugees due to the crises were registered in the same month of June<sup>322</sup>. The threats have also spread to Adamawa and East Regions.

### **§3: Threats Extending to Adamawa and East Regions**

**798-** The security threat in the East and Adamawa Regions was characterised by hostage taking followed by demands for ransom by armed groups found at the Eastern border between Cameroon and neighbouring countries facing various socio-political crises.

**799-** In order to fulfil its duty to protect persons and property and preserve national territorial integrity, Government adopted a multidimensional approach based on the respect of Human Rights to counter these multifaceted security threats.

## **SECTION 2: CHALLENGE OF INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE RESPONSE TO SECURITY THREATS**

**800-** Despite various measures taken by Government to provide concerted solutions<sup>323</sup> to corporatist demands<sup>324</sup>, acts of defiance towards the State

<sup>321</sup> The case of **SAKWE Cardinas**, Court Registrar serving at the courts in Batibo, murdered in November 2018.

<sup>322</sup> See the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan for the North West and South West Regions published in June 2018

<sup>323</sup> See the Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017 §681 and following

<sup>324</sup> See the Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017, §694 and following

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authority have continued with the threat to divide the country through secession. Driven by the *“commitment to guarantee Republican order, social peace, national unity and integrity in Cameroon”*, The Head of State *“gave firm instructions that those who have taken up arms, who are inflicting violence or inciting others to violence, be fought ceaselessly so that they should pay for their crimes before the law”*, for *“things are now perfectly clear for everyone”*<sup>325</sup>. Generally, military response was carried out with a concern for the respect of Human Rights. Moreover, the need to preserve collective security has sometimes motivated restrictions on the exercise of some fundamental freedoms in keeping with prerogatives of every State under such circumstances. The positive obligation to punish has justified legal actions taken, while the process of decentralisation was accelerated in response to the demand expressed in this context for greater citizen participation in the management of public affairs<sup>326</sup>.

## §1: Challenges Regarding Military Response

**801-** Military response remained one of the approaches used to counter different security challenges.

**802-** The State security mechanism was redeployed, moving from 4 to 5 Joint Military Regions (RMIA) following the signing of Decree No. 2018/148 of 21 February 2018 to amend Decree No. 2014/308 of 14 August 2014 to reorganize the territorial Military Command, which led to a split of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Military Region which covered Littoral, South West, North West and West Regions. RMIA 5 henceforth covers North West and West Regions and the command post is in Bamenda while RMIA 4 shall cover Littoral and South West<sup>327</sup>. The objective of this redistribution and new organisation is to adapt the security mechanism to new threats it faces. There was also an increase to 5 Military Health Regions to match each RMIA.

<sup>325</sup> Head of State’s statement upon his return from the African Union - European Union Summit in Abidjan

<sup>326</sup> See chapter on the right to participate in the management of public affairs, §234 et al.

<sup>327</sup> In total, 22 Decrees were signed in this regard including the redeployment of personnel.

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**803-** In the East Region, the 12<sup>th</sup> Motorised Infantry Brigade (BRIM) was created with a command post in Bertoua.

**804-** The 51<sup>st</sup> Motorised Infantry Brigade (51<sup>st</sup> BRIM) was created within RMIA 5, which rose from the ashes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> BRIM.

**805-** Furthermore, to strengthen military response, the Defence and Security Forces personnel continued to receive technical and professional training on security. This is the case of 25 specialists who attended two training courses on mine-clearing and neutralisation of Improvised Explosive Devices for 33 days (between March and April 2018) owing to American and French military cooperation.

**806-** Operational responses were given in compliance with professionalism and respect for rules of commitment. Thus, and contrary to allegations of extrajudicial killing of civilians, the operation carried out in Menka in Santa in North West Region, in May 2018, by Defence and Security Forces personnel was against a group of individuals who invaded the locality and were inflicting violence on the population. This operation led to the neutralisation of 27 assailants and seizure of 17 weapons of war, 10 hunting weapons with over 2000 ammunition, about 30 military uniforms and 5 berets belonging to gendarme and police officers assassinated in Belo, Batibo and Bali. Certain freedoms were restricted during these operations.

## **§2: Restricting the Exercise of Certain Freedoms in Compliance with Human Rights Principles**

**807-** Recalling various Resolutions of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of Human Rights in crises situations, the State decided to restrict the exercise of certain rights and freedoms in order to preserve public order, public security and peace in compliance with international and regional legal instruments. On Thursday 8 March 2018, Governors of the North West and South West Regions signed orders to temporarily prohibit the activities of motorbike riders in

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some localities<sup>328</sup>. This prohibition measure was adopted for a period of 7 to 10 days renewable by the Governors where necessary depending on the evolution of the situation on the ground<sup>329</sup>. In addition, a curfew was ordered by the Governor of the North West Region restricting movement of persons, cars and motorcycles between 9pm and 5am. Besides, checkpoints were multiplied, while courts were seized at various levels.

### §3: Judicial Response

**808-** In line with the Rule of law, judicial response was one of the responses to security threats posed by the crisis in the North West and South West Regions and the fight against *Boko Haram* and armed groups in the East and Adamawa Regions.

#### **A: Legal Actions in the Fight against the Terrorist Group *Boko Haram***

**809-** In a bid to deal with perpetrators of violence or acts of terrorism in compliance with the legal framework and principles of the rule of law, capacity building activities were organised for stakeholders of the criminal chain while perpetrators of violence and members of the terrorist group *Boko Haram* who violated the law were prosecuted.

**810-** Regarding capacity building, about twenty Civilian and Military Legal and Judicial Officers were drilled at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) from 27 to 30 November 2018 on the theme *Access to Justice and combating terrorism*, within the framework of the Project on *Good Governance and Anti-Terrorism*, carried out by this Institution in collaboration with the American Organisation *Global Center on Cooperative Security*. The goal of the seminar was to equip participants, through

<sup>328</sup>In North West Region: Momo Division (Widikum Sub-division), Ngoketunja Division (Balikumbat Sub-division). In South West Region: across Ndian Division, Fako Division (Muyuka Sub-division), Meme Division (kumba I, Kumba II, Kumba III, Mbonge and Konye Sub-divisions).

<sup>329</sup>See the press release by the Minister of Territorial Administration published on 8 March 2018 in "*Cameroon Tribune*".

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7 modules, with Human Rights standards to be respected in judicial response to terrorism. In this regard, participants were reminded that Human Rights protection and the fight against terrorism are not contradictory objectives, but rather complementary or coordinated<sup>330</sup>. About twenty administrative authorities benefited from the same seminar from 4 to 7 December 2018, this time on administrative governance.

**811-** Proceedings were initiated against perpetrators of acts of terrorism, *Boko Haram* insurgents who committed offences. Thus, as of 31 December 2018, the situation was as follows:

- Yaounde Military Tribunal, 11 proceedings relating to *Boko Haram* pending against 26 persons accused of acts of terrorism and related offences, punishable under the provisions of Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism;
- Maroua Military Tribunal recorded 87 proceedings involving 217 persons prosecuted; resulting in 46 decisions with 45 persons acquitted;
- Douala Military Tribunal: 2 proceedings, which resulted in conviction decisions. The convicts lodged an appeal before the Littoral Court of Appeal.
- Garoua Military Tribunal: 2 proceedings which resulted in an acquittal while the other case was pending judgment.

**812-** Regarding abuse in the fight against *Boko Haram*, corrective measures were implemented against violations recorded.

**813-** Thus, Corporal J.B. was remanded in custody on 15 February 2018 by the Examining Magistrate at Maroua Military Tribunal for torture and capital murder provided for and punishable by Section 276 of the Penal Code as read with Section 74 of same. In fact, proceedings were initiated against the latter for having on the pretext that they were *Boko Haram* insurgents, caused the violent death of 4 inhabitants of the Ndjamen neighbourhood (**AISSATOU Martha, NDEGUE DAI SARATOU, NAMAGA**

<sup>330</sup>IV<sup>th</sup> pillar of the Global Counter-terrorism Strategy adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/60/288 of 8 December 2006.

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**BECHE** and **MBERZA Jean Claude**) on 1 February 2018 at about 11 pm, as well as caused Mrs **LAMISSA TETOUKOUA** to abort by inserting a stick into her vagina. The case was under investigation.

**814-** Also, after the release of a video on social media in July 2018 accusing the Cameroonian Defence and Security Forces of the summary and extra-judicial killing of 2 women and their children, investigations opened led to the identification and arrest of 7 military personnel<sup>331</sup>, namely Lieutenant (Navy) **FOBASSOU Etienne**, Sergeant **BITYALA Cyriaque**, Corporal **GODWE MANA Didier Jeannot**, Corporal **TSANGA**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class soldier **DONOSSOU Barnabas**, **MANASSE Jacobaï Jonathan** and 1<sup>st</sup> class soldier **NTIECHE FEWOU Ghislain**.

**815-** Following investigations launched against the above-named persons, they were referred to the Yaounde Military Tribunal and remanded in custody for a preliminary inquiry to be carried out against them as co-offenders for capital murder and violation of instructions. At the end of 2018, the matter was pending before the said court as well as the matter concerning some alleged perpetrators of offences in the North West and South West Regions.

## **B: Legal Proceedings Relating to the Crisis in the North West and South West Regions**

**816-** British courts were seized in a bid to question territorial integrity. However this did not have an impact on prosecutions at the national level.

<sup>331</sup> A Communiqué was published to this effect on 10 August 2018 by the Minister of Communication who however mentioned that the persons concerned shall first be presumed innocent. See the daily newspaper, *Cameroon Tribune* of 13 August 2018, Page 5.

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## **1) Calling into Question Territorial Integrity before British Courts: MAKWELEY LYSONGO vs The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, The Government of *La République du Cameroun*, Case n° : HQ17X03342 High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division**

**817-** In the **MAKWELEY LYSONGO Vs Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), The Government of *La République du Cameroun*, The High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division**<sup>332</sup> declared on 5 November 2018 that it lacked jurisdiction to rule on a request to revoke the 1961 Plebiscite. Indeed, on 14 September 2017, Mr MAKWELEY LYSONGO filed a motion for the invalidation of the 1961 referendum to attach Southern Cameroons to the Republic of Cameroon or Nigeria, and the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division declared it lacked jurisdiction to question the legality of this process endorsed by the United Nations.

**818-** The applicant was seeking relieve against the United Kingdom for unlawful breach of trusteeship entrusted to her by the United Nations and abandonment of the populations of the former "West Cameroon". Drawing on United Nations Resolutions, the High Court held that it cannot "rule on the actions of the United Nations. What the United Nations has done with regard to terminating the administration of British Southern Cameroons by the United Kingdom cannot give rise to a claim under English law." The Court went further to state that, having concluded that there was no domestic action, the State of Cameroon enjoys jurisdictional immunity before the courts of the United Kingdom, considering however that the argument that Cameroon had committed human rights violations was irrelevant.

## **2) Legal Proceedings against Defence and Security Forces for Human Rights Violations**

**819-** Efforts to preserve peace and security of persons and goods did not hinder the fight against impunity of some personnel of the defence and security forces who committed offences. Thus, reported cases of violence and

<sup>332</sup> Decision published in full in *Cameroon Tribune* newspaper, 26 November 2018 edition.

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misconduct were investigated, prosecuted and sanctioned as provided for by law.

**820-** To illustrate:

- Following allegations of improper use of firearms occasioning the death of a man during an arrest of growers of indian hemp on 4 September 2017 in Kifen village (Bui Division) carried out by officers of the Gendarmerie Company Bui, the Commander of this Unit was removed from office and brought before the Bamenda Military Tribunal with his co-offenders where the case was pending.
- The following **D. Kevin, K. Eric, S.M. Franz, A. G. Ebenezer and B. Martial Herve**, all Gendarmes were prosecuted before the Buea Military Tribunal for torture and maltreatment committed on 12 May 2018 in Nkongle (Lebialem Division), against **Tsobonyi Alphonse Tatia**, alias «**Title man**», alias «**General**», one of the suspected leaders of the armed wing of separatists involved in the matter relating to kidnapping of civilians and capital murder of Defense and Security Forces personnel. By Judgment No. 6/19 of 22 January 2019, they were declared guilty of violation of instructions and torture and given a 3 year suspended prison sentence.
- On 25 June 2018, a non-commissioned officer working at the Nkongsamba Field Artillery Regiment (Mungo Division) suspected of raping a young woman at Tombel (Kupe-Muanenguba Division) where he was deployed, was brought before the Yaounde Military Tribunal, where proceedings were ongoing;
- Proceedings were initiated against first class soldier **M. Arthur** suspected of raping a young girl aged 17 years at the Nkwen neighbourhood in Bamenda on 23 July 2018. During a regular control, the soldier forced the victim who did not have a national identity card to have sexual intercourse with him to avoid being held back by the patrol team. He was remanded in custody pending the outcome of his trial before Bamenda Military Tribunal<sup>333</sup>.

### 3) Proceedings against Perpetrators of Secessionist Crimes

**821-** The State launched investigations and initiated proceedings against those who committed offences. However, these proceedings were con-

<sup>333</sup>The ruling on the proceedings against M. **Arthur** was adjourned to 16 May 2019.

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ducted in accordance with the rules of fair trial. Some proceedings were conducted before ordinary courts.

**822-** Pursuant to Section 4 of the Code of Military Justice which grants national jurisdiction to the Yaounde Military Tribunal, some proceedings relating to the afore-mentioned crisis were referred to this Tribunal and others before the Military Tribunals of these Regions.

**823-** Furthermore, on 31 December 2018, 302 proceedings were pending before Military Tribunals against 624 individuals suspected of various offences including secessionist crimes and acts of terrorism. As at 31 December 2018, several decisions had already been handed down including convictions and acquittals.

**824-** Mr **AYUK Julius TABE** and 46 other persons who were presented as leaders of the secessionist movement in the North West and South West Regions were arrested in January 2018 in Nigeria, transferred to Cameroonian Authorities and placed in police custody as part of investigations launched against them for acts of terrorism, secession and other crimes pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism. By the end of 2018, the matter was pending before Yaounde Military Tribunal.

## **C: Judicial Response to Hostage-taking in the Eastern Part of the Country**

**825-** In 2018, legal proceedings were opened against perpetrators of ever-increasing crime in the Adamawa and East Regions. In this connection, 276 reports were drawn up by the Gendarmerie relating to highway robbery and hostage taking.

## **SECTION 3: OPTION OF STABILISATION, APPEASEMENT AND A RETURN TO NORMALCY**

**826-** As the Head of State declared *“the wish of every Cameroonian of good will is to see an end to tensions in the North West and South West Regions and a return to normalcy. The vast majority of Cameroonians aspire*

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*to live together in peace”.*

Bearing in mind this aspiration, in addition to seeking avenues for dialogue, strategies for normalisation and stabilisation of the Regions witnessing these security crisis were put in place and living together was promoted.

## **§1: Path to Stabilisation and Normalisation**

**827-** Besides adopting several measures, even beyond initial corporatist claims, Government demonstrated the will to create a favourable climate for the restoration of peace through the fight against proliferation of arms, implementation of stabilisation policies and establishment of a National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee for *Boko Haram* insurgents and armed groups in North West and South West.

### **A: Fight against the Proliferation of Arms**

**828-** The final document titled *“Yaounde Declaration on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Central Africa”* marked the end of the Sub-regional conference held from 13 to 14 June 2018 in Yaounde to intensify the fight against circulation of such weapons through the implementation of the *Kinshasa Convention on the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition, Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair or Assembly*. In this vein, Government suspended the sale of arms and launched a procedure to register arms in circulation. Following Decree No. 2018/456 of 3 August 2018, Cameroon has ratified the Cooperation Agreement between Cameroon and Nigeria on the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons signed on 6 February 2018 in Abuja.

**829-** Pursuant to provisions of Law No. 2016/15 of 14 December 2016 to lay down general weapons and ammunition regulations in Cameroon and considering the proliferation as well as illicit circulation of firearms and ammunition in the country, the Ministry of Territorial Administration pre-

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scribed in a communique on 4 April 2018<sup>334</sup> measures to control the sale and possession of firearms. These restrictions on arms are one of the paths to stabilisation.

## **B: Stabilisation Strategy in the Lake Chad Basin Area**

**830-** The *Regional Strategy for the Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko-Haram affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region* was adopted in Abuja, Nigeria on 30 August 2018 during the Ministerial Conference pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2349. This strategy aims to facilitate transition between active military commitment and the fight against the root causes of the crisis and also to carry out the various stabilisation initiatives in areas affected by *Boko Haram*. To this effect, priority was given to a community, participative, and transparent approach to help communities recover. The Strategy is based on 9 pillars among which, the pillar on the development of a comprehensive regional strategy to steer and manage stabilisation efforts in the Lake Chad Basin.

**831-** In line with this regional effort, Cameroon adopted the *Recovery and peace consolidation strategy for Northern and East Cameroon (2018-2022)* to reduce vulnerability in the target Regions and prevent future crises. Moreover, a *Strategic Plan for Reconstruction and Relaunch of Socio-Economic Activities in the Far North Region* was also adopted to guide activities aimed at promoting integration of young persons who are the most vulnerable to the siren calls of *Boko Haram*. The greatest challenge remains to plan such activities in order to avoid repetition and conflicts of competence which lead to inefficiency.

<sup>334</sup> These measures include prohibiting the sale of hunting and guns for hunting and protection as well as their ammunition in the Centre, Littoral, Adamawa, North West and South West Regions; shutting down all existing armouries in these Regions; making a full inventory of the stockpile of arms and ammunition available to date in the armouries as well as those which had been ordered. The said measures also apply to holders of arms without a permit who were ordered to hand them over to the competent administrative authorities of the territory within 30 days upon publication of the communique of 4 April 2018

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## C: Establishment of a Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee

**832-** Many *Boko Haram* followers have since October 2017, surrendered to Cameroonian authorities<sup>335</sup>. To handle this situation, Government first set up a *Working group for the coordination of activities for the deradicalisation and resocialisation of ex-followers of the terrorist group Boko Haram*,<sup>336</sup> before seeking a broader approach which takes into account the diversity of the security crises. Hence, the signing of Decree No. 2018/719 of 30 November 2018 established the National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee. This Committee is responsible for organising, supervising and managing the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-fighters of *Boko Haram* and armed groups in the North West and South West Regions willing to respond favourably to the Head of State's peace appeal by laying down their arms<sup>337</sup>.

**833-** The goal is therefore to reintegrate less dangerous ex-fighters back into civil life and decide on the prosecution of the most dangerous ex-fighters while taking into consideration the delicate issue of vigilante groups. Moreover, special attention should be paid to the problem regarding the status and management of former members of vigilance committees given their large numbers, which already stood at nearly 14,000 in December 2018.

**834-** In a spirit of appeasement and following instructions by the Head of State, the Minister of Defence, by Decision No. 146575/DM/MINDEF/1 of 13 December 2018 ordered for the discontinuances of proceedings against 289 persons imprisoned in connection with the crisis in the North West and South West Regions in accordance with the provisions of Section

<sup>335</sup> In March 2019, there were already over 400 members of this group in a camp created in Meme in the Far North Region.

<sup>336</sup> Created by No. 28/D/MINATD/D/SG/DAP of 13 February 2018

<sup>337</sup> The Committee shall comprise the Management Board, the National Coordination and Regional Centres. The National Coordinator was appointed by Decree No. 2018/742 of 4 December 2018.

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13(4) of the Code of Military Justice. As a result court decisions were rendered<sup>338</sup>. The release of the said persons was effective from 14 December 2018. However, this decision excluded perpetrators of felonious offences.

### §3: Promoting Living Together

**835-** The National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM) carried out activities to promote living together. In this vein, the Commission visited all ministries and 28 public establishments and enterprises to assess the implementation of constitutional provisions which make English and French two languages of equal value in Cameroon and made recommendations. The first phase of this mission took place from 22 November to 7 December 2018. During the visits, members of the Commission called on heads of public establishments and enterprises to ensure the strict respect of constitutional provisions relating to bilingualism in force in Cameroon.

**836-** In a bid to strengthen bilingualism and multiculturalism in Cameroon, a benchmarking mission visited Switzerland in June 2018 to draw lessons from Swiss experience in order to develop normative frameworks for the practice of bilingualism, multiculturalism and living together in Cameroon.

**837-** Regarding the popularisation of instruments on multiculturalism and living together, a collection of national instruments on bilingualism titled *Extract of Various Linguistic Texts* and their popularisation was ongoing as at 31 December 2019.

<sup>338</sup> The relevant Military Tribunals rendered the following decisions:

- Douala MT: Judgment No. 235/18 of 14 December 2018; No. 236/18 of 14 December 2018; No. 237/18 of 14 December 2018; No. 238/18 of 14 December 2018.
- Yaounde MT: Judgment No. 293/18 of 14 December 2018;
- Buea MT: Judgment No. 99/18 of 14 December 2018;
- Bafoussam MT: Judgment No. 68/18 of 14 December 2018; and
- Bamenda MT: Judgment No. 139/18 of 14 December 2018;

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**838-** The NCPBM, the mission of which is to handle complaints against discriminations relating to the disregard of constitutional provisions concerning bilingualism and multiculturalism, received over 73 appeals.

**839-** Moreover, the said Commission also carried out missions to listen to the people of North West and South West in Buea from 24 to 26 April 2018 and in Bamenda from 31 May to 1 June 2018. The main objective of this exercise, which shall be extended throughout the nation, was to take stock of the practice of bilingualism, multiculturalism and living together in Cameroon in order to develop a Strategic Plan to promote these values. Following the first listening session, recommendations were addressed to Government, some of which include frank, sincere and inclusive dialogue to find lasting solutions to the crisis, accelerate the process of decentralisation of political and economic power in a bid to facilitate job creation and a visit from the Head of State to these Regions<sup>339</sup>.

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\* \* \*

**840-** The virtues of peace were appreciated in 2018 in the wake of various threats against this precious national asset. That is why the various security constraints found their match with a wide range of measures adopted by Government to preserve national integrity, security of persons and goods and above all, create a favourable environment for the enjoyment of Human Rights and consolidation of living together. Military measures were combined with efforts towards dialogue and appeasement. It is within this context that the National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee of ex-fighters of *Boko Haram* and armed secessionist groups was created. Notwithstanding challenges which may affect the effective deployment of this Committee, the latter was already at work at the end of the year to raise awareness on this offer of peace made by public author-

<sup>339</sup> Communiqué by the Chairperson of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, published on 27 April 2018 after the mission to Buea.

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ities. Together with the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, the Committee represents the institutional basis for the consolidation of peace, a necessary ingredient for governance and for attracting investors.

**Chapter** **2**

**PROMOTION OF GOOD  
GOVERNANCE,  
COMBATTING CORRUPTION  
AND MISAPPROPRIATION  
OF PUBLIC PROPERTY**



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**841-** Generally, governance refers to the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country at all levels. In this respect, failure to comply with the rules relating to the management of the society exposes perpetrators to sanctions provided for by the laws and regulations in force. In line with the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper, the strengthening of the quality of governance, the fight against corruption and misappropriation of public property as well continued to define the State's actions aiming at creating a favourable environment for the enjoyment and the protection of Human Rights.

## **SECTION 1: STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY OF GOVERNANCE**

**842-** The legal and institutional framework was reorganised and the principles of governance were tested in practice.

### **§1: Reorganisation of the Legal and Institutional Framework of Governance**

**843-** The legal and institutional framework was reorganised in line with the modernisation of public finance management underway for several years and the improvement of governance in the public contracts system.

#### **A: Continuation of the Modernisation of Public Finance Management**

**844-** In order to continue the modernisation of public finance management which began in 2007 and align it with relevant international standards, particularly those in force in the CEMAC Sub-Region, encompassed in the Guidelines of 19 December 2011, two separate laws were adopted, namely Law No.2018/11 of 11 July 2018 to lay down the Cameroon Code of Transparency and Good Governance in Public Finance Management and Law No.2018/12 of 11 July 2018 relating to the Financial Regime of the State and Other Public Entities.

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## 1) Reforms of the Code of Transparency and Good Governance in Public Finance Management

**845-** The Code is based on 5 main pillars namely clear definition of duties and responsibilities, open budget processes, public access to information, guarantee of data and stakeholder integrity as well as control and accountability.

### a) Clear Definition of Duties and Responsibilities

**846-** The Code provides new elements that strengthen accountability of public entities. Thus, the respective competences and responsibilities of Government and Parliament in the conduct of budgetary policy, the choice of public expenditure and revenue, and in budget execution and control must be clearly defined. In addition, the Code thus makes it imperative for budget debates to be conducted in a collegial manner in Government bodies such as the Cabinet Meeting (Section 15, Sub-section 2 of the Law).

### b) Open Budget Processes and Public Access to Information

**847-** With regard to public access to information<sup>340</sup>, the Code reaffirms the need to make all data on public finances available to the public. Thus, the Code targets public-private partnerships by prescribing a right of public scrutiny of its implementation process. As in the case of public contracts, shortlisting of service providers, awarding and renegotiating process must be open and transparent (Sections 5 and 6 Sub-section 1 and 2 of the Law).

### c) Guaranteeing Data and Stakeholders' Integrity, Control and Accountability

**848-** As regards the guarantee of data and stakeholders integrity, it should be noted that public finance management involves compliance with the

<sup>340</sup> The information concerns: the annual budget preparation timetable, the reasonable time limit before the tabling of the finance laws and the publication of a Report by Government on its economic assumptions, its main medium-term budget guidelines and priorities, as well as its main financial decisions and the main budget risks for the coming year.

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rules of ethics, deontology and equity, thus the need to set up a reference for values. Furthermore, officials who are responsible for the management of public funds owing to their position or who hold an elective mandate to act on behalf of citizens must demonstrate a high level of integrity to earn the trust bestowed upon them. Thus, any holder of public authority, whether elected, member of Government or top ranking Civil Servant is required to declare their assets at the beginning and at the end of their mandate or of-  
fice<sup>341</sup>.

**849-** With regard to control and accountability, sound public finance management requires accountability and the need for continuous monitoring. In this light, the Code strengthens the powers of Courts in charge of audits and Parliament. Therefore, all operations relating to revenue, expenditure and financing budgets of public administrations must therefore be subject to political, judicial and administrative scrutiny (Section 40 of the Code). In addition, the Code requires the Courts in charge of audits to make public all reports it transmits to the President of the Republic, Parliament and Government (Section 42 of the Law).

## **2) Reforms of the State Financial Regime and Other Public Entities**

**850-** The innovative spirit of the new law is built on the consolidation of medium-term fiscal policy, and the facilitation of budget understanding, the involvement of citizens in the budget process, the steering of public policies, as well as the strengthening of public finance control and the increase or clarification of the role of stakeholders in budget execution.

### **a) Consolidation of Medium-term Financial Policy and Facilitation of Budget Understanding**

**851-** The Government is henceforth required each year to draw up a medium-term fiscal policy in accordance with CEMAC convergence criteria. This medium-term budget policy is defined through the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) and the Medium-Term Expenditure Frame-

<sup>341</sup> The Code stipulates that the terms and conditions will be specified by a law.

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works (MTEF). These two medium-term scoping documents<sup>342</sup> must be drafted by the Government before 1 July each year in preparation for the Budgetary Orientation Debate (BOD) (Section 10 of the law). These documents shall be made public. The BOD thus allows Parliament to give its opinion on the ongoing budget management and on the prospects of the State's financing capacity for the future (Section 11 of the law). The review of the State fiscal regimerises to the rank of legal obligation, the drafting of a budget policy that guarantees the sustainability of all public finances<sup>343</sup> (Section 9 of the Law).

**852-** The constant concern to improve the readability of the State budget is also reflected in a more simplified and synthetic listing of the headings of the economic classification of budget operations. The new classification by title that materialises this option has the advantage of being clearer and more understandable. However, as regards expenditure, this classification is indicative due to the fungibility of appropriations within the programme. In order to ensure a presentation of the budget that clearly comes up with the forecasts of revenue and expenditure as well as the State's capacity and financing requirement, the law made a distinction between budget revenue and expenditure from cash resources and charges (Section 23 of the Law).

## **b) Involving Citizens in the Budget Process and Steering Public Policies**

**853-** Being at the heart of public action, the citizen will henceforth be informed of the development and implementation of public policies set out in the Finance Law, in particular through the publication of quarterly reports

<sup>342</sup> Based on realistic macro economic assumptions, the MTBF traces over a minimum period of 3 years, the evolution of all public administration revenue and expenditures as well as the resulting financing requirement or capacity. The MTEF is the document that, on the basis of the MTBF and for all public administrations, breaks down the major masses of expenditure by nature, by action and by the ministry or institution.

<sup>343</sup> The fiscal policy thus formulated contributes to avoiding any excessive deficit and takes into account the convergence requirements of regional and international economic and financial policies resulting from the conventions to which Cameroon is a party.

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on budget execution, the opinions, decisions and reports from the Court in charge of audits, as well as its specific decisions (Section 4 Sub-Section9).

**854-** The new Financial Regime of the State and other Public Entities reinforces Government's option for a management based on the performance of public action by giving a legal status to the main stakeholder, the Programme Manager, in the public policy steering system. Thus, the Programme Manager is appointed by his supervisory Minister through a document that specifies the conditions under which the powers of authorising officer are delegated to him, as well as the procedures for managing the programme (Section 69 Sub-section1 of the Law). The law determines the missions and prerogatives <sup>344</sup>of the Programme Manager (Section69 Sub-section2 and 3).

## **c) Strengthening Public Financial Control and Increasing the Role of Stakeholders in Budget Implementation**

**855-** The law strengthens parliamentary, judicial and administrative control over the management of public funds and confirms the coexistence of the three types of control. Thus, the law establishes new administrative control procedures, in particular internal control, management control and audits, the aim of which is to ensure better risk management and efficient programme management. The corollary of the implementation of this institutional mechanism is the modulation of prior controls carried out by Financial Controllers and Public Accountants on low-risk expenditure under the conditions set for each ministry by the Minister in charge of Finance (Section 84 of the Law). Judicial control, for its part, is taking on a new guise through the establishment of a Court in charge of audits with broad powers, which assesses the accounts of Public Accountants, the mismanagement of Authorising Officers and any other public <sup>345</sup>official (Section 85). Apart from

<sup>344</sup> These are the tasks relating to the formulation of the programme in the Annual Performance Project and the allocation of resources within it, the organisation of the management dialogue and the preparation of the Annual Performance Report.

<sup>345</sup> Such as the Financial Controller, any Civil Servant or public agent, any representative, administrator or employee of a public institution accountable in whatever capacity to that court.

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its traditional role of reviewing finance bills, other means of budget control have been strengthened by the new law, including control over the movement of credits under management. Section 86 of the law).

**856-** Besides the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for making credits available to Chief Authorising Officers and for budget regulation, the new law identifies the operational stakeholders involved in the execution of the State budget. These are Authorising Officers<sup>346</sup>, Financial Controllers and Public Accountants (Sections 66, 70 and 71 of the Law). Unlike the former law, the 2018 Financial Regime clearly identifies Financial Control as an actor involved in the budget process.

## **B: Improving Governance in the Public Contracts System**

**857-** Decree No. 2018/366 of 20 June 2018 to institute the Public Contracts Code contains significant innovations. The major changes brought about by the amended Code recognises, inter alia, the redistribution of the roles of various stakeholders involved in the public contracts sector, and the reconsideration of some rules and procedures applicable to public contracts. In addition, Decree No. 2018/001/PM of 5 January 2018 to lay down the conditions and terms for electronic public contracts provides a certain promptness in the public contracts process and ensures better governance in this sector.

### **1) Redistribution of Stakeholders' Roles in the Public Contracts Sector**

**858-** The redistribution of stakeholders' role in the public contracts sector is reflected in the separation of the contracting authorities and the public contracts control authorities and the responsibilities of the body in charge of regulating public contracts

**859-** With regard to the separation of the contracting authorities and the public contracts control authorities, contrary to Decree No. 2012/75 of 8

<sup>346</sup> There are three categories of Authorising Officers, namely chief Authorising Officers, secondary Authorising Officers and delegated Authorising Officers.

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March 2012 to organise the Ministry of Public Contracts which allowed this Ministry to concurrently carry out the tasks of awarding and controlling the execution of public contracts, the new Public contracts Code henceforth recognizes the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Public Contracts as the authority in charge of controlling the execution of public contracts. The revised Code solves the problem of the strict distribution of roles between the various authorities awarding and controlling the execution of public contracts in Cameroon.

**860-** Thus, the public contract procedure is now the preserve of the Project Owners and Delegated Project Owners<sup>347</sup> excluding the Ministry of Public Contracts, previously the Contracting Authority. The reviewed Code placed the **Internal Structures for the Administrative Management of Public Contracts**<sup>348</sup> under the authority of the Project Owners and the Delegated Project Owners for general assistance in the conduct of the procurement cycle, which ranges from the maturation of the project to the drafting of the Annual Report, including the preparation, award and execution phases. The same applies to the **Public Contracts Tender Boards** under their authority.

**861-** Indeed, in order to enhance transparency, Section 47 of the new Code has delimited the missions of the Ministry in charge of Public Contracts to external control of the execution of public contracts in complete independence and as strictly as possible since it is no longer directly involved in the award of contracts, or in the execution and even less in the payment process. Its position as arbitrator and guarantor of the organisation and smooth functioning of the system enables it to reaffirm its power to sanction, in particular in the event of breaches or bad practices duly noted by

<sup>347</sup>This status of Project Owner was also attributed to Governors and Senior Divisional Officers who are involved once again in the public contract award process. In addition, the status of delegated Project Owner was also granted to the Regional and Divisional Delegates of Public Administrations and to the authority in charge of Purchasing Pools for group purchases.

<sup>348</sup>This body was established by the new Code to support a large number of Project Owners in the field of public contracts, with all the consequences that this lack of compliance had on the quality of documents and the monitoring of operations.

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his Ministry or by the regulatory body. Moreover, the new Code has re-established **Control Boards called Central Contract Control Boards**<sup>349</sup>, which are placed under the authority of the Minister of Public Contracts for the purpose of prior control of the procurement procedures initiated by Project Owners and the Delegated Project Owners.

**862-** From now on, the authority in charge of public contracts is the Minister who is responsible for regulating the public contracts system within the meaning of Article 50 of this new Code<sup>350</sup>, in order to ensure its smooth functioning. **The effectiveness of his action will depend on the consistency of its interventions with those of the regulatory body.**

**863- With regard to the responsibilities of the body in charge of regulating public contracts**, the new Public Contracts Code reaffirms its regulatory role in public contracts on behalf of the body dedicated to this purpose. The provisions of Section 48, paragraphs 2 and 3, of this Law specify that this body is «the supervisor and facilitator of the system». As such, it proposes reforms in this area to the public contracts authority. Besides, this body is expected to regularly draft regulatory documents that it communicates to the public contracts authority, with a copy to the Minister of Territorial Administration and to the ministries responsible for public institutions.

**864-** In addition, the new Code provided for a **Petitions Review Committee** under the authority of the regulatory body the main mission of which is to examine complaints submitted by bidders or contracting parties who consider themselves wronged during the award or execution of contracts. During the preliminary investigation phase conducted by this body, the

<sup>349</sup> These include, the Central Contracts Control Board for road works, the Central Contracts Control Board for other infrastructure, the Central Contracts Control Board for Building and Community Facility Work, the Central Contracts Control Board for General Supplies, the Central Contracts Control Board for Service and Intellectual Service Contracts.

<sup>350</sup> The Minister is responsible for signing enabling instruments of the Code, imposing sanctions on those involved in bad practices and disputes resulting from public contracts, as well as disagreements between public agents. The Minister also has the powers to authorise exceptional procedures.

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Committee is responsible for formulating appropriate measures for the Authority in charge of public contracts, which has the final decision. In accordance with the provisions of the new Code, the organisation and functioning of this body will be the subject of a specific text.

## 2) Amendments of some Public Contracts Rules and Procedures

**865-** Market regulation was substantially improved by the new Code, which has corrected the shortcomings of previous provisions. It is worth highlighting some of the salient features of the new rules and procedures.

**866-** The reviewed Code came out with new types of contracts. These include Framework Agreements<sup>351</sup>, design and execution contracts<sup>352</sup>, so-called reserved contracts<sup>353</sup>, quantifiable service contracts and non-quantifiable service<sup>354</sup> and intellectual services contracts<sup>355</sup>.

**867-** Within the framework of award of public contracts, some deadlines were reviewed in order to improve the contracting process. These include deadlines for the submission of bids<sup>356</sup>, the evaluation of bids<sup>357</sup>, the con-

<sup>351</sup> These are contracts concluded by one or more Project Owners with one or more service providers in order to establish the rules relating to subsequent contracts to be awarded during a given period.

<sup>352</sup> These are contracts which ensure that the same operator is assigned to carry out studies and execute work

<sup>353</sup> These are contracts for artisans, national small and medium-sized enterprises, grassroots community organizations and civil society organizations.

<sup>354</sup> These are contracts that do not necessarily require a design (security, cleaning, building maintenance, green spaces, equipment maintenance, insurance, etc.).

<sup>355</sup> These are contracts for which the services are of an intellectual nature (health insurance, advertising, organisation of training seminars, project management, audits, studies, control, obligations relating to intellectual property)

<sup>356</sup> These deadlines range from 25 to 50 working days from the publication of the Notice in a Contract Journal instead of the 30 to 60 days previously, 20 working days for smaller services in cases of emergency or for requests for quotation and 90 working days for international calls for tenders or for complex or large-scale projects.

<sup>357</sup> These refer to timeframes ranging from 10 working days for smaller projects when the opening is done in one phase, 15 working days when the opening is done in two phases and 21 working days for complex and large-scale projects.

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tracting process of negotiated contracts<sup>358</sup> and deadlines for the submission of bids for pre-qualification<sup>359</sup>. Moreover, it should be stressed that in the absence of an administrative document, a 48-hour period shall be given to the person concerned to provide same. This reduction in delays improves the competitiveness of service providers in the award of public contracts process. In addition, it facilitates and simplifies procedures for award, control and execution of public contracts since the signing of the above-mentioned decree.

### 3) Speed in the Process of Electronic Award of Public Contracts

**868-** This speed is justified by the fact that award of public contracts will now be carried out electronically on the paperless platform called «Cameroon OnLine E-procurement System» (COLEPS). The first phase of this process was implemented with the launch of online tenders. Henceforth, when a bidder wants to apply for a contract, they can simply enter the MINMAP website to download the Bidding Documents, review them and make their bids. This second phase of the process is more successful in that it analyses all bids electronically by performing technical scoring, financial assessment and ranking of bidders in order of merit electronically. This electronic channel is valued at its fair value in the same way as the traditional channel.

**869-** This process, which began in 2013, was completed in 2018 with the support of Korean (Republic of South Korea) cooperation. With the electronic procurement process, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to cheat. It should also be noted that with electronic means, the contract will be awarded to the most deserving bidder, in terms of both for financial and technical offers. Through COLEPS, 1,898 contracts were programmed in 2018 and 177 tender notices were published.

<sup>358</sup>These time limits range from 15 to 30 working days when the service provider is known and 30 to 45 working days when the service provider is not known.

<sup>359</sup>This is 10 working days for national tenders and 15 working days for international invitations to tender.

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## §2: Practical Implementation of Governance's Principles

**870-** The principles of governance were implemented in order to ensure transparency in the management of public contracts, a participatory approach in the economic sector and the continuation of the investment incentive policy.

### A: Transparency in the Management of Public Procurement

**871-** Governance in the public contracts sector was improved in 2018 through the management of disputes, the enhancement of public procurement and service control operations as well as sanctions against dishonest stakeholders.

#### 1) Management of Disputes Relating to Award of Public Contracts

**872-** In 2018, the Petitions and Disputes Review Committee received and reviewed 260 petitions, including 205 filed by aggrieved bidders at any stage of the contract award procedure, 55 relating to requests for arbitration arising from persistent disagreements between contracting authorities and related Public Contracts Boards. Overall, the rate of petitions stood 4.5% of all contracts awarded throughout the country. The respect of deadlines made it possible to rule on all these petitions within a reasonable time. The examination of these petition also revealed a virtually nil rate of well-founded petition, that is, 0.66%.

#### 2) Increasing Control of Public Contracts and Services

**873-** In 2018, control operations of the execution of public contracts were intensified in the field, through general control activities for all contracts awarded in 2017 and specific control activities for major infrastructure projects.

**874-** With regard to the specific control of public contracts, Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP) carried out control activities for major infrastructure projects by regularly carrying out controls on documents and in the field. The controls carried out focused on major infrastructure projects, PLANUT

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projects and projects to build sports, hotel, tourism and road infrastructure related to the organisation of the African Cup of Nations. It is worth nothing that 542 public contracts were awarded out of 7,000 recorded in the project logbook for the 2018 financial year for a cumulative amount of CFAF 1,419,000,000,000<sup>360</sup>.

**875-** As part of the general control of all contracts awarded, MINMAP carried out, through its Central and Local Brigades, 5,653 desk controls and field controls that is 2,221 controls at central level and 3,432 checks at local level. In addition, MINMAP received 5,802 itemised accounts at the central and decentralised level, which were processed. This processing led to the rejection of 1,630 files for reasons relating to controls of the execution of public contracts<sup>361</sup>, in the context of governance and fight against corruption.

### 3) Sanctions against Fraudulent Practices

**876-** More than 86 companies were excluded from the public procurement process due to various fraudulent practices. In addition, several MINMAP officials were dismissed for going against certain values. These values include respect for ethics and professional conduct, moral integrity, respect for public property, freedom of access, equal treatment and transparency of procedures, etc.

### B: Participatory Approach in the Governance of the Economic Sector

**877-** The 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Cameroon Business Forum (CBF), a preferred forum for consultation and dialogue between public authorities, private sector operators and development partners was held on 12 March 2018 in Douala under the theme: «Financing of Small and Medium-Sized En-

<sup>360</sup> About 2,166,412,213.74 Euros

<sup>361</sup> These reasons particularly include the late submission of contractual documents by companies, the absence of delivery slip and the technical acceptance report for supply contracts, the lack of mobilisation of the equipment proposed in the contract with consequences for the quality of the work and the experts proposed in the contract with consequences on the quality of services.

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terprises and Development of the Cameroonian industrial fabric». The implementation of the adopted recommendations was assessed. Although some progress was made, this evaluation revealed bottlenecks.

## 1) Evaluation of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of CBF

**878-** During the 9<sup>th</sup> session of CBF, 28 recommendations <sup>362</sup> covering 10 reform projects were adopted. At the end of 2018, 18 out of the 28 recommendations (that is 64%) were implemented, 7 were in progress (24%) and 2 had not been implemented (that is 8%), while one recommendation was reclassified (that is 4%), making a 64% implementation rate as in 2017.

**879-** The above-mentioned recommendations focused on business creation (4 out of 4), driving licence (2 out of 3), access to electricity (0 out of 2), access to property (1 out of 3), access to credit (2 out of 2), facilitation of cross-border trade (4 out of 5), trade disputes/execution of contracts (1 out of 1), investment promotion (2 of 5) and tax payment (02 of 03)<sup>363</sup>.

**880-** The assessment of the level of implementation of the recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of CBF revealed a consistent implementation rate. Upon analysis, although the crisis in the North West and South West Regions was a major challenge, positive developments could be noted on some issues.

## 2) Progress in the Implementation of Recommendations

**881-** Among the progress made<sup>364</sup> in 2018, were the recapitalisation of the Cameroonian Bank for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the comput-

<sup>362</sup>These include the finalisation of additional *mybusiness.cm* services, the implementation of the online tracking system for building permit files in Douala, the preparation of feasibility studies for the Single Window and the integrated system for urban planning acts in Douala, the operationalization of the co-ownership regime for the refund of VAT credits, the implementation of a system for the transmission of electronic receipts when paying taxes; the operationalization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> portal at the port of Douala, the implementation of the single e-force form in the e-GUCE platform and e-GUCE portal etc

<sup>363</sup>The figures in brackets take into account the reforms undertaken and the recommendations adopted

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erisation of the process of issuing Trade and Personal Property Credit Registers, the dematerialisation of urban planning acts and the drafting of the National Charter for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

### 3) Challenges in the Implementation of Recommendations

**882-** The delays<sup>365</sup> in the implementation of some of the recommendations are due to the fact that some of the reforms adopted were not taken into account or implemented, due to their insufficient maturation, and of the socio-political crisis in the North West and South West Regions, with its serious impacts on economic activity, as well as a severe shortage of foreign currencies, which leads to a significant slowdown in foreign trade operations. The direct consequence of this delay is Cameroon's position in the World Bank's Doing Business ranking. Thus, Cameroon moved from the 163<sup>rd</sup> place in 2017 to 166<sup>th</sup> place in 2018 out of 190 countries. This delay prevents investors from flowing into the country and therefore slows down the country's economic growth and development.

**883-** In a bid to improve the country's business climate and economic growth, the Business Community and development partners deplored the pace of implementation of reforms but called for combined efforts to address 5 major challenges. These are the diversification of the economy and the improvement of production capacities, the facilitation of procedures, the improvement of trade support infrastructure, the promotion of Made in Cameroon and the resolution of the security crises currently facing the country. Technical and financial partners nevertheless commended the permanent dialogue between the private and public sector, despite the difficulties and hoped for more results while demonstrating their willingness to work towards this end.

### C: Continuation of the Investment Incentive Policy

**884-** Actions focused on investment promotion and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.

<sup>365</sup> Recommendations such as extending of mybusiness.cm application, expanding of the measures of energy flows on the system mechanism, setting up commercial courts, reviewing the law relating to classified establishments are being implemented.

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## 1) Investment Promotion

**885-** Investment promotion included transparency of mining activity and investment facilitation.

### a) Transparency in Mining

**886-** In the mining sector, the Government's action focused mainly on the continuation of the popularisation of the Mining Code, whose implementation enabled some progress, particularly in terms of revenue from various taxes and duties in the sector, which rose from CFAF 4,000,000,000<sup>366</sup> in 2017 to CFAF 5,380,525,102<sup>367</sup> in 2018 as well as on the direct channelling of 120 kg of gold from small scale miners and 125 kg of gold for the collection of synthetic tax. In addition, during the year under review, Cameroon certified 1,582.09 carats of diamonds in accordance with the Kimberley Process mechanisms and the tax on the value of exports of these diamonds generated CFAF 35,137,867<sup>368</sup>.

**887-** Moreover, in the same year, the opening of some mining sites, such as the Akonolinga rutile site, for which an international call for expression of interest was launched and among other things, negotiations of 2 mining agreements was finalised for the exploitation of the Akom II iron deposits and Colomine gold deposits, issuance of a research permit for the Ngaoundal and Mini-Martap bauxite deposit.

**888-** Initiatives in the field of mining respect Human Rights protection indicators in that consultation with the population is a prerequisite for the exploitation of their lands. In that respect, 28 consultations were held in 2018, mainly on quarry materials in the context of expropriations for mining research permits.

**889-** In 2018 the sector of industrial mining, field inspections and controls generated an estimated amount of CFAF 1,002,852,238<sup>369</sup> out of the ex-

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<sup>366</sup> About 6,106,870.23 Euros

<sup>367</sup> About 8,214,542.14 Euros

<sup>368</sup> About 53,645.59 Euros

<sup>369</sup> About 1,531,072.12 Euros

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pected CFAF 1,487,723,507<sup>370</sup> against CFAF 1,136,869,311<sup>371</sup> in 2017, an increase of CFAF 350,854,196<sup>372</sup>.

## b) Facilitation of Investment

**890-** Government took measures to welcome, guide and provide institutional support to investors wishing to set up or expand their businesses in Cameroon.

**891-** In 2018, in a bid to closely support investors, Government signed 10 agreements through the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA), for investments estimated at more than CFAF 76,000,000,000<sup>373</sup> and more than 6,200 jobs planned. These agreements cover a wide range of strategic areas, including hotels, food, agro-forestry and the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, the IPA took advantage of these agreements to give some tips to companies for their development, namely the requirement of quality in the services provided, the affordable prices of their products, etc.

**892-** As at 31 December 2018, IPA signed more than 34 investment agreements for an estimated amount of more than CFAF 1,173,000,000,000<sup>374</sup> and for more than 20,000 projected jobs.

## 2) Actions taken for the Promotion of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

**893-** Actions to promote SMEs focused in particular on non-financial and financial support for SMEs.

### a) Non-Financial Support of SMEs

**894-** To improve the competitiveness of SMEs, the facilitation and easing of business creation procedures in the Centres for Business Creation Formality (CBCF) was maintained, with 13,423 companies created in the

<sup>370</sup> About 2,271,333.59 Euros

<sup>371</sup> About 1,735,678.34 Euros

<sup>372</sup> About 535,655.26 Euros

<sup>373</sup> About 116,030,534.35 Euros

<sup>374</sup> About 1,791,016,840.51 Euros

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CBCF and 7,499 electronically in 2018 compared to 13 343 in 2017 and 15 219 in 2016

**895-** Moreover, in 2018 the capacities of SMEs promoters were built in several areas. It can be noted that 284 companies in the database of the Cameroon Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange and 13 new SMEs had their capacities enhanced, particularly in the construction, electricity, mechanical engineering and welding sectors. With the technical support of external consultants, 27 companies in the civil, mechanical and electrical engineering sectors benefited from benchmarking. Besides, in 2018 a training seminar for 66 SMEs was organised to prepare them to better develop their service offering within the framework of the Nachtigal hydropower project.

**896-** Awareness-raising caravans for economic stakeholders, SMEs, associations of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (PMEESA) and employers' organisations with a view to joining the Authorised Management Centres were organised in collaboration with the other relevant administrations. The organisation of these caravans in Kribi, South Region, in Maroua, Far North Region and in Bertoua, East Region made it possible to raise awareness among 7,000 SME promoters, that is 15,600 members in 2018 against 3,150 in 2016.

**897-** A one stop shop was set up on 29 March 2018 to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs generally facing financial and structural challenges. The SMEs will benefit from the guidance of the SMEs Promotion Agency (APME), including obtaining visas necessary for the execution of investment programmes for foreign personnel during the period of validity of the authorisation decision.

**898-** In addition, the Cameroonian Employers' Association (GICAM) launched on 17 April 2018 in Douala, the Development Centre of SMEs presented as a tool to support local SMEs. These SMEs really need this support in an environment characterised by the multifaceted and sometimes

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structural obstacles<sup>375</sup> they regularly have to face. According to data provided by this structure, the aim is to offer SMEs value-added services corresponding to their real needs, hence the axes of implementation<sup>376</sup> defined for the Centre, the result of the GICAM-International Labour Office partnership.

## b) Financial Support of SMEs

**899-** As at 31 December 2018, Cameroon Bank for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (BC-PME) had 1,058 new SMEs customers<sup>377</sup> who opened accounts in its books. These SMEs customers received financing for a total amount<sup>378</sup> of CFAF 13,103,065,000<sup>379</sup> against CFAF 6,500,539,958 in 2017,<sup>380</sup> an increase of CFAF 6,602,525,042<sup>381</sup> in 2018 compared to 2017, with a very attractive interest rate of between 10 and 11% (excluding tax).

**900-** Besides, pursuant to the President of the Republic's high instructions prescribing the priority settlement of the debt owed to small and medium-sized enterprises and the improvement of their access to bank loans<sup>382</sup>, Government through the Ministry of Finance granted a sum of CFAF

<sup>375</sup> These include poor managerial capacity, difficult access to finance, long delays in paying invoices, difficult access to contracts, restrictive taxation, difficulties in accessing information, red tape and an unfavourable business climate.

<sup>376</sup> These include the promotion of entrepreneurship, SMEs development/support, follow-up and guidance of the business diaspora and economic intelligence.

<sup>377</sup> They are made up of craftsmen, SMEs in the agro-industry, energy, construction and public works, forestry, and the service sector (information and communication technologies, trade, transport and tourism).

<sup>378</sup> This amount is allocated to SMEs customers as follows : Agro-industry sector (CFAF 95 021 564 = 144 849, 95 euros), Energy sector (CFAF 209 829 035 = 319 861, 33 Euros), Building and construction materials sector (CFAF 2 364 125 092 = 3 603 849, 23 Euros), Wood and timber products sector (CFAF 4 629 890 = 7 057, 76 euros), Services sector (ICT, Commerce, Transport, Tourism) (CFAF 2 424 093 047 = 3 695 263, 79 Euros), and other sectors of activity (CFAF 1 402 847 330 = 2 138 486, 78 Euros).

<sup>379</sup> About 20,004,679.39 Euros

<sup>380</sup> About 9, 90 359. 69 Euros.

<sup>381</sup> About 10,080,190.90 Euros

<sup>382</sup> See the speech by the Head of State to the Nation on 31 December 2017.

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32,000,000,000<sup>383</sup> in arrears to economic operators in 2018. In addition, VAT credits amounting to CFAF 76,000,000,000<sup>384</sup> were returned to companies in 2018, compared with CFAF 82,000,000,000<sup>385</sup> in 2017.

**901-** To improve payments for the year 2018, the circular of the Ministry of Finance recommends the «automatic refund» of value added tax without prior control of so-called citizen companies. Otherwise, it is possible for a company in good standing with tax authorities to bring an action before the competent court of its home tax office, that of its residence or its head office. Transparency in public finance management reduces the risk of corruption and misappropriation of public property.

## **SECTION 2: FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY**

**902-** The continued repression of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property did not prevent increased initiatives in the areas of prevention through awareness-raising and communication, control and detection carried out by various institutions.

### **§1: Awareness and Communication as Tools for Prevention**

**903-** Awareness-raising campaigns for young people on Integrity Education and the fight against corruption were organised by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) during the FENASSCO Games<sup>386</sup> «League A<sup>387</sup>» and «League B<sup>388</sup>» held from 31 March to 9 April 2018 in Ngaoundere and Bertoua respectively, and during the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the University Games held from 4 to 11 May 2018 at the University of

<sup>383</sup> About 48,854,961.83 Euros

<sup>384</sup> About 116,030,534.35 Euros

<sup>385</sup> About 125,190,839.69 Euros, money kept in an escrow account at the Bank of Central African States escrow account (BEAC).

<sup>386</sup> National Federation of School Sports

<sup>387</sup> League bringing together students from schools under the Ministry of Secondary Education.

<sup>388</sup> League bringing together students from institutions under the Ministry of Basic Education.

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Maroua. Furthermore, in 2018, NACC created about ten anti-corruption units in public companies and institutions, as well as 360 in local councils. In addition, some twenty anti-corruption units and integrity clubs were provided capacity building support by NACC.

**904-** NACC also conducted several awareness-raising campaigns, including the «Back to School Without Corruption» campaign in September 2018 in the 10 Regions of the country, the «Logging Without Corruption» campaign conducted in the North West, South West and Littoral Regions, from 7 to 17 May 2018, the «Cotton farming without corruption» campaign conducted in the North and Far-North Regions, from 3 to 13 June 2018; the «Cocoa farming without corruption» campaign in the Littoral and Centre Regions, from 4 to 11 November 2018, and the «Election without corruption» campaign in the context of the presidential election of 7 October 2018 to raise awareness among those involved in the electoral process.

**905-** NACC produced and broadcasted 131 programmes titled « Espace CONAC » in French and English versions to inform national and international public opinion on the stakes of the fight against corruption. During the International Anti-Corruption Week from 3 to 9 December 2018 in Yaounde, NACC produced radio spots in French and English on its toll-free number 1517.

**906-** In addition, NACC published and distributed 136,000 copies of the magazine title *CONAC Newsletter* in the 10 Regions, as well as 10,000 pocket calendars, 50,000 flyers, 5,000 T-shirts, 2,600 caps and 4,000 bags with anti-corruption messages.

**907-** Moreover, more than 3,000 anti-corruption billboards were placed on the facades of administrative buildings following 12 awareness-raising caravans organised by NACC, including 3 devoted to young people on the occasion of Youth Day on 11 February 2018, to women on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March 2018 and to workers in the run-up to International Labour Day on 1 May 2018. Similarly, 8 other

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awareness caravans were organised in 8 Regions, including Bertoua, on 27 April 2018; Douala, on 11 July 2018, Yaoundé, on 28 August 2018, Ngaoundere and Bafoussam, from 17 to 20 September 2018; Maroua, on 26 November 2018; and Garoua, on 29 November 2018.

## §2: Enhancing Control Activities

**908-** The analysis of the deployment of NACC, the services of CONSUPE and the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court reveals a scaling up of control activities.

### A: NACC's Activities

**909-** As part of the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS)<sup>389</sup>, NACC carried out investigation and control activities. These activities dwelled on the quality of public expenditure and the identification of acts of corruption. NACC received and examined 4,498 reports on facts, practices and acts of corruption in 2018, compared with 3,982 in 2017.

**910-** NACC carried out 41 rapid interventions in 2018 compared to 60 in 2017. These field trips allowed NACC to note flagrante delicto cases relating to scams, misappropriation of public property, influence peddling, abuse of office, extortion of money, forgery and use of forged documents as well as corruption of users in several areas<sup>390</sup> in accordance with article 22, paragraph 3, of its organic text. At the end of these field trips, proceedings were initiated in 14 cases and forwarded to the competent courts.

<sup>389</sup>. NACC continued the implementation of the NACS by launching the 11<sup>th</sup> series of Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) on 4 April 2018. The number of its structures systematically dropped from 22 in 2017 to 7 in 2017.

<sup>390</sup>. These areas include, road tolls, road weighing, signing of civil status documents, traffic controls by Police and Gendarmerie Forces, computer data handling in the payment of salaries, settlement of payments of public contracts, signing of official documents in some Senior Divisional Offices and City Councils, production and payment of forged pay slips by the Public Treasury, etc.

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## B: Activities of the Supreme State Audit

**911-** Enterprises and other public institutions transmitted reports to the CONSUPE services for examination, which also carried out control missions. In addition, the Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council (BFDC) received files and instituted proceedings against unscrupulous managers.

### 1) Examination of Reports

**912-** Several denunciations were received and examined by the CONSUPE's operational units. Some of them were taken into account in the context of the execution of mobile control missions.

#### a) Reports Examined by the Department of Legal Affairs and Information Exploitation (DAJEI)

**913-** The DAJEI received and examined 111 reports in 2018 compared to 128 in 2017, as shown in the table below:

**Table 1: Reports received and examined by the DAJEI during the 2017 and 2018 financial years**

No.	Relevant Administrations	Number	
		2017	2018
1	Public Administrations	10	29
2	Public Administrative establishments	5	8
3	Private establishments	11	2
4	Individuals	59	49
5	Councils	9	2
6	Trade unions	4	4
7	Anonymous	16	15
8	Associations/NGOs/Cooperatives	11	2
9	Liberal Professions	1	0
Total		128	111

**Source :** DAJEI/CONSUPE

**914-** The downward trend is more visible for reports received and examined<sup>391</sup> in 2018 by Divisions for Inspection and Control, sometimes as part of special missions prescribed by the President of the Republic and investigation missions<sup>392</sup>.

<sup>391</sup>. Some were taken into account as part of the execution of mobile control missions.

<sup>392</sup> This involves the referral to the person in charge of forwarding the documents.

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## b) Reports Examined by the Divisions for Inspection and Control

**915-** CONSUPE's Divisions for Inspection and Control received and examined 89 reports compared to 162 in 2017, as shown in the table below.

**Table 2: Comparative Table of reports received and examined by the Divisions for Inspection and Control during the 2017 and 2018 financial years**

Operational Units	Number of reports received		Number of reports examined		Reports resulting in special missions		Reports resulting in investigation missions		Pending files	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<b>DIESP</b>	10	4	10	4	5	1	0	0	5	0
<b>DICTD</b>	64	30	60	30	3	0	2	0	4	0
<b>DIAP</b>	82	49	82	49	2	2	2	0	0	0
<b>DIEPOS</b>	6	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

**Source:** CONSUPE

### **Key:**

**DIESP:** Division for Inspection and Control of Public and semi-public Enterprises

**DICTD:** Division for Inspection and Control of Councils

**DIAP:** Division for Inspections and Control of Public Administrations

**DIEPOS:** Division for Inspections and Control of Public Establishments and Specific Organizations

### **2) Control missions**

**916-** During the reference year, CONSUPE's Divisions for Inspection and Control carried out 8 control missions among Public and Parastatal Enterprises, Specific Administrations and Public Administrations as part of the execution of the Public Investment Budget compared to 19 in 2017, a decrease of 11 missions compared to the previous year. The table below summarizes these different missions.

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**Table 3: Comparative Table of missions control carried out by the Divisions for Inspections and Control during the 2017 and 2018 financial years**

Operational Units	Missions initiated		Missions completed		Pending missions		Reports transmitted to the Presidency of the Republic	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<b>DIESP</b>	4	1	1	1	3	5	1	2
<b>DICTD</b>	5	0	5	0	0	0	2	0
<b>DIAP</b>	6	3	0	0	6	3	0	5
<b>DIEPOS</b>	4	4	0	3	4	4	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

**Source :** CONSUPE

## **C: Control by the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court**

**917-** The Audit Bench carried out activities relating to judicial and administrative controls, it also assisted and advised public authorities.

### **1) Judicial Control**

**918-** Judicial control concerns 484 management accounts annually, including 13 from main Treasury Accountants, 97 from Accounting Agents of Public Administrative Establishments and 374 from Council Revenue Collectors. To this number the 4,113 accounts from previous financial years should be added which had not yet been produced at the Audit Bench.

**919-** In 2018, the Audit Bench examined 150 management accounts and rendered 14 final judgments, including 4 judgments for the Division in charge of controlling and ruling on accounts produced by accountants of public and semi-public enterprises, 3 judgments for the Division in charge of controlling and ruling on accounts produced by accountants of regional and local authorities and their public establishments and 6 judgments for the Division in charge of controlling and ruling on accounts produced by accountants of public establishments of the State. Among these final judgments, 4 were on deficit for a total amount of CFAF106,102,945<sup>393</sup> to be

<sup>393</sup> About 161,989.22 Euros

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paid by some accountants against CFAF296,722,003<sup>394</sup> in 2017. Ten decisions discharged Public Accountants of liability.

**920-** The panel of Joint Divisions examined 6 applications for review of final judgments. This examination resulted in 2 final judgments, the others were still in the investigation stage. This panel examined 6 files on the merits transmitted to the Audit Bench by the CONSUPE, 3 of which resulted in final judgments. It also received 11 applications for oath-taking from Public Accountants, which will be examined globally as part of the preparation of the oath-taking by Accountants.

## 2) Administrative Control

**921-** The financial audit of public and parastatal enterprises focus annually on 63 entities that must produce their financial statements to the Audit Bench, to which 619 financial statements should be added from previous years that had not yet been produced to the Audit Bench. In 2018, the Audit Bench examined 10 financial statements which led to 8 draft observation reports and 2 final observation reports which were notified to the boards of directors of relevant companies.

## 3) Assistance and Advice to Public Authorities

**922-** The Audit Bench of the Supreme Court drafted its 2017<sup>395</sup> Public Annual Report and continued its common activities of providing assistance and advice both to Executive and Parliament.

**923-** With regard to assistance to the Executive, the General State Account for the 2017 financial year produced by the Ministry of Finance was exceptionally<sup>396</sup> certified on 29 October 2018.

<sup>394</sup> About 453,010.69 Euros

<sup>395</sup> This Report gives an account to the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the President of the Senate on the general outcome of its deliberations and the comments it considers it should make with a view to reforming and improving accounting and accounting discipline.

<sup>396</sup> Notwithstanding the fact that the General State Account was not yet due, in view of the provisions of Article 15 of Decree No. 2013/160 of 15 May 2013 relating to the General Regulations for Public Accounting.

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**924-** Furthermore, 3 sessions of the MINFI-Audit Bench Permanent Consultation Framework were held in 2018. Deliberations focused in particular on the basis of judicial control, the increase of the production rate of management accounts of Public Accountants', the oath-taking by Public Accountants, the broadening of the jurisdiction of the Audit Bench, the irregularities noted during the examination of the accounts of Public Accountants and the level of implementation of recommendations of the Audit Bench. At the end of these sessions, recommendations were formulated<sup>397</sup>.

#### 4) Assistance and Advice to Parliament

**925-** In addition to the Opinion on the Settlement Bill for the 2017 financial year, the Audit Bench held forums for exchanges with the National Assembly and the Senate.

**926-** As the practice has been since it entered into force, the Audit Bench issued Opinion No. 1/2018/CSC/CDC of 26 October 2018 on the Finance Settlement Bill for the 2017 financial year, noting in particular that there have been substantial improvement in its presentation, an under consumption of funds held in the accounts 45 «*Deposits of Administrations*», transactions charged to the provisional accounts and not regularised before the end of the financial year, an increase in outstanding amounts to be recovered and the outstanding public debt.

**927-** This Bench also held 4 forums for exchanges, respectively on 19 June and 13 November 2018 with the Senate's Finance and Budget Committee, and on 22 June and 30 November 2018 with the National Assembly's Finance and Budget Committee. The discussions focused in particular on the presentation of the bilingual Annual Public Report of the Bench for the 2016 financial year, the Opinion of the Audit Bench on the Settlement

<sup>397</sup> These include measures to increase pressure on Public Accountants to produce the accounts, to identify and produce a list of all defaulting Public Accountants, to organise training seminars on accounting and the preparation of management accounts, to draw up a draft decree to lay down the procedures for oath taking by Public Accountants pursuant to Article 32 (4) of Decree No 2013/160 of 15 May 2013 mentioned above, and raising the awareness of Authorising Officers and Financial Controllers regarding their new responsibilities before the Audit Bench.

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Bill for the 2017 financial year and the impact of State shareholdings in public and parastatal companies.

## §3: Detection Actions

**928-** Although the fight against terrorist financing has marked the activities of the National Agency for Financial Investigation (NAFI), the institutions in charge of the fight against financial crime fulfil their traditional mission of detecting financial crimes. For this purpose, the capacity building of personnel in charge of detection continued. The concern to consolidate cooperation between institutions was also reinforced during the year under review.

### A: Capacity building of Staff in Charge of Detection

**929-** The Capacity of the staff of 5 Anti-Corruption Units<sup>398</sup> newly created in some public administrations and religious denominations were built in 2018 by NACC, in order to enable them to acquire methodological tools to effectively fight corruption. In addition, a training workshop was organised by the said Institution from 21 to 22 March 2018 in Yaounde for 121 trainers responsible for monitoring and implementing Rapid Results Initiatives in public administrations, public establishments and public enterprises as well as in Councils.

### B: Interactions between Anti-Financial Crime Institutions

**930-** NAFI received 670 suspicious transaction reports by regulated professions, as against 618 in 2017, and transmitted 87 files to the competent civil judicial authorities, as against 88 in 2017. The files transmitted were in particular on money laundering, misappropriation of public property, corruption, false pretence and tax and customs fraud. With regard to the

<sup>398</sup>The 5 Anti-Corruption Units which were equipped with methodological tools are, inter alia, the Anti-Corruption Unit of the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon from 4 to 6 June 2018, Yaounde Central Hospital, from 9 to 10 August 2018, the National Employment Fund, from 22 to 23 November 2018, the Ministry of Higher Education, from 12 to 13 December 2018.

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financing of terrorism, this Institution also forwarded 6 files to the Military Tribunal and 19 to other public administrations.

## **C: Cooperation on Information Exchange and the Fight against Corruption**

**931-** CONSUPE established working contacts with Civil Society Organisations through various activities for the exchange of experiences and information, in particular the signing of a partnership agreement protocol on 5 July 2018.

**932-** NACC, for its part, continued its cooperation with similar institutions by participating in five international seminars, symposiums and summits on <sup>399</sup> the fight against corruption. In addition, 7 NACC officials participated in several training seminars<sup>400</sup> aimed at strengthening their skills in anti-corruption and information exchange.

## **§4: Continued Repression of Acts of Corruption and Misappropriation of Public Property**

**933-** With regard to punishment of perpetrators of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property, administrative and judicial sanctions increased in 2018.

<sup>399</sup> These include, among others, participation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the AAACA in Dakar, Senegal, from 4 to 5 May 2018, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Conference of Heads of Commonwealth Anti-Corruption Institutions, from 14 to 18 May 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, the 1<sup>st</sup> African Anti-Corruption Dialogue in Arusha, Tanzania, from 2 to 6 October 2018, the 18<sup>th</sup> Anti-Corruption Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, organised by the NGO Transparency International, from 22 to 24 October 2018, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of the *Association des Ombudsmans et Médiateurs de la Francophonie* in Brussels and Namur, Belgium, from 6 to 9 November 2018.

<sup>400</sup> These include the seminar on capacity building on governance, from 15 June to 5 July 2018 in Beijing, China, the training seminar on the collection and processing of information gathered through intelligence, from 20 to 24 August 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa, the training seminar on the fight against fraud and corruption, from 24 October to 3 November 2018 in London, and the training seminar on money laundering and financial crime, from 26 to 30 November 2018 in Gaborone, Botswana.

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## A: Administrative sanctions

**934-** BFDC received and examined files during its various sessions. The committee rendered decisions, some of which were appealed against. It also forwarded files to other institutions.

### 1) Files received and examined

**935-** In 2018, BFDC received 8 files for the commencement of disciplinary action as against 3 in 2017. These were essentially Mission reports, the study of which led to the referral of 34 unscrupulous managers or public agents before this body in 2018 as against 28 in 2017, as shown in the table below:

**Table 4: Comparative Table of files received and examined by BFDC in 2017 and 2018**

Cases investigated	Year	
	2017	2018
Number of files received	3	8
Number of referral files	28	34
Number of sessions organised	28	25
Number of cases examined	48	37
Number of decisions rendered and published	12	51

**Source :** BFDC Permanent Secretariat

**936-** Following the sessions organised and the disciplinary action taken, BFDC imposed sanctions on unscrupulous managers as shown in the table below:

**Table 5: Sanctions imposed on unscrupulous managers by BFDC in 2017 and 2018**

Sanctions	Year			
	2017	2018		
Amount of deficits and special fines	<b>Deficits</b>	<b>Special fines</b>	<b>Deficits</b>	<b>Special fines</b>
	CFAF 7, 479, 034, 032 <sup>401</sup>	CFAF 7, 900, 000 <sup>402</sup>	CFAF 8, 399, 479, 523 <sup>403</sup>	CFAF 6, 500, 000 <sup>404</sup>

<sup>401</sup> About 11,418,372.56 Euros

<sup>402</sup> About 12,061.06 Euros

<sup>403</sup> About 12,823,623.86 Euros

<sup>404</sup> About 9,923.66 Euros

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Persons with deficits	5	14	15	26
Persons with special forfeiture	0		0	

**Source:** BFDC

## 2) Appeals against BFDC decisions

**937-** The volume of litigation before administrative courts dropped compared to the previous year. These courts received and examined 3 appeals for the annulment of BFDC's decisions and suspension of their effects in 2018 against 9 in 2017. Thus, out of 29 cases pending before these courts, only one decision was rendered in favour of the State and 4 against it.

## B: Judicial Sanctions against Acts of Corruption and Misappropriation of Public Property

**938-** The repression of perpetrators of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property continued both before the Special Criminal Court (SCC) and before the ordinary courts.

### 1) Slight Increase in the Number of Files on Litigation before Specialised Courts

**939-** The number of cases recorded at the SCC in 2018 increased slightly compared to the previous year. Thus, the number of cases enlisted increased from 44 in 2016 to 45 in 2017 and then to 52 in 2018, as shown in the table below:

**Table 6: Comparative Table of judgments delivered by the SCC in 2016, 2017 and 2018.**

Year	Number of Matters enlisted	Number of Judgments delivered	Number of convictions	Number of discharge or acquittals	Number of prosecutions discontinued	Amounts recovered
2016	44	31	56	13	32	0
2017	45	18	27	2	4	0
2018	52	18	43	15	1	0

**Source:** SCC

**940-** The number of preliminary inquiries decreased from 67 in 2016 to 56 in 2017 and then increased to 65 in 2018. The number of persons

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who benefited from no-case rulings decreased from 35 in 2016, to 31 in 2017 and then increased to 65 in 2018. The table below presents the comparative situation of rulings delivered by the Examining Magistrates of the SCC in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

**Table 7: Comparative Table of rulings delivered by the Examining Magistrates of the SCC in 2016, 2017 and 2018**

Year	Number of preliminary inquiries	Number of preliminary inquiries completed	Number of persons referred to the SCC	Number of persons prosecuted		Total Number of persons prosecuted per year	Number of persons in whose favour a no-case ruling was rendered
				Men	Women		
2016	67	26	85	124	59	183	35
2017	56	27	129	210	50	260	31
2018	65	24	40	230	46	276	1

Source: SCC

**941-** Amounts refunded increased significantly, while no sums were recovered as in the previous years, as shown in the table below.

**Table 8: Comparative Table of the number and profiles<sup>405</sup> of persons prosecuted, amounts claimed and amounts refunded or recovered in 2016, 2017 and 2018.**

Year	Number of prosecutions	M	W	Amounts claimed			Amounts refunded	Amounts recovered	Cameroonians	Foreigners
				Fines	Cost	Damages				
2016	183	124	59	0	CFAF 3,974,300,904.46 <sup>405</sup>	CFAF 79,127,883,862.3 <sup>406</sup>	CFAF 493,365,933 <sup>407</sup>	0	182	1
2017	260	50	50	CFAF 200,000	CFAF 4,190,978,904,805 <sup>408</sup>	CFAF 8,726,103,507 <sup>409</sup>	CFAF 1,008,001,278 <sup>410</sup>	0	259	1
2018	276	230	46	0	CFAF 2,338,006,905.7 <sup>411</sup>	CFAF 46,539,943,904 <sup>412</sup>	CFAF 341,634,919 <sup>413</sup>	0	275	1

Source: SCC

<sup>405</sup> These include, members of Governments and persons ranked as such (13), Directors General of Public Establishments and Enterprises (35), Mayors (28), Notaries Public (00), top ranking officials of Territorial Administration (6), civil servants and State Agents (242), trade unions officials (3), police and armed forces (14), Public Treasury officials (73), and service providers (41) as part of the award and execution of public contracts.

<sup>406</sup> About 6,067,634.97 Euros

<sup>407</sup> About 120,805,929.56 Euros

<sup>408</sup> About 753,230.43 Euros

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**942-** Between 2016 and 2018, the table shows a fluctuation in amounts refunded. Besides, there is still the issue relating to the possibility for the perpetrator of an attempted misappropriation to refund money and the difference in treating the perpetrator of the completed offence and the perpetrator of the attempt offence.

**943-** Some decisions of the SCC were appealed against before the Specialised Division of the Supreme Court. This body received 16 cases as against 10 in 2017 and rendered 13 decisions<sup>415</sup> in 2018 against 23 in 2017, including 3 convictions against 19 in 2017 and 2 acquittals against 1 in 2017, 1 decision to discontinue criminal proceedings because of death and 1 decision for inadmissibility of the application for lack of standing. In addition, the number of pending cases as at 31 December 2018 was 36 compared to 62 at the same date in 2017. Among these cases, 13 were removed from the cause list for review<sup>416</sup>, compared with 10 in 2017, and 10 cases referred to the rapporteurs, compared with 38 in 2017.

**944-** Furthermore, the Inquiry Control Chamber of the Specialised Division received 4 appeals against rulings of Examining Magistrates in 2018 compared to 6 in 2017. After examining the said appeals, this Chamber transmitted 3 files to the Judicial Bench of the Supreme Court for lack of jurisdiction. As at 31 December 2018, only one was pending before this body.

**945-** With regard to cases of misappropriation of public property of less than CFAF 50,000,000<sup>417</sup>, the number of matters before the Criminal Di-

<sup>409</sup> About 6,398,440.92 Euros

<sup>410</sup> About 13,322,295.43 Euros

<sup>411</sup> About 1,538,933.25 Euros

<sup>412</sup> About 3,567,476.19 Euros

<sup>413</sup> About 71,053,349.47 Euros

<sup>414</sup> About 521,580.03 Euros

<sup>415</sup> The number of decisions includes cases from 2017 adjourned to 2018.

<sup>416</sup> Due to a difference of opinion between the Bench and the Legal Department

<sup>417</sup> About 76,335.88 Euros

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vision of the Supreme Court increased in 2018 compared to the previous year. Thus, this Division received 14 cases as against 8 in 2017 and rendered 4 decisions as against only 1 in 2017, including 3 convictions and 1 acquittal as against 1 conviction in 2017. As at 31 December 2018, 11 cases were pending before this body as against 7 in 2017. In addition, 1 case in which the accused was acquitted of misappropriation of public property before this body was referred to the Mefou and Afamba High Court for aggravated false pretence, accessory in aggravated false pretence and corruption.

## C: Decrease in the Number of Litigation before other courts

**946-** In 2018, the number of cases before these courts decreased compared to the previous year. Thus, the number of investigations opened dropped from 6,987 in 2017 to 6,514 in 2018, while the number of cases under examination increased from 6,058 in 2017 to 5,473 in 2018, as shown in the table below.

**Table 9: Comparative Table of judgments delivered by ordinary Law courts in 2017 and 2018**

Year	Number of judicial police investigations opened	Number of cases at the level of preliminary inquiry	Number of cases at the trial phase	Number of convictions	Number of discharges or acquittals
2017	6,987	2,730	6,058	3,409	828
2018	6,514	2,145	5,473	3,845	824
Variation	-473	-595	-585	+436	-4

**Source :** MINJUSTICE

**947-** With regard to misappropriation of public property, the number of judicial police investigations opened decreased from 249 in 2017 to 137 in 2018, while the number of preliminary inquiries decreased from 202 in 2017 to 104 in 2018 and the number of cases at the trial phase dropped from 105 in 2017 to 92 in 2018, as shown in the table below:

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**Table 10: Comparative Table of judgments delivered by ordinary courts on misappropriation of public property in 2017 and 2018**

Year	Number of judicial police investigations opened	Number of preliminary inquiries	Number of cases at the trial phase	Number of convictions	Number of discharges or acquittals
2017	249	202	105	65	27
2018	137	104	92	52	17
Variation	-112	-98	-13	-13	-10

**Source :** MINJUSTICE

**948-** In 2018, as far as corruption is concerned, the number of cases registered before ordinary law courts increased slightly compared to the previous year. Thus, the number of investigations opened increased from 17 in 2017 to 21 in 2018, while the number of cases under investigation increased from 4 in 2017 to 10 in 2018. At the trial phase, this number dropped from 22 in 2017 to 13 in 2018, as shown in the table below.

**Table 11: Comparative Table of judgments delivered by ordinary law courts on corruption in 2017 and 2018**

Year	Number of judicial police investigations opened	Number of preliminary inquiries	Number of cases under prosecution	Number of convictions	Number of discharges or acquittals
2017	17	4	22	6	1
2018	21	10	13	11	3
Variation	+4	6	-9	5	2

**Source :** MINJUSTICE

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**949-** In 2018, the reorganisation of the legal and institutional framework fostered the introduction of new instruments to strengthen management of public finance and to continue reforms that began in 2004 in the award of public contracts. The public-private dialogue continued during the BFDC meeting with significant progress in implementing recommendations despite some delays. The SMEs landscape was improved with the creation of a One Stop Shop and the opening of a SMEs Development Centre to ad-

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dress financial and structural challenges they regularly face. Likewise, the slight increase in the number of matters relating to misappropriation of public property and the continuing deficiencies to recover public property require further efforts with the sole aim of eradicating corruption in Cameroon.



**Chapter** 3

**DETENTION CONDITIONS**



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**950-** The Government continued in 2018 to implement measures aimed at enhancing detention conditions despite the challenges resulting from riots and threats to social peace and security. In this regard, efforts were made to ameliorate working conditions of prison staff, construct and rehabilitate prison facilities, improve living conditions and prepare inmates for social reintegration. Mapping of the prison population was needed to carry out these actions and controls of and visits to prisons helped to monitor and evaluate same.

## **SECTION 1: MAPPING OF PRISON POPULATION AND COMBATING PRISON OVERCROWDING**

**951-** In order to have a better picture of the composition of the prison population, mapping of same was necessary. The mapping included criteria such as pretrial detainees and convicts, gender, minors and the nationality of inmates.

### **§1: Mapping of Pretrial Detainees and Convicts**

**952-** Reducing the number of pretrial detainees in prisons remained a major challenge in 2018. Pretrial detainees continued to outnumber convicts. In this connection, as at 31 December 2018, out of a total of 31,815 prisoners, 18,435 individuals in pretrial detention were recorded, representing about 57.9% of the prison population while 13,384 were convicted, representing about 42.1%. Nonetheless, the number of convicts outnumbered those of pretrial detainees in the North West Region (841 convicts as against 447 awaiting trials). The following table presents prison statistics of pretrial detainees and convicts per Region.

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**Table 1: Prison Statistics per Region as at 31 December 2018**

No.	Region	Accommodation Capacity	Pretrial Detainees	Convicts	Total	Occupancy rate (%)
1	Adamawa	1,070	1,307	1,000	2,307	215
2	Centre	4,270	5,189	3,068	8,257	193
3	East	1,475	1,082	916	1,998	135
4	Far North	1,970	2,291	1,514	3,805	193
5	Littoral	1,550	2,938	1,701	4,639	299
6	North	1,300	1,753	1,634	3,387	260
7	North West	1,750	447	841	1,288	73
8	West	2,720	1,268	1,246	2,514	92
9	South	800	828	555	1,383	172
10	South West	1,010	1,328	909	2,237	221
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,915</b>	<b>18,435</b>	<b>13,384</b>	<b>31,815</b>	
<b>Average occupancy rate</b>						<b>177</b>

**Source:** DAPEN

**953-** Out of the 18,435 individuals in pretrial detention, there were 16,037 men, 586 women and 797 minors who were nationals, while 1,011 were foreigners. Convicts were made up of 12,371 men, 255 women and 167 minors including 591 foreigners, giving a total of 13,384.

**954-** As in the previous years, there was no strict separation of pretrial detainees and convicts due to limited space in prisons.

## **§2: Distribution of Detainees according to Gender, Age and Nationality**

**955-** Women, minors and foreigners constituted specific categories of the prison population.

### **A: Female Detainees**

**956-** In prisons across the country, a total number of 841 female inmates were registered. These included 586 in pretrial detention and 255 convicts. The highest number of female detainees as observed in previous years was in the Centre Region (298 about 35.6 %), Littoral Region (110 about 13.1 %) and Far North Region (105 about 12.5 %) while the lowest number was registered in the Adamawa Region (39 about 4.6 %). Details on the number of female detainees per Region are seen in the table below.

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**Table 2: Women in Prison as at 31 December 2018**

No.	Region	Pretrial Detainees	Convicts	Total	Percentage Rate
1	Adamawa	30	9	39	4.6%
2	Centre	201	97	298	35.6%
3	East	36	19	55	6.5%
4	Far North	85	20	105	12.5%
5	Littoral	83	27	110	13.1%
6	North	32	11	43	5.1%
7	North West	20	29	49	5.8%
8	West	33	22	55	6.5%
9	South	34	10	44	5.2%
10	South West	32	11	43	5.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>586</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**957-** Some female detainees were accompanied in prison by their babies. A total of 24 babies were with their mothers in prisons, while 33 pregnant women were registered among detainees in 2018. This situation is very challenging as a result of the exigencies of postnatal care and consultations.

## B: Imprisoned Minors

**958-** Minors detained as a measure of last resort were distributed as follows:

**Table 3: Imprisoned Minors as at 31 December 2018**

No.	Region	Pretrial Detainees	Convicts	Total	Percentage
1	Adamawa	73	9	82	8.5%
2	Centre	177	21	198	20.5%
3	East	87	22	109	11.3%
4	Far North	92	19	111	11.5%
5	Littoral	65	6	71	7.3%
6	North	64	10	74	7.6%
7	North West	24	18	46	4.8%
8	West	75	30	105	10.8%
9	South	49	1	50	5.2%
10	South West	91	31	122	12.6%
<b>Total</b>		<b>797</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

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**959-** From the table above, the Centre Region had the highest number (198, about 20.5%) while the North West had the lowest (46, about 4.8%). A total of 968 minors were imprisoned, out of which 167 were convicts (17.7%) as against 797 in pretrial detention (82.3%).

## C: Foreigners

**960-** A non-negligible number of inmates in some prisons was made up of foreigners. A total of 1,602 foreign detainees were identified in prisons across the country out of which 591 were convicts. These inmates were regularly visited by staff of their respective consular offices.

**Table 4: Imprisoned Foreigners as at 31 December 2018**

No.	Region	Pretrial detainees	Convicts	Total	Percentage Rate
1	Adamawa	101	82	183	11.4%
2	Centre	173	41	214	13.4%
3	East	116	95	211	13.2%
4	Far North	277	78	355	22.2%
5	Littoral	38	37	75	4.7%
6	North	151	168	319	19.9%
7	North West	5	1	6	0.4%
8	West	6	3	9	0.6%
9	South	22	19	41	2.6%
10	South West	122	67	189	11.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1011</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>1602</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

## §3: Prison Intake Capacity and Occupation Rate

**961-** As at 31 December 2018, the prison population stood at 31,815 for 17,915 places. The highest number of detainees was found in the Centre Region (8,257), the Littoral Region (4,639), Far North Region (3,805) and North Region (3,387), while the least number of inmates was found in the North West Region (1,288) and the South Region (1,383).

**962-** The highest prison occupancy rates were registered in the Littoral Region (4,639 inmates for 1,550 beds, 299%), the North Region (3,387 inmates for 1,300 beds, 260%), the South West Region (2,237 inmates for

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1,010 beds, 221%) and the Adamawa Region (2,307 inmates for 1,010 beds, 216%). The lowest occupancy rates were found in the North West Region (1,288 inmates for 1,750 beds, 74%) and the West Region (2,514 inmates for 2,720 beds, 92%). The average occupancy rate stood at 178%.

## §4: Combating Prison Overcrowding

**963-** The total number of inmates at times doubled or even tripled the accommodation capacity as was the case in the Yaounde, Douala, Maroua and Garoua Central Prisons. In the Yaounde Central Prison for instance, in some quarters, 30 to 60 inmates occupied a cell of just 8m<sup>2</sup> without adequate ventilation. At the end of some control missions by the Inspectorate General of the Penitentiary Administration (IGAPEN) of the Ministry of Justice, the construction of new prisons, the rehabilitation of existing ones, the acceleration of administrative procedures, the multiplication of alternative sanctions to imprisonment, the acceleration of judicial procedures and the computerisation of prison and court registries among others were recommended.

**964-** To tackle these challenges, the Ministry of Justice took measures including the following:

- the transfer of almost 800 inmates from overpopulated prisons to less populated ones;
- the amelioration of infrastructure through the extension of prisons. The Maroua Central Prison saw the construction of a quarter of 12 cells with a reception capacity of 350 beds;
- the continuation of the construction of the Bengbis Secondary Prison whose capacity is assessed at 120 beds; and
- the amelioration of detention conditions through the improved ventilation of cells and the construction of new cells as was the case with the Douala Central Prison where a new building was constructed to decongest the already overcrowded cells.

**965-** During the annual conference of Heads of Court of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration held on 10 and 11 De-

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ember 2018 which centred on the fight against arbitrary preventive detentions, major recommendations included the training of Penitentiary Administrative staff on the management of prison registers, the completion of the implementation of the computerisation master plan of prison registers and the putting in place of permanent consultation frameworks between Magistrates and Penitentiary authorities to curb arbitrary detentions.

## SECTION 2: STAFF ENHANCEMENT

**966-** Staff enhancement was achieved through training, improvement of working conditions, discipline and the fight against corruption within the penitentiary milieu.

### §1: Staff Strength and Staff Capacity Development

**967-** In 2018, the staff strength of penitentiary administration was as follows:

**Table 5: Number of Prison Staff in Cameroon as at 31 December 2018**

No.	Grade	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Prison Administrators (APs)	214	04.57
2	Prison Superintendant (IPs)	401	08.58
3	Chief Prison Warders (GCPs)	793	16.97
4	Prison Warders (GPs)	3,246	69.44
5	Other Civil Servants	20	0.44
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,674</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**968-** Due to the fact that there was no direct recruitment into the corps of Penitentiary Administration, the total number of prison staff in 2018 stood at 4,674 as against 4,869 in 2017, a decrease of 195. The decrease was also due to the fact that a total of 114 staff went on retirement and 15 died in the course of the year while others went for studies. The table below shows the number of specialised penitentiary staff.

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**Table 6: Specialised Penitentiary Staff as at 31 December 2018**

No.	Nature of Personnel	Number
1	Medical Doctors	23
2	Nurses	66
3	Nurse's Aide	148
4	Psychopathologists	1
5	Veterinary Doctors	2
6	Computer Experts	4
7	Agronomy Engineers	2
8	Civil Engineers	2
9	Medico-Sanitary Technicians	36
10	Sports and Civic Education Teachers	13
11	Social Welfare Assistants	5
12	Social Welfare personnel (MINAS)	15
13	Agriculture Technicians	10
14	Animal Husbandry Technicians	10
15	Drivers	7
<b>Total Number</b>		<b>344</b>

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**969-** The national warder/inmate ratio stood at 1:7 in 2018 as compared to 1:6 in 2017.

**970-** Staff capacity development was characterised by the organisation of seminars and workshops to train prison staff. From 5 to 6 March 2018, a training seminar held at Mvolye, Yaounde to train Chiefs of Services of General Affairs of the 10 Regional Delegations of Penitentiary Administration, Chief of the Administrative and Financial Service of the National School of Penitentiary Administration (ENAP) Buea and some staff of the Department of Penitentiary Administration. The 2 themes of the seminar were: *disciplinary procedure in the Penitentiary Administration*, and the *profile of a penitentiary civil servant*.

## **§2: Improving Staff Working Conditions**

**971-** As in previous years, Government embarked on certain actions aimed at ameliorating the working conditions of the staff of penitentiary administration. Clothing was acquired and distributed to all penitentiary staff. As

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such, each person obtained a uniform, a belt, a pair of boots, a pair of epaulettes and a beret.

### **§3: Discipline and Fight against Corruption within the Penitentiary**

**972-** Several measures were taken to ensure discipline and the fight against corruption within the penitentiary.

#### **A: Discipline of Penitentiary Administration Staff**

**973-** Some disciplinary and/or judicial proceedings were engaged against some staff of the penitentiary administration.

##### **1) Disciplinary Proceedings**

**974-** There were ongoing proceedings before the National Disciplinary Council against some 4 penitentiary staff (2 Prison Administrators, 1 Prison Superintendent and 1 Principal Prison Warder) of the Bertoua Central Prison for negligence that led to the escape of an inmate on 27 April 2018. Some 2 Major Prison Warders of the same prison were before the Regional Disciplinary Council for negligence that led to the escape of inmates, while another Prison Warder was before the Council for irregular absences from work.

**975-** In the same line, sanctions were meted out against prison staff for wrongdoings. By Decisions No.629 and 630/D/MINJUSTICE/CAB/SEAP of 13 November 2018 blames were recorded in the administrative files of 3 prison staff for escape of a detainee. By Decisions 659, 660 and 663/D/MINJUSTICE/CAB/SEAP/DAPEN of 28 November 2018, 2 Prison Warders and 1 Chief Major Prison Warder were sanctioned with a blame for escape of prisoners from the Poli Main Prison on 4 June 2018. Disciplinary action was initiated against a Principal Prison Warder for carrying out acts contrary to professional ethics in the Ntui Main Prison on 15 August 2018<sup>418</sup>.

<sup>418</sup> By Order No.012/A/MINJUSTICE/CAB/SEAP/DAPEN of 18 February 2019, he was downgraded in incremental position. The concerned was also relieved of his functions as official in charge of the said prison.

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## 2) Judicial Proceedings

**976-** Judicial proceedings were opened against prison staff for malpractices. Such cases include trial of a Major Prison Warder and a Prison Warder at the Bafoussam Central Prison for the introduction of prohibited substances (tramadol, cigarettes, cannabis sativa and tobacco) into the prison on 23 December 2018, the trial of a prison wardress for massive escape of detainees from the Poli Main Prison on 4 June 2018 and proceedings against a Chief Prison Wardress who was detained in the Buea Central Prison for corruption. The cases were pending before the courts.

**977-** Some prison staff found guilty of certain offences were sentenced to prison terms as was the case with 2 Major Prison Warders sentenced by the Batouri Court of First Instance on 4 June 2018 to a 2 month jail term for attempted false arrest and usurpation of function.

**978-** In order to instill discipline, some penitentiary staff were remanded. On 14 August 2018, the Examining Magistrate of the Mefou and Akono High Court remanded a Chief Prison Warder into the Mbalmayo Main Prison for torture. Detention Warrants were issued by the Court of First Instance Ekounou against a Chief Wardress and a Main Prison Warder of the Yaounde Central Prison for escape of a prisoner. The case was still pending before the court. Search announcement No.0001052/AR/DGSN/DRSNSO/DRPJSO/S of 4 January 2019 was issued by the Head of Division of the South West Regional Judicial police against a Prison Warder of the Buea Central Prison for theft, extortion and molestation in 2018.

### **B: Fight against Corruption**

**979-** In Cameroon prisons, acts of corruption such as payment for the visit of prisoners, health services and manual labour, demand of ransoms from new inmates, delayed release and unequal rationing of food and budgetary envelopes were identified by teams of the IGAPEN.

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**980-** Several actions were taken to fight the scourge. IGAPEN also carried out inspection and control missions in 15 prisons in 2018. During these missions:

- the awareness of some 600 staff was raised on the causes and effects of corruption;
- Prison Registrars were instructed to popularise and sustain educative talks on corruption at least once a month during weekly gatherings;
- it was recommended that posters prohibiting the payment of public services be put up and should contain telephone numbers of prison officials that could permit the public to denounce eventual acts of corruption;
- Prison Superintendents were reminded of the risks involved in case of bad management of public funds;
- Penitential staff was invited to constantly ameliorate feeding and health care quality in order to enable inmates to feel the impact of efforts furnished by the Government;
- Prison Superintendents were requested to raise the awareness of detainees on the existence of a register for the bailment of their valuable objects;
- Regional Delegates of the Penitentiary Administration were invited to continue to fight against corruption through spontaneous visits to prisons;
- It was recommended that all correspondences of IGAPEN related to the strategies on the fight against corruption be regularly forward to decentralised penitentiary administration services and all salient acts of corruption registered during inspection missions should be made known to all other structures;
- Officials of all penitentiary institutions were asked to transmit annually to the chancellery for encouragements, files of their collaborators that distinguished themselves in aspects of probity, and professional deontology and;
- it was proposed to the National School of Penitentiary Administration, Buea, the inclusion of a module on good governance and fight against corruption in their training programme.

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## SECTION 3: IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

**981-** In 2018, the State continued to ameliorate prison infrastructure through the construction, rehabilitation and equipment of prisons.

**982-** The execution of programme 109<sup>419</sup> of the Ministry of Justice which has to do with the amelioration of penitentiary policy was very challenging in 2018 as a result of the crisis in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. In these regions, some prisons like the Kumbo Main Prison, the Bali and Bavenga Secondary Prisons were burnt down. Others were attacked and vandalised including the Ndop Main Prison, thus leading to the escape of several detainees. As a result of the crisis, the rehabilitation and equipment of some prisons like the Bavenga Secondary Prison came to a halt. For security reasons, activities were suspended in the Bavenga and Bali Secondary Prisons and inmates were transferred to the Buea and Bamenda Central Prisons respectively.

**983-** Despite these challenges, Government developed some prison infrastructure. The Bamenda Central Prison and Kumbo Main Prison were refurbished and equipped.

**984-** The construction works of the Douala Ngoma Central Prison were realised at 40 % while those of the Bengbis Secondary Prison stood at 90%. The Kumba Main Prison was completely rehabilitated while the wall of the Mbalmayo Main Prison was completely refurbished.

**985-** In the same vein, septic tanks were constructed in the Buea Central Prison.

## SECTION 4: AMELIORATION OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN PRISONS

**986-** Under the programme budget strategy, the improvement of living conditions in prisons was achieved through feeding, water, energy and transportation facilities, health coverage and the organisation of socio-cultural activities.

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<sup>419</sup> Improvement of penitentiary administration Policy

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## §1: Feeding of Prisoners

**987-** Efforts were made by Government as regards better feeding conditions in prisons, as the budget allocated for the feeding of prisoners witnessed a remarkable increase from CFAF3,070,000,000<sup>420</sup> in 2017 to CFAF4,470,000,000<sup>421</sup> in 2018, recording an increase rate of 45.65 %.

## §2: Water, Energy and Transportation of Inmates

**988-** Most prisons had electricity and potable water with so many water points located all over the prison as was the case in the Bamenda, Douala and Yaounde Central Prisons. Prisons like the Bertoua, Bafoussam and Maroua Central Prisons had boreholes that are often put in use in case of pipe borne water shortages or cuts. Boreholes were absent or simply out of use in other central prisons such that water cuts often exposed inmates to serious unhygienic conditions and waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and other skin diseases. This situation was alarming in the northern regions due to frequent and unannounced water cuts. There is thus an urgent need to rehabilitate the non-functional boreholes or construct new ones in all prisons to handle the problem of water shortages.

**989-** Prisons are generally connected to the hydroelectric energy sources but the difficulty is with frequent power cuts. While some prisons had standby generators to handle all eventualities of energy cuts, other central prisons like the Bamenda, Bertoua, Buea, Maroua and Ebolowa prisons did not have such alternatives. Nevertheless, electric generators of 175 kw were installed in the Maroua and Douala Central Prisons.

**990-** Prisons were often allocated pick-ups for the transportation of inmates to court sessions, transportation of firewood, foodstuff and other prison equipment. For instance, new pickups were allocated to the Nkambe and Fundong Main Prisons. However, some prisons did not have vehicles to

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<sup>420</sup> About 4,687,022.90 Euros

<sup>421</sup> About 6,824,427.48 Euros

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transport detainees to court sessions out of regional headquarters as was the case in the Bamenda and Ebolowa Central Prisons. In the same vein, prisons could not afford ambulances to transport sick inmates to hospitals or deceased detainees to mortuaries.

### §3: Health Coverage

**991-** The budget for health coverage of inmates saw a significant increase from CFAF150,640,000<sup>422</sup> in 2017 to CFAF1,050,000,000<sup>423</sup> in 2018. This amount brought the annual rate per detainee to CFAF35,000<sup>424</sup> in 2018 as against CFAF4,907<sup>425</sup> in 2017. The total number of medico-sanitary penitentiary staff still stood at 274. The doctor/detainee ratio was 1:1,383, nurse/detainee ratio was 1:482, nurse's aid/detainee ratio was 1:215, assistant laboratory technician/detainee ratio was 1:884 and social welfare staff/detainee ratio was 1:1591. Most prisons had an infirmary, a pharmacy, a laboratory and a hospitalisation section. Most of these health units in prisons apart from being poorly equipped did not have medical doctors and therefore, serious cases of illnesses were referred to neighbouring towns with better equipped hospitals at the expense of inmates. Altogether, some 1,189 external consultations were conducted with 235 external hospitalisations.

**992-** The monthly report of activities from certain prisons within the period from January to November 2018 concerning some 20,304 inmates, brought out some useful information on the situation of transmissible diseases (tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS), non-transmissible diseases, mental illnesses, drug abuse and deaths in prisons.

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<sup>422</sup> About 229,984.73 Euros

<sup>423</sup> About 1,603,053.44 Euros

<sup>424</sup> About 53.44 Euros

<sup>425</sup> About 7.49

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## A: Transmissible Diseases

**993-** Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS were generally the main transmissible diseases registered among inmates as presented below.

### 1) Tuberculosis

**Table** on the situation of tuberculosis in prisons in 2018

Number of persons educated on TB	4,618
Total number of inmates suspected of TB	1,727
Total number of inmates diagnosed with TB	1,105
Inmates infected with TB in the course of the year	249
Deaths resulting from TB	6
Relapse TB cases	50
TB infected inmates released in the course of the year	20

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**995-** Out of some 1,727 cases of suspected tuberculosis in the course of the year, 249 were tested positive, giving a prevalence rate of 14.42 % among which there were 20 relapsed cases undergoing treatment, 20 persons released in the course of the year and 6 deaths. All inmates who were diagnosed positive for tuberculosis were on treatment.

### 2) HIV/AIDS

**Table** on the situation of HIV/AIDS in prisons in 2018

Number of inmates educated on HIV/AIDS	4,943
Number of inmates tested on imprisonment	5,123
Number of seropositive cases on imprisonment	190
Number of inmates tested during routine consultations	15,724
Number of seropositive new inmates (routine consultations and general testing campaigns)	420
Total number of seropositive inmates in prisons(old and new cases)	5,169
Inmates co-infected with TB and HIV	141

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Pregnant women inmates infected with HIV	5
Number of deaths resulting from HIV within the year	9

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**996-** Out of the 15,724 inmates (with 5,123 of them at the time of imprisonment) screened for HIV/AIDS in 2018, there were 420 new positive cases, giving a proportion of 2.67% out of those tested. Out of the 5,123 screened for HIV/AIDS at the time of entering prison in 2018, some 190 tested positive, giving a prevalence rate of 3.71%. In all, a total of 5,169 HIV/AIDS positive cases were registered in prisons in 2018 among who 5 women and 141 persons infected with both HIV and tuberculosis. Some 9 deaths resulted from HIV infections and complications.

## **B: Other Recurrent Illnesses Non Transmissible Diseases???**

**996-1-** Apart from the above-mentioned transmissible illnesses, 41,713 routine consultations revealed the presence among inmates of other illnesses such as malaria (8,706 cases, 42.88 %), respiratory infections (6,723 cases, 33.1 %), skin diseases (scabies 3,622 cases, 17.84%), fungal skin infections known as *mycoses cutanées* (3,085 cases, 15.17%) and mycoses known as *mycoses testiculaires* (1,256 cases, 6.19%), diarrhea (2,890 cases, 14.23%), wounds/sores (1,969 cases, 9.70 %) and Oral dental diseases (1,133 cases, 5.58 %).

**Table 7: Situation of other recurrent illnesses**

No.	Illness/Disease	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Malaria	8,706	42.88
2	Respiratory infections	5,485	25.50
3	Scabies	3,622	17.84
4	Cutaneous mycoses	3,085	15.19
5	Diarrhea	2,890	14.23
6	Wounds/sores	2,806	9.70
7	Testicular mycoses	1,256	6.19
8	Oral dental diseases	1,133	5'58

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No.	Illness/Disease	Number	Percentage (%)
9	Eye disorders	738	3.63
10	STD	738	3.63
11	Malnutrition	608	2.99
12	Gastriculcer (gastritis)	525	2.59
13	HTA	330	1.63
14	Hernia	322	1.59
15	Salmonellosis	173	0.85
16	Abscess/boils	171	0.84
17	Trauma of the lower limbs	149	0.73
18	Bone trauma	137	0.67
19	Otitis	107	0.53
20	Diabetes	104	0.51

**Source:** MINJUSTICE

**997-** Generally, out of the 41,713 routine consultations carried out in prisons, 1,189 cases were referred for external consultation among which 235 cases of external hospitalisation.

## C: Mental Illnesses

**998-** In 2018, 74 (17 in the Yaounde Central Prison and 28 in the Douala Central Prison) inmates were diagnosed with mental problems. These, added to the 153 (with 66 in the Yaounde Central Prison and 26 in the Douala Central Prison) already diagnosed, gives a total of 227 inmates suffering from mental illnesses (8 women and 219 men). Such cases are given specific treatment in some prisons. For instance, there is a separate section for inmates with mental illnesses in the Yaounde Central Prison. Inmates with serious cases are generally referred to the Jamot Hospital, Yaounde, specialised in the treatment of mental illnesses, accompanied by prison warders to guard them. However, it is regrettable that only 89 out of 227 persons with mental illnesses were receiving treatment.

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## **D: Drug Addiction, Tobacco Addiction and Alcoholism**

**999-** The consumption of drugs and other prohibited substances was rampant in prisons. About 82.07% of inmates were suspected to be involved in drug abuse. These included 2,758 cases for cannabis, 2,579 cases for tobacco, 1,893 cases for tramadol, 1,579 cases for D10, 494 cases for ethanol, 8 cases for heroine, 14 cases for cocaine.

## **E: Deaths**

**1000-** A number of deaths were recorded in prisons in 2018. A total of 86 inmates died while in detention in various prisons across the national territory, representing 0.27% of the prison population as against 105 inmates who died in 2017, representing 0.34%. From this number, 9 cases resulted from HIV/AIDS, 6 from tuberculosis, 2 from malaria and the rest from other illnesses and crises. It should be noted that 187 inmates (with 75 in the Far North Region, 41 in the West Region and 30 in the East Region) who had been sentenced to death over the years were not executed because of the *de facto* moratorium on the death sentence.

## **§4: Sociocultural activities**

**1001-** Sociocultural activities such as sports, diverse games, competitions and religious worships were organised in all prisons. Despite challenging detention conditions, these activities ensured the relaxation and spiritual upliftment of inmates.

## **SECTION 5: SOCIAL REINTEGRATION**

**1002-** In addition to training in production activities, education constituted the main strategy to prepare detainees for their social reintegration.

## **§1: Productive Activities**

**1003-** Production activities included among others the rearing of pigs in the Maroua Central Prison and Ntui Main Prison, the cultivation of maize, millet, groundnuts, onions and sorgho in almost all prisons of the Adamawa,

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North and Far North Regions, the rearing of fowls in the Bafoussam Central Prison and Monatele Main Prisons, and weaving and handicraft which was carried out in the North West, Adamawa, North and Far North Regions. Training workshops were generally organised in most prisons with the assistance of some partners to train inmates on trades related to agriculture, handicraft and animal husbandry. In addition to the workshops, the State financed the creation of poultry farms in the Ambam Secondary Prison and piggeries in the Kumbo and Edea Main Prisons. Education in prisons consisted in classical training activities on the one hand and those linked to professional training on the other hand.

## §2: Education and Professional Training

**1004-** With regard to classical training, inmates registered and wrote official examinations organised by the Ministry of Basic Education, the General Certificate of Education Board and the *Office du Baccalauréat*. Some 19 pupils passed out of the 27 who sat for the *Certificat d'Études Primaires (CEP)* while 5 out of 6 passed the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) in the Bamenda Central Prison. As for other exams, 6 out of 7 students passed the *BEPC*, 2 out of 5 succeeded in the *Probatoire*, 2 out of 2 passed the *Baccalauréat* while none out of 2 passed the GCE Advanced Level. Thus, out of a total of 47 candidates who sat for the different exams, 33 passed recording a success rate of 70%. It should be noted that most candidates in the above examinations were registered in the Bilingual Socio-educational Centre of the Yaounde Central Prison.

**1005-** As concerns professional training, some prisons such as the Bamenda and Ebolowa Central Prisons provided professional training to their inmates. In the Bamenda Central Prison, courses were given to 8 young detainees on electricity and motor mechanics for 2 years after which they received end of training attestations delivered by the Ministry of Employment and Vocational-Training. In the Ebolowa Central Prison, a literacy teaching authorised by the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Train-

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ing was carried out for 20 inmates under the supervision of the *Don Bosco* non-governmental organization of the Catholic Church.

## SECTION 6: CONTROLS AND VISITS OF PRISONS

**1006-** Controls in prisons took the form of judicial control which involved all control activities regularly carried out by the Legal Department or administrative control carried out by some officials of the Ministry of Justice (IGAPEN). Visits were carried out by the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF), officials of the Ministry of Justice (DDHCI) and CSOs.

### §1: Judicial and Administrative Controls

**1007-** Control of prisons was either judicial by the Legal Department or administrative by the General Inspectorate of Penitentiary Administration. During the Meeting of Heads of Court of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration that held on 10 and 11 December 2018, the intensification of controls of remand in police custody and remand in prison custody was recommended.

#### A: Control by the Legal Department

**1008-** Legal Departments carried out control missions in prisons under their jurisdictions to verify detention conditions in relation to the respect of fundamental rights of inmates and their treatment with dignity. In the Littoral Region, the Legal Departments controlled the Douala Central Prison (11 times), the Nkongsamba, Mbanga, Eseka Main Prisons (4 times each) and the Ngambe Secondary Prison (1 time) among others. In the Adamawa Region, such controls carried out by the Legal Department included the Ngaoundere Central Prison, the Banyo, Meiganga, Tibati and the Tignere Main Prisons (4 times each). In the Far North Region, the Mokolo Main Prison (12 times), Meri Secondary Prison, Kaele, Mora, Yagoua Main Prisons and Maroua Central Prison (4 times each).

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## **B: Administrative Control**

**1009-** Administrative controls were carried out essentially by the General Inspectorate of Penitentiary Administration of the Ministry of Justice. Prisons visited include the Yaounde, Ngaoundere, and Douala Central Prisons, Nkongsamba, Banyo, Meiganga, Tibati, Tignere, Eseka, Ngoumou, Sangmelima, Ambam and Mbanga main prisons. At the end of these control exercises, irregular cases were generally referred to the competent Procureurs General for appropriate measures which include the release of illegally detained persons, the acceleration of hearings and the transfer of inmates to other prisons in order to decongest some.

## **§2: Visits by the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation**

**1010-** In a bid to evaluate the Human Rights situation in the country, NCHRF visited prisons. Officials of the DDHCI of the Ministry of Justice also carried out visits in central prisons.

### **A: Visits by the NCHRF**

**1011-** Within the framework of their mission of promotion and protection of Human Rights, the NCHRF visited detention centres across the national territory during which they evaluated detention conditions. In all, 19 Central and Main Prisons were visited by the Commission from January to October 2018. These included 5 in the Centre Region (Monatele, Ngoumou, Yoko, Ntui and Kondengui), 5 in the Adamawa Region (Tignere, Banyo, Tibati, Meiganga and Ngaoundere), 2 in the South Region (Sangmelima and Kribi), 1 in the North West Region (Bamenda), 3 in the South West Region (Mamfe, Kumba and Buea) and 3 in the East Region (Bertoua, Abong Mbanga and Doume).

**1012-** At the end of these visits, the NCHRF expressed its worry in relation to the phenomenon of overcrowding in prisons which is still very preoccupying and which is closely linked to narrow detention cells, high number of

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detainees, slow judicial proceedings and heavy repression methods by judicial authorities. The Commission thus recommended the continuation of the construction of new prisons and the extension of existing ones. The amelioration of prison health services, the reinforcement of social reintegration activities, the provision of potable water, improvement of toilet facilities, ensuring the adequate feeding of inmates and the acquisition of transport facilities for prisons among others were also recommended by the NCHRF after their visits.

## **B: Visits by the DDHCI**

**1013-** As in previous years and in a bid to assemble information for the drafting of the 2018 Report on Human Rights in Cameroon, the staff of the DDHCI visited Central Prisons located in the 10 Regional headquarters from 5 March to 4 April 2018. The objective of the visits was to appreciate first-hand detention conditions. During these visits certain preoccupations were raised such as the dilapidation of prison infrastructure, prison overcrowding, the separation of inmates (convicts from awaiting trials, women, men and minors), the difficulty related to the keeping and preservation of files, the limited transportation means for inmates, the education of inmates, the health care for inmates, the organisation of visits, feeding, water and energy, sociocultural activities in prison milieu, security and discipline among others. Certain recommendations were thus formulated in view of ameliorating penitentiary policy, enhancing the right to education, health, adequate standard of living, culture, sports and leisure, fair trial and rights of vulnerable persons. At the end of these visits, cases of violation of Human Rights were also channeled to competent authorities for appropriate action.

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**1014-** The improvement of detention conditions remained a major challenge in 2018, especially following the sociopolitical crises that rocked the

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North West and the South West Regions. A major preoccupation remained the increase of the accommodation capacity in prisons in order to solve the huge problem of overcrowding in prisons. In this connection, the rehabilitation and the construction of new prisons which is ongoing can go a long way to decongest prisons and thus ensure a better treatment of detainees with dignity. Even though remarkable strides were made in relation to the feeding of inmates, health coverage, education and psycho-social support, these aspects still need to be improved upon. The re-socialisation, de-radicalisation and reintegration of inmates are still primordial.

**Chapter** 4

**PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF  
SOCIALY VULNERABLE  
PERSONS**



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**1015-** The legal and institutional framework for promoting and protecting socially vulnerable persons continued to be strengthened in 2018. Government and its partners took specific measures to enable this category of persons enjoy their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

## **SECTION I: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

**1016-** Special measures to promote and protect children's rights included areas such as civil rights and freedoms, alternative Care (adoption and guardianship) and combating exploitation of and violent crimes on children. Other measures taken were surveillance of juvenile offenders and those associated with armed groups or armed forces.

### **§1: Civil Rights and Freedoms**

**1017-** Civil rights and freedoms of children were improved through measures relating to citizenship, participation in matters concerning them, alternative care and protection of the right to ownership.

#### **A: Right to Citizenship**

**1018-** Due to the low rate of birth registration<sup>426</sup> in the country, especially in the northern part where many children have no birth certificates, Government through MINAS, MINCOM and BUNEC with the support of UNICEF mobilised junior parliamentarians to participate in a training workshop from 5 to 7 December 2018 in Garoua which was aimed at raising awareness on birth registration. The Workshop enabled the junior parliamentarians to acquire the necessary tools to sensitise parents in their communities on the importance for children to have birth certificates.

<sup>426</sup>Statistics from the last Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of 2014 published in 2016 indicate that only 66.1% of births are registered in Cameroon. The Region with the lowest rate is the Far North with 42.1%, followed by the South West with 55.6%.

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**1019-** MINPROFF also carried out a survey in the Nyong and Kelle Division in the Centre Region where 10,798 children were identified as having no birth certificates. As such, it embarked on a campaign to establish birth certificates for children and on 14 September 2018, 1,000 birth certificates were handed to some of these children by the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family.

**1020-** Also, UNICEF on 21 March 2018 in Yaounde launched the Child Protection Programme for Cameroon-UNICEF cooperation (2018 - 2021) and one of its components is on birth registration. UNICEF indicated that only 48 percent of the births of children in the rural areas and 81 percent in urban areas were registered. Thus, UNICEF, in 2018 assisted in the issuance of 5,146 birth certificates to children affected by armed conflicts in the Far North Region out of 12,500 identified.

**1021-** Furthermore, as part of the implementation of the Universal Birth Registration Project led by BUNEC with the support of UNICEF, the pilot phase of the use of information and communication technologies in the registration of civil status documents was initiated in the health districts of Mokolo in the Far North Region and Betare Oya in the East. To this end, new birth registration tools were developed, including, village notebook for the systematic census of births by leaders of traditional and community relays, the harmonised form for birth declaration and delivery room register for census of births by health authorities.

## **B: Participation in Decision Making**

**1022-** On 9 February 2018, a question and answer session between the 180 junior parliamentarians (124 boys and 56 girls) and members of government was held at the National Assembly. The important role youths have to play in enhancing the digital economy in Cameroon was discussed. The young parliamentarians congratulated Government on its efforts to make digital economy accessible to all youths, but raised concerns on the cost of training in ICTs which remained expensive. The Minister of Employment

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and Vocational Training in response stated that the high cost of training was due to the fact that private training schools outnumbered public training schools in the ICTs sector and reflections were ongoing to improve on the situation.

**1023-** In the same vein, the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Children’s Parliament was held in June, during which the 28<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Day of the African Child was celebrated on 16 June under the theme “*Leave no child behind for Africa’s development*”. In prelude to the celebration, a Child Protection Village was set up in the courtyard of the National Museum in Yaounde on 13 June 2018 as part of the commemoration with exhibitions in the field of child protection by Government and Non-Governmental Organizations.

## **C: Alternative Care: Adoption and Guardianship**

**1024-** The courts in granting applications on adoption or guardianship continued to take into consideration the best interest of the child as per article 3(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>427</sup> (CRC) and article 4 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

**1025-** The Court of Appeal of Adamawa<sup>428</sup> confirmed the decision of the High Court Vina which had rejected an application for adoption of a 3 year old child in spite of the fact that the CRC and ACRWC were invoked. The Court held that the interest of a 3 year old child was best protected by the mother as maternal affection was still very vital at that age rather than the father (71 years). The Court stated *the best interest of a child in this category is not determined by the amount of money a parent who seeks to have his custody has, but rather by the ability of the father and mother to guarantee the emotional comfort of this human being whose fragility is obvious.*

<sup>427</sup>See Judgment No.364/C of 3 May 2018 of *Tribunal de Première Instance de Dschang*, on adoption, Judgment No.111/TPD/TIB of 6 December 2018 of *Tribunal de Premier Degré de Tibati*, on guardianship, Judgment No.89/TPD/TIB of 4 October 2018 on guardianship

<sup>428</sup>Court of Appeal, Adamawa Region in *Arrêt N°04/CIV du 07/08/2018*.

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**1026-** Some 139 adoption applications wherein applicants were Cameroonians and 16 wherein applicants were foreigners were granted. About 70 applications for guardianship were also granted in favour of Cameroonians and 8 in favour of foreigners.

**1027-** Besides, as of 30 June 2018, the number of abandoned children identified and taken care of by MINAS was 813. The Centre Region had the highest number (330), followed by the Littoral Region with 205, East Region, 200, West Region, 62, South Region, 10 and Adamawa Region, 8.

**1028-** Furthermore, the number of lost children MINAS took care of during the same period was 722 with the Centre Region having 332, Littoral Region 141, West Region 99, East Region 80, Adamawa Region, 52 and South Region, 12.

## **D: Protection against Unlawful Deprivation of the Right to Own Property**

**1029-** During the year, courts endeavored to protect the right of children to own property. In this regard, the best interest of the child as required by international and regional instruments, to which the country is party, was the primordial consideration in granting authorisation to sell property belonging to a child. From some judgments of the Court of First Instance, Douala-Ndokoti, prominent among the reasons is the need to secure funds to take care of the child's basic needs such as school fees<sup>429</sup> or adequate housing.

## **§2: Protection of Children against Exploitation and Violent Crimes**

**1030-** Children were protected against exploitation and violent crimes in 2018 through combating child labour and curbing violent crimes on children through awareness raising and prosecution and punishment of perpetrators.

<sup>429</sup> See Judgment n°61/CC of 16 February 2018, Judgment n°338/CC of 23 August 2018, Judgment n°351/CC of 16 September 2018 and Judgment n°422/CC of 25 October 2018.

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## A: Combating Child Labour

**1031-** Government through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security has been fighting over the years to eradicate the phenomenon of child labour by setting up the National Committee against Child Labour. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the said Committee held on 26 September 2018, a National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cameroon (PANETEC) with the aim to eliminate the phenomenon by 2025 was presented to the public. The Plan has as strategies and actions on removing children from the worst forms of labour and also reintegration of children involved in these activities.

**1032-** Furthermore, MINAS retrieved 36 Bakas children (11 boys and 25 girls) from plantations where they were being exploited in the localities of Doume and Nomedjo in the Lomie Subdivision in the Haut-Nyong Division, East Region. The children were returned to their families in Bonando.

## B: Curbing Violence against Children

**1033-** In a bid to curb the phenomenon of violent crimes on children, MINAS organised as from January 2018, a one year awareness raising campaign, training and educational talks on slavery and trafficking in persons especially trafficking in children. The Campaigns were carried out in the school milieu all over the national territory and in centres where vulnerable youths were being trained. At the end of 2018, a total of 5,014 of such Campaigns were organised with 69,000 participants.

**1034-** Also, the civil society organization, *Association des Femmes et Filles de l'Adamaoua (AFFADA)*, organised the second national forum on slavery and trafficking in persons on 11 May 2018 in Yaounde with about 100 representatives of public administrations, financial partners and CSOs taking part.

**1035-** In 2018, children were victims of violent crimes such as capital murder, murder, assault occasioning death, unintentional killing, rape, grievous harm, assault occasioning grievous harm, indecency to child under 16

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and kidnapping of minors. Perpetrators of such violent crimes were prosecuted and those found guilty were punished.

**1036-** Statistics from courts all over the national territory<sup>430</sup> indicated that about 1,110 (339 boys and 771 girls) children were victims of violent crimes as compared to 2017 where there were about 1,001 (246 boys and 755 girls) victims.

**1037-** With regard to forced marriages, 4 persons were standing trial for contravening Sections 74, 97 and 356 of the Penal Code. They were alleged to have forced a girl child of 17 years into a marriage. The girl went to the Legal Department of the Court of First Instance Mora and denounced her father for obliging her into a marriage. The marriage was later on celebrated traditionally and at the Civil Status Registry. Thus, in Judgment No.150/COR of 4 September 2018 delivered by the Court of First Instance Mora, the judge found the father of the girl guilty of forced marriage and sentenced him and his co-offenders to pay a fine suspended for 3 years. The Legal Department has appealed against this judgment.

**1038-** Concerning trafficking, 4 indigenous (Baka) children, all less than 15 years were victims of trafficking and the offender was punished. A statement from the accused woman who was arrested in the East Region was to the effect that she obtained the consent of the children's parents for them to carry out house chores and work on farms in Edea, and in return the said parents received some material things from her. The High Court Abong-Mbang in Judgment No.01/CRIM of 17 January 2018 held that by promoting the movement of these children for material gains, she was guilty of trafficking and slavery and sentenced her to an imprisonment term of 18 months and a fine.

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<sup>430</sup>With the exception of courts in Tiko, Limbe, Mamfe, Buea and Tombel for the South West Region, Ndop, Kumbo, Fundung, Wum and Bali for the North West Region and Bafang and Dschang for the West Region.

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## §3: Surveillance of Juvenile Offenders

**1039-** Measures to monitor juvenile offenders in 2018 included surveillance of these children by probation officers, placing some in institutions and taking care of those in detention centres.

**1040-** Statistics from MINAS indicated that as at the end of second semester of 2018, there were 394 juvenile offenders under the surveillance of probation officers in the following Regions: Adamawa (7), Centre (251), West (110) and South (26). Some 485 juvenile offenders were placed in institutions in the Centre (241), Littoral (54), North (80) and West (110) Regions during the same period. Concerning those in detention centres (police, gendarmerie brigade and prisons), statistics from 6 regions showed that they were 1,066 as follows: Adamawa (161); Centre (254); East (289); Littoral (170); West (152) and South (40).

## §4: Special Protection Measures

**1041-** Special measures on child protection such as curbing the phenomenon of street children and protecting children associated with armed groups were taken by both Government and partners in 2018.

### A: Curbing the Phenomenon of Street Children

**1042-** The fight against the phenomenon of street children focused on identifying and retrieving them from the streets, and their social reintegration.

#### Identified and retrieved Street Children

**1043-** At the end of the second semester of 2018, some 1,056 street children were identified with the exception of the Far North, North, North West and South West Regions. The highest number of street children were identified in the Adamawa Region (454) West Region (181), Centre Region (151), Littoral Region (144) and East Region (126).

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**1044-** About 287 were retrieved from the streets of some Regions during the same period including 50 in the Adamawa, 90 in the Centre, 12 in the East, 99 in the Littoral, and 30 in the West Regions.

## **Social Reintegration of Street Children**

**1045-** At the end of the second semester of 2018, some 127 street children were reintegrated and 253 resocialised in Adamawa, Centre, East, Littoral and West Regions. The Centre Region had 86 street children who were reintegrated and 96 resocialised, Littoral, 25 reintegrated and 45 resocialised, and West, 8 reintegrated and 70 resocialised.

**1046-** Furthermore, 9 children (8 boys and 1 girl) between the ages of 8 and 16 years alleged to be street children from neighbouring Nigeria found in Ndian Division were placed in a private institution under MINAS in Limbe by the State Counsel of Mundemba, South West Region.

**1047-** Furthermore, a civil society organization, *Operation Total Impact* based in Buea, South West Region working to ameliorate the living conditions of street children in Mile 16 Bolifamba and Tiko, between 2010 and 2018 assisted some 450 street children in these areas. The said Association offered gifts of clothing to these children during this period. A total of 7 of these children returned to school and 15 were reconciled with their families.

## **B: Protection of Children Associated with Armed Groups**

**1048-** Children in conflict zones especially in the Far North Region who were victims of armed conflicts were taken care of by the Government and its partners. Thus children associated or verified to be associated with armed groups or armed forces in 2018 in the Far North Region benefitted from provisionary care or support for reintegration into the community including those freed from detention. Indeed, Government discontinued proceedings against 170 children associated with *Boko Haram* in the Far North Region and UNICEF on its part identified 110 of such children in the same Region and 33 (22 boys and 11 girls) benefitted from the measures.

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## SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

**1049-** In 2018 Older persons continued to receive the attention of the Government and its partners. The rights of older persons were improved through health campaigns and assistance, guaranteeing the right to work and participation in the development process and cultural festivities.

### §1: Right to Health

**1050-** MINAS through its decentralised services offered free medical consultations to older persons especially in prelude to the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October 2018 under the theme “Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions”. During festivities leading to the celebration, MINAS organised health campaigns on different pathologies linked to old age. Older persons used the occasion to call on the Government to improve free medical services offered them, to improve their living conditions through the creation of leisure parks and not to send older persons to prison.

**1051-** As at the end of the second semester of 2018, statistics<sup>431</sup> from MINAS indicated that some 3,204 older persons received multiple assistance from its decentralised services. The Littoral Region had the highest number of older persons receiving assistance with 1,590 of them, followed by the West Region 957, East Region 179, Centre Region 168, North Region 19 and South Region 22.

### §2: Right to Work

**1052-** MINAS continued to encourage retired and older persons to register on the skills and professionally reconverted data file so that their skills could be made available to companies or persons in need of these services. Consequently, as at the end of second semester of 2018, some 846 older persons registered on the said data file with the highest number, 812 from

<sup>431</sup>Excluding the Far North, North West and South West Regions

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the West Region, 24 from the North Region and 10 from the Centre Region.

### **§3: Participation in the Development Process and Cultural Festivities**

**1053-** In order not to leave behind older persons in the development process, MINAS organised an Intersectoral Workshop on 9 May 2018 to set up an institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring of a National Plan of Action for the Protection and Promotion of Older Persons. The aim of the Workshop was to include older persons in the development process and to improve the living conditions of this vulnerable group.

**1054-** Furthermore, older persons participated in cultural activities. During the celebration of the 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Day of Older Persons, MINAS organised musical shows at the Esplanade of the National Museum in which older persons actively took part. They also participated in round table conferences and sporting activities.

### **SECTION 3: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**1055-** The legal framework on protecting persons with disabilities was strengthened, and the socio-economic, participation and education rights of this vulnerable group enhanced.

#### **§1: Strengthening the Legal Framework**

**1056-** Decree No.2018/6233/PM of 26 July 2018 fixing the modalities for the implementation of Law No.2010/22 of 13 April 2010 on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities was signed by the Prime Minister. The said Decree filled the legal vacuum relating to issues of socio-economic reinsertion of persons with disabilities notably access to education, vocational training, health, employment, public infrastructure and

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buildings open to the public, transport, communication, and access to politics, sports, artistic, cultural and leisure activities.

**1057-** The Prime Minister also signed Decree No.2018/6234/PM of 26 July 2018 reorganising the National Committee for Readaptation and Socio-economic Reinsertion of Persons with Disabilities. The duties of the Committee among others include the drafting before first October of every year a report of evaluation of Government Policies on persons with disabilities.

**1058-** Also, a Joint Decision No.1/MINSANTE/MINAS of 13 August 2018 fixing modalities of the establishment and issuance of a Special Medical Certificate was signed by the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Social Affairs. The Special Medical Certificate is an official document delivered exclusively to persons with disabilities and indicating the origin of the disability, the nature of the disability, the rate of the permanent disability related thereto and the prospects of evolution of the disability.

**1059-** Furthermore, Decision No.17/MINAS of 14 August 2018 also fixed modalities of the establishment and issuance of a National Invalidation Card. The Card is a document that attests to the disability of a person and confers on the latter the advantages provided for by law. The National Invalidation Card is issued to persons with disabilities of Cameroonian nationality having a Special Medical Certificate indicating a permanent disability rate of at least 50%.

## **§2: Enhancing Socio-economic and Cultural Rights**

**1060-** MINAS established and distributed 1,006 national disability cards as at the end of the second semester of 2018 to persons with disabilities. These cards were distributed as follows in the Regions: 85 in the Adamawa; 358 in the Centre; 70 in the East; 191 in the Littoral; 174 in the West; and

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165 in the South Regions. Furthermore, 332 persons with disabilities<sup>432</sup> benefited from equipment distributed by MINAS during the same period.

**1061-** Besides, some 5,785 persons with disabilities requested assistance of various kinds from MINAS. The Littoral Region had the highest number with 2,530, followed by the West Region with 1,884, Adamawa Region, 481, Centre Region, 255, North Region, 152 and South Region with 108.

**1062-** Furthermore, considering Law No. 2004/18 of 22 July 2004 to lay down rules applicable to Councils, the Douala II Council gave aid to persons with disabilities in June 2018. These include tricycles, canes, wheel-chairs, foodstuff, and medical and school aid.

**1063-** During the celebration on 3 December 2018 of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, MINAS organised a trade fair, sports and cultural activities for persons with disabilities at the Yaounde Multi-purpose Sports Complex.

**1064-** Moreover, MINPROFF in collaboration with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board, the organised a training workshop in Bamenda for persons with disabilities through the NGO, *Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities*, at raining women Network on how to develop gender and disability inclusive action plans using the SMART method.

### §3: Inclusive Education

**1065-** The inclusive education policy that respects the rights of all children continued to be implemented in 2018. On 4 May 2018, MINESEC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International NGO Sightsavers aimed at providing a legal and planned framework to promote inclusive education, enhance awareness for inclusive education while promoting inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral networking for inclusive education in the

<sup>432</sup>Some 25 persons with disabilities benefited in Adamawa Region, 48 in the Centre Region, 76 in the East Region, 95 in the Littoral Region, 3 in the North Region, 42 in the West Region and 6 in the South Region.

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country. Sightsavers on its part will ensure pre-service training of teachers on inclusive education at the Inclusive Education Resource Centre, Government Teacher Training College Buea. It will also ensure that teacher training institutions provide ongoing resource and pedagogic support to inclusive schools.

**1066-** Government and its partners further enabled the Buea School for the Deaf (BSD) to go entrepreneurial. The tailoring and carpentry departments of BSD were inaugurated on 9 February 2018 at the School premises. Some 9 industrial sewing machines and many carpentry tools were donated to the School. Thus, in addition to the 65 students' normal daily schooling curriculum, they have the option of learning tailoring and carpentry.

## **§4: Participation in Politics**

**1067-** Persons with disabilities did not only vote during the presidential election of 7 October 2018 but also sent observers on the field through their Network of Associations, *Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities*. The Network had 31 observers in 42 polling stations in all Regions with exception of the South Region. Although access to some polling stations was difficult for persons with disabilities, polling officers gave them help to vote.

## **SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

**1068-** In a bid to enhance the rights of indigenous peoples, Government strengthened institutions implementing programmes and projects involving indigenous peoples, adopted a Plan of Action on the protection of rights of indigenous peoples, and guaranteed access to citizenship, access to land and cultural rights through inter-community dialogue.

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## §1: Strengthening Institutions

**1069-** Institutions monitoring programmes and projects for indigenous peoples were strengthened and Plans of Action were adopted for implementation of the said programmes and projects

### A: Intersectoral Committee

**1070-** The Intersectoral Committee to Follow up Programmes and Projects Involving Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples (CISPAV) which is a platform for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects related to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples (Indigenous forest peoples and Mbororos) met at its 5<sup>th</sup> Session on 2 August 2018 in Yaounde to assess the level of implementation of recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session, and reviewed actions taken during the period from August 2017-2018 on the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples among others. During the 5<sup>th</sup> Session, a 3 year Action Plan 2018-2020 of CISPAV to protect the rights of indigenous peoples was popularised and a follow-up Plan was also validated. The Plan of Action focused on education, strengthening the national strategic framework for the protection of indigenous peoples, strengthening intercommunity dialogue and living together among others.

### B: Triennial Action Plan

**1071-** Indigenous peoples especially the Bakas had developed sustainable management practices for natural resources and were therefore key players in the conservation of biodiversity. It is within this backdrop that a Triennial Action Plan for the protection of the rights of indigenous people within the framework of biodiversity conservation (2017 -2019) was adopted during a Workshop from 6 to 7 April 2017 organised by MINAS with financial support from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to strengthen the capacity of intersectoral stakeholders within the framework of implementing programmes and projects on biodiversity conservation. Stakeholders met in Bertoua from 31 May to 1 June 2018 to assess the level of imple-

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mentation of the said Action Plan after one year. During the conclave, WWF indicated that the creation of community forests like the one in Moloundou, the building of classrooms and boreholes in favour of indigenous peoples were means of protecting the rights of this vulnerable group without interfering with biodiversity conservation. Participants agreed to proceed to a greater appropriation of the said Plan, to follow with rigour the work of the intersectoral committee and above all to set up a mechanism to follow-up this Triennial Plan.

## §2: Access to Citizenship

**1072-** MINAS continued to raise the awareness of indigenous forest peoples<sup>433</sup> on citizenship. It is within this framework that MINAS drafted a Referral Guide on Citizenship Education which was validated at a Workshop held in Kribi from 16 to 18 August 2018.

**1073-** Also, the Association for the Bakas, *OKANI* with its financial partners organised a National Dialogue from 10 to 12 December 2018 on the rights of indigenous peoples and access to citizenship in Yaounde, with the participation of public administrations and civil society organizations. During the said Dialogue, discussions focused on obstacles and difficulties in obtaining documents related to citizenship. These difficulties include long distances to register births at the civil status registry especially as a majority of deliveries was out of hospital, the high rate of illiteracy among indigenous forest peoples and the cumbersome procedure to obtain civil status certificates. The absence of civil status certificates limits the movements of the people, their right to vote, and facilitates harassments against them. Furthermore, the lack of these documents prevents them from reporting offences as well as prevents them from registering in public schools and getting access to employment.

**1074-** At the end of the National Dialogue, participants made some recommendations to ameliorate access of indigenous forest peoples to citi-

<sup>433</sup>The 4 Bs, that is, Bakas, Bakola, Bagyelis and Bedzan

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zenship. The recommendations included the continuous awareness raising of this vulnerable group on the importance of declaring births, the importance of birth certificates and national identity cards. Also, the training of civil status registry staff to better respond to the needs of indigenous forest peoples during birth registration procedures and the training of indigenous peoples' chiefs to work as agents in the civil status registry by assisting in the collection of birth declarations in their communities.

### **§3: Access to Land**

**1075-** Due to difficulties faced by indigenous peoples on land governance and natural resources, the Centre for Environment and Development in partnership with RACOPY (*Réseau Recherches Actions Concertées Pygmées*) organised a Reflection Workshop on the participation of indigenous peoples on land governance on 8 August 2018 in Yaounde for participants to discuss these difficulties. Indigenous peoples said they had little or no dividends from forest exploitation and resources, and no damages were paid to them for the destruction of their land. Possible solutions proposed by the said peoples during the Reflection included inclusive rights in the management of forest resources and a law on pastoralism among others.

### **§4: Cultural Rights through Inter-Community Dialogue**

**1076-** In prelude to the celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples under the theme: "*Indigenous peoples' migration and movement*" on 9 August 2018, MINAS apart from organising cultural activities before and during the celebration, organised an inter-community dialogue on the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples, especially the girl child. The said dialogue took place in Ngaoundere from 8 to 10 August 2018 with the financial support of UNICEF.

**1077-** United Purpose in partnership with Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA) and North West Farmers Organization (NOWEFOR) started implementing a 3-Year Project titled

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*“Bridging the gap: safeguarding peace and Human Rights by promoting intercultural dialogue in the North West Region (BTG)”* that will strengthen social cohesion in the North West Region . The Project funded by the European Union was launched on 8 June 2018 in Bamenda with 61 participants (47 men and 14 women) including Administrative Authorities, Municipal and Traditional Authorities and Civil Society Organizations.

**1078-** As from September 2018, MBOSCUDA embarked on a series of capacity development workshops of 26 leaders from youth associations, 18 dialogue platforms members, 15 women leaders and 21 persons from partner organizations on cultural diversity, and national and international legal instruments on cultural rights. The results were an improved awareness on cultural rights issues and international conventions relating to cultural diversity. Furthermore, there has been an increased responsiveness of public policies and decisions on cultural identities and rights of cultural minorities. The success has been thanks to regional and national campaigns using public and private radio, TV, documentaries and other media, capacity development of civil society, advocacy, improved access to reliable information and dialogue with public institutions.

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**1079-** Despite efforts made by Government in promoting and protecting the rights of socially vulnerable persons in 2018 including continuous strengthening of the legal and institutional framework for their protection, protecting civil rights and freedoms, providing inclusive education, enhancing socioeconomic and cultural rights, there is need for the capacity development of stakeholders on international, regional and national instruments governing the protection of the rights of children, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples.



**Chapter** **5**

**PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



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**1080-** Having its legal basis in the Constitution and in international, regional as well as national legal instruments and its strategic basis in the National Gender Policy Document, the promotion and protection of women's rights was at the core of the Head of State's political commitment during the year under review. Thus, in a context marked by the ownership of the SDGs and variable security constraints, the principle of gender equality remained one of the bedrocks of public policies. Likewise, the fight against social scourges which hinder women's development, such as violence against women, continued. As a result, the promotion of women's economic empowerment was accompanied by the protection of their property and non-property rights and interests.

## **SECTION 1: GENDER EQUALITY AS BEDROCK OF PUBLIC POLICIES**

**1081-** The inclusion of women as key players in socio-political development was reiterated in policy guidelines, the indicator being women's representation in public life.

### **§1: Inclusion of Women's Rights in Public Policy Guidelines**

**1082-** In an approach based on the principle of equity, at the highest level of government, gender equality in public policy guidelines was upheld, while the search for solutions to various crisis included women through the implementation of the Plan of Action of Resolution 1325 and related resolutions.

#### **A: Reasserting Political Ownership of the Principle of Gender Equality**

**1083-** Political authorities have reaffirmed their willingness to include the institutionalization process of the principle of gender equality among national priorities. In this regard, the Head of State in his inaugural speech on 6 November 2018 committed namely, to dedicate all his relentless efforts to "*the promotion of women's role in our society*". This political impetus was materialised by the Government through the instructions of the Prime Min-

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ister, Head of Government, in his capacity as coordinator of government action. Thus, at the end of the Council of Ministers held on 31 October 2018, the Prime Minister invited members of the Government to “*further integrate the gender approach in initial and further training, as well as in proposals of appointment to leadership position*”<sup>434</sup>.

**1084-** Besides and in order to integrate gender aspects in the drawing up of sector budgets, Circular No. 1/CAB/PRC of 20 June 2018 relaying the Head of State’s instructions insisted on the necessity for ministries to allocate budgets for activities listed in the multisector Plan of Action to implement the National Gender Policy (PAMS/NGP).

## **B: Implementation of the Plan of Action of Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions**

**1085-** Due to the prevalence of security challenges, women living in areas affected by crisis were exposed to violence and abuses. One of the structural responses to this situation was the popularization of the National Plan of Action of Resolutions 1325 and related Resolutions of the Security Council on “*Women, Peace and Security*”<sup>435</sup>. The first results of the implementation of this Plan of Action were materialised by the creation of a Technical Secretariat and “*Case Management*” in the North West and South West Regions. Among the first results of the implementation of this plan are actions materialising the willingness of women of the North West and South West to participate in conflict resolution in both Regions. As a matter of fact, at the instigation of 64 Women’s Associations working for that purpose<sup>436</sup>, in August and September 2018, women massively went out on the streets of the main cities of those Regions to demand peace and especially,

<sup>434</sup> Extract from the communiqué released at the end of the Council of Ministers held on 31 October 2018, published in the daily newspaper, Cameroon Tribune, edition of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018, page 5.

<sup>435</sup> The Plan of Action was adopted and presented in 2018.

<sup>436</sup> Some of the associations which participated in those sessions were NKUMU FED FED, *Voices of Women*, CHAMEG, *Reachout...*

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school resumption. School enrolment is one of the conditions for women's participation in the management of public affairs.

## §2: Women's Participation in the Management of Public Affairs

**1086-** The participation of Cameroonian women in public life has evolved at the political and community levels and a qualitative improvement of the gender perspective was noted.

### A: Evolution of Women's Participation in Politics and at Community Level

**1087-** The year 2018 was marked at the political level by the organisation of 2 elections, namely presidential election and the election of 70% of senators, the remaining 30% being appointed by the President of the Republic. Those elections were preceded by mentorship actions for women.

#### 1) Actions for Women's Mobilization in Politics

**1088-** Prior to the presidential and senatorial elections, public authorities supported by the civil society and development partners carried out activities for the awareness of women and young girls of voting age, political capacity building of women and the increase in the number of women registered on electoral lists.

**1089-** In that light, the political training handbook for women updated in 2017 was distributed to 800,000 women. A workshop for *the training of women candidates and women leaders on electoral processes, the electoral law, transformative leadership, learning by peers for candidates, public speaking and commitment* was organised on 26 and 27 June 2018 in Mbankomo, for the benefit of 33 participants. It aimed at raising awareness and preparing women for their participation in future elections.

**1090-** Within the framework of the Support Project for the increase of women's participation in politics for elections in 2018, *More Women in Politics* supported by a consortium of 7 associations in 7 regions<sup>437</sup> of

<sup>437</sup>The Regions concerned are Far North, Centre, South, Littoral, West, North West and South West.

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Cameroon, led an initiative aimed at increasing the number of women registered on electoral lists by at least 20%. These outreach activities were enhanced by guidelines of some political parties recommending that at least 2 women be included in every electoral list.

**1091-** At the community level, the exclusion of women from the management of traditional matters decreased thanks to awareness campaigns organised by *Lamibes* and notables in traditional chiefdoms of the Lamidat of Guider, the Sultanates of Kousseri and Logone-Birni, resulting in the integration of 33 women in decision-making between September 2018 and February 2019. A traditional charter of lamibé/Sultans on women's position in the rank of notables was adopted and documented by Paramount Chiefs selected during public ceremonies in each of the 3 chiefdoms concerned. In total, 80 women now sit and perform their duties as notables with full rights in the paramount chiefdoms of Guider, Kousseri and Logone Birni, bringing to 122 the total number of women enthroned as notables since 2016.

**1092-** All in all, the Electoral Code deriving from Law No. 2012/1 of 19 April 2012 and the above mentioned pooled efforts contributed to the variable evolution of the number of women's political representation during elections in 2018.

## **2) Women's Participation in Elections Organised in 2018**

**1093-** Women's participation was noted during both presidential and senatorial elections.

**1094-** Concerning senatorial elections organised on 25 March 2018 for the election of 70 senators, some political parties encouraged and even instructed the taking into consideration of gender aspects in the composition of electoral lists, in implementation of the provisions of Section 218 Sub-section 3 of the Electoral Code. However, the candidacy of some women was the subject of litigation. For instance, Mrs **Saki LAMINE** (outgoing Senator for the CPDM) seized the Constitutional Council to contest the de-

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cision of her political party not to renew her candidacy on electoral lists. By Decision No. 1/CE/CC/2018 of 15 March 2018, the Constitutional Council, based on the provisions of Section 47<sup>438</sup> of the Law, declared the appeal inadmissible, stating that “any dispute referred to the Constitutional Council must emanate from a decision of acceptance or rejection of a candidacy by ELECAM, the body in charge of elections”.

**1095-** After the election of senators and the appointment of 30 others by the President of the Republic, the number of female senators moved from 21 during the previous term to 26 women out of 100 senators, for a representation rate of 26% and an increase rate of 5%.

**1096-** Concerning the presidential election, 2 out of the 28 candidacies registered at ELECAM were female candidacies, namely those of Mrs **Geneviève ZEH AMVENE**, independent candidate and **Habiba ISSA** representing the Union of the Peoples of Cameroon (UPC). Both candidacies were rejected by ELECAM. Mrs **Geneviève ZEH AMVENE**, one of the two candidates, seized the Constitutional Council to contest the rejection of her candidacy by ELECAM, her argument being that “she is the messiah and saviour of humanity”. By Decision No.15/CE/CC/2018 of 17 August 2018, the Constitutional Council declared the petition inadmissible, in keeping with the provisions of Section 130 of the Electoral Code. In total, there was no woman among the 9 candidacies accepted<sup>439</sup> for the presidential election, unlike the 2011 election.

**1097-** Measures on progressive reduction of gender disparities in public affairs also led to tangible results like the appointment of women to senior positions in the administration.

<sup>438</sup>This section also states that “The Constitutional Council shall establish eligibility at the National Assembly and the Senate.”

<sup>439</sup>See the Chapter on the management of public affairs, §211

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## **B: Improved Access of Women to Decision-Making Positions**

**1098-** The desire to capitalise female skills in national construction was materialised by the appointment of women to important senior positions within the Government.

**1099-** The Cabinet reshuffle of 2 March 2018 led to a slight increase in the number of female members of Government, from 10 to 11 women on a total of 65 ministerial positions, representing a ratio of 7.15 %.

**1100-** Besides, women's access to managerial functions in public institutions and companies was marked by the appointment of women to posts previously filled by men; this is the case for:

- Mrs **FEH Helen KWANGA GALEGA**, appointed Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) by Decree No. 2018/386 of 5 July, 2018;
- Mrs **YAH Judith SUNDAY ACHIDI**, appointed Director General of *Cameroon Telecommunications and Services* (CAMTEL) by Decree No. 2018/786 of 14 December, 2018;
- Mrs **MANZOUA Véronique MOAMPEA MBIO**, appointed Director General of Cameroon Company of Petroleum Depots (SCDP) during a session of the Board of Directors held on 14 December 2018.

**1101-** Moreover, Mrs **Florence RITA ARREY** only woman to have been appointed among the 11 members of the Constitutional Council by Decree No. 2018/105 of 7 February 2018.

**1102-** In 2018, at the National Assembly, there were 56 women out of 180 Members of Parliament, while at the Senate, there were 26 women out of 100 Senators. There were 11 women out of 65 ministers, 7 women Secretaries General of Ministries, 2 women out of 58 Senior Divisional Officers, 14 women out of 360 Sub-Divisional Officers and 31 female mayors out of 360.

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**1103-** Results of competitive entrance examinations into the public service organised in 2018 illustrate the positive evolution of the integration of gender aspects when recruiting into the public service.

**1104-** Concerning legal professions, 474 lawyers were newly called to the Cameroon Bar after their end of training examination, of which 352 were men and 122 women, which represent 74.27% and 25.73% respectively.

**1105-** Results recorded as at 31 December 2018 with regard to recruitments into the public service for the year 2018 showed a recruitment rate of 46.44% for a total number of 1 145 women out of the 2466 personnel recruited.

## **SECTION 2: CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**1106-** Violence against women is a denial of women's dignity and a setback to their development. That is why it has been the Government's concern, especially given the various security contingencies which made women more vulnerable and further exposed to this evil. Consequently, the implementation of the National Strategy on Combating Gender-based Violence hinged on preventive actions to combat violence, punishment of perpetrators of violence rehabilitation of survivors, with a particular attention to survivors from crisis affected regions.

### **§1: Actions to Prevent Violence**

**1107-** Awareness raising and training of stakeholders were the main preventive actions to combat violence.

**1108-** With regard to awareness, the traditional campaign "16 days of Activism against Gender-based violence" was launched on 25 November 2018 under the theme "Combating violence against women: Being attentive to the sufferings of survivors" while insisting on the necessity for denunciation in order to end the impunity of perpetrators.

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**1109-** The commemoration of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation was celebrated on 6 February 2018 under the theme *“Ending female genital mutilations, a political decision*. The celebration was marked by a press conference of the Minister of Women’s Empowerment and the Family.

**1110-** In order to raise awareness on domestic violence, the Catholic Church, through the *National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon*, organised from 15 to 19 October 2018 in Yaounde, a workshop for the training of pastoral agents on the church’s response to domestic violence. The theme of deliberations was *“When violence emanates from the family: violence in Catholic families-responding with the heart of Christ”*.

**1111-** In general, cross-cutting awareness raising measures carried out by MINPROFF with the support of stakeholders of the civil society on violence against children and child marriages in the East, Far North, Centre and South Regions reached 3,908 youth, while 300 leaders and community relays were trained on similar themes in the course of the year in the Adamawa, East, Far-North and North Regions.

**1112-** Given the impact of violence against women and girls and their increase within those specific contexts, outreach sessions were organised for these groups in the North West and South West Regions where some of the setbacks caused by the crisis such as, girls’ drop out of school, displacements of personnel and even sexual abuse and exploitation. Mention may be made of sessions organised in Bamenda from 2 to 5 November 2018 for the benefit of a hundred young girls, by *HOPE for the needy Association* (HOFNA). The training contributed to strengthen the capacity of young girls or women activists to play front roles in combating violence against women. The training focused on laws, mechanisms and institutions that protect women’s human rights as well as building collective responsibility.

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**1113-** The Government also ensured the creation of *task forces* in those regions to act as monitoring and denunciation brigades for the denunciation of perpetrators so that they could be punished.

## **§2: Punishment of Violence against Women**

**1114-** The fight against impunity is one of the measures taken by public authorities for the elimination of violence against women.

**1115-** Thus, in order to equip stakeholders of the criminal justice system, 30 instructors and Judicial Police Officers of the National Gendarmerie were trained on 26 November 2018 in Yaounde, on the protection of women and children against gender-based violence in a context of humanitarian crisis.

**1116-** Likewise, with a view to increasing the involvement of Defence and Security Forces in the prevention and punishment of sexual exploitations and abuses in a situation of humanitarian crisis, the International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES) organised, from 23 to 27 July on its campus at Awae, with the support of the Japanese cooperation, a training session on "*preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) during United Nations and African Union peace-keeping operations*"<sup>440</sup>.

**1117-** Given the context, the training proved necessary, especially in regions affected by conflicts. Some specific cases of allegations of sexual abuses were highlighted:

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<sup>440</sup>During this training attended by participants from 6 countries, discussions focused on key approaches to deployment during peace-keeping operations related to *PSEA*, command responsibility in the prevention of misconduct, norms and standards for preventive actions, the United Nations' policy of Zero tolerance and sanctions.

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- On 25 June 2018, a Non-commissioned Officer working at the Field Artillery Regiment of Nkongsamba (Moungo Division), suspected of sexually abusing a young girl at Tombel (Kupe-Muanenguba Division) where he was deployed, was brought before the Yaounde Military Tribunal. Judicial proceedings were ongoing;
- On 25 July 2018, proceedings were initiated against the First Class Soldier **M. Arthur**, following the alleged rape of a young girl of 17 in the NKWEN locality, in Bamenda, on 23 July 2018. During a routine check, the above-named coerced the victim to have sexual intercourse with him. In exchange, she was not to be arrested by the patrol for not having a national identity card. He was remanded in custody pending his trial before the Bamenda Military Tribunal.

**1118-** Moreover, overall statistics on violence from courts revealed 245 reports drawn up for cases of rape, while in the course of the year 133 criminal proceedings<sup>441</sup> relating to this offence were pending at the level of preliminary inquiry and 170 were before trial courts. Also, 104 persons were convicted for rape, while 34 were acquitted.

### §3: Support and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence

**1119-** A holistic and integrated response to violence against women and girls remained the bedrock of support to survivors. In this regard, an innovative tool was put in place during a workshop organised in Yaounde from 24 to 27 July 2018, to ensure a better coordination in the implementation of the essential services Package, a programme initiated by the United Nations' system. More specifically, the goal was to operationalise a multi-sector platform to ensure that female victims of any form of violence have access to psychological services or receive mental health care in Centres for the Empowerment of Women and the Family (CPFF) and in all other operational structures.

<sup>441</sup>These statistics do not include some courts in the North West (Ndop, Mbengwi, Wum, Fundong and Bali), South West (Tiko, Tombel, Limbe, Mamfe, CFI of Fako) and West (Bafang and Dschang) Regions.

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**1120-** As regards operational support centres for survivors, *Gender desks* and *Call centers* to welcome women in distress received a total of 1,775 women in 2018, against 1,677 in 2017. Initiatives were also taken by private organisations or civil society. *Association de Lutte contre les violences Faites aux femmes* received and guided 592 survivors of various forms of violence. Thus, 333 women were received in the *Centre vie de Femmes* of Maroua, the most recurrent cases being cases of economic violence. In Yaounde, there were 92 cases of domestic violence out of the 259 cases recorded.

**1121-** In order to take the particular vulnerability of refugee and internally displaced women into consideration, spaces specifically dedicated to them were created or continued to operate. Some of them include *Women's Social Cohesion Spaces (WSCS)*, *Safe Spaces* and *case management*. So, within the framework of humanitarian emergencies, 3 cohesion spaces for women were built in the Minawao Camp<sup>442</sup>. Main activities carried out by the WSCS deal with the prevention and management of gender based violence (GBV), economic empowerment activities for women and the promotion of social cohesion.

**1122-** *Case management* was initiated in the North West and South West Regions. Thus, 60 health staff working in those Regions were trained from 26 to 27 April 2018 in Bamenda (30), and in Limbe (30) from 3 to 4 July 2018 on the management of survivors of GBV, which was usually done along with the promotion of their economic rights.

### **SECTION 3: PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AS A DRIVER OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

**1123-** Women's economic empowerment remains one of the major challenges to sustainable and inclusive development, in a national situation

<sup>442</sup> Those spaces are organised as follows: an administrative building with a counseling room; a house of refuge to provide temporary shelter to survivors of violence, for 72 hours maximum, while a solution is found for their case; a crafts house for various trainings and meetings; a big boukarou for talks; a playground for children.

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where 90 % of women operate in the informal sector. Consequently, Government's objective is to build women's entrepreneurial capacity within the framework of the Plan of Action for Women's Entrepreneurship Development (PANDEF). However, resources for its implementation were still to be mobilized. Thus, emphasis was laid on socio-economic integration measures for women, with a particular focus on rural women.

## **§1: Socio-Economic Integration Measures for Women**

**1124-** Measures taken to combat women's insecurity revolved around building their managerial capacity and training them in various trades, as well as supporting their socio-economic reintegration.

### **A: Building Managerial Capacity and Training in Various Trades**

**1125-** With a view to increasing the number of support structures for women that are operational, 3 new Centres for the Empowerment of Women and the Family were being constructed,<sup>443</sup> while the construction of the Mbanga Centre was completed, increasing the number to 94. Moreover, 3 Centres for the Empowerment of Women and the Family (CPFF) were also rehabilitated,<sup>444</sup> while 7 others were equipped<sup>445</sup> and the Bafia and Limbe Centres were secured.

**1126-** The construction of digital houses in some CPFF continued, as well as the training of trainers and Officials in the management of those digital houses. In 2018, 20 digital houses were constructed, 15 of which are operational.

**1127-** Moreover, 22,006 women and girls were trained in the creation and management of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) in production, processing and conservation techniques of agro-pastoral products. In addition, 150 trainers in CPFF and Officials of Decentralised Services of MIN-

<sup>443</sup> Yaounde 6, the Bourha, and the Bamenda 1 Centres.

<sup>444</sup> Poli, Garoua and Yaounde 4 Centres.

<sup>445</sup> MBandjock, Nguелеbock, Ndobiang, Muyuka, Bamusso, Biwong-Bulu, and Olamze Centres.

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PROFF were trained in the management of menstrual hygiene, lack of knowledge of which is a setback to the development of women's activities.

**1128-** Lastly, platforms for public-private cooperation were created to support women's entrepreneurship. This include the partnership between MINPMEESA and *Cameroon Women Business Leaders Association* established on 27 February 2018, for Public Authorities' contribution to the promotion of women's entrepreneurship and support to their socio-economic integration, through appropriate strategies.

## **B: Support to Women's Socio-economic Integration**

**1129-** In order to sustainably reduce poverty and foster women's access to reliable and affordable basic financial and banking services, a National Inclusive Finance Strategy Document was drafted in 2013 for targeted support to women. In this regard, a Partnership Agreement was signed on 19 July 2018 between MINPROFF and *Microfinance et Développement* (MIFED) representing the *Réseau des Caisses Villageoises d'Épargne et de Crédit Autogérées* (CVECA), identified as the main institution likely to finance women's activities<sup>446</sup> in line with the implementation of the project *Promoting Gender Equality and Accelerating Women's Economic Empowerment on the Batchenga-Ntui-Yoko-Lena road project* executed within the framework of the Support Programme for the Transport Sector<sup>447</sup>.

**1130-** Furthermore, multiform support was given to 330 women's associations and 1,337 women for the management of IGAs.

**1131-** In order to improve the living conditions of the people of Zamaï, more specifically women and girls who were harmed by cross border insecurity resulting from activities of the *Boko Haram* sect, a market compris-

<sup>446</sup> MINPROFF has to ensure the coordination of all activities set for the implementation of the said project, allocated a budget line for IGAs of women entrepreneurs and ensure monitoring and follow-up. The micro-finance institution has to ensure information and awareness of beneficiaries, capacity building of women promoters, manage funding available for female operators and give account of its implementation through periodic reports.

<sup>447</sup> A budget line of CFAF 100 000 000 (About 152,671.76 Euros) is planned for the financing of income-generating activities to the benefit of women living along that road.

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ing 3 sheds, a butcher shop, a water point, toilets and showers, was constructed in this locality under the Mokolo Council, in the Far North Region.

## §2: Measures Specifically Dedicated to Rural Women

**1132-** Challenges faced by rural women led Public Authorities to take specific measures for them. In addition to the celebration of the International Day of Rural Women under the theme “*Rural Women’s Empowerment through the Development of Partnerships*” on 15 October, the Minister of Women’s Empowerment and the Family gave a press conference during which, she encouraged female farmers to create efficient associations to solve problems relating to their activities. In total, 264 women’s groups benefited from support in the form of agricultural equipment.

**1133-** To improve productivity and adaptation to climate change, the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) set up 6 years entered its implementation phase thanks to a meeting of the National partnership platform of this programme held in Yaounde from 5 to 8 June 2018. The objective of this Programme is to increase awareness among rural women about climate change challenges, in order to foster their economic growth, especially in the agricultural sector, without neglecting their fundamental rights.

## SECTION 4: PROTECTION OF WOMEN’S PROPERTY AND NON-PROPERTY RIGHTS

**1134-** Women’s rights in the family can be protected through the improvement of stability and harmony in the family, as well as the securing of unions. This can be effected through the preservation of women’s economic and non-economic interests both during the marriage and after termination of marriage.

### §1: Family Promotion and Protection

**1135-** The promotion and protection of the family, basic unit of society can be achieved by preventing family dysfunctions and by securing unions.

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## A: Preventing Conflicts within the Family

**1136-** During the reporting year, educational talks were given to 62,976 persons, (individuals or families), on premarital, marital and family education. Mediation sessions were organised for 969 identified marital conflicts. Moreover, aid and assistance were granted to 2,227 needy or poor families and persons.

## B: Securing Unions

**1137-** With a view to promoting legalised unions at the expense of non-marital relationships, MINPROFF supported the collective celebration of 2,773 marriages in 2018 against 5,141 in 2017.

### §2: Protecting Women's Interests during Marriage

**1138-** In addition to mechanisms governing marital conflicts, courts at various levels have protected women's rights and interests during legal proceedings. Thus, in Judgment No.1037/L of 11 September 2018, the Douala Bonanjo *Tribunal de Premier Degré* ordered a monthly payment of the sum of CFAF 100,000 to lady N. NG. by her husband, for the maintenance and development of the children the husband left in her care.

### §3: Protecting Women's Interests in Case of Termination of Marriage

**1139-** The end of marriage has consequences on the property rights of a woman depending on whether this is due to a divorce or the death of a spouse.

## A: Divorced Woman

**1140-** During the year under review, 596 judgments on divorce were delivered at the instance of the husband, 450 judgments at the instance of the wife and 187 at the instance of both spouses by Customary Courts, as well as 407 decisions on matrimonial property liquidation<sup>448</sup>. 277 judg-

<sup>448</sup> These figures don't include judgments from the CFI of Tiko, Tombel, Limbe, Buea, Bali, as

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ments on divorce were also rendered by High Courts at the instance of the husband, 206 others at the instance the wife and 195 at the instance of both spouses. 239 decisions on matrimonial property liquidation were identified.

**1141-** Concerning divorce proceedings, judges considered the principle of gender equality. This was the case in Judgment No. 18/CIV of 26 June 2018 rendered by the Vina High Court. In this case, lady **T. K. Carine** applied to set aside divorce Judgment No. 6/Civ of 14 February 2017 rendered by the said court, against her default and at her instance. The contestant raised, among other things, the lack of territorial jurisdiction of the Vina High Court which rendered the contested judgement, on the grounds that she was not living in Vina, but in Yaounde. Consequently, she was requesting to be summoned to appear before the court of her town or place of residence, in keeping with Section 8 of the Civil and Commercial Procedure Code. To decline his jurisdiction<sup>449</sup>, the Judge rejected the provisions of Section 215 of the Civil Code which vests the choice of the marital home upon the husband, on the grounds that they are contrary to the provisions of Article 15 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Article 6 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, also called Maputo Protocol duly ratified by Cameroon, which grant equal rights to spouses in a marital relationship, including the choice of the marital home. On the basis that the clear disagreement between both spouses which hinders the consensual choice of the marital home, in line with the provisions of the above mentioned international conventions, the Judge concluded that «*the divorce proceeding being a personal action,*

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well as those from CFI and HC Mamfe, Ndop, Kumbo, Mbengwi, Wum, Fundong, Bafang Dschang and the HC Fako.

<sup>449</sup> The Judge had to rule on the court which had territorial jurisdiction on divorce matters, due to the objection on territorial jurisdiction raised by the wife living in Yaounde who had been summoned by her husband to appear for divorce proceedings before the Court in Ngaoundere where the latter resided, on the grounds there was no consensual agreement by both parties that the marital home was in Ngaoundere.

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*only the provisions of Section 8 of the Civil and Commercial Procedure Code (...) shall be applicable for a fair trial».*

**1142-** In order to protect both spouses' property in case of divorce, some Judges ordered the divorce and the liquidation of the matrimonial property, even in the absence of any express request by parties. This was the case in Judgment No. 601/CIV of 18 May 2018 rendered by the Wouri HC. The said Judgment reads as follow: *under the terms of Section 1441 of the Civil Code, a provision which is not contrary to the CEDAW Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the community is dissolved by divorce;*

*Consequently, the joint property regime is hereby said to be dissolved by divorce. This concerns all properties jointly acquired by spouses. The said properties shall be equally shared between them.*

**1143-** In Judgment No. 4/CIV of 13 March 2018 rendered by the Vina High Court, the Judge ordered the liquidation of the joint property regime as a consequence of the divorce as follows: *«Whereas the spouses who did not choose a matrimonial regime are supposed to have opted for the ordinary-law arrangement which is that of the legal community, under the provisions of Section 1441 of the Civil Code, the said community is dissolved by civil death, divorce, or legal separation...*

*In application of this legal provision, there is need for the court to pronounce on its own motion dissolution of the joint property regime that existed between spouses and order the adjustment and sharing of their properties».*

**1144-** On the contrary, in Judgment No. 341/CIV rendered on 23 March 2018 by the Wouri High Court, the Judge did not rule on the liquidation of the joint property, the claimant spouse in the divorce proceeding concluded that *«the liquidation of joint property should not be granted and is inconsistent».* On the other hand, in Judgment No.334/CIV of 19 March 2018 of the Wouri High Court, in response to a similar conclusion and at the request of the wife, the liquidation and sharing of the joint property between the spouses was ordered.

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**1145-** On the contrary, the Judge did not grant this request in Judgment No.880/CIV of 24 August 2018 before the Wouri High Court, as spouses were married under the separate property regime, with a contract duly signed before a notary.

## **B: Widows**

**1146-** The main measures taken to ensure that widows enjoy their rights are awareness and support. In order to enlighten widows on their rights, educational talks were organised and 2,043 persons were received, while 215 widows were edified on their rights thanks to socio-legal clinics set up for that purpose. In addition, the capacity of 1,209 widows was enhanced in the area of IGAs.

**1147-** With regard to the courts, 1,255 decisions recognised widows' right to usufruct, while 121 decisions on matrimonial property liquidation on grounds of prior death of the spouse were recorded.

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**1148-** Though the principle of gender equality is on constant rise through indicators such as women's participation in decision making or women's access to public service, women's contribution to national development is not yet optimal. As a matter of fact, concerted efforts deployed at the economic level have not yet succeeded to take the majority of them out of the informal sector, and they continue to suffer violence compounded by the current security and socio-political crisis in Cameroon. Indeed, despite the will of judicial stakeholders and the existence of legal mechanisms, same have not been adequately mobilised. It is therefore essential to promote the values of peace and to take actions to consolidate achievements, while overcoming challenges through the enhancement of collaboration in sectors like education, health, agriculture, entrepreneurship and women's access to senior positions.

**Chapter** 6

**PROTECTING THE  
RIGHTS OF PERSONS IN  
SITUATION OF  
INVOLUNTARY  
DISPLACEMENT**



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**1149-** Mass displacement of people within the territory has increased as a result of the crisis in the North West and South West Regions. Indeed, during previous years, two main types of flows were noticed, firstly in the Northern and Eastern Regions, due to crises in neighbouring countries and attacks of the terrorist group *Boko Haram*, and secondly due to the massive return of undocumented Cameroonians from some countries of the Sahel and North Africa. In 2018, there were new migration movements of varying magnitudes within the country and towards neighbouring countries such as Nigeria, depending on the evolution of the situation in the North West and South West Regions.

**1150-** This dynamics of displacement flows imposed adaptation and adjustment of the response in a bid to preserve the dignity and rights of displaced populations in such conditions. Action in favour of persons in situation of involuntary displacement led by the Government with the multidimensional support of various partners<sup>450</sup> was thus structured according to the situation. This was a continuation of previous options for the management of existing displacements and provided a specific response for emerging situations.

## SECTION 1: CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS OPTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING DISPLACEMENTS

**1151-** For the protection of the rights of displaced persons in the context of existing mass influx, the legendary hospitality and inclusive approach regarding refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs) was preserved. In addition, strategies to address the concerns of

<sup>450</sup> Partners provided support in diverse ways. It includes the provision by the UN of 10,000,000 Dollars, (about CFAF 5,278,480,000) to improve the living conditions of internally displaced persons and Nigerian refugees in the Far North; the World Bank, disbursed 274 million dollars through a cash desk for refugees managed by the International Development Association (IDA) for underdeveloped refugee-hosting Regions in order to improve social services and basic infrastructure, and expand access to health services for refugees and the most vulnerable host populations. The funds were allocated to 4 projects relating to health, education, social protection and economic and social infrastructure, and the first disbursements were scheduled for the end of 2018.

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Cameroonian returnees were marked by efforts to receive and reintegrate them into society with dignity as in the past.

## **Sub-Section 1: Legendary Hospitality and Inclusive Approach in Protecting the Rights of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Internally Displaced Persons**

**1152-** The legendary hospitality of the State of Cameroon and its people was yet again proven in 2018. Apart from the specificities related to the status of persons, humanitarian care, especially in emergency situations, integrated not only the concerns of internally displaced persons living in targeted Regions, but also those of host communities.

### **§1: Tradition of Hospitality by the State and its People**

**1153-** In 2018, people from neighbouring countries continued to flock into Cameroon for asylum while nationals from within the territory were received in various localities.

#### **A: A Policy favourable to the Reception of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

**1154-** Policy favourable to the reception of refugees and asylum seekers resulted in the management of an increasing number of new arrivals and the guarantee of voluntary return as a fundamental option in the search for durable solutions.

**1155-** The number of refugees and asylum seekers on the national territory increased, with the arrival of new ones thus leading, as in the past, to actions meant to provide them shelter.

**1156-** Indeed, the biometric registration of refugees instituted in previous years by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued. Data collected shows that there were 417,374 refugees of various nationalities as at 31 January 2019, compared with 337,398 in 2017. The number of Central Africans increased from 233,716 in 2017

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to 275,711 in 2018, while that of Nigerians hiked from 85,140 to 138,315.

**1157-** The number of asylum seekers rose by 2,412, increasing from 5,784 in 2017 to 8,196 in 2018.

**1158-** The policy for the settlement of people received continued, with the latter being settled either in developed sites or in communities in the Adamawa, East, North and Far North Regions, or in urban areas. Thus, in the cities of Yaounde and Douala, there were 24,875 refugees, including 19,611 from the Central African Republic and 1,916 Nigerians. In addition, refugees from the Central African Republic were dispersed in 3 other Regions, including 60,404 in the Adamawa, 174,076 in the East and 21,620 in the North. As for Nigerian refugees, 56,569 lived in the Minawao camp<sup>451</sup> in the Far North Region and 79,830 were off the camp. These figures relating to the camp were slightly lower than that of the previous year which was more than 60,000 people. Asylum seekers were mainly settled in the cities of Yaounde (3,876) and Douala (4,320).

**1159-** In 2018, allegations were made on the forced repatriation of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. It is worthy of note that the process of voluntary repatriation<sup>452</sup> of Nigerian refugees was implemented in conformity with the Tripartite Agreement signed between the Governments of the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the UNHCR. In this regard, a tripartite meeting was held in Maroua in June 2018 in view of organising a peaceful return of Nigerian refugees who wished to return to their country. At the end of the meeting, the Head of the Nigerian Delegation gave assurance as to the feasibility of a peaceful return of Nigerians in good conditions. At the end of 2018, there was an increase in spontaneous returns.

<sup>451</sup> The site was set up on 2 July 2013 and covers a surface area of 623 hectares.

<sup>452</sup> The process for the voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees is still under study

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## **B: Positive Actions in Favour of Internally Displaced Persons in the Far North**

**1160-** With persistent attacks by the *Boko Haram* terrorist group in the Far North Region, the number of IDPs fleeing to safer areas further increased. It moved from 221,695 in 2017 to 245,725<sup>453</sup> in 2018. These people were received in makeshift sites, in families or villages in the Far North Region<sup>454</sup>. As a result of offensives launched by the Multinational Joint Task Force<sup>455</sup> (MJTF) and the contribution of vigilante Groups, certain areas previously prone to incursions by the terrorist group were secured and calm restored. These actions encouraged the return of nearly 105,906 IDPs to the localities bordering Lake Chad, namely Darak, Hilé-Alifa, Bargaram, Ngouma, Soueram and Bonderi. In its stabilization phase, the MJTF, which locked down the entire Lake Chad Basin area to maintain security also supported IDPs through various measures<sup>456</sup> and organised recreational and awareness-raising evening events to reassure the population and encourage them to resume commercial, agricultural or school activities.

### **§2: Preserving an Inclusive Approach in the Management of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Internally Displaced Persons**

**1161-** To address humanitarian assistance needs, the Humanitarian Response Plan 2017-2020 was developed, in line with the Sahel regional strategy<sup>457</sup>. This Plan specifically targets the Adamawa, East, North and Far North Regions where 95% of the 2,900,000 people in need of assistance, including refugees, IDPs and host population were located. Needs

<sup>453</sup> As a reminder, IDPs are settled in communities or in camps set up in the Logone and Chari, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, Diamare and Mayo-Kani localities.

<sup>454</sup> See Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2017 for details on villages concerned.

<sup>455</sup> The operations concept of the MJTF included offensives at the beginning, then stabilization and finally normalization.

<sup>456</sup> The MJTF provided health care, food, agricultural and school kits, among other things.

<sup>457</sup> Initiated by Agencies of the United Nations System.

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were estimated at USD 304,500,000<sup>458</sup>. In 2018, the number of people targeted was 1,300,000.

**1162-** Thus, a target-based and inclusive approach characterised actions to guarantee the right to education, the right to health and the right to adequate standard of living.

## **A: Implementation of a Strategy Focused on the Protection and Schooling of children**

**1163-** With the support of partners (UNHCR, UNICEF, Plan Cameroon and Public Concern), the Government (MINEDUB and MINESEC), implemented a project dubbed (*Education Sector-based Response*) which aims at protecting and providing education for refugee children and children of host communities. To efficiently implement this policy, a Central Coordination Group comprising several stakeholders was set up and run by MINE-DUB and UNICEF, as well as other identical regional structures coordinated by the Regional Delegates of Adamawa, East, North and Far North Regions. An initial response was made in favour of nearly 53,000 Central African refugee children aged 3 to 17 living in villages and camps in the East and Adamawa Regions. Some 8,000 Nigerian children of the same age group were reached in the Minawao camp.

**1164-** The intervention approach consisted in developing and integrating Accelerated Education Programmes, improving school infrastructure and strengthening human resources as well as providing incentives, which had a positive impact on school enrolment rate during the 2017/2018 school year.

### **1) Integration of Accelerated Education Programmes and Improvement of Infrastructure and Human Resources**

**1165-** With regard to the integration of Accelerated Education Programmes to meet the education demand for refugees, 4 Accelerated Programmes were developed and integrated into curricula. They included:

<sup>458</sup> About CFAF170,520,000,000 (About 260,335,877.86 Euros)

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- Accelerated Curriculum for Preparation of Children for Primary School Entry, tailored to prepare <sup>459</sup> Central African and Nigerian refugee children aged 5, who had not attended nursery school;
- Accelerated Curriculum for the Reintegration of Out-of-School Children to upgrade out-of-school pupils in emergency situations so that they could be admitted in the classes they attended before the crisis broke out;
- Alternative, Accelerated and Inclusive Programme for Out-of-School Children with the aim to provide an accelerated and inclusive non-formal education programme for children who had never attended school, classified into 2 groups from 9 to 12 years and from 12 to 14 years. They will be able to access formal school after 2 years of successful studies for the 1<sup>st</sup> group and 3 years for the second; and
- The Adult Refugee Literacy Curriculum which was essentially based on basic literacy through instrumental subjects<sup>460</sup> and the development of skills in moral and civic education, education to peace and living together, HIV-AIDS in host communities.

**1166-** With regard to improving school infrastructure, examples include the construction of Temporary Learning and Child Protection Spaces (ETAPEs) in camps in the Adamawa and East Regions and in Minawao in the Far North Region. In addition, as part of the Debt-Reduction Development Contract (C2D), which planned for the construction of 2,300 classrooms and 1 14 boreholes by 2030, MINEDUB carried out an initial phase of 737 classroom and borehole construction projects in the cities of Douala and Yaounde and in Priority Education Zones of the Adamawa, East and Far North Regions. In the second phase, about 1,100 classrooms were under construction or rehabilitation. The implementation of the third phase will begin in 2019<sup>461</sup>

<sup>459</sup> The skills developed were communicative, socio-emotional, motor and cognitive.

<sup>460</sup> Languages and mathematics.

<sup>461</sup> It concerns the construction of 121 classrooms and the rehabilitation of 5 classrooms, 14 Management blocks, 28 latrine blocks and 15 boreholes equipped with human-powered pumps in the Far North areas targeted by terrorism, and a collaboration agreement signed between MINE-DUB and MINDEF on 18 April 2019. Localities concerned include Mayo-Tsanaga, Logone and Chari and Mayo-Sava. The total cost of these works amounts to CFAF 1,700,000 (About 2,595.42 Euros)

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**1167-** Regarding human resource development, the Government trained pedagogical supervisors, teachers of host village schools and those of ETAPes on education relating to emergency situations, psychosocial support, peace and living together, as well as management of complex groups. They were also trained in drafting scripts to facilitate the education of refugees by radio.

## **2) Education-Geared Incentives and their Impact on Academic Results**

**1168-** To spur the interest of children regarding school, public authorities opted for an inclusive approach, awareness-raising and various forms of support. Thus, refugee parents were encouraged to fully participate in the community management of schools through school councils and Parent Teacher Associations. They were also included in the management of ETAPES where, as parents, they were involved in maintenance, safety of teachers and learners or the sensitisation of parents who were reluctant to send their children to school.

**1169-** In terms of support, the Government distributed teaching materials and learning kits to teachers and students of host schools and villages and refugee camps. In the Far North Region for example, MINESEC awarded scholarships worth CFA7,600,000<sup>462</sup> to deserving students, including girls engaged in the science field and persons with disabilities.

**1170-** These various actions had a positive impact on school attendance and on the results of the 2018 official examinations. For example, out of 15,502 children aged 6 to 13 in the Minawao camp, 11,461 (6,299 boys and 5,162 girls) were enrolled in primary school in October 2018. Results of the examinations are illustrated in the tables below:

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<sup>462</sup> About 11,603.05 Euros.

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**Table 1: Results of Central African Refugees at the Certificat d'Etudes Primaire (CEP) Examinations**

REGIONS	CHILDREN REGISTERED			CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL			SUCCESFUL CANDIDATES			% SUCCESFUL CANDIDATES		
	B	G	TOTAL	B	G	TOTAL	B	G	TOTAL	B	G	TOTAL
ADAMAWA	203	140	343	169	113	282	52	36	88	30.77	31.86	31.21
EAST	82	48	130	78	46	124	51	25	76	65.38	54.35	61.29
NORTH	84	40	124	59	15	74	51	12	63	86.44	80	85.14
TOTAL	285	188	473	306	174	480	154	73	227	50.33	41.95	47.29

**Source:** MINEDUB/DECC

### Key

B: Boy

G: Girl

**Table 2: Results of Nigerian Refugees at the First School Living Certificate Examination**

REGIONS	CHILDREN REGISTERED			CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL			SUCCESFUL CANDIDATES			% SUCCESFUL CANDIDATES		
	B	G	TOTAL	B	G	TOTAL	B	G	TOTAL	B	G	TOTAL
FAR NORTH	163	90	253	137	81	218	131	74	205	95.62	91.4	94

**Source:** MINEDUB/DECC

**1171-** As concerns secondary education, more efforts should be made to ensure better student participation, as at the Minawao High School, for example, only 459 children (278 boys and 181 girls) were enrolled out of the identified 4,579 children aged 14 to 17.

### B: Healthcare Management

**1172-** Healthcare for refugees and IDPs was provided as part of the overall health system strategy, with specific interventions to combat HIV/AIDS and malnutrition.

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## 1) The Fight against HIV/AIDS

**1173-** As part of the 2018 sub-Project for the prevention of HIV/AIDS/TB/Malaria in Other Vulnerable Groups (OVG) funded by the Global Fund and coordinated by the National AIDS Control Committee, interventions covered the country's 10 Regions in favour of the main target groups<sup>463</sup> including refugees living in camps. These actions were mainly geared towards HIV awareness-raising and screening. Concerning awareness raising, educational talks were held during the fourth quarter of the reference year to kindle behaviour change among refugees and limit HIV cases. A total of 26,116 refugees from camps were sensitised at least once during educational talks, compared to 16,356 in 2017.

**1174-** As concerns mass HIV screening campaigns, they were organised during the second half of the year in refugee camps in the Adamawa, East and Far North Regions. In all, 11,981 refugees from camps were screened and informed of their HIV status, including 4,300 men and 7,681 women. Of these, 55 tested positive for HIV (0.5%), including 40 men and 15 women. By age group, refugees aged 15 to 19 (2,042) and 50 years and more (1,537), were the most screened in camps. Children below 9 years (23) and refugees aged 45-49 (737) were the least represented age groups in mass screening campaigns and the highest HIV prevalence rate (0.9%) was observed among refugees aged 45-49.

## 2) Fight against Malnutrition

**1175-** Food instability remained a concern due to growing insecurity and low agricultural production in some Regions, particularly due to climatic hazards. Thus, a malnutrition rate of 20.4% was recorded in the Far North, 13% in the North, and 16% in the Adamawa Region. In these regions as well as in the East Region, the prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition again exceeded the alert threshold. About 32% of children under 5 years of age on a national scale and about 40% in the 4 Regions surveyed were malnourished. In the fight against this scourge, the capacity building of

<sup>463</sup> Targets include refugees living in camps, detainees and people with disabilities.

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stakeholders concerned was taken into account and support from partners mobilised.

**1177-** With regard to the capacity building of stakeholders, a Workshop was organised from 18 to 19 April 2018 in Garoua for 63 health professionals on paediatric nutrition.

**1178-** With the support of the Government of Germany and UNICEF, Cameroon officially launched the second phase of the project<sup>464</sup> dubbed *Tackling malnutrition among children under five in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East Regions*. This Project is geared towards improving the nutritional status of displaced, refugee and host community children in areas affected by humanitarian crises, through the coverage and quality of nutritional interventions for children under five and women of childbearing age in the most affected Regions. To cover the needs of the Project<sup>465</sup> until 2020, the German Government provided an additional contribution of 15,000,000 Euros, which made it possible to extend the activities to a total of 68 health districts, 31 more than in the first phase.

**1179-** UNICEF, for its part, provided support for the care of 76,531 malnourished children aged 6 to 59 months in the Adamawa, East, Far North and North Regions.

## **C: Guarantee of an Adequate Standard of Living**

**1180-** The provision of food, water, and access to a healthy environment were among concerns and actions geared towards increasing the eco-

<sup>464</sup> This project is steered by MINEPAT and implemented by UNICEF. The German Government grant for the first phase implemented since 2016 amounts to approximately CFAF 5,000,000,000 (About 7,633,587.79 Euros) for a mid-term implementation rate of 59%.

<sup>465</sup> This Project has 4 main components: adequate management of severe acute malnutrition, improving infant and young child feeding, addressing micronutrient deficiencies and building the capacity of communities, leaders and systems to prevent malnutrition.

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conomic empowerment of refugees, internally displaced persons and host populations.

## 1) Food Supply

**1181-** To compensate for the funding gap hindering the World Food Programme (WFP) in its food assistance efforts alongside the Government, China offered an additional donation <sup>466</sup>of basic foodstuffs (more than 4,100 tonnes) valued at about CFAF 2,813,000,000<sup>467</sup>for refugees, IDPs and local populations in the 4 Regions concerned. As a result of this support, food was distributed to 200,000 households and emergency school feeding programmes were operational. Similarly, Japan provided a grant of CFAF 150,000,000<sup>468</sup> to WFP for the provision of food supplies to refugees.

## 2) Access to Water and Sanitation

**1182-** In the Minawao camp in the Far North, the drinking water supply system consisted of 33 boreholes and 36 functional standpipes. All these sources resulted in a total production of 720 m<sup>3</sup>/day, or a ratio of 13 litres/day/person. However, this ratio remains below the UNHCR standard of 20litres/day/person. Also, the extension of the water network to the village of Gawar could supply the host communities and strengthen peaceful coexistence. Minawao also had 2,690 functional latrines (1 latrine for 2 households) and 2,157 functional showers. Some 88 hygiene promoters worked in the camp and awareness-raising days were organised to promote cleanliness and limit the spread of diseases.

**1183-** In the East, in the Gado camp for example, existing water pumps which were broken down were replaced by flexible tanks containing up to 35,000 litres of drinking water. In addition, thanks to the financial support

<sup>466</sup> This grant together with that of 2017, brings the total amount awarded to WFP to CFAF 2,800,000,000(About 4,274,809.16 Euros)

<sup>467</sup> About 4,294,656.49 Euros

<sup>468</sup> About 229,007.63 Euros

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of the European Union's Humanitarian Department<sup>469</sup>, the NGO known as *Solidarités International* built 11 wells and 2 spring catchments. A number of 350 latrine and shower blocks were installed and placed under the responsibility of household groups trained to ensure their maintenance. These efforts were regularly accompanied by hygiene awareness campaigns for refugees.

### 3) Pursuing Actions towards the Empowerment of Refugees

**1184-** In line with the goal to empower refugees, hundreds of refugee women and girls organised in production cooperatives received support to develop production, processing, and marketing activities within communities.

**1185-** For example, in the Gado-Badzere site, at the initiative of UNHCR and the *Lutheran World Federation* NGO, 91 women were trained and produced clean coal which they then sold in the camp and in surrounding markets. This activity had a dual advantage as it provided them with income and limited the cutting of firewood, which is harmful to the environment.

## SECTION 2: EMERGING SITUATIONS OF INVOLUNTARY DISPLACEMENT

**1186-** The evolution of the social crisis in the South West and North West Regions required special measures to be taken, while the preservation of the dignity of repatriated Cameroonian migrants characterised actions taken in their favour. In June 2018, the number of IDPs in the Regions concerned amounted to 74,994, that is, 8,732 in the North West and 66,262 in the South West. As at 31 December 2018, they were estimated at around 158,000 people, including 152,000 in the North West (Momo,

<sup>469</sup>The European Commission granted €1,100,000 to *Solidarités International* to enable it to meet the most urgent needs of these populations. Part of this funding was allocated for the provision of drinking water, the construction of latrines and showers and the promotion of hygiene rules.

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Boyo, Ngoketunjia) and South West (Meme, Manyu, Fako) Regions, as well as 6,000 in the Littoral, Centre and West Regions.

## **Sub-Section 1: Special Measures for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons due to the crisis in the North West and South West Regions**

**1187-** With the increasing number of IDPs due to the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, the strategic framework was adjusted, towards a national appropriation of the humanitarian response in order to better align the response to ever increasing urgent needs.

### **§1: Adjusting the Strategic Framework for Humanitarian Response**

**1188-** The humanitarian response to effects of the crisis in the North West and South West Regions hinged on a Government Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan launched on 20 June 2018, and the establishment of a Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Centre to monitor and supervise its implementation.

#### **A: Launching a Government Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan 2018/2019**

**1189-** Obstacles to access to education, health, housing, economic activities and security, among others in the North West and South West Regions justified the adoption by the Government of an Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan 2018/2019. Officially launched on 20 June 2018, the Plan's strategic objectives are multiple<sup>470</sup>. Sources for the financing of the Plan estimated at CFAF 12,716,500,000, <sup>471</sup>include Government subsi-

<sup>470</sup> The aim is to restore a conducive environment for the development and vitality of communities affected by the situation in the targeted Regions; to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to populations in distress; to ensure the socio-economic reintegration of the populations concerned; to promote social cohesion and living together and to rehabilitate destroyed infrastructure.

<sup>471</sup> About 19,414,503.81 Euros.

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dies, the appeal for national solidarity<sup>472</sup> including the diaspora and the contribution of international partners<sup>473</sup>.

## **B: Establishment of a Coordination Authority**

**1190-** With a view to coordinating the humanitarian response to victims of forced displacement in North West and South West Regions, the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Centre Cameroon was set up under the general coordination of the Minister of Territorial Administration by Order No. 2018/127/CAB/PM of 21 November 2018. The role of this structure is among other things, to coordinate all actions relating to assistance provided to victims of the crisis in the said Regions and ensure the monitoring-evaluation of the Plan<sup>474</sup>. Expenses related to the operation of the Centre shall be borne by the State Budget.

## **§2: Guarantee of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons**

**1191-** Efforts to preserve the rights of IDPs focused on security, the reconstitution of their identification documents, and access to basic social services.

## **A: Reception and Settlement of IDPs in Safe Areas**

**1192-** In broad terms, due to the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, IDPs were able to seek and settle in safe places in other parts of the country in line with the rights guaranteed by the Kampala Convention to which Cameroon is a party.

<sup>472</sup> The funds collected and held in a special account in the Public Treasury are intended to rebuild destroyed houses, school and health infrastructure, rebuild livestock, provide displaced people with shelter, drinking water, sanitation kits, agricultural inputs and seeds.

<sup>473</sup> The People's Republic of China has already provided equipment support estimated at CFAF 1, 800, 000, 000 (About 2,748,091.60 Euros) .

<sup>474</sup> The technical coordination of operations at central level is ensured by the Director of Civil Protection at MINAT and the Director for United Nations and Decentralized Cooperation at MIN-REX. Technical coordination at regional level is provided by the Governors of the North West and South West Regions who are required to submit quarterly and annual reports to the General Coordinator.

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**1193-** Thus, populations who abandoned their homes and property because of clashes between secessionists and defence forces mostly<sup>475</sup> found refuge in families or communities in neighbouring localities within and outside the said Regions, particularly in major cities including Bamenda, Buea, Limbe, Yaounde, Douala and Bafoussam. Others were cared for and resettled<sup>476</sup> by local administrative authorities. This was the case with the displaced populations from the towns of Ediki and Bombe-Bakundu in the Meme Division received in the town of Mbanga in Moungo Division, or those from Lebialem in the South West Region resettled in the Fongo-Tongo Sub Division in the Menoua Division.

## **B: Reconstituting Identification Documents of IDPs**

**1194-** In addition to measures to restore security and combat violence, the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan for the North West and South West Regions also included the need to restore civil status documents for displaced persons. The Government through MINAT, BUNEC and DGSN deployed several teams to facilitate the issuance of birth certificates and National Identity Cards to IDPs and thus facilitate their free movement and security.

## **C: Access to Basic Social Services by IDPs**

**1195-** The purpose of the support provided to IDPs was not only to meet their basic needs but also to maintain their productive capacities.

### **1) Deployment of Emergency Assistance**

**1196-** Following Service Note No. 21/NS/MINAT/SG/DPC/CEP of 19 July 2018, MINAT regularly deployed teams from the Department of Civil

<sup>475</sup> Some 32,600 Cameroonians, 48% of whom are of school age, found refuge in Nigeria. They were accommodated in local communities or in facilities set up in Cross River, Taraba, Benue and Akwa-Ibom states. Care was provided to them by the UNHCR with the assistance of the Nigerian Government, and although their needs were not always met, they received various forms of support, sometimes including a cash allowance.

<sup>476</sup> The population received basic necessities from the authorities, such as bedding, toiletries and food, agricultural equipment and construction materials.

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Protection (DCP) to the Regions hosting victims of the crisis in order to jointly with administrative authorities, forces of law and order and humanitarian partners, carry out operations to transport and distribute humanitarian assistance mobilised for the benefit of such victims. Thus, IDPs, as well as host families in the localities concerned received basic necessities, financial assistance and school kits. Measures for the integration of pupils were also taken in schools in host localities during the 2017/2018 school year<sup>477</sup>. Basic necessities included bedding, toiletries and food among others.

**1197-** At the end of the reference year, at least 75,000 families had already received emergency aid, i.e. about 34,554 identified during the last distribution operation on 23 December 2018 in the South West, and 26,340 targeted during the last distribution operation on 29 November 2018 in the North West, particularly in the Mezam, Momo, Boyo and Menchum Divisions.

**1198-** Due to civil-military activities carried out by Defence Forces, the support of some administrative authorities and people of good will, for the benefit of displaced persons, particularly in the Akwaya Sub Division in the South West Region, these populations also benefited from shelter, water points, health care and health kits, school supplies, food, classroom rehabilitation, etc...

**1199-** The US Department of Agriculture provided more than CFAF 600,000,000<sup>478</sup> in support to 57,000 people affected by secessionist violence in the North West Region as part of the fight against malnutrition. In the same vein, 20% of the above-mentioned support granted by Japan to WFP was directed towards IDPs in the South West and North West Regions.

<sup>477</sup> See details in the Chapter on the Right to Education above.

<sup>478</sup> About 916,030.53 Euros

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## 2) Access to Housing and Empowerment by IDPs

**1200-** To enable some displaced families to rebuild their homes that were destroyed as a result of the crisis, particularly in Limbe in the South West, construction equipment<sup>479</sup> was made available as well as donations worth CFAF 1,000,000<sup>480</sup>. Similarly, for the continuation of their economic activities, IDPs received agricultural equipment, seeds, fertilizer and support to rebuild their livestock.

### Sub-Section 2: Dignified Reception and Reintegration of Repatriated Cameroonian Migrants

**1201-** Actions undertaken within the framework of the «*European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUET)-IOM Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Cameroon*<sup>481</sup>» project resulting from the Joint Agreement between IOM, EUET and 14 countries in Central, West and North Africa, including Cameroon, involved the repatriation of Cameroonian migrants and provision of care to them.

#### §1: Continuation of the Repatriation of Cameroonian Migrants

**1202-** The process for the repatriation of Cameroonians in difficulty abroad, which began in 2017, continued during the reference year. Thus, although the initial Terms of Reference of this Project provided for the return of 850 migrants to Cameroon, in 2018, a total number of 3,500 fellow citizens were repatriated from abroad, including 2,814 men, 513 women and 248 children due to cooperation between various stakeholders. They were welcomed and cared for as soon as they arrived.

<sup>479</sup> These grants included cement, metal sheets, wood etc...

<sup>480</sup> About 1,526.72 Euros

<sup>481</sup> This project spans the period June 2017 to 2020 with a budget of FCFA 22 000 000 (About 33,587.79 Euros). It aims at providing assistance to competent authorities of Cameroon and to voluntary returnees through three main interventions: improving the reintegration of returning migrants and strengthening national structures and capacities in terms of managing reintegration in a dignified and sustainable manner; informing returning migrants and potential migrants about their migration paths, through awareness-raising on the dangers of irregular migration; and socio-economic reintegration of returning migrants.

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## §2: Reintegration of Returned Migrants

**1203-** The management of returned migrants shifted from first aid and transport costs provided to reunite with their families, to support for their socio-professional reintegration. As regards their socio-professional intergration, the alignment of Government projects with those of partners within the framework of the EUWI-IOM Initiative required the setting-up of an inter-ministerial<sup>482</sup> Working Group on the management of irregular migrants returning to Cameroon.

**1204-** In the same vein, *the Pari-Jedi Programme*<sup>483</sup>, the aim of which is to promote the return and socio-economic integration of youths of the diaspora and combat the phenomenon of migration, made it possible to rally young Cameroonians in the diaspora and both national and international stakeholders to the management of migration-related issues.

**1205-** By the end of the reference year, 2,663 returnees had already received various grants or direct assistance to finance their micro projects<sup>484</sup> in various sectors<sup>485</sup>. Similarly, 97 migrant minors received support to continue their education, and approximately 10,000 people were reached through awareness-raising campaigns organised throughout the country to limit illegal immigration of young Cameroonians.

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**1206-** The year 2018 was marked by an increase in the number of persons in situation of involuntary displacement. To provide a holistic response

<sup>482</sup> Government Departments concerned include: MINREX, MINJEC, MINAS, MINSANTE, MINPROFF, MINADER, MINEPIA, MINPMEESA, MINEPAT, MINFI, DGSN.

<sup>483</sup> This programme was set up by Decision 13/2017/D/MINJEC/CAB of the Minister of Youth and Civic Education dated 14 February 2017.

<sup>484</sup> Financial aid varies between CFAF 500,000 (About 763.35Euros) and 1,000,000 (About 1,526.76 Euros).

<sup>485</sup> These include catering, agriculture, livestock, vocational training, small business, mechanics, sewing, office automation secretariat, hairdressing, among others.

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to this situation, Government with the support of partners, opted to manage these people, particularly through the implementation of the 2017-2020 Humanitarian Response Plan, targeting in particular the Adamawa, East, North and Far North Regions, and the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan 2018/2019 for internally displaced persons of the North West and South West Regions of the country. In addition, the process for the repatriation of Cameroonians facing difficulties abroad continued as did the measures to facilitate their socio-economic reintegration. However, to efficiently meet the needs of these persons, there are still a lot of challenges, including mobilisation of sufficient financial resources, the successful completion of the process of voluntary repatriation of Nigerian and Central African refugees, and the restoration of social peace and living together.



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## CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

**1207-** During the year under review, the preservation of peace and security of persons and property contributed in guaranteeing an environment that is conducive to the consistent implementation of all Human Rights. In addition, the quality of governance was strengthened through the enhancement of the legal and institutional framework in the public contracts sector and in the management of public finances. Similarly, the consolidation of State management was achieved through the fight against corruption and misappropriation of public property.

**1208-** Government initiatives supported by technical and financial partners made it possible to progress in the promotion and protection of the rights of specific groups. Thus, pursuing efforts to humanise detention conditions, guarantee the rights of women, socially vulnerable persons and persons in situation of involuntary displacement are examples of this. In addition, the situation of women in relation to the various security crises evolved through the dissemination of the National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent Resolutions on «Women-Peace and Security». The management of returnee migrants shifted from first aid and transportation fare to join their families, to support for their socio-professional reintegration.

**1209-** However, many challenges remain and should be addressed, particularly the fight against violence against women, the management of people in situation of involuntary displacement due to a lack of financial resources and the unfavourable socio-political environment. The same is true of prison overcrowding in major cities which undermines the guarantee of detainees' fundamental rights.



**GENERAL**

**CONCLUSION**



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**1210-** The retrospective assessment of Human Rights in Cameroon in 2018 highlighted three main factors that influenced the promotion and protection of Human Rights. The context was characterised by multiple security challenges, the most significant of which were the fight against the *Boko Haram* terrorist group, attacks by armed secessionist groups in the North West and South West Regions and armed gangs in the East and Adamawa Regions, operating mainly through kidnappings of persons followed by ransom demands. The context was also marked by the need to improve the living conditions of the people by activating the levers of growth, economic development and governance. Finally, there was need to build a more inclusive society, with a national endeavour towards Sustainable Development Goals «*in order not to leave anyone behind*».

**1211-** Above all, the quest for peace emerged as the cross-cutting factor that had to set an environment conducive to the realisation of all Human Rights and especially to the implementation of the democratic values through the election of the President of the Republic and Senators.

**1212-** All in all, it is worthy to note that the State was not absent on any of these fronts. Military, political, economic, cultural as well as diplomatic means were mobilised to meet these challenges and to ensure the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the specific protection of women, children, detainees, persons living with disabilities, refugees, and displaced persons.

**1213-** As regards the most salient issues, the operationalisation of the Constitutional Council through the appointment of its members by Decree No. 2018/105 of 7 February 2018 completed the architecture of democratic institutions and strengthened the right to a fair trial through a new judge, the Electoral Judge. In this regard, the two elections organised during the year gave voters and candidates at elections the opportunity to refer to this arbitrator of elections, who used communication tools to inform as many people as possible about the progress of hearings.

**1214-** With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, efforts were directed towards eradicating food insecurity threats through the call for in-

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ternational solidarity and the adoption of a law on food safety, the reconfiguration of the institutional framework for water production and distribution around the *Cameroon Water Utilities*. The adoption of the Single Book Policy in the education sector was justified by the need to improve the quality of education. Environmental concerns were not neglected, as illustrated by the ratification of the Minamata Convention to regulate the handling of mercury. As concerns the problematic issue of access to employment, the institutional framework for vocational training was enhanced in order to provide quality vocational training.

**1215-** Equity concerns were taken into account, as evidenced by the fight against discrimination and the adoption of enabling instruments of the 2010 Law on the protection of persons with disabilities.

**1216-** From a macroeconomic perspective, objectives of achieving positive growth revitalised the reform of the public contracts sector through the adoption of a new Public Contracts Code, which aims at ensuring greater transparency in this sector.

**1217-** However, the ability of the above measures to meet the needs of the population and promote the enjoyment of their rights requires a stable social context. Peace offers were made by public authorities, the most illustrative being the setting-up of a National Commission for the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of *Boko Haram* ex combatants and armed secessionist groups. But these should be followed by a set of measures devoted to the fight against exclusion and poverty.

**1218-** All the same, it is fair to observe that the lack of a universal health coverage, water and electricity shortages, the unemployment rate, cases of school drop-out related to the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, social tensions between the exercise of freedoms and security measures, violence against women, barely acceptable detention conditions, the burden of caring for refugees, are all pressing challenges that must be adequately addressed for the realisation of Human Rights.

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## APPENDIX

The following institutions contributed in preparing this Report: the Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, the UNHCR, the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal and Lower Courts, Ministries, independent administrative services, public and semi-public establishments, and civil society organizations :

### Ministries / Courts

- Supreme Court;
- Ministry of Communication (MINCOM);
- Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF);
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU);
- Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT);
- Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL);
- 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 (MINT);
- Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP);
- Ministry of Sports and Physical Education (MINSEP);
- Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI);
- Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE);
- Constitutional Council (CC)
- 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 Water Utilities (*CAMWATER*)
- Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (*MIRAP*);
- Douala City Council (*CUD*);
- Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (*ARSEL*);
- Elections Cameroon (*ELECAM*);
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (*IRAD*);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (*NACC*);
- National Civil Status Registration Office (*BUNEC*);
- National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (*NCHRF*);
- National Commission on the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (*NCPBM*);
- National Aids Control Committee (*CNLS*)
- National Communication Council (*NCC*);
- National Employment Fund (*FNE*);
- National Agency for Financial Investigation (*NAFI*);
- National Fund for Youth Integration (*FONIJ*);
- 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*);
- National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (*ANTIC*);

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## International Organizations and Civil Society

- 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 OKANI;
- Cameroon Network of Human Rights Organizations (RECODH);
- *Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED)*;
- *Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création (CIPCRE)*;
- Commission for Human Rights and Liberties of the Bar Council;
- Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA);
- *Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH)-Cameroon* ;
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-Cameroon;
- United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA);
- Platform Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities.



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