

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

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



**REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
IN CAMEROON IN 2022**

Yaounde, December 2023

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Report Of The Ministry Of Justice On
Human Rights In Cameroon In 2022

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Foreword

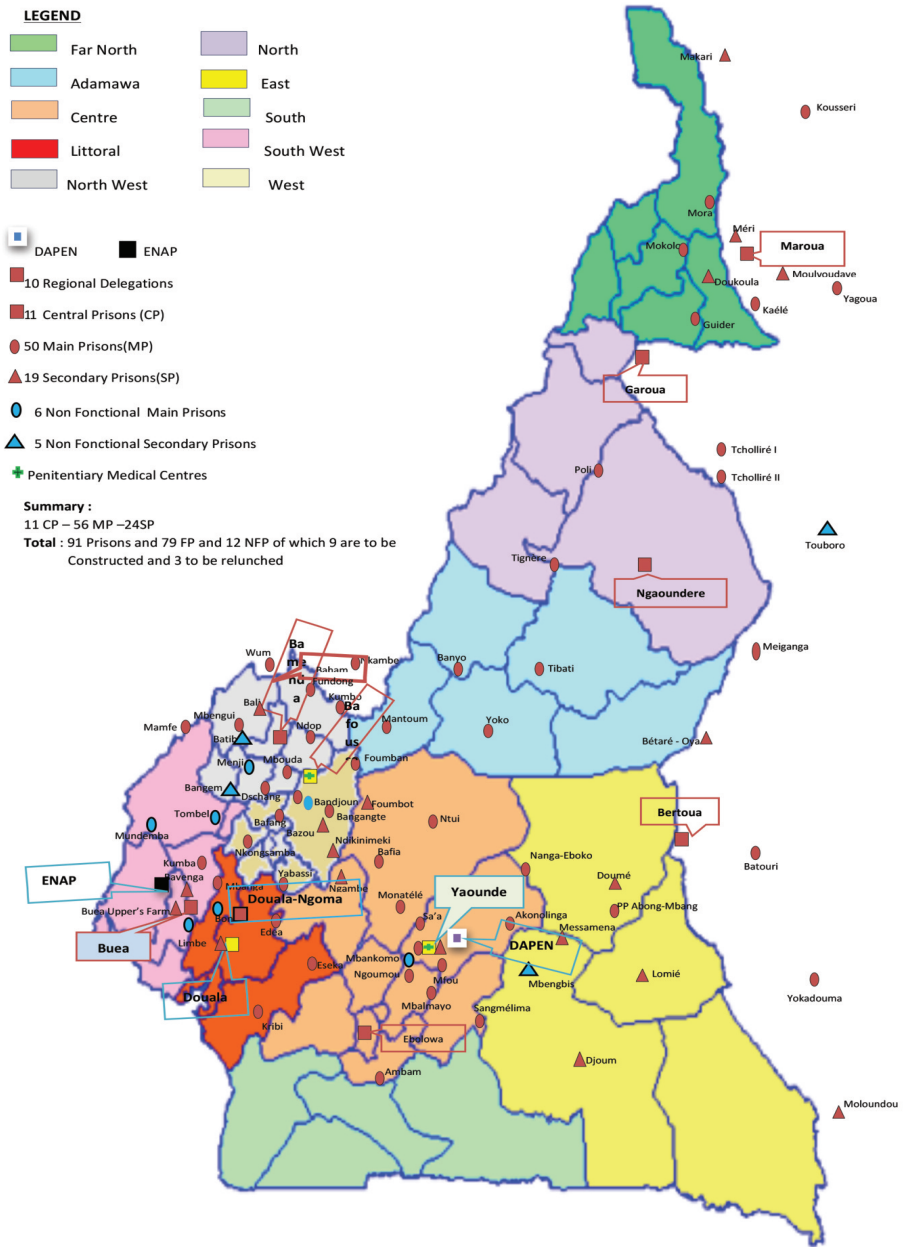
“I urge all Cameroonians, regardless of their social standing, to resolutely embark on this crusade that I have led over the years. Everyone, at his or her level, should act with integrity and safeguard our commonweal”.

Message to the Nation by His Excellency,
Paul BIYA, Head of State, on the occasion
of the end of year 2022 and New Year
2023, Yaounde on 31 December 2022.

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PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION MAP OF CAMEROON



List Of Acronyms And Abbreviations

...	: Results not available
///	: Empty box due to the nature of things
ACERWC	: African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AER	: Rural Electrification Agency
AFCON	: Africa Cup of Nations
AIMF	: International Association of Francophone Mayors
ANOR	: Standards and Quality Agency
ANIF	: National Agency for Financial Investigation
ANTIC	: National Information and Communication Technologies Agency
APED	: Alliance for the Promotion of Education and Development
ART	: Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
BUNEC	: National Civil Status Registration Office
CAT	: Committee against Torture
CBF	: Cameroon Business Forum
CBM	: Christian Blind Mission
CCOGC	: Commission for the Control of Collective Management Bodies
CDIC	: Cameroon Digital Innovation Centre
CEMAC	: Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CENAJES	: National Centres of Youth and Sports
CERD	: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CFC	: Cameroon Housing Loans Fund
CFI	: Court of First Instance
CHRC	: Cameroon Human Right Commission
CONSUPE	: Supreme State Audit Office
CPFFs	: Women Empowerment Centres
CSOs	: Civil Society Organisations
CSPH	: Hydrocarbon Price Stabilisation Fund

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DGSN	: General Delegation for National Security
DSF	: Defence and Security Forces
EEE	: Electrical and Electronic Equipment
EIFORCES	: International School for Security Forces
EITI	: Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ELECAM	: Elections Cameroon
ENAM	: National School of Administration and Magistracy
FEICOM	: Special Council Support Fund
FLO	: Forces of Law and Order
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
GICAM	: <i>Groupement Inter-Patronal du Cameroun</i>
HC	: High Court
HRC	: Human Rights Committee
HTTC	: Higher Teacher Training Colleges
HTTC	: Higher Technical Teacher Training Colleges
IDA	: International Development Association
IEDs	: Improvised Explosive Devices
IFORD	: <i>Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques</i>
IGA	: Income Generating Activity
IGAPEN	: Inspectorate General of Penitentiary Administration
IGSJ	: General Inspectorate of Judicial Services
INJS	: National Institute of Youth and Sports
IPA	: Investment Promotion Agency
IRAD	: Agricultural Research Institute for Development
ISSEA	: <i>Institut Sous-Régionale de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée</i>
LIFIDEP	: Livestock and Fisheries Development Project
LLINs	: Long Lasting Insecticidal Mosquito Nets
MAETUR	: Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Mission
MAR	: Medically Assisted Reproduction
MINAS	: Ministry of Social Affairs
MINPMEESA	: Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
MINCOMMERCE	: Ministry of Trade
MINDCAF	: Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure

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MINDDEVEL	: Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development
MINEDUB	: Ministry of Basic Education
MINEE	: Ministry of Water and Energy
MINEPDED	: Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	: Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINESEC	: Ministry of Secondary Education
MINESUP	: Ministry of Higher Education
MINFOPRA	: Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform
MINJEC	: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education
MINJUSTICE	: Ministry of Justice
MINRESI	: Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
MINSANTE	: Ministry of Public Health
MINT	: Ministry of Transport
MINTOUL	: Ministry of Tourism and Leisure
MIRAP	: Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority
NACC	: National Anti-Corruption Commission
NCC	: National Communication Council
NCPBM	: National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism
NDDRC	: National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee
NEF	: National Employment Fund
NSIF	: National Social Insurance Fund
NTFPs	: Non-Timber Forest Products
ODECA	: Open Data for Environment in Cameroon
ONACC	: National Observatory on Climate Change in Cameroon
ONJ	: National Youth Observatory
PAREC	: Cameroon Education Reform Support Programme
PASECA	: Cameroon Civil Status Improvement Project for active Citizenship
PIC	: Public Independent Conciliators
PNDP	: National Community-Driven Development Programme
PRODEL	: Livestock Development Project
RIN	: North Interconnected Grid
RIS	: South Interconnected Grid

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RLAs	: Regional and Local Authorities
RRI	: Rapid Results Initiative
SCDP	: Cameroon Petroleum Depot Company
SMEs	: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SWEDD	: Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project
WASH	: Water-sanitation-hygiene
WGAD	: Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

PREFACE

The Ministry of Justice has published an Annual Report on Human Rights in Cameroon since 2005. The Report, which is drawn up and compiled using an inclusive approach, provides information on the rich and varied initiatives undertaken by the Government, its partners and all social stakeholders to promote and protect Human Rights, including civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights and cross-cutting issues.

In 2022, notwithstanding several constraints, including security, social and budgetary challenges, as well as the persistence of a number of inappropriate administrative or social practices, Cameroon, under the esteemed impetus of the President of the Republic, managed to stay on course, based on the respect, protection and implementation of Human Rights. Multi-faceted measures, both preventive and corrective, helped to improve the living conditions of the population, consolidate governance quality, ease security tensions and continue to foster the culture of living together among other things. With a retrospective approach, the Report gives an account of such measures, which had a positive impact on the country.

With a forward-looking approach, and considering that the guarantee of Human Rights is a permanent quest, the Report identifies challenges, including limited State resources, the harsh economic climate, the relatively high cost of living, and the persistence of hate speech, community conflicts and terrorist attacks. Over and above the possible solutions discussed in the Report, reference to these challenges is an exhortation to mobilise all stakeholders, both institutional and non-institutional, individually and collectively, with a view to devising ever more topical solutions.

I wish you a pleasant reading.

Laurent ESSO

Minister of State, Minister of Justice,
Keeper of the Seals



GENERAL

INTRODUCTION



1- The end of the Covid-19 crisis was marked in 2022, by the gradual lifting of barrier measures introduced in 2020 to contain the disease. However, the crisis had a significant impact on the economic and social fabric of various countries and their ability to respond to challenges resulting there from. While countries were addressing the situation, war broke out in Ukraine in February 2022. This conflict's impact on global economies, especially on those of developing countries, is significant. More specifically, it led to a rise in the cost of living, with a corresponding impact on the living conditions of the population.

2- It is in this challenging context that the State had to guarantee the rights of the people living under its jurisdiction.

3- The Government sought funding for various projects, including through loan agreements with financial institutions in a post-Covid-19 context, or by issuing public securities. The resources generated or to be generated through this search for funding were intended to improve the living conditions of the population. An analysis of the allocation of these resources reveals that priority was given to financing infrastructure projects, especially roads and hospitals, cleaning up certain towns, supporting vulnerable groups, improving food security, developing production basins and supporting post-Covid economic recovery. The protection of existing infrastructure was an issue of concern, hence the adoption of Law No. 2022/7 of 27 April 2022 relating to the protection of the National Roads Asset.

4- Furthermore, to mitigate the effects of the crisis and sustain the purchasing power of households, the Government continued to subsidise fuel and domestic gas prices. Access to energy was strengthened with the injection of the production network of the Memvele'e dam into the grid and the connection of the East Region to the southern interconnected grid. Various projects undertaken to boost water production capacity continued.

5- Healthcare provision was diversified with the creation of Regional Hospital Centres. One aspect of reproductive health was regulated by Law No. 2022/14 of 14 July 2022 relating to medically assisted reproduction in Cameroon. Prior to this, another key law relating to human health was adopted: Law No. 2022/8 of 27 April 2022 relating to medical research involving human subjects in Cameroon. Sports being a contributing factor to cultural integration, Cameroon participated in the Qatar World

Cup from 20 November to 18 December 2022 and also organised the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) from 9 January to 6 February 2022. In order to consolidate the achievements of the organisation of AFCON, especially in terms of infrastructure, a National Office for Sports Infrastructure and Equipment was created by Decree No. 2022/384 of 17 August 2022, which also sets out its organisation and functioning. Moreover, the provision of education was enhanced with the creation of new universities in Garoua, Bertoua and Ebolowa, increasing the number of State universities to 11.

6- The promotion of employability was guaranteed, inter alia, through the creation of the National Centre for the Production and Distribution of Youth Documentation and the National Youth Observatory (ONJ), respectively by Decree No. 2022/3200/PM of 31 May 2022 and Order No. 7/CAB/PM of 18 February 2022. Regarding social security, coverage was extended to vulnerable groups, and Cameroon ratified the Multilateral Convention on Social Security of the Inter-African Conference on Social Security (CIPRES), adopted in Dakar on 22 February 2006, by Decree No. 2022/311 of 20 July 2022.

7- With a view to maintaining and strengthening the import-substitution policy, support was given to the private sector, which was severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and new tax and customs measures were implemented while controls were carried out to check the illegal export of foodstuffs.

8- With regard to civil and political rights, the decentralisation process continued, and the security of people and property was a major concern. This was reflected in particular in the containment of activities of terrorist groups in crisis-affected regions and the fight against the rise in insecurity and uncivil behaviour in towns and other localities across the country. Particular attention was paid to maritime security, with the adoption on 27 December 2022, of Law No. 2022/17 relating to the suppression of piracy, terrorism and offences against the safety of maritime navigation and platforms.

9- The actions of the Defence and Security Forces (DSF), the Judiciary and the population were decisive in maintaining an appropriate security en-

vironment. It is in line with this approach that capacity-building continued and personnel were posted. In addition, the prerogatives of the municipal police were specified in Decree 2022/354 of 9 August 2022 to lay down conditions for carrying out municipal policing. To facilitate the movement of people, lawmakers introduced an online visa system through Law No. 2022/15 of 14 July 2022 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 97/12 of 10 January 1997 to lay down conditions of entry, stay and exit for aliens in Cameroon.

10- Various dedicated institutions, including the courts and regulatory authorities, continued to respond to abuses observed on social media, especially the proliferation of hate speech and offences against public decency. To step up the fight against cybercrime, by Decree No. 2022/169 of 23 May 2022, the country ratified the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, adopted on 23 November 2001.

11- As 2022 was not an election year, ordinary voter registration continued. New members of ELECAM's Electoral Board were appointed, while the terms of office of some others were renewed.

12- Natural disasters, including floods in the Far North Region, drew attention to the issue of climate change and the need for mitigation and adaptation measures.

13- With regard to the rights of specific groups, Decree No. 2022/5074/PM of 4 July 2022 to lay down procedures for the control of the social compliance of projects was signed. Policy documents for the protection of women's rights were finalised, particularly the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence (2022-2026) and the new National Action Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in Cameroon (2022-2026). The gender-responsive budgeting option was strengthened with a view to allocating more resources in a cross-sector approach to the fight against gender inequality. In addition, with regard to the rights of persons living with disabilities, Order No. 40/PM of 19 May 2022 to lay down terms and conditions for granting age exemption to persons with disabilities during competitive examinations and recruitment into public service was signed.

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14- The foregoing measures are contained in this Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2022. The Report was drafted in keeping with the usual concerted approach. The consultation process involved data collection and validation of the final draft at a workshop held from 31 May to 1 June 2023.

15- The Report is structured in its usual format, with a preliminary chapter preceding its three parts. The chapter focuses on the State's cooperation with international and regional Human Rights promotion and protection mechanisms. This is followed by a part on civil and political rights then by a part on economic, social and cultural rights and the right to a healthy environment and finally by a part on cross-cutting issues and specific rights. The Report opens with a general introduction and closes with a general conclusion.

**PRELIMINARY
CHAPTER**

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



16- In 2022, some Human Rights mechanisms gradually resumed in-person meetings. Besides participating in the Human Rights Council's three ordinary sessions, Cameroon defended its 22nd and 23rd Periodic Reports before the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on 13 and 14 April 2022, and also took part in the United Nation's 77th General Assembly. Moreover, the country participated in the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' 70th and 73rd sessions held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 23 February to 9 March 2022 and from 21 October to 10 November 2022 respectively. Manifestly, this participation provided an opportunity to highlight actions taken for the promotion and protection of Human Rights, as well as underscore challenges encountered. This dynamic cooperation, whether in-person or otherwise, enabled the mechanisms to assess the Human Rights situation in Cameroon. The assessment was done both within the framework of contentious matters and non-contentious matters.

SECTION 1: COOPERATION IN NON-CONTENTIOUS MATTERS

17- Michelle BACHELET's term of office as Head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with which Cameroon collaborated, came to an end in 2022. As mentioned above, Cameroon defended its report before CERD, which made concluding observations. This cooperation was also marked by the selection of Cameroonians into various international bodies. Cameroon responded to requests for contribution of various mandate-holders.

§1: Assessment of Cooperation during Ms Bachelet's Term of Office

18- During **Ms Bachelet's** term of office, cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights focused on capacity-building, consolidating the Rule of Law and democracy, supporting cooperation with UN Human Rights mechanisms and searching for solutions to the crisis in the North West and South West Regions. As concerns the crisis, the High Commissioner conducted a visit in September 2019 and sent experts to assess the situation on the ground. The report published at the end of this visit formed the basis for concerted actions implemented by Cameroon. Cooperation was also marked by the assessment of Cameroon's commitments by UN mechanisms, be they treaty bodies or non-treaty bodies.

19- Furthermore, before her departure, the High Commissioner appointed Mr **NOUHOUM SANGARE** as Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, based in Cameroon, in replacement of **Mr Louis Marie BOUAKA**. The new Director took office on 8 August 2022.

§2: Cameroon's Contributions to Requests from Various Thematic Mandate-Holders

20- Cameroon responded to requests for contributions from various thematic mandate-holders on various Human Rights issues. The requests concerned in particular migrants' Human Rights, conscientious objection to military service, contemporary forms of slavery including their causes and consequences, trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the promotion of truth, justice, compensation and guarantees of non-repetition, promotion of justice in a context of law enforcement, and the rights of persons with disabilities. They also focused on Human Rights violations and abuses in the form of harmful practices associated with accusations of witchcraft, ritual violence and stigmatisation, patterns, policies and mechanisms leading to racial discrimination and the promotion of justice and racial equality, promotion of Human Rights in the context of climate change, and on the toxic effects of some climate change solutions.

§3: CERD's Concluding Observations

21- Recommendations contained in the concluding observations concern the general framework for the promotion and protection of Human Rights, as well as specific aspects on the fight against discrimination. Other recommendations were made.

A: General Recommendations

22- As concerns statistics, the State was requested to collect accurate, updated and disaggregated data on the population's demographic composition, and set up an identical system to collect information on complaints relating to racial discrimination received by the Cameroon Human Right Commission (CHRC), investigations, prosecution, sanctions and reparations ordered.

23- It was recommended that **Judges be trained on the application of the Convention** in order to curb mistrust in the justice system, fear of reprisals and the authorities' unwillingness to prosecute perpetrators of

discrimination. Furthermore, the following were recommended: a clear definition of racial discrimination should be formulated, including all the related grounds provided for in the Convention; enhance the criminalisation of hate speech by including racist crimes committed online; facilitate the lodging of complaints on racial discrimination by ensuring access to the system; take measures to monitor the proliferation of racist hate speech on the Internet and social media, in cooperation with Internet service providers; and publicly condemn racist speech, including those from public figures and politicians.

24- With regard to the **CHRC**, CERD emphasised the need to improve the process of appointing members through greater transparency, including consideration of merit and gender equality. It also called for the allocation of adequate financial and human resources for the fulfilment of its mission.

25- As concerns training, education and other measures to fight against discrimination, CERD urged the State to step up its efforts in raising awareness on the importance of cultural and ethnic diversity as well as the fight against racial discrimination, to mainstream these concepts at all levels of education with a view to promoting solidarity and substantial inter-ethnic friendship. The State was requested to conduct effective and impartial investigations into all reported cases of murder, enforced disappearance, intimidation and harassment, threats and reprisals against Human Rights defenders, journalists and civil society organisations, and provide guarantees for them, where necessary, through legislative measures, including to those working on the rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples.

26- Concerning the situation of minorities and indigenous peoples, CERD requested the State to do the following: finalise the study launched in 2013; adopt a clear regulatory framework for the protection of indigenous peoples, which includes relevant constitutional guarantees through the effective participation of the target population, civil society organisations (CSOs) and CHRC; ensure adequate representation in the civil service and in decision-making positions; amend the Labour Code with a view to reinforcing the prohibition of racial discrimination in employment; investigate allegations of forced labour imposed on indigenous peoples and prosecute the perpetrators; improve access to education and the health

system, especially in crisis-affected areas; and strengthen the adaptation of the education system to the cultures of indigenous peoples with particular focus on intercultural and inter-ethnic exchanges.

27- With regard to special measures to address the situation in the North West and South West Regions, it is recommended that access to public services be improved, that representation in the civil service be increased, especially in decision-making positions, that the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM) be allocated substantial resources and detailed information be provided in its next periodic reports be provided, and that assessment of measures taken to address inequalities be conducted.

28- As concerns the situation of ethnic, ethno-linguistic, ethno-religious minorities and indigenous peoples in crisis settings, CERD encouraged the State to do the following: pursue its efforts and take steps towards achieving a peaceful solution, especially by prioritising transitional justice processes for the North West, South West and Far North Regions, allowing the effective participation of various groups concerned, ensuring accountability and fighting against impunity for Human Rights violations committed by defence and security forces and members of armed groups alike; provide medical and psychosocial care for victims of gender based violence, especially women and girls; implement effective measures to ensure non-discrimination in the fight against terrorism, ensure the right to fair trial for those detained in this context, the right to challenge the legality of their detention and abolish the death penalty.

29- CERD also recommended that the State should fight against the intersectionality of discrimination affecting ethnic and religious minorities and indigenous peoples.

B: Specific Observations

30- With regard to land rights, it was recommended that the state speeds up legislative reforms on land ownership, forests and mining so as to guarantee indigenous peoples the right to own, use and control their territory; ensure that these people are consulted on any project concerning their territory and resources; provide fair and equitable compensation in the event of eviction from their lands; guarantee the registration of indigenous peoples' land rights in accordance with rules that respect their customs,

traditions and traditional tenure systems without discrimination; adopt measures to mitigate the effects of climate change on the lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples consistent with their traditional way of life, while preventing inter-communal conflicts.

31- Concerning the rights of internally displaced persons, it is recommended that policies be developed and laws adopted to guarantee their access to public services; that measures be taken to ensure their registration and access to official documentation, and if necessary, waive the requirement of birth certificates for school enrolment and registration for official examinations.

32- As regards the rights of refugees and asylum seekers', CERD encouraged the State to adopt legislative measures to ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement, enjoyment of their economic and social rights and their integration into society.

33- As concerns birth registration and identity documents, CERD recommends reinforcing the registration system. To prevent statelessness, it recommends accessibility to birth registration and documentation systems free of charge, the signing of the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

C: Other Recommendations

34- These recommendations concern the ratification of conventions, adherence to the amendment to Article 8 of CERD, signing of the declaration granting CERD jurisdiction over individual communications, follow-up of the Durban Declaration, implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, consultation with civil society and information dissemination.

§3: Selection of Cameroonians for positions in International Bodies

A: Chair of the Forum on Minorities

35- Following the proposal of the African Group, the President of the Human Rights Council designated Pr **Daniel ABWA** as chair of the 15th session of the Forum on Minorities from 1 to 2 December 2022 in Geneva. Organised under the theme "Review, Rethink, Reform: 30th Anniversary

of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Minorities”, the forum was attended by some 500 delegates and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. As part of the forum, the practice, challenges, opportunities and initiatives in the field of conflict prevention and the protection of Human Rights were analysed in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, adopted in 1992.

B: Election to the United Nations Appeals Tribunal

36-The United Nations internal justice system was established on 24 November 1949 with the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. In 2008, reforms led to the abolition of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and ushered in the Appeals Tribunal (New York) and Dispute Tribunals (New York, Nairobi and Geneva) which became operational in 2009.

37- On 15 November 2022, Mr **Leslie FORBANG FORMINE**, Legal Officer, Advocate General at the South West Court of Appeal, was elected as a member of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal for a term of 7 years. The court handles appeals against judgments rendered by the United Nations Dispute Tribunals between the Organisation and its employees relating to contract execution or the UN staff members’ employment conditions, as well as claims for non-compliance with the regulations of the Joint Staff Pension Fund.

C: Appointment of an Expert to a Special Mechanism of the ACHPR

38- At its 72nd ordinary session held from 19 July to 2 August 2022, the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) designated Mr **BADUGUE Patrick**, Legal Officer, as an expert of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa for a period of 2 years from 1 August 2022.

SECTION 2: COOPERATION IN CONTENTIOUS MATTERS

39-Human Rights mechanisms examined allegations of Human Rights violations filed by persons within Cameroon’s jurisdiction. As a result, some mechanisms, including the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

(WGAD) and the United Nations Treaty Bodies African Union Bodies, expressed their views on the cases referred to them.

§1: Opinion of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

40- WGAD issued 2 Opinions concerning **AYUK TABE** and others and **Maurice KAMTO** and others.

A: Opinion No. 59/22, AYUK TABE and others

41- The Communication was against the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon for the arrest and detention in Nigeria, the transfer and detention in Cameroon of **AYUK TABE** and 9 others, who were calling for the secession of the North West and South West Regions. They denounced the irregularity of the above-mentioned deprivation of liberty on grounds of their status (refugees and asylum seekers), absence of warrants of arrest, their detention in unlawful conditions and their forced transfer to Cameroon. With regard to the events in Cameroon, they alleged that they had been detained in inhumane conditions¹, where, among other things, they were tried in French although they were English-speaking, in the absence of their lawyers, then sentenced for various offences relating mainly to acts of terrorism. They claim to have been subjected to hate speech and deprivation of property found in their possession. They also claim that the habeas corpus proceedings initiated were declared inadmissible and the appeals lodged against the decision of inadmissibility were not considered.

42- With regard to Cameroon, the Working Group qualified the detention of the persons concerned under categories I², III³ and V⁴ of its working methods as arbitrary. The Working Group ruled on forced detention

¹ Notably the size of their cells, their ventilation, their hygiene, their food, extremely poor in nutrients and not respectful of their cultural preferences, and their one-piece clothing with no underwear.

² Category II: when the deprivation of liberty results from the exercise of rights or freedoms proclaimed in articles 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, insofar as the States concerned are parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in Articles 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27 of that instrument.

³ Category III: when the total or partial non-observance of international standards relating to the right to fair trial, established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the relevant international instruments accepted by the States concerned, is of such severity as to render the deprivation of liberty arbitrary.

⁴ Category IV: when an asylum seeker, immigrant or refugee is subjected to prolonged administrative detention without possibility of administrative or judicial supervision or appeal.

in Nigeria and transfer to Cameroon, detention without notification of charges, failure to give trial on short notice, secret detention at the Secretariat of State in charge of the National Gendarmerie, trial of civilians before the Military Court, the violation of the rights of the defence, the right to appeal and discrimination.

43- The WGAD called, among other things, for the immediate release of the persons concerned. The Opinion was given in absentia against the States of Nigeria and Cameroon. Upon receipt of the Opinion, the State of Cameroon made observations which were communicated to the WGAD, refuting the allegations mentioned therein.

2) Opinion No. 63/2022: Maurice KAMTO and 15 others

44- The communication concerned the alleged arrest and detention of certain people in connection with demonstrations organised in 2019 and 2020 by the Cameroon Renaissance Movement.

45- The working group noted, among other things, arrests without warrants, failure to provide reasons for detention, failure to present accused persons before the judge without delay, violation of the rights to the defence, trial of civilians by military courts, detention for political reasons, and the de facto detention of Mr **KAMTO** in his home.

46- WGAD recommended the release of those still in detention, including **FOGUE TEDOM and BIBOU Nissack**, and that reparations be provided for them, a thorough investigation be carried out on the deprivation of liberty of those concerned, and appropriate measures be taken against those responsible for the violation of their rights.

47- After receiving this Opinion, the State of Cameroon also made observations, which were communicated to WGAD, refuting the allegations contained therein.

B: Decisions of Treaty Bodies on Communications

48- The Human Rights Committee (HRC), the Committee against Torture (CAT), and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) examined the cases referred to them.

1) The HRC's Decision in Communication No. 2825/2016, KAMDEM FOUMBI vs. Cameroon

49- On 13 April 2022, the HRC adopted views relating to this Communication. In this Communication as in the previous one⁵, **FOUMBI KAMDEM** alleged the violation by the State of Cameroon of Articles 2 (Par. 3), 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. After referring Communication 2325/2015 to the Committee on 18 November 2013, which was declared inadmissible on 28 October 2014, FOUMBI initiated this new Communication based on virtually the same facts. This other Communication was declared partially inadmissible.

2) CAT's Decision in Communication No. 1034/2020, FOSSOH NKENDEM on behalf of S.B.

50- Submitted on 2 July 2020, this Communication concerned allegations of torture and ill-treatment of a detainee named S. B., during an emergency health incident. The detainee, who was arrested in Nigeria and sentenced to life imprisonment in Cameroon in connection with the crisis in the North West and South West Regions, denounced the refusal to provide him with appropriate care and the unjustified and disproportionate restrictions on his liberty. In particular, he deplored the conditions and quality of health care provided to him, as well as the abuse he suffered in the hands of his jailers. In its response, the State set out the measures taken to ensure the applicant's medical care, refuted the allegations of ill-treatment by the complainant and indicated the various available and effective remedies.

51- The Committee declared the communication inadmissible for lack of exhaustion of domestic remedies and that it was unfounded.

3) ACERWC's Decision on Communication No. 0018/Com/2021

52- Communication *Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) and Association for the Promotion of Local Development (APDL) (on behalf of Fadimatou Mohamadou and 9 others) vs Republic of Cameroon* concerned child marriage. It was based on the case of **Fadimatou Mohamadou** and 9 others, aged between 22 and 35, who had been married off when they were still minors, aged between 13 and 17.

⁵ Communication 2325/2015.

53- The authors of the Communication argued that the civil legislation still contained provisions on child marriage whereas the criminal legislation which criminalised this practice (Article 356 paragraph 3) failed to offer victims the possibility of complaining, as they had to be assisted by their parents. As a result, they argued that external appeals were non-existent due to lack of victim status, the failure of the parents to act on their behalf as they were the main parties concerned, and the failure of the Legal Department to institute proceedings.

54- Besides the criminalisation of child marriage, the State party provided proof of the effectiveness of remedies available by providing 3 judgments of the Benoue High Court and the Mora Court of First Instance sentencing accused persons to severe penalties for forced marriage, attempted forced marriage, indecency to a child under the age of 16 followed by sexual intercourse and abduction of a child.

55- The Committee did not consider relevant the State of Cameroon's objection to the status of the victims, on the grounds of lack of certainty on the victims' identity and lack of proof of their marriage as minors. Based on the Joint General Comment of ACHPR and ACERWC on ending child marriage, it considered child marriage to be any formal or informal union between men and women recognised by any system of law, custom, society or religion in which one or both of the parties is or was a child under the age of 18 at the time of the union.

56- However, it deemed that the country's claim of non-exhaustion of domestic remedies was valid. It observed that the present Communication did not contain any information on the actions taken before domestic courts by the complainants with a view to putting an end to the alleged violations. It concluded that the plaintiffs anticipated the ineffectiveness of local remedies by simply expressing doubts without attempting to exhaust any local remedies. On this basis, the communication was declared inadmissible.

PART ONE

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS



INTRODUCTION TO PART ONE

57- As in previous years, the State maintained its commitment with regard to the protection of civil and political rights. This involved safeguarding the moral integrity and liberty of individuals, ensuring the administration of justice, guaranteeing access to and reliability of information and cyberspace, and strengthening the participation of the population in local governance.

58- To this end, with regard to safeguarding physical integrity and liberty, emphasis was placed on building the capacity of law enforcement personnel, combating all forms of restriction of freedoms and the disproportionate use of legitimate violence. Both preventive and repressive measures were taken to curb road traffic accidents and deaths therefrom as well as stem violations of enshrined rights. Obsolete rules governing free movement were subject to legislative reform in order to control migratory flows.

59- Prospective studies as regards the expansion of the judicial map continued, with a view to improving the efficiency of judicial services and ultimately bringing justice closer to the people. The continuation of controls and the punishment of dishonest staff made it possible to preserve access for all to high-quality, independent justice.

60- The quality of telecommunications services was assured by the competent authorities who sensitised consumers of the risks of cybercrime and stepped up the fight against cybercrime. In addition to prevention initiatives, the regulating Body sanctioned media professionals who did not comply with regulations governing their profession, while the courts restored the dignity of victims of offences related to activities in the communications and telecommunications sectors.

61- The participation of all in the management of public affairs was achieved by increasing the activities of local government and the continued transfer of powers to regional and local authorities.

62- In the course of 2022, therefore, civil and political rights were promoted and protected by the State in all their components, namely:

- right to physical and moral integrity and the right to liberty ;
- right to fair trial;
- freedom of expression and communication
- right to participate in the management of public affairs

CHAPTER

1

**RIGHT TO PHYSICAL
AND MORAL
INTEGRITY AND
RIGHT TO LIBERTY**



63- In a preoccupying security context in some of the country's regions, the State continued to address challenges relating to the protection and promotion of the right to physical and moral integrity and the right to liberty. Despite persistent violations which sometimes led to loss of human life, actions taken concerned the prevention and sanction of these violations.

SECTION 1: VIOLATION OF RIGHTS

64- Both the right to physical integrity and the right to liberty were subject to violation.

§1: Violation of the Right to Physical Integrity

65- Violation of the right to physical integrity included fires, some of which were fatal, and road accidents. Statistics on violation of physical integrity are telling of the magnitude of this violation.

A: Fires

66- The National Fire Brigade conducted a total of 4,863 operations, of which 1,602 were fire-related. These operations helped to preserve property and save lives. However, some people died as a result of fire incidents. On 23 January 2022, at around 2.30 am, a fire broke out in the *LIV'S Night-Club* cultural complex in Yaounde, killing 16 people and seriously injuring 8 others.

B: Road Accidents

67- In 2022, the Ministry of Transport (MINT) recorded 11,622 road accidents which caused 2,068 injuries and 1,007 deaths.

68- The main causes of these accidents included over-speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol, use of mobile phones while driving, non-compliance with traffic signs, driving while tired, and the poor technical condition of vehicles and roads.

C: Statistics on Violation of Physical Integrity

69- In 2022, the National Gendarmerie recorded 399 capital murders, 539 assaults and 893 suspicious deaths. The General Delegation for National Security (DGSN) recorded 426 capital murders, 150 murders, 39 cases of rape and 276 assaults.

§2: Violation of the Right to Liberty

70- These violations included 17 cases of kidnapping and 163 cases of false arrest which were heard before Military Tribunals. For instance, in the Garoua Military Tribunal, there were 11 cases of kidnapping with fraud or violence, including 4 under preliminary inquiry and 6 at the trial phase. As regards prosecution for false arrest, there were 85 cases, including 39 before the Examining Magistrate, 37 before the Trial Judge and 9 judgments delivered.

71- Of the 9 cases of false arrest which were before the Maroua Military Tribunal for trial, judgments were delivered in 4 of them on the merits

72- In the Adamawa Region, kidnappings for ransom were recorded in the Faro and Deo, Vina and Mbere Divisions, the former alone accounting for nearly 75% of kidnappings. It is estimated that families paid more than CFAF 150,000,000⁶ to kidnappers for the release of their loved ones.

73- In the crisis-affected North West and South West Regions, kidnappings by armed groups continued. On 30 April 2022, a Senator and her driver were kidnapped in Bamenda. She was released on 1 June 2022 with 7 other captives. On 16 September 2022 in Mamfe, 6 Priests and 3 parish members were kidnapped by unidentified armed individuals and only released after 5 weeks. The kidnappers demanded USD 100,000 as ransom (approximately CFAF 60,000,000⁷) for their release. On 18 November 2022, Nurses and patients in an ambulance belonging to Mbingo Baptist Hospital were taken hostage by a separatist group. They were released the same day by Defence and Security Forces (DSF).

74- Such events did not happen in the South West and North West Regions only. On 1 February 2022, 5 hostages held by criminals demanding CFAF 5,000,000⁸ from their families were released in Sombo in the Centre Region after a few hours of captivity.

⁶ About 229,007.63 Euros.

⁷ About 91,603.05 Euros.

⁸ About 7,633.59 Euros.

SECTION 2: PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY AND THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY

75- Capacities of stakeholders of the justice chain were strengthened. Other measures were taken to safeguard the right to physical integrity and the right to liberty.

§1: Capacity-building for Stakeholders of the Justice Chain

76- The need for Public Service personnel⁹ to acquire knowledge relating to the respect for and the protection of Human Rights was illustrated by the teaching of relevant courses both at initial training and in-service training programmes.

A: Initial Training

77- A course on Human Rights continued to be taught to Pupil Magistrates at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) and to Pupil Civil Administrators. In addition to these courses, students attended a 3-day academic seminar on International Humanitarian Law and on consideration of Human Rights in the administration of justice in the context of counter-terrorism.

78- Lessons on modules relating to Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, Children's Rights and the Protection of Women and Children in the context of armed conflict continued to be taught in National Police training centres.

B: In-service training

79- From 31 January to 4 February 2022 in Yaounde and from 7 to 11 March 2022 in Maroua, ENAM and the Global Centre on Cooperative Security, in collaboration with the United States Embassy in Cameroon, organised 2 training seminars for stakeholders of criminal justice, including Judicial and Legal Officers and Judicial Police Officers, on effective non-coercive investigation techniques to mitigate risks of Human Rights violations during investigations involving acts of terrorism.

⁹ Minjustice, Mindef, SED, DGSN, ENAM.

80- From 2 to 4 August 2022, Judicial and Legal Officers, Forces of Law and Order (FLO) and Judicial Police Officers (JPO) participated in a training workshop in Douala) on trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking and organised crime, organised by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). From 10 to 14 October 2022, trainers from the Frontier Police were trained by the International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES) in Yaounde on *Border governance based on respect for Human Rights: implementation of protection-related entry measures*.

81- Prior to deployment to the Far North, North West and South West Regions operation fronts, National Gendarmerie personnel received operational refresher training during which they were updated on fundamental Human Rights rules and International Humanitarian Law. This refresher course also focused on the rules of engagement and operational behaviour, the cornerstone being the respect for human dignity.

82- Furthermore, 130 Police Officers from the Far North, North West and South West Regions received training on gender-based violence.

§2: Measures to Safeguard the Right to Physical Integrity

83- These included maintaining road safety, the activities of the national preventive mechanism against torture, stepping up the fight against trafficking in and smuggling of persons and measures to limit the collapse of buildings and landslides.

A: Promotion of Road Safety

84- The State's determination to reduce the number of road accidents was reflected in capacity-building activities organised for road safety stakeholders, the maintenance and development of road assets and the organisation of road safety campaigns.

1) Capacity-building for Road Safety Stakeholders

85- From 21 to 25 February 2022, in Yaounde, 22 Commanders of National Security and Gendarmerie units from countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), including Cameroon, received training on road safety, control and penalty enforcement at EIFORCES.

86- As part of the Regional and National Infrastructure Governance Support Programme in Central Africa (PAGIRN) financed by the European Union (EU), EIFORCES continued its road safety training plan in accordance with the intervention approach under the European cooperation support programme. In April 2022, in Yaounde, 80 civil society stakeholders received awareness training on good road safety practices.

2) Maintenance and Development of Road Assets

87- Mechanisms for the maintenance of assets were regulated by the adoption of Law No. 2022/7 of 27 April 2022 relating to the protection of the National Roads Assets. These included road weighing, occasional barriers and rain barriers, as well as fines in the event of violation

88- Furthermore, 78.50km of highway was received, including phase 1 of the Yaounde-Douala (40km) and Edea-Kribi-Lolabe (38.5km) highways.

89- In addition, studies of some highway construction projects were approved. These include phase 2 of the Yaounde-Douala highway (136km); phase 2 of the Edea-Kribi-Lolabe highway, Edea-Kribi stretch (92km); the Douala-Limbe stretch (70km); the Yaounde-Douala-Bafoussam-Bamenda intersection stretch (393km) and the Ngaoundere-Garoua-Maroua-Kousseri-Ndjamen corridor (1,400km).

3) Road Safety Campaigns

90- Road safety campaigns were carried out by relevant personnel of the MINT, particularly on accident-prone roads such as those on 27 May and from 1 June to 28 September 2022. As a result of these campaigns, more than 15,000 people were sensitised on the importance of safe driving practices, while 25 driving licences and 5 vehicle registration certificates were suspended for over-speeding and refusal to comply. Moreover, 3,000 chemical breathalyser tests were made available to SED and DGSN.

91- Furthermore, on 15 March 2022, MINT launched a free eye screening campaign for drivers in Yaounde. It was discovered that out of 564 professional drivers, 510 were visually impaired, i.e. 80%. Of the 1,806 drivers screened across the 10 regions, 1,573 had major visual impairments. At the end of the campaign, *Magrabi ICO Cameroon Eye Institute* prescribed lenses and eye drops to the drivers consulted.

B: Activities of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture

92- In 2022, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission visited 379 places of deprivation of liberty, including 113 police cells, 94 gendarmerie cells, 11 court cells and 10 prisons as part of its torture prevention mission.

C: Strengthening the Fight against Trafficking in and Smuggling of Persons

93- The toll-free number (1503) allocated to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) for denouncing and reporting cases of trafficking in and smuggling of persons went operational.

94- Furthermore, courses on organised crime, including sanctions on trafficking in and smuggling of persons, continued as part of the training of National Gendarmerie Judicial Police Officers (JPOs).

D: Compliance with Town Planning Standards

95- In view of the recurrence of accidents related to the quality of buildings and constructions¹⁰, the Minister of Public Works signed Circular No. 093 of 8 February 2022. It came as a reminder to private civil engineering laboratories of their responsibility in the issuance of geotechnical documents¹¹.

96- Compliance with town planning standards was on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting of 24 February 2022, at the end of which the Head of Government instructed the Minister of Housing and Urban Development to work in collaboration with the Minister of Decentralisation and Local Development to raise awareness among council executives on the need to operationalise committees responsible for examining administrative town planning documents and conducting regular checks to ensure that buildings constructed in areas under their jurisdiction comply with required construction standards.

¹⁰ On 9 June 2022 in Batouri, 5 people died in a landslide; on 27 November 2022, in Yaounde, at Rondpoint Damase, 15 people died in the same circumstances and 4 others were injured.

¹¹ These are: test reports, study reports, analysis reports and other documents guaranteeing the quality of the soil on which a project is to be carried out. The quality of these documents helps to prevent the subsidence of soil, the deterioration of roads or the collapse of structures during execution of the project or when the project is completed and handed over.

§3: Measures to Safeguard the Right to Liberty

97- This involved ensuring that deprivation of liberty was lawful. In this regard, competent authorities¹² continued to monitor detention places and liberty deprivation measures, especially compliance with time limits for police custody and pre-trial detention, and lifted restrictions where irregularities were observed. Judicial control was particularly carried out through habeas corpus procedures and applications for bail.

98- Judges responsible for matters relating to liberty granted 29 habeas corpus applications, while Examining Magistrates issued 311 rulings on orders of bail on their own motion and granted 532 applications for bail.

SECTION 3: SANCTIONING VIOLATIONS

99- Sanctions were imposed on Government employees and other individuals.

§1: Sanctions for Vertical Violations

100- These sanctions included administrative and court sanctions against law enforcement personnel. Habeas corpus procedures ensured immediate release of victims of unlawful and illegal detention. Victims of illegal detention applied to the Commission for Compensation of Illegal Detention for reparation for damages suffered.

A: Administrative Sanctions

101- In 2022, the following sanctions were taken against Police Officers: dismissal (1), reduction in incremental position (2), deferment in increment (5), reprimands to be recorded in the file (6), written warning (1) and lay off without salary (2). Misconduct ranged from insubordination to the use of a firearm resulting in the death of a third party.

B: Sanctions by Courts

102- Judgments rendered sentenced perpetrators of Human Rights violations and, where appropriate, ordered for compensation for damages suffered.

¹² See §930-933 for information on prison inspections.

103- In Judgment No. 009/21 of 12 January 2022, the Maroua Military Tribunal found **N.D.**, a soldier in active service with the 1st Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) in Maroua Salak, guilty of unintentional killing, grievous harm and violation of orders (unlawful use of a service weapon). He was consequently sentenced to 31 months imprisonment and ordered to pay the civil parties, the rightful claimants of victim **S.O.**, the sum of CFAF 2,783,359¹³.

104- In its Judgment No. 1/22 of 5 January 2022, the Garoua Military Tribunal found soldiers **E.A.**, **N.E.F.**, **K.B.S.H.J.**, **M.E.M.**, **M.S.**, **N.N.F.**, **P.T.B.**, **F.R.**, **O.A.**, **E.N.P.**, and **N.O.** guilty of violating orders, of aggravated theft and murder as co-offenders, and sentenced them to two years imprisonment suspended for 5 years.

105- The same court found Master Corporal **M.A.C.** guilty of attempted capital murder, conditional threats and other offences. **M.A.C.** forced his way into his girlfriend's home, threatened to assault her and opened fire in her direction without hitting her. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment following Judgement No. 122/22 of 11 July 2022.

106- In Judgment No. 179/22/CRIM of 5 October 2022, the Garoua Military Tribunal found Staff Sergeant **B.B.L.** guilty of torture and sentenced him to 1 year imprisonment. Moreover, by judgement No. 116/22 of 7 July 2022, the same Tribunal found Chief Warrant Officer **K.**, guilty as co-offender in acts of torture, abuse of function, undue demand and others.

107- Also, proceedings against **D.P.** on charges of torture was still pending before the Benoue High Court.

C: Habeas Corpus Litigation

108- Judges responsible for matters relating to liberty continued to sanction unlawful deprivation of liberty.

109- Compliance with the strict time limits for remand in custody was reiterated by Ruling No. 1 of 25 March 2022 of the Diamare High Court in the following terms:

¹³ About 4,249.40 Euros.

Whereas, in compliance with the provisions of Section 119 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the time allowed for remand in custody shall not exceed 48 hours;

That this period may, with the written approval of the State Counsel, be extended twice;

Whereas, in the present case, the applicants' remand in custody should have expired on 7 and 8 February 2022;

That their current detention should therefore be declared unlawful and their immediate release ordered".

110- The same strict time limits apply to prison custody awaiting trial. In the case of **S.O.** and **I.I.**, which is the subject of Ruling No. 3/CRIM of 27 September 2022, the President of the Benoue High Court expressed himself in the following terms:

In the present case, the applicants were remanded in custody since 20 September 2021, more than 12 months have elapsed since that date and despite searches it has not been possible to find the casefile involving them; their application is admissible and their detention has become illegal;

That their immediate release should be ordered if they are not detained in the Garoua Central Prison for other reasons".

111- Hearing a habeas corpus application, the Judge of the Mfoundi High Court in Ruling No. 197/HC of 1 December 2022 considered the arrest and detention of **N.N.J.P.**, after having served his sentence and benefited from a presidential pardon, to be illegal. .

112- In his Ruling No. 12/HC of 3 March 2022, the stated that: "(...) where the accused person's stay in prison is longer than the maximum sentence for the offence with which he is charged, due to the disappearance of the case file concerning them from the Court Registry, hampering the entry of the case on the cause list and the detainee's subsequent trial: That this irregularity can be construed as denial of justice.

*That on these grounds, the immediate release of **O.B.A.** should be ordered, in accordance with Section 585 (4) of the CPC".*

113- By Ruling No. 57/HC of 22 November 2022, the same court found that the detention of an accused as a result of adjournments following the loss of his case file was overdue, arbitrary and illegal.

D: Actions of the Commission for the Compensation for Illegal Detention

114- The Commission recorded 18 applications and conducted 3 hearings. At its hearing of 26 January 2022, it delivered 4 decisions. At its hearing of 30 November 2022, 10 decisions were delivered. By 31 December 2022, the commission had rendered 18 decisions¹⁴, a relative increase compared with the previous year, where it delivered 11 decisions.

§2: Sanctions for Horizontal Violations

115- Courts punished violations of the right to physical integrity and liberty perpetrated by persons other than law enforcement personnel. As part of its road safety strategy, MINT also imposed sanctions.

A: Court Sanctions

116- On 7 January 2022, in Judgment No. 9/22, the Garoua Military Tribunal sentenced **M.B.** to 8 years imprisonment and a fine of CFAF 1,000,000¹⁵; **Y.H.** and **A. W.** to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of CFAF 200,000¹⁶. On 4 March 2022, **A.N.** and **S.A.** were sentenced to 10 years and 4 years imprisonment respectively for false arrest and illegal carrying of weapons and defence munitions, in accordance with Judgment No. 44/22.

117- On 19 August 2022, the Diamare Court of First Instance sentenced **I.G.** and **M.N.M.** to 1 year imprisonment and a fine of CFAF 200,000 for false arrest in Judgment No. 1711/COR.

118- Proceedings against **M.H.J.** for torture were ongoing before the Upper-Nyong High Court.

119- On 20 January 2022, the Mayo-Sava High Court sentenced **K.N.** to 18 years imprisonment and a fine of CFAF 800,000¹⁷ for trafficking in and smuggling of persons. On 2 February 2022, the same court found **F.S.** and **T. N.** guilty of the same offences and sentenced them to 2 years

¹⁴ 4 decisions had been delivered on 27 April 2021 at its 2nd hearing.

¹⁵ About 1,526.72 Euros.

¹⁶ About 305.34 Euros

¹⁷ About 1,221.37 Euros.

imprisonment and a fine of CFAF 100,000¹⁸ each. In Judgement No. 224/CRIM of 29 November 2022, the Vina High Court sentenced **O.B.** to 2 years imprisonment suspended for 3 years and a fine of CFAF 45,000¹⁹. In Judgment, No. 38/CRIM of 18 June and Judgment No. 36/CRIM of 11 July 2022, the Nyong and So'o High Court sentenced, **M.M.M.** to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of CFAF 90,000²⁰; and to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of CFAF 40,000²¹ for aggravated trafficking in persons. The Logone-and-Chari High Court continued proceedings against **M.M.A.** for similar offences. The proceedings against **M.H.J.** and against **M.H.J.** and **K.M.K.P.** were pending before the Upper-Nyong High Court. The preliminary inquiry against **A.H.**, **M.H.**, **I.S.**, **S.H.** and **A.I.** was also ongoing.

B: Sanctions imposed by the Ministry of Transport

120- The Ministry of Transport published offences recorded by speed radars installed along the Douala-Yaounde highway. In its Communique of 2 December 2022, it reported 2,476 cases of over-speeding and urged offenders to collect road traffic tickets and pay the relevant fines, failing which they would be liable to criminal proceedings.

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121- Overall, despite the challenging security environment, the Government stepped up its efforts to guarantee people's right to physical and moral integrity and to liberty. In addition to repression, these efforts included preventive initiatives.

122- One of the main challenges however, was to ensure the safety of road users and the systematic enforcement of sanctions.

¹⁸ About 152.67 Euros.

¹⁹ About 68.70 Euros.

²⁰ About 137.40 Euros.

²¹ About 61.07 Euros.



CHAPTER

2

RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL



123- Based on institutional and procedural guarantees, the right to fair trial has remained one of the pillars of the policy of the State to promote and protect Human Rights. Actions taken to implement the right focused on equal access to the courts, fair trial by an appropriate court and the fair proceedings.

SECTION 1: GUARANTEEING EQUAL ACCESS TO THE COURTS

124- Measures to disseminate legal content, provide legal aid and the development of judicial infrastructure facilitated equal access to the courts.

§1: Dissemination of Legal Content

125- In a bid to reduce intellectual barriers to access to the courts, legislative and regulatory texts continued to be published in French and English through the Official Gazette of Cameroon, ICTs, print and other media. *Cameroon Tribune, Cameroon Radio and Television* and www.prc.cm were among the most prominent vectors of such publication.

126- MINJUSTICE celebrated the International Translation Day on 30 September 2022 under the theme "A World without Barriers". During the occasion, deliberations focused on the theme "*Legal Translators and Interpreters: eliminating barriers through in-service training*".

127- Court judgments were published in legal journals and magazines, including *Justicia*, which carried excerpts of judgments of the Special Criminal Court. As at November 2022, some 350 articles, texts and 133 *final* court judgments were published on www.minjustice.gov.com. In a bid to highlight her option for the dissemination of case law, Cameroon hosted an international symposium from 23 to 25 March 2022 in Yaounde on the theme: "*Twenty years of the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration case law*", organised by OHADA Bar Association Conference and *Jus Africa*.

128- Moreover, the dissemination of legal content continued through legal journals, books and libraries, such as the library of MINJUSTICE with a surface area of 217m², some 3,618 books in English and 1,212 books in French and which became operational in 2022.

§2: Granting of Legal Aid

129- Legal aid commissions set up at the courts examined applications filed by indigent persons, and granting same with the costs of procedure and act borne by the Public Treasury. In all, and as shown in the table below, the commissions granted 111 applications out of 248 filed, representing a rate of 44.75%, as compared to 54.94% in 2021, thus, indicating a downward trend.

Table 1: Legal Aid granted in 2022

Court	Applications registered	Applications rejected	Applications granted		Beneficiaries		
			Full grant	Partial grant	Men	Women	Others (detainees, refugees, IDPs, indigenous peoples (pygmies, Mbororo) + persons with disabilities)
CFI	21	5	8	0	5	3	
HC	198	33	61	22	58	16	34
CA	29	8	10	10	5	5	1
SC

Source: MINJUSTICE

130- Some examples: by Ruling Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of 4 August 2022, and Ruling Nos. 8 and 9 of 15 September 2022, the Legal Aid Commission at CFI Douala-Bonanjo granted legal aid to 5 applicants showing proof of lack of resources.

131- Nevertheless, challenges included the unavailability of some members of the commissions and the non-institution of legal aid commissions at some courts (including customary courts and administrative courts).

§3: Judicial infrastructure development

132- With a view to aligning the judicial map with the administrative map, prospective studies to identify sites for future courts were conducted. In 2022, the Division for Studies and Forecast of MINJUSTICE in the Centre Region identified sites in Ayos (4,000m²), Ngomedzap (3 hectares), Okola (4,407m²) and Eseka (1 hectare), bringing the number of sites identified since 2015 to 25. The said localities were selected according to the following criteria: the regularity of assizes, the size of the population, the scope of economic activity, remoteness of the court under the jurisdiction of which they fall.

133- Government continued the construction and rehabilitation of some judicial infrastructure. The rate of construction works of the modern complex of judicial services of Yaounde and Douala which stood respectively at 40.67% and 48.23% in 2021 increased to 47.88 and 51.10% in 2022. The construction of Edea Court (comprising 2 buildings with 97 offices and 2 courtrooms), Ngambe Court and Tombel Court, with execution rates of 46.78%, 37.58% and 30%, respectively is ongoing.

SECTION 2: GUARANTEEING TRIAL BY AN APPROPRIATE COURT

134- In order to ensure proper trial by an appropriate court, actions included jurisdiction, impartiality and independence of the said court.

§1: Actions related to Jurisdiction of the Court

135- At the risk of exposing their judgments to annulment by higher courts, lower courts are required to hear and determine only cases falling within their subject matter and territorial jurisdiction as provided for by law. It is also lawful for parties to raise the objection of lack of jurisdiction. In the matter of heredity, for example, Pakistani applicants prayed the High Court of Sanaga-Maritime Division to grant them right of inheritance. By Judgment No. 8/CIV/TGI/022 of 19 January 2022, the Court declared it lacked *ratione loci* jurisdiction to grant their prayer on the grounds of section 8 of the Civil and Commercial Procedure Code, and the rules of international private law.

136- Infringement was also sanctioned. Thus, by Judgment No. 8/COR of 3 February 2022, the Court of Appeal of Adamawa Region quashed a lower court judgment for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

§2: Measures related to Impartiality of the Court

137- Cameroon legislation offers a range of mechanisms to protect the impartiality of the court, including abstention, motions for reconsideration, deferral, recusal and referral from one court to another for legitimate suspicion. No motions for reconsideration were recorded.

138- There were 7 applications for recusal (33 in 2018, 37 in 2019, 20 in 2020 and 44 in 2021) addressed to Presidents of Courts of Appeal who granted 2 applications, rejected 3, while 2 being processed.

139- Moreover, an application for referral from one court to another for legitimate suspicion was filed before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cameroon. By Ruling No. 479 of 30 August 2022, he ordered the transfer of proceedings to a panel of Joint Benches of the Supreme Court (the competent body to hear and determine such applications) and further ordered the President of the Court of Appeal concerned and the Judges handling the matter to suspend the proceedings.

§3: Initiatives to Promote Independence of the Court

140- Structural, operational and budgetary measures were taken to mitigate undue external or internal influences on the judiciary by parties, third-parties, the Executive Power or the Legislative Power. In this regard, budgetary resources allocated to the judiciary were increased, human resources consolidated and the professional obligations of judicial staff monitored.

A: Monitoring Professional Obligations of Judicial Staff

141- At the hearing of 27 April 2022 of the Court of Appeal of the Centre Region, 4 of the 9 unsworn personalities (the Director of Penitentiary Administration of MINJUSTICE, a bank employee, a priest and a university lecturer) members of the Anti-Corruption Unit at MINJUSTICE were sworn in. They were appointed by Order No. 20/MJ of 28 January 2022 of the Minister of Justice.

142- The General Inspectorate of Judicial Services (IGSJ) of MINJUSTICE carried out spot checks by examining the periodic statements of court activities and pre-trial detention. It also carried out on-the-spot checks.

143- The table below shows the status of the monitoring of professional obligations of judicial staff since 2021.

Table 2: Comparative status of the monitoring of professional obligations of judicial staff since 2021.

	2021	2022
Applications received and examined	212	218
Investigations ordered	46	129
Observation letters	35	27
Queries issued	28	51
Request for observations	69	132
Files forwarded to the disciplinary body	7	16
Judicial and Legal Officers dismissed from office	7	0
Registrars dismissed from office	43	12

Source: IGJS and DGA/MINJUSTICE

B: Increasing Justice Sector Budget Resources

144- Law No. 2021/026 of 16 December 2021 on the Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for 2022 financial year allocated CFAF64,974,000,000²² to MINJUSTICE. The law was amended and supplemented by Order No. 2022/1 of 2 June 2022, which slightly reduced the budget of MINJUSTICE and the Supreme Court. The table below shows the evolution since 2018 of financial allocations to the judiciary.

Table 3: Financial allocation to the judiciary (in millions CFAF²³)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Constitutional Council	///	2,774	3,244	3,744	3,744
Supreme Court	3,336	4,504	5,503	4,130	From 4,566 to 4,208.25
Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE)	63,454	66,316	65,825	60,549	From 64,974 to 64,484.346

Source: MINJUSTICE

C: Enhancing Human Resources

145- Human resource development focused on staffing and technical capacity.

²² About 99,196,946.56 Euros.

²³ 1 CFAF million is equivalent to 1,526.72 Euros.

1) Overall increase in judicial staff

146- The overall judicial staff strength (Judicial and Legal Officers and non-Judicial and -Legal Officers) increased from 6,748 in 2021 to 6,907 in 2022. The increase which concerned non-Judicial and -Legal Officers, moved from 4,942 (3,308 civil servants and 1,634 non-civil servants) in 2021 to 5,118 (3,494 civil servants and 1,624 non-civil servants).

147- Since the Higher Judicial Council was not convened, the number of judicial staff slightly decreased due to deaths (1,789 staff in 2022 as against 1,826 in 2020 and 1,806 in 2021).

2) Technical Capacity Development of Judicial Staff

148- In January 2022, MINJUSTICE organised a two week initial training in Yaounde, for 200 Assistant Court Registrars and 150 Secretaries who respectively passed the direct competitive examination and a selection test in December 2021.

149- More than 639 judicial staff including 491 Judicial and Legal Officers and 102 Court Registrars received in-service training on various topics in Cameroon (Yaounde, Douala, Ebolowa, Maroua, Buea, Garoua, Ngaoundere, Kribi) and abroad, (Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Netherlands, France, Nigeria, Senegal, Benin, Switzerland). Some of the trainings were organised with State funds and others with the support of partners.

150- Specifically on Human Rights, from State funds or with the support of partners (UNICEF, UNCSD-AC, UN Women), MINJUSTICE organised training workshops on the following themes: trafficking in persons, Gender-Based Violence during crisis, protection of children in conflict with the law, domestic violence, International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law... In all, 161 Judicial and Legal Officers were trained during the workshops organised in Yaounde, Douala, Buea, Bafoussam, Bertoua, Garoua and Maroua.

SECTION 3: GUARANTEEING FAIR PROCEEDINGS

151- Initiatives to guarantee the fair proceedings focused on standards concerning stakeholders of proceeding, principles for the conduct of proceedings, and principles for review.

§1: Standards concerning Stakeholders of Proceedings

152- The standards include the principles of adversarial proceedings and equal arms, assistance of Counsel and an Interpreter.

A: Principles of Adversarial proceedings and Equal Arms

153- Except in the case of non-contentious proceedings, the parties and the courts are required to comply with the principle of adversarial proceedings. It comprises guaranteeing the parties that they are not tried without being heard or called before the court and that they be able to examine the grounds of fact, law and evidence related to the matter. With respect to the principle of equal arms, it is to ensure that each party is given a reasonable opportunity to present its case under conditions that do not place it at a disadvantage to its opponent. Any violation of these principles was sanctioned.

154- Thus, in order to comply with the principles referred to above, the HC of Wouri adjourned the following matters to the corresponding dates: **D.N.S vs D.E.S.** and **A.B.G. vs N.R.** (18 February 2022), **S.E.D.N. vs N.A.C** (15 April 2022), **B.L.G. vs B.K.F., T.N.J. vs société M. SARL, T.W.A. vs Beneficiaries, W.A.** and **M.K vs N.L.J.** (2 December 2022). The adjournment was for the purpose of re-summoning the defendants who failed to appear before the Court.

B: Assistance of Counsel

155- Litigants were assisted by lawyers and other professionals.

1) Assistance by Lawyers

156- At the administrative level and on the whole, 2022 was marked by the renewal of the bodies of the Cameroon Bar Association. The Lawyers who met at the Multi-purpose Sports Complex in Yaounde in June 2022, elected the Chairperson of the General Assembly, the Vice-Chairperson and the 15 members of the Bar Council. The members of the Bar Council in turn elected the President of the Bar Council, Barrister **Mbah Eric Mbah**. He replaced Barrister **Tchakounte Patie Charles**, who died in December 2020. The acting President was Barrister **Atangana Bikouna Claire** before the election of June 2022.

157- On 11 August 2022, the Minister of Justice granted audience to a delegation led by the new President. The delegation made a number of requests concerning, in particular, the support of MINJUSTICE in the recruitment of quality lawyers, their efficient training and for a better organisation of the legal profession.

158- By Decision No. 1/BOA/7/22 of 11 July 2022, the new President of the Bar Council appointed the following members of the Bar Association: special advisers, secretary of the Council and his assistants, treasurer of the Council and his assistant, representatives of the President in some Regions and their assistants, special delegates of the President in some Regions and Divisions.

159- At the operational level, the enjoyment of the right to Counsel in 2022 was as follows:

Table 4: Enjoyment of the Right to a Lawyer

Court	Number of Suspects (SPT) / Accused (AC) / Complainants (CMP) / Applicants (APP) / Defendants (DFT) assisted										Number of Counsel appointed	Number of Counsel remunerated by suspect / accused
	Civil		Labour		Customary law		Simple offences and misdemeanors		Felonies			
	APP	DFT	APP	DFT	APP	DFT	CMP	SPT	CMP	AC		
CFI	1082	870	420	600	970	605	1006 1	1118 6	00	07	183	42 778
HC	5 538	3374	857	836	36	21	184	196	3398	3372	415	3853
CA	2 542	2375	221	332	102	79	3428	5565	284	378	36	1032

Source: MINJUSTICE

160- Although the entrance examination was not organised, the number of lawyers increased not only because of the swearing-in of lawyers from foreign bar associations, but also because of the swearing-in of former judges converted to the profession.

161- In addition, 29 lawyers attended the Human Rights workshops referred to above (§148-150).

162- At the disciplinary level, the Department of Judicial Professions of MINJUSTICE received 136 complaints (as against 158 in 2021) against lawyers for different reasons: breach of trust and lack of diligence.

163- From 21 to 25 November 2022 in Yaounde and Douala, the Chairperson of the Bar Council led an awareness-raising campaign for lawyers on ethics and professional practice. The discussions focused on the lawyer and social media, commitments resulting from the oath, conflicts between lawyers and clients and legal proceedings against lawyers.

2) Assistance by other Counsel

164- In areas with less than 4 law firms, some litigants were assisted by business agents. Before administrative courts, some parties were assisted by tax advisers, academics or other professionals. The number of tax advisers, which stood at 114 individuals and 11 tax consultancies/tax advisory companies as at 31 October 2021, increased to 158 in 2022.

165- By way of illustration, the plaintiffs were represented by an academic in matters for which the following judgments were delivered on 2 June 2022 by the Administrative Court of Douala: Judgment No. 47/QD/2022 of 17 March (**Commune de N.P vs State of Cameroon**), Judgment No. 125/FF/22 of 5 May (**N.S.I SARL vs State of Cameroon**), Judgment No. 171/FF/22 (**société C.C. vs C.U.Y.**) and Judgment No. 168/FF/2022 (**société A.C. SA vs State of Cameroon**).

166- Besides, at the end of December 2022, Cameroon had 493 offices of Notary Public of which complaints were filed against 152, and 104 Chambers of Sheriff/Bailiff of which complaints were filed against 73.

C: Assistance of an Interpreter

167- Litigants and stakeholders in the judicial system benefited from the assistance of interpreters in the official languages, assigned to the courts. To cope with the constraints of their insufficient number and the lack of native language interpreters, the courts continued to use the services of ad hoc Interpreters, who serviced courts sessions after having been sworn-in.

168- On the whole, 32 Translators/Interpreters were on duty in the courts in 2022. As in the previous year, no appeal was made on the quality or qualification of the Interpreters. In addition, the Translation Unit of MINJUSTICE had 7 Translators and Interpreters.

§2: Principles during Trial

169- Principles during trial mainly concern public proceedings and the trial within a reasonable time.

A: Publicity of Proceedings

170- The principle remained that of conducting public proceedings. Hearings and decisions were public. The following table provides information on the number of hearings conducted in public.

Table 5: Public Hearings in 2021 and 2022

Court	CFI		CC		HC		CA	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Public hearings	110,012	96,081	62,237	57,650	9,333	22,897	72,237	8,251

Source: MINJUSTICE

171- Moreover, except in cases provided for by law, in camera sessions were only exceptionally ordered by the courts according to considerations relating to public order, state security, protection of minors or protection of privacy. CFIs, *Tribunal de Premier Degré*, HCs and CA on their own motion ordered 321 in camera hearings concerning minors (as compared to 353 in 2021) of which 258 involved accused and 63 victims. At the request of the parties, CFI (57), CC (41), HC (16) and CA (14) conducted 128 in camera hearings.

B: Trial within a reasonable Time

172- In a bid to continue to address the challenge of trial within a reasonable time at the national level, the Minister of Justice, following the Circulars of 30 June and 22 September 2022, reiterated the requirement of expeditiousness in the processing of judicial proceedings. The IGSJ emphasized this requirement at control activities. During workshops organ-

ised by MINJUSTICE, themes were devoted to the requirement. At the local level, heads of court insisted on this requirement during control missions they carried out.

173- Furthermore, the courts rejected applications that constituted delaying tactics. This was the case in the matter between **K.R.** and **S.A.A.**, where, by Judgment No. 4/SO/PI of 5 April 2022, the Court of First Instance of Maroua sitting on labour matters, rejected as unfounded, an application for stay of proceedings on the ground of allegations related to existence, without proof, of pending criminal proceedings. Similarly, by Judgment No. 5/2022/TA/GRA of 14 September 2022, the Administrative Court of Garoua, in the matter between **T.** and **State of Cameroon**, rejected as inappropriate, an application for cadastral survey that was not likely to shed light on the matter. In the same light, by Judgment No. 2/SO/2022 of 20 January 2022, in the matter between **N.** and the **NGO C.N.C.**, the HC of Diamare rejected as founded, an objection of pending proceedings, whereas the matters concerned had distinct subjects.

174- In terms of results, as relayed by the Prime Minister, Head of Government in his keynote address in November 2022, about 67% of cases enlisted in civil matters were heard and determined. The Constitutional Council ruled on the 3 petitions in the matter of constitutionality of legal instruments and on the 8 petitions for advisory opinion that were brought before it.

§3: Review of Decisions

175- The challenge remained that of non-payment of reproduction fees of appeal files by some litigants. The table below provides information on the exercise of the right to appeal in the year under review.

Table 6: Exercise of the Right to Appeal in 2022

Appeals	Applicants				Appeal files not forwarded for failure to pay reproduction fees				Judgments amended or quashed											
	CC	CFI	HC	CA	LD	Parties	Others	C	C	H	C	C	C	H	C	C	C	H	C	
Third-party opposition	22	22	35	01	00	85	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00

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Appeals	Applicants				Appeal files not forwarded for failure to pay reproduction fees				Judgments amended or quashed											
									CC	CFI	HC	CA	LD	Parties	Others	CC	CFI	HC	CA	CC
Opposition	83	845	563	236	09	951	345	07	21	06	00	29	48	09	07	08	08	22	03	08
Appeal	352	5678	517	1333	1710	4575	394	91	374	50	00	00	00	00	00	23	00	00	00	733
Appeal before the Supreme Court	00	00	16	1452	05	841	59	00	00	00	214	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

Source: MINJUSTICE

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176- Different initiatives taken by the State to guarantee equal access to courts, judgment by an appropriate court and in accordance with proper procedure made it possible to ensure and consolidate the right to fair trial. However, there are still some challenges, including trial within a reasonable time and insufficient judicial infrastructure.

CHAPTER

3

FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION AND
COMMUNICATION



177- The State continued to guarantee freedom of expression and communication through access to information mechanisms, security of electronic communication, regulation and sanctions.

SECTION 1: PROVISION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION

178- There was relative progress of some sources of information, continued reduction of the digital gap and maintenance of State assistance through public support to private communication.

§1: Changes in Sources of Information

179- There were about 700 print media outlets, 250 radio stations, some 50 television channels, 165 cable television companies and 58 community radio stations, all freely accessible.

§2: Enhancing Access to the Internet

180- Cameroon and the Central African Republic signed a memorandum of understanding on 4 May 2022 in Yaounde, on the interconnection of communication networks between the two countries. The Agreement lays down prior conditions for digital interconnection, in line with the desire to reduce the digital gap and increase connectivity while reducing the cost of services.

181- With regard to the deployment of the optic fibre, the following should be noted: installation, connection and commissioning of optic fibre cables in some universities and border industrial towns in Cameroon; acquisition and installation of telecommunications and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment in some Transmission Control Protocol²⁴ and Personal Area Network²⁵; construction of the Buea Urban Optical Loop; acquisition, installation and interconnection of automatic equipment for collection and transmission of meteorological data, and provision of optic fibre services to the industrial port of Kribi and border or landlocked areas.

§3: Maintaining State Institutional Support to Private Media

182- In spite of a difficult socio-economic context, characterised by budget constraints, the State fulfilled its commitment to participate in the

²⁴ Standard set of rules for computers to communicate over a network such as the Internet.

²⁵ Proximity network interconnecting tools of the same station.

servicing of press companies. The support for print and online press amounted to CFAF66,000,000²⁶ compared to CFAF120,000,000²⁷ in 2021.

SECTION 2: SECURING ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

183- Protection of Information and Communication Technology users was achieved by speeding up the fight against cybercrime. Government continued to develop the capacities of cyberspace stakeholders, protect national cyberspace through security audits, maintain security watch and raise the awareness of users of telecommunications services.

§1: Speeding up the Fight against Cybercrime

184- Alignment with the community of nations in this struggle was illustrated by the accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (adopted in Budapest on 23 November 2001) by Decree No. 2022/169 of 23 May 2022. Its aim is to consolidate existing local legislation in the area and determine the terms and conditions of international cooperation.

185- The 2022 cybercrime map shows the following data: 10,788 vulnerabilities detected in the information systems of public and private structures; 1,098 fake accounts impersonating senior State officials identified on social networks. Besides, 51% of these accounts were closed through partnership with Facebook; 313 cases of scamming identified as part of scams perpetrated using fake mobile money messages; 17 scam platforms using counterfeit cryptocurrency investments identified, as well as 27 cases of Phishing, exploiting the spoofed addresses of websites and email addresses of banks and public administrations. In addition, three financial institutions were victims of cyber-attacks that resulted in damages estimated at CFAF1,075,000,000²⁸. INTERPOL received 89 requisitions relating to cybercrimes perpetrated from Cameroon against nationals of foreign countries. These cases, which generally concern scams involving the sale of art objects, exotic animals or agricultural products, caused financial damage of more than CFAF500,000,000²⁹.

²⁶ About 100,673.36 Euros.

²⁷ About 183,206.11 Euros.

²⁸ About 1,641,221.37Euros.

²⁹ About 763,358.78 Euros.

§2: Capacity Development

186- The National Information and Communication Technologies Agency (ANTIC) organised the following events: an awareness-raising seminar for staff of the Constitutional Council on cybersecurity and cybercrime from 23 to 24 March 2022 in Yaounde; a training seminar from 4 to 6 May 2022 in Ebolowa, for Judicial and Legal Officers and Judicial Police Officers on repression of offences related to the use of ICTs; a practical training seminar from 17 to 19 August 2022 in Kribi, for public administrations on the security of information systems; and a workshop from 2 to 4 November 2022 in Limbe on data protection for education stakeholders.

§3: Security Audits

187- Security audits were conducted in 12 ministries, 17 companies and public establishments, 7 banking institutions, 2 microfinance establishments, 5 mobile telephone operators and an internet service provider. The 41 audit missions identified and resolved 3,872 cases of vulnerability.

§4: Security Monitoring and Security of Applications

A: Security Monitoring

188- ANTIC assisted Judicial authorities and different national security structures³⁰ in the search for digital evidence, the identification of cyber-criminals and their prosecution before competent courts.

189- ANTIC thus identified 1,327 false accounts in social networks, some usurping the identity of high personalities of the State. It received 289 cybercrime complaints and closed 601 accounts and certified 18 Government-owned Facebook accounts. Of the 12,343 requests for the location of the registered suspects, 1,836 resulted in their arrest. The processing of 145 requests for authentication of electronic communications enabled the use of electronic evidence before the courts. Some 18 applications for extradition corresponding to the operation of 40 terminals were processed.

³⁰ MINDEF, SED, DGSN, DGRE, etc.

B: Security of Applications

190- On 24 November 2022, ANTIC signed a memorandum of understanding³¹ on the security of administrative documents with the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA).

191- Furthermore, vulnerability scans of websites and applications of public administrations and sensitive private companies led to the detection of 6,032 cases of vulnerability on 52 sites.

§5: Awareness-raising Campaigns for Users of Telecommunications Services

192- The Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART) set up an awareness-raising strategy to inform consumers about their rights. The implementation of that strategy consisted in the distribution of physical and digital media, radio and television programmes and the organisation of meetings between operators of electronic communications services, ART and consumers.

193- ART continued to disseminate the 1515 toll-free number for the receipt of complaints from consumers and provision of all information useful to their concerns.

SECTION 3: REGULATING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION

194- The National Communication Council and ART drew up regulations governing freedom of expression and communication.

§1: Actions of the National Communication Council

195- The actions included sanctions against media professionals and capacity development for stakeholders.

196- In 2022, the Council issued 10 press releases for education purposes³². The press release of 22 March 2022, for example, sounded an

³¹ The agreement concerns the procedures for securing administrative documents issued by MINEPIA to users (certification of certificates of graduates of training institutions under its supervisory authority; acts related to the practice of veterinary medicine and pharmacy, as well as those related to the professions of production and animal health, fisheries production and related industries in the livestock, fisheries and animal subsector).

³² That of 17 March, 1 April, 29 April, 23 May, 28 July, 19, 27 and 31 October 2022.

alarm to professionals who had violated ethics through outrageous statements, dissemination of biased remarks, inappropriate judgments, seditious comments or discourteous reactions. It recalled that these practices are conducive to the spread of a harmful social climate, then stressed the importance and contribution of media professionals in the promotion of democracy and socio-political development.

197- In addition to the 7 cases initiated on its own motion, National Communication Council (NCC) received 35 complaints, 24 of which were filed by individuals, 9 by public authorities, one by a group of institutions, and one by a professional association. As a result of allegations /on the violation of ethics and professional conduct in the field of social communication, NCC took 26 decisions, including 20 temporary suspensions for a period of less than 6 months, 2 warnings and rendered 4 decisions of no case. On 1 April 2022, the Editor of *Equinoxe Télévision* was suspended for one month for unfounded, insinuating, offensive comments and misrepresentation of facts, while his collaborator received the same sanction for failure to control his panel members.

198- On 28 July 2022, NCC examined 17 complaints and issued a two-month suspension against the Editors of *L'Expression*, *Le Pélican*, *L'Elite*, *PERSPECTIVES d'Afrique*, *La République*, *Le Quotidien*, and *Le National* newspapers; one month suspension against the Station Manager of *Amplitude FM*; and a warning against the Editor of *Royal FM*.

199- On 19 August 2022, Journalists of *Vision 4 Television* were suspended for 2 months and 3 months, as well as their programme, for violation of professional ethics, lack of balanced information balance and repeat offences; The station Manager of *RIS Radio* was suspended for four months for repeated unfounded, offensive accusations

200- In addition to sanctions, NCC raised awareness and developed the capacity of stakeholders in the sector, including raising media awareness on respect for ethics and professional conduct, in Garoua and Maroua from 23 to 26 July 2022; in Ngaoundere from 1 to 5 August 2022. It organised the first edition of the pedagogical workshop called *NCC Cafés* on the theme *Responsibility of Presenters in Conducting Audiovisual Discussions*, from 31 August to 5 September 2022 in Yaounde, Douala and

Bafoussam³³. An awareness-raising mission for media professionals in Bamenda was also organised from 14 to 17 November 2022 on the theme *Communication in times of crisis, information processing and conducting audiovisual discussions* as well as the second edition of NCC cafés in Ebolowa on 23 November 2022 on the theme, *Journalistic investigation, traps to avoid*; and Buea on 30 November 2022 on the theme, *Reporting in times of crisis and manipulation of Journalists*.

§2: Actions of the Telecommunications Regulation Agency

201-As part of its consumer protection missions, ART, particularly, the Directorate General and Regional Delegations of Douala, Yaounde and Garoua received 49 written complaints and 54 verbal complaints from subscribers against *Orange Cameroun*, *MTN Cameroon*, *VIETTEL Cameroun* and *CAMTEL* telephone operators.

202-With regard to the monitoring of telecommunications service operators, ART conducted performance checks on the networks of the 4 operators referred to above during the second half of the year. At the end of the controls, 14 formal notices with corrective measures were served on the said operators, with a deadline for the implementation of these measures, including work to optimize the performance of their 2G/3G/4G mobile telephone networks. The work was ongoing and control teams deployed on the sites.

203-ART also made 3 conciliation attempts, all of which resulted in the signing of conciliation reports. indisputes between consumers and mobile telephone operators.

204-An illustrative example is the case between **B.B.G.** and *ORANGE Cameroun* for identity module piracy and illegal use of its telephone directory. *ORANGE Cameroun* rejected all liability for the prejudice caused to the complainant by reiterating that WhatsApp is not an application of *ORANGE Cameroun* and therefore they could not pay him the sum of CFAF50,000,000³⁴ as damages.

³³ NCC Cafés are part of a strategy to develop the capacities of media professionals through an analysis of the current practice of the profession.

³⁴ About 76,336.88 Euros.

SECTION 4: JUDICIAL SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE MALICIOUS USE OF ICT

205- Judicial sanctions concerned ICT users and dishonest professionals.

§1: Sanctions against Dishonest Users

206- The courts protected the dignity of users of electronic communications. Thus, in the matter *The People and M.B. vs M.H.M.F. and E.W.O.*, by Judgment No. 553/FD/COR of 3 March 2022, the Court of First Instance of Douala-Bonanjo found the defendants guilty of obscene publications and of violation of the privacy of others by electronic means (*E.W.O.*) and for accessory after the facts of these acts (*M.H.M.F.*). The Court sentenced *E.W.O.* to 9 months in prison and a fine of CFAF1,000,000³⁵; *M.H.M.F.* to 4 months in prison and fine of CFAF500,000³⁶. They were further ordered to pay the victim *M.B.* CFAF20,300,000³⁷ as damages. The Judgment was appealed against.

207- Besides, on 5 January 2022, by Judgment No. 6/COR, the CFI of Maroua found *H.H.* guilty of defamation and dissemination of false information by use of electronic means to the detriment of *A.A.H.* The accused was convicted and sentenced to a fine of CFAF3,000,000³⁸ and ordered to pay damages in the sum of CFAF5,000,000³⁹ to the victim.

208- On 25 August 2022, by Judgment No. 578/COR, the CFI of Mbalmayo found *A.M.E.C.* guilty of defamation and dissemination of false information by use of electronic means, convicted and sentenced him to 4 months imprisonment and fine of CFAF1,000,000. The Court granted the victim *Z.M.O.D.*, a symbolic franc in compensation for the prejudice suffered.

§2: Sanctioning Dishonest Professionals

209- Defamation by way of the press were punished by the courts. On 14 December 2022, by Judgment No. 8150/COR, the CFI of Yaounde

³⁵ About 1,526.72 Euros.

³⁶ About 763.36 Euros.

³⁷ About 30,992.37Euros.

³⁸ About 4,580.15 Euros.

³⁹ About 7,633.59 Euros.

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- *Centre Administratif* found **T.C.** and **N.C.F.** guilty of defamation by press, convicted and ordered them to pay a fine of CFAF1,000,000 severally and the sum of CFAF10,000,000⁴⁰ to the victim **N.M.K.G.F.** jointly.

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210- On the whole, Government maintained free access to information by availing the public of a variety of means of access and media outlets. Combating cybercrime and protection of consumers of electronic communications services also continued, as well as monitoring compliance of media professionals with their ethics and mobile telephone operators to their terms of reference. Conversely, the Internet coverage remained a challenge.

⁴⁰ About 15,267.18 Euros.

CHAPTER

4

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



211- Through multifaceted actions, the right to participate in the management of public affairs was guaranteed. The actions helped consolidate participation in the public service, proactive participation in political life and local participation in the management of public affairs.

SECTION 1: CONSOLIDATING PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

212- In addition to inclusive recruitment, training and disciplinary monitoring of civil servants, the digitalisation and simplification of procedures for monitoring the career and end-of-career actions of public officials, and the constant updating of the payroll were the main driving forces of consolidated participation in the public service.

§1: Inclusive Recruitment, Training and Disciplinary Monitoring of Public Officials

213- Inclusive drive guided recruitment into the public service. In order to ensure quality civil servants, training was a priority. To ensure compliance with professional obligations, disciplinary monitoring was conducted.

A: Inclusive Recruitment of Public Officials

214- Taking into account gender, language of expression and situations of vulnerability, the State recruited or launched recruitment into the public service. Thus, on 25 July 2022, the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform (MINFOPRA) signed 27 orders for the recruitment of 1,198 new contract staff and civil servants in different corps through competitive entrance examinations, direct competitive examinations and selection tests.

215- With regard to recruitment through examinations, competitive entrance examinations were launched for the recruitment of 488 students into *Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques* (IFORD) and 23 students into *Institut Sous-Régionale de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée* (ISSEA), 330 students into the classical and Common Law fields at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM), 60 students into the National Institute of Youth and Sports (INJS), and 75 students into the National Centres of Youth and Sports (CENAJES). As for direct competitive examinations, 510 civil servants were recruited into the

fields of civil engineering; agriculture; mining and geology; livestock, fisheries and animal industries; Translations-Interpretations⁴¹ and public health. Concerning selection tests, 100 teachers were recruited for technical and vocational education, as well as 100 midwives.

216- Besides the 1 198 vacancies which were all filled, it is appropriate to add the planned and filled vacancies in the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB), the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP); that is, 600 students in technical colleges, 500 PhD holders and 1,480 contract teachers, all amounting to 3,838 recruited staff.

217- In August 2022, a session of the Interministerial Committee on the Special Recruitment of English-Speaking staff for the Courts of Appeal of the North West Region and of the South West Region was held in keeping with the logic of inclusive approach linked to language of expression. In this regard, competitive entrance examinations were launched for the special recruitment of 30 student Court Registrars and 50 student Magistrates of English expression⁴² into ENAM. In all, 21% of persons recruited in 2022 were English-speaking.

218- In addition, the Prime Minister signed Order No. 40/PM of 19 May 2022 to lay down the terms and conditions for granting age exemption to persons with disabilities during competitive examinations and recruitment into the public service.

219- With regard specifically to the police, the General Delegation for National Security published on 11 October 2022, the lists of candidates admitted at the direct competitive examinations of 15 January, and 12 and 26 February 2022; that is, 47 student Superintendents of Police, 422 student Inspectors of Police and 1,780 Police Constables. Concerning the army, the Ministry of Defence published on 24 May 2022, the results of the competitive examination for the recruitment of 700 Non-commissioned

⁴¹ The President of the Republic had authorised the special recruitment, between 2020-2024, of translators-interpreters in order to strengthen the promotion of bilingualism in public administrations and the production of administrative documents in the 2 official languages.

⁴² The written part of the said competitive entrance examinations were held respectively on 3 and 4 September 2022 for student Magistrates, and 10 and 11 September 2022 for student Registrars. The oral part of the examinations was held either in the presence of the candidates or by videoconference on Tuesday, 20 and Friday, 23 September 2022. The final results were published on 28 September 2022.

Officers (NCO) general service option, 40 NCOs option military health, 300 Gendarmerie NCOs option general service, 40 NCOs option military health, 3,000 Gendarmerie Cadets, and 5,330 soldiers and Second-Class Seamen.

B: Training of Public Officials

220- The State continued to guarantee basic and in-service training of public officials.

1) Initial Training of Public Officials

221- Staff for direct integration into the public service of the State underwent their initial training in different institutions including EMIA (327 pupils), ENAM, INJS, ENS, ENSET, CENAJES, ISSEA and IFORD. For the 2021/2022 academic year, the Magistracy and Court Registry Division of ENAM had 150 students, the Administrative Division 110 students, and the Finance Division 120 students.

2) In-service Training of Public Officials

222- MINFOPRA services⁴³ processed some 4,051 files on in-service and/or capacity development either in the country or abroad, including 2,562 internships of which 1,938 completed and 624 in process, 1,316 end of internship of which 1,101 completed and 215 in process, 173 extensions of internship including 85 completed and 88 in process.

223- Furthermore, MINFOPRA developed the technical capacities of staff in charge of human resources. Thus, a seminar was held on 23 August 2022 in Mbankomo on the preparation of recruitment plans of Public Service staff under the theme *new guidelines for compliance of recruitment plans with SND 30*. A capacity development seminar was organised from 27 to 28 August 2022 in Mbankomo, for staff in the human resources management chain in administrations on the theme *support monitoring in predictive management of impacts, jobs and skills*.

⁴³ Similarly, the Higher Institute of Public Management continued to provide refresher courses to public officials through Masters programmes. Many public and private institutes are active in developing the capacities of public officials in all sectors of activity.

C: Disciplinary Monitoring of Public Officials

224- At the end of the processing of files of the physical head count operation of State agents and after the sorting and pre-screening operations of the files, 8,766 files remained, which, falling under the jurisdiction of MINFOPRA, entered the litigation phase. Disciplinary proceedings were initiated, as indicated in the table below, against State Agents; that is, 5,038 civil servants, 3,704 State employees governed by the Labour Code and 24 employees on full pay.

Table 1: Disciplinary measures against public officials

Number of files received	8,766
Signed decisions forwarded to the Permanent Disciplinary Council of the Public Service (PDCPS)	350
Matters brought before the PDCPS)	246
Number of files initiated/processed	4,970
Deceased	430
Files pending processing	2,986
Secondment	53
Leave of absence	2
Retired	115
dismissal	1,408

Source: MINFOPRA

225- At its sessions, the PDCPS examined 141 matters and issued 13 dismissals. Some dismissed public officials filed 25 appeals in 2022 before administrative courts for cancellation of the dismissal decisions. These courts dismissed 10 appeals and 15 were pending.

§2: Further Update of the State Payroll

226- Originally designed to solve a one-off problem, the *Operation to update the Payroll and Staff of the State* (OAFSPE) became a daily and permanent exercise. As such, 33 sector committees were formed out of 40 administrations, with the exception of some which were gradually preparing to conduct the exercise. The update of the payroll and staff files of 11 out of 40 administrations to comply with the defined format is also worthy of note.

227- Besides, the map of work stations in the public administration continued to be updated. In this regard, as at 1 September 2022, some 223,127 public officials were entered in the said map, out of a total work-

force estimated at 304,045 representing 73.38%. Data of 100,756 were validated, representing a rate of 45.15%.

§3: Computerisation and Simplification of Procedures for Monitoring Career Records of Public Officials

228- Computerisation and simplification of procedures were strong options to monitor career and end-of-career acts of public officials. Stakeholders in the chain continued to be equipped by MINFOPRA. In this regard, a seminar was organised on 18 October 2022 in Yaounde for stakeholders of the processing and management of retirement acts and payment of their due under the theme: *automation of the processing of end-of-career acts: issues, challenges and prospects, for proper support of public officials at the end of their career*. Moreover, MINFOPRA deployed, in various fields⁴⁴, projects to simplify administrative procedures and put them online.

229- Moreover, by correspondence No. 26/CF/SG/PR of 9 March 2022 addressed to MINFOPRA, the Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic passed on the express instructions of the President of the Republic relating to the computerisation and simplification of integration procedures of graduates of Teacher Training Colleges in particular and public officials in general. In response, MINFOPRA developed a new procedure for integrating these graduates, reducing it from an average of 30 months to 90 days. During discussions held in April and May 2022 between MINFOPRA, MINESUP, MINESEC and MINEDUB, information on the new procedure was shared. The said procedure became operational in MINFOPRA regional delegations. Applying a Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) as

⁴⁴ Notably: the devolvement of the State human resources and payroll management; the relocation of sites and the diversification of notification channels for signed documents; the digitalisation and electronic notification to public agents of documents signed; the proofreading and simplification of the Administrative Procedures Manual; the computerisation of human resources management with the help of SIGIPES application and its extension in the 10 regional delegations of MINFOPRA; the simplification of the procedure for the signing of attestations of presentation of the original certificate; the devolvement of the procedure for the certification of career management acts through the delegation of signature granted to the 10 Regional Delegates in addition to the Sub-Director of the Central Card Index and Documentation ; the dematerialisation of registration procedure to administrative competitive examinations at <http://concoursonline.minfopra.gov.cm>; the computerisation relating to the monitoring of processing of administrative files on the platform www.minfopra.gov.cm; the use of videoconference to organise oral tests for administrative competitive examinations; the implementation of the online census of public agents as part of the mapping of workstations and the digitalisation of the archiving of public agents acts within the framework of the modernisation of the central card index.

part of implementation of the said instructions in relation to the settlement of claims by teachers, made it possible to process 24,202 files. In all, 22,967 acts were signed, 15,346 service numbers issued and 2,725 certificates forwarded for authentication.

230- In addition, 37,230 public agents were integrated or recruited and 9,287 were reclassified. In accordance with the terms of the new procedure dedicated thereto, 3,604 integration files of Higher Teacher Training Colleges (HTTC)/Higher Technical Teacher Training Colleges (HTTTC) were computerised and processed; that is, 433 for HTTTC Kumba, 187 for HTTC Maroua, 585 for HTTC Yaounde, 665 for HTTTC Douala, 403 for HTTTC Ebolowa, 876 for HTTC and HTTTC Bambili and 400 for HTTC Bertoua.

SECTION 2: MOMENTUM OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

231- The momentum was expressed through preparation of elections and the zeal of Parliament.

§1: Preparation of Elections Time

232- The electoral system was consolidated and political parties experienced great turmoil.

A: Consolidation of the Electoral System

233- In addition to dialogue with different stakeholders, ELECAM, the body in charge of organising elections, conducted an update of the electoral registers and had its capacity for action enhanced with regard to material, financial and human resources.

1) Update of Electoral Registers

234- At the end of the annual registration on the electoral registers (31 August 2022), there were 338,376 registered voters, up 85% from 2021. The proportion stood at 62% male, 38% female, 73% of youths and 0.09% of persons with disability. At the end of the operations, the electoral registers showed 54% men, 46% women, 38% youth and 0.5% persons with disabilities. The increase resulted from campaigns to step up registration on the electoral registers organised by ELECAM, such as the 10 days of awareness-raising of young people on the electoral process, organised in February 2022.

Table 2: Progress in the number of voters registered on electoral registers

Region	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022
Adamawa	449,151	455,149	464,504
Centre	1,213,621	1,223,398	1,267,020
East	332,131	335,728	344,581
Far North	1,147,102	1,157,064	1,176,987
Littoral	998,300	1,016,176	1,065,064
North	696,111	709,997	727,962
North West	599,772	599,097	602,039
West	775,046	790,061	816,938
South	272,344	277,228	288,520
South West	373,233	376,525	382,243
Total	6,856,811	6,959,848	7,135,858

Source: ELECAM

2) Consolidation of ELECAM Resources

235- The budget of ELECAM was revised upwards from CFAF 11,083,000,000⁴⁵ in 2021 to CFAF12,183,000,000⁴⁶ in 2022. Concerning material resources, the modernization of computer and biometric equipment continued.

236- In addition to ongoing training of staff and the continued regularization of their administrative situation, it is worthy of note, with regard to the management team, that by Decree No. 2022/298 of 12 July 2022, Mrs. **Epho Ngo Hagbe Bell Clémence Fleur** and Mr. **Nga Gasper Thairinyuy** were appointed members of the Electoral Board of ELECAM. As per Decree No. 2022/297 of 12 July 2022, the term of office of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and some members of the Electoral Board was renewed. On 26 July 2022, they were sworn in before the Constitutional Council.

237- Training was carried out including a capacity development workshop for election staff on the theme *Training engineering and strategic intelligence; issues and impact on organisational performance*, held in April 2022 in Yaounde.

⁴⁵ About 16,920,610.69 Euros.

⁴⁶ About 18,600,000 Euros.

3) Discussions with Stakeholders of the Electoral Process and Others

238- Between September and November 2022, ELECAM organised a series of bilateral meetings with the following stakeholders of the electoral process to ensure fair, free and transparent elections: Heads of Ministries in charge of Youth and Civic Education, Social Affairs, Women's Empowerment and the Family, Higher Education and Territorial Administration, as well as the President of the Constitutional Council, the Chairperson of CHRC and the Chairperson of NCC. ELECAM further held discussions from 3 to 7 October 2022 in Yaounde, with other stakeholders (leaders of political parties, traditional leaders, CSOs, SDFs, media professionals) of the electoral process on the theme *The electoral process in Cameroon from 2011 to 2021; 10 years with ELECAM: lessons learned, challenges and prospects.*

239- As part of cooperation, ELECAM held discussions on the electoral process with a Delegation of the European Union in Cameroon, the Commonwealth, the Independent National Electoral Commission of Niger and the national representation of UN Women.

B: Dynamism of Political Parties

240- The year under review was characterised by the renewal of the basic organs of many political parties, such as Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM), Social Democratic Front (SDF) and Cameroon Democratic Union (CDU).

241- Litigation relating to the life of political parties were referred to judges. One of them resulted in Judgment No. 192/QD/2022 of 12 October 2022 delivered by the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court in the matter between *Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC)* and the State of Cameroon. The judgment dismissed the appeal lodged against Ruling No. 463/C/HH of 14 June 2020 of the Administrative Court of Yaounde that ordered stay of execution of an administrative decision of 17 July 2018 recognising the representatives of some political parties, of which UPC.

§2: Activities of Parliament

242- Parliamentary life was marked by several sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate, and the technical capacity development of Parliamentarians and staff.

A: Parliamentary Sessions

243- The National Assembly and the Senate held 3 ordinary sessions (March, June and November 2022) marked by deliberations in committee, plenary sessions to adopt 18 bills on different topics and control of Government action through question-and-answer sessions between Parliamentarians and members of Government. The questions focused mainly on higher education, energy deficit, the response against cholera, insufficient of medical staff and inadequate technical facilities in some health facilities, alternative sentences, universal health coverage, environmental protection, construction of school infrastructure, management of public funds, high cost of living and food insecurity.

B: Consolidation of the Technical Capacity of Parliamentarians and Staff

244- Civil servants working in Parliament in Cameroon and Gabon attended a capacity development seminar on the administration and organisation of parliamentary work held from 13 to 16 December 2022 in Yaounde. The seminar was organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of *La Francophonie*, in collaboration with the Senghor University of Alexandria with financial support of the Parliament of the Wallonia Brussels Federation.

245- In addition, the capacity of Parliamentarians of the Finance Committee was developed by the Higher Specialisation Programme in Public Finance. Transparency International-Cameroon Consortium, and Afroleadership organised, as part of the Consolidating fiscal governance for the provision of sustainable basic services while respecting the preservation of the environment Project, a capacity development workshop from 25 to 27 May 2022 in Kribi, for Parliamentarians, CSOs and the media on the analysis of the international tax system and the monitoring of tax fairness in Cameroon.

246- At the initiative of the National Assembly Commission on Defence and National Security partnership with different UN Agencies, a forum

was held on 21 June 2022 in Yaounde under the theme *Connecting the points: enhancing implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the UN Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes to discuss the proliferation of Small Arms and light Weapons.*

SECTION 3: DEEPENING LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

247- Deepening local participation in the management of public affairs was displayed by the turmoil in traditional chiefdoms and consolidation of decentralisation.

§1: Turmoil in Traditional Chiefdoms

248- Changes in the leadership of traditional chiefdoms and the management of many disputes on the designation of traditional chiefs were rampant.

A: Changes at the Helm of Chiefdoms

249- Many traditional chiefs died, including the Paramount Chief of Bakoko, **Salomon Madiba Songue**. Many others were designated and enthroned, such as the Paramount Chief of Akwa, **Louis Din Dika Akwa**.

250- The following homologated acts were drawn up: Order No. 91/PM of 4 October 2022 to homologate the designation of **Mforifoum Mbombo-Njoya Mouhammad-Nabil** as First Class traditional chief of the Bamouns; Order No. 4/PM of 13 January 2022 to homologate the designation of **John Elufa Manga-Williams** as First Class Chief of Limbe; Order No. 26/PM of 30 March 2022 to homologate the designation of **Ahmadou Aminou** as First Class Chief of Moutourwa; and Order No. 27/PM of 30 March 2022 to homologate the designation of **Monglo Singai Charles** as First Class Chief of Lam.

251- The National Council of Traditional Chiefs organised the 1st National Day of traditional Kings and Chiefs of Cameroon on 27 August 2022 in Bertoua, to reflect on how to further promote cultural heritage.

B: Management of Disputes on the Designation of Traditional Chiefs

252- In addition to disputes that occurred prior to 2022, there were many other disputes on the designation of traditional chiefs.

253- The response of the State was essentially administrative. During the 2nd Annual Conference of Governors of Region held in Yaounde from 12 to 13 December 2022, the Minister of Territorial Administration exhorted administrative authorities to respect transfer mechanisms of traditional power and advocated the drawing up of a card index of traditional chiefs to reduce threats to public order.

254- Specific responses included the following 2 cases: By Order of 7 April 2022, the Prime Minister formed an administrative commission of inquiry to examine the terms and conditions of settlement of the conflict of succession at the helm of the Bangou chiefdom in order to collect and cross-check all information relevant to the establishment of the material facts. On 6 June 2022, the Governor of the West Region suspended the establishment of new 3rd class chiefdoms.

255- With regard to litigation, 15 matters were pending before administrative courts and a final judgment was delivered.

§2: Deepening Decentralisation

256- The mobilisation of resources dedicated to decentralisation continued, bodies such as the Public Independent Conciliator resulting from decentralisation were deployed, and the actions of Council monitored. In addition, decentralised cooperation was consolidated.

A: Pooling Resources dedicated to Decentralisation

257- Councils received different financial and human resources, and the manner in which municipal police operate was clarified.

1) Mobilisation of Financial Resources

258- Pursuant to Decree No. 2023/34 of 20 January 2023, the General Allocation for Decentralisation for 2022 financial year stood at CFAF240,231,858,000⁴⁷ compared to CFAF232,176,624,000⁴⁸ for

⁴⁷ About 366,766,195.42 Euros.

⁴⁸ About 354,468,128.24 Euros.

2021 financial year; that is, CFAF128,108,015,786⁴⁹ as the current budget votes against CFAF125,772,505,000⁵⁰ in 2021, and CFAF112,123,843,214⁵¹ for investment against CFAF106,404,119,000⁵² in 2021. The table below shows the breakdown of the allocation.

259- The general operating allocation is divided into transferred operation resources (CFAF92,108,014,786⁵³), in allocations for the Regions (CFAF30,000,000⁵⁴) and in "other jobs" as shown in the table below.

Table 3: Distribution of the component "other jobs" of the comprehensive running budget in 2022

No.	Jobs	Amount in CFAF (CFAF1 million equivalent to 1531.36 Euros)
1	Remuneration of Councillors and payment of salary arrears	3,595,000,000
2	Functioning of the National Decentralisation Council	435,000,000
3	Functioning of the Interministerial Committee for Local Services	300,000,000
4	Functioning of the Interministerial Commission for Decentralised Cooperation	70,000,000
5	Functioning of the Committee in charge of monitoring payment	50,000,000
6	Financing training of Councillors and operational stakeholders of Regions and Councils	200,000,000
7	Support to the National Training Programme on City Trades	60,000,000
8	Support to Council trade unions	75,000,000
9	Special operation on massive issuance of birth certificates	500,000,000
10	Support to decentralised State services providing assistance to councils and urban communities	300,000,000
11	Support for special or emergency operating expenditure to some local councils	250,000,000
Total		6,000,000,000

Source: Decree No. 2023/34 of 20 January 2023

260- The decree provides that resources for the regions shall be distributed equally at the rate of CFAF3,000,000,000⁵⁵ per region.

⁴⁹ About 195,584,756.93Euros.

⁵⁰ About 192,019,091.60 Euros.

⁵¹ About 171,181,440.02 Euros.

⁵² About 162,449,036.64 Euros.

⁵³ About 140,622,923.34 Euros.

⁵⁴ About 45,801.53 Euros.

⁵⁵ About 4,580,152.67 Euros.

261- Furthermore, with a view to promoting local development, MIND-DEVEL also continued to support RLA within the framework of the General Decentralisation Allocation investment component, with a budget of CFAF40,000,000,000⁵⁶ against CFAF36,000,000,000⁵⁷ in 2021.

262- The Special Council Support Fund (FEICOM) granted financial assistance of CFAF36,777,892,537⁵⁸ to Councils, dedicated to investments (construction of the city hall, water supply, electrification, etc.). FEICOM paid them CFAF81,463,085,600⁵⁹ as additional council tax and other council taxes subject to adjustments of the accounts of the 4th quarter of 2021, 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2022.

263- On 28 September 2022, as part of the implementation of “*local governance and resilient communities*” project, the World Bank approved a US\$300,000,000 (CFAF180,000,000,000⁶⁰) loan from the International Development Association to support efforts made by Cameroon to develop the capacity and resilience of local communities. The project to be led by MINDDEVEL, is expected to directly benefit some 180 councils with over 1,500,000 inhabitants. The goal is to consolidate the participation of communities in planning and local governance processes, by providing them with essential climate-resilient infrastructure.

264- The transfer of power and resources to Councils continued. MIND-DEVEL granted through the General Decentralisation Allocation CFAF285,000,000⁶¹ to each City Council. As for ministries that transferred power, MINEPIA transferred the sum of CFAF336 214 000⁶² to Garoua Council for the purchase of a refrigerated truck, and execution of sanitation and drainage works, road development, development and servicing of living spaces. MINHDU transferred CFAF275,714,000⁶³ to Douala Council for road rehabilitation.

⁵⁶ About 61,068,702.29 Euros.

⁵⁷ About 54,961,832.06 Euros.

⁵⁸ About 56,149,454.25 Euros.

⁵⁹ About 124,371,123.05 Euros.

⁶⁰ About 274,809,160.31 Euros.

⁶¹ About 435,114.50 Euros.

⁶² About 513,303.82 Euros.

⁶³ About 420,937.40 Euros.

265- By Decrees of 2 November 2022, MINTOUL, MINT, MINEPDED and MINHDU specified the terms and conditions for the exercise of some powers transferred to the regions. Unfortunately, the corresponding resources were not transferred to the Regional and local councils.

2) Mobilisation of Human Resources

266- In addition to the training of Council staff at the National School of Local Administration (NASLA), the State assigned staff to councils. By Order No. 13/MINDDEVEL of 3 March 2022, Secretaries-General of councils were appointed to some councils and by Order No. 18/MINDDEVEL/MINFI of 6 July 2022, officials were appointed to the council treasuries.

267- With regard to refresher courses, the capacity of regional and local councils staff were developed. Thus, it was organized in June 2022, regional workshops to develop the capacity of the presidents of regional councils in project management, planning and prioritisation of road maintenance projects. For its part, the Regional Council of the Centre Region attended a series of webinars organised by *Expertise France* and MINDDEVEL at the end of which 2 study trips were organised from 19 to 25 November 2022 to Morocco.

268- A workshop on the role of municipal councillors in the preparation of the budget through policy debate was organised on 16 December 2022 in Garoua, by the Garoua Council and MINDDEVEL.

269- Furthermore, councils recruited staff. This was the case of the Bafoussam City Council which not only, following a call for applications, recruited supervisors and managers but also formed a joint commission for staff promotion.

270- MINDDEVEL produced a statistics report of Regional and Local council staff and trade unions, which lists 20,738 employees. In collaboration with FEICOM and MINFI, MINDDEVEL ensured the regular payment of salaries of 1,050 out of 1,302 municipal councillors and that of 67 out of 72 senior officials and members of regional councils, for a total amount of CFAF2,713,816,950⁶⁴.

⁶⁴ About 4,143,231.98 Euros.

3) Mobilisation of Institutional and Normative Resources

271- Procedures on the exercise of the council police and the exercise of some powers transferred to the regions and certain aspects of local taxation were clarified.

a) Clarification on the Exercise of the Council Police

272- Decree No. 2022/354 of 9 August 2022 to lay down procedures for the exercise of the municipal police provides for the setting up of a municipal police service, its organisation and training, its resources, relations with forces of law and order and sanctions. The decree provides that under the supervision of the representative of the State, the municipal police, under the leadership of the mayor, shall maintain order and tranquillity, safety, security, and public sanitation within the Council territory. The instrument was enacted in response to some abuses attributed to council police officers.

273- Operationally, the decree specifies that municipal police officers cannot substitute forces of law and order or use force on the population, subject to cases of self-defence.

b) Clarification on the Exercise of some Powers transferred to the Regions and some Aspects of Local Taxation

274- Pursuant to 4 decrees of 2 November 2022, MINTOUL, MINT, MINEPDED and MINH DU laid down the terms and conditions of the exercise of some powers transferred to the regions.

275- Besides, the normative framework of local taxation was enhanced with Joint Instruction No. 22/479/IC/MINFI/MINDDEVEL of 11 April 2022 on the nomenclature of the supporting documents of the budgetary and accounting operations of Regional and Local councils, Order No. 62/A/MINDDEVEL of 18 April 2022 to lay down the nomenclature of the programmes applicable to Regional and Local councils and Joint Circular No. 7992/LC/MINFI/MINDDEVEL of 6 October 2022 on the preparation of Regional and Local councils budgets for 2023 financial year.

B: Deployment of Decentralised Bodies: The Case of Public Independent Conciliators

276- Public Independent Conciliators (PICs) appointed to North West Region and South West Region, in charge of examining and amicably settling disputes between users and regional and council⁶⁵ administration, carried out their activities throughout the year. By November 2022, they had received just over 135 petitions, most of which were already processed.

277- PICs in the North West Region designed a website (www.opic-cam.org) that contains its initiatives. The office of the PIC organised a training workshop for local councils in the Region from 27 to 28 October 2022 in Bamenda, on rights, duties and respect for ethics. In December 2022, it trained some 40 community stakeholders in partnership with PIC.

278- PICs in South West Region organised on 21 September in Buea, training on its duties, for 23 business owners.

C: Monitoring Council Action

279- In addition to controlling the management of public property by the Supreme State Audit Office (CONSUPE) (**§869**), controlling and monitoring the execution of budgets by MINFI and ensuring legality (compliance with the legal framework and administrative management) by MIND-DEVEL⁶⁶, the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court examined the accounts of Council Accountants (**§871**). PNDP continued the implementation of Phase II of citizen control of public action known as Scorecard in 176 Councils in the 10 regions through surveys conducted with the population of the councils to record their appreciation of the services provided by the said councils on access to drinking water, health and council services.

280- Furthermore, the National Control Brigade of Councils at MINDDEVEL supported the holding of Budget Orientation Discussions in 26 councils in North Region, Littoral Region and South West Region and contributed to the establishment of 35 anti-corruption units and 10 neighbouring committees within the councils.

⁶⁵ Article 367-3 of the General Code of Local and Regional Authorities

⁶⁶ MINDDEVEL conducted 11 control missions in the following Councils: Eseka, Mbankomo, Awae, Dibang, Makari, Nganha, Biwong-Bane, Banwa, Lagdo, Ngoro and Yokadouma.

D: Consolidation of Decentralised Cooperation

281- At the international level, 126 councils in the Centre Region, South Region, East Region, West Region, North West Region and South West Region maintained relations with councils abroad. Trade unions of Menoua and Mbam-and-Inoubou Councils were granted CFAF25,773,894⁶⁷ and CFAF140,000,000⁶⁸ respectively by foreign partners for the payment of trade union counterpart. The number of council trade unions increased from 19 in 2021 to 27.

282- The Fouban Council and the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) signed a financial agreement on 7 September 2022 in Paris, to support Project Management in the renovation of the former town hall into a cultural and sports centre. Out of the 280,000 Euros (About CFAF183,400,000) as cost of the project, AIMF will provide 200,000 Euros (About CFAF131,000,000) and 80,000Euros (About CFAF52,400,000) will be provided by the Fouban Council.

283- Internally, two decentralised cooperation agreements were signed between the Douala Council and Kribi City Council in November 2022 for the achievement of common interest projects and between the Bana, Bangangte and Bafang Councils (18 August 2022) for the sustainable management of mountain landscape.

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284- The year 2022 was rich in initiatives aimed at deepening participation in the public service, boosting participation in political life and consolidating local participation in the management of public affairs. One of the challenges was responding to disputes on the designation of traditional rulers.

⁶⁷ About 39,349.46 Euros.

⁶⁸ About 213,740.46 Euros



CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

285- The year 2022 was replete with initiatives designed to boost and consolidate participation in the public service, in political life and in the management of public affairs at local level. Addressing protests regarding the appointment of traditional rulers constituted one of the challenges.

286- The Government paid particular attention to the promotion and protection of civil and political rights. Guaranteeing these rights required a range of actions and measures on the part of the State to ensure their enjoyment.

287- With regard to the right to physical and moral integrity and liberty, life was preserved thanks to firefighting interventions and awareness-raising campaigns on the respect for town planning regulations. Violators of the right to physical and moral integrity, whether vertical or horizontal were punished and, victims compensated. The fight against all forms of deprivation of liberty continued with preventive and repressive measures. The maintenance and improvement of the road network and road safety campaigns helped to fight against road accidents.

288- In terms of guaranteeing access to justice and the right to fair trial, the judicial map was widened. Controls conducted by the General Inspectorate of Judicial Services helped address court congestion and maintain efficiency and discipline within the Corps of Judicial and Legal Officers.

289- The fight against cybercrime was stepped up. The State also maintained access to viable information by ensuring the stability of sources and securing the use of electronic communications. Regulators played their role by taking both preventive and repressive action, while the courts sanctioned misconduct by professionals or private individuals in the communications and telecommunications sector. RLAs were more dynamic, effectively engaging in activities and strengthening structures. They also continued to transfer skills and financial resources.

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290- This improvement should not overshadow the progress which still needs to be made, namely in terms of increasing the number of courts, reducing the number of road fatalities and adequately punishing perpetrators of human rights violations.

291- Advances in the promotion of civil rights augur well for a similar implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, given the interdependence of Human Rights.

PART TWO

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



INTRODUCTION TO PART TWO

292- Despite various challenges relating among others to financial resources, tough economic environment and tense security situation in some localities, the Government remained committed to implementing economic, social and cultural rights.

293- In addition to strengthening the institutional and normative framework, further measures taken were mostly operational in order to effectively meet the needs of the population. Moreover, strategic instruments were adopted to ensure coherence of actions undertaken or to be undertaken.

294- This part, which focuses on measures adopted to implement economic, social and cultural rights is structured as follows:

- Right to Education
- Right to Health
- Right to an adequate Standard of Living
- Right to Work and Social Security
- Right to Culture and Leisure
- Right to a Healthy Environment.



CHAPTER

1

RIGHT TO EDUCATION



295- In 2022, Government made efforts to guarantee the right to education in the subsectors of Basic Education, Secondary Education and Higher Education, in a context of strike by teachers referred to as “*On a trop supporté*”, (*we have been too lenient*), Claims made by basic education and secondary education teachers.

SECTION 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AT PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

296- Access to education at nursery and primary levels was guaranteed in a context where measures were taken to meet the demands made by teachers in a sit-down strike. Besides, Government undertook to reduce violence in schools and school dropout. The results of official and competitive examinations were satisfactory.

§1: Sit-down Strike by Teachers

297- On 21 February 2022, a sit-down strike was launched by secondary school teachers and followed by basic education teachers to protest against the slowness observed in the processing of their career files and delays in payment of their financial dues. They also sought to improve their working conditions and speed up management of their careers, and payment of their financial dues.

§2: Measures taken to address Claims by Teachers

298- The following measures were taken to address the demands made by teachers of basic education: payment of housing allowances to 3,093 staff; payment of financial dues to 1,322 contract teachers; start of payment of related arrears amounting to CFAF3,500,000,000⁶⁹ on an estimated debt of CFAF6,100,000,000⁷⁰; and payment of integration dues for a monthly financial package of CFAF387,000,000⁷¹.

§3: Access to Nursery Education

299- Supply of nursery education relatively met demand.

⁶⁹ About 5,343,511.45 Euros.

⁷⁰ About 9,312,977.19 Euros.

⁷¹ About 590,839.69 Euros.

A: Supply of Nursery Education

300- There were 30,246 nursery school teachers in 2022, including 29,540 women and 706 men. In this group, there were 86 former temporary contract teachers, and also 12,468 nurseries, including 5,545 public nurseries and 6,923 private nurseries. Grants allocated to private nurseries amounted to CFAF1,006,091,000⁷².

301- Furthermore, 185,757 teaching aids were distributed to teachers and 1,330,446 to nursery kids.

B: Demand for Nursery Education

302- The total nursery enrolment for the 2021/2022 academic year stood at 596,079 (296,699 boys and 299,380 girls), including 216,509 in the English subsystem and 379,570 in the French subsystem. Centre Region had the largest enrolment (188,893 pupils) while Adamawa Region had the smallest enrolment (17,170 pupils). The Gross Schooling Rate (GSR) was 39.7%⁷³.

§4: Access to Primary Education

303- Primary education supply made it possible to meet the ever-increasing demand.

A: Primary Education Supply

304- In 2022, infrastructure, free textbook distribution and State support to private primary education guaranteed the right to education. The number of teachers remained constant.

1) Infrastructure Supply

305- In 2022, some 85 public primary schools were built. In the primary cycle, 13,257 schools were identified, having 58,257 classrooms, of which 47,925 were constructed with permanent materials, representing 82.3%. At the national level, a classroom contained 49 pupils averagely. This ratio stood at 63 pupils per classroom in public schools as against 30 in private schools.

⁷² About 1,536,016.79 Euros.

⁷³ See school census data report, December 2022

2) Free Distribution of Textbooks

306- As part of Cameroon Education Reform Support Programme (PAREC)⁷⁴, 1,803,906 essential French and English textbooks were distributed in public primary schools to *Cours moyens première et deuxième années* for the French subsystem and classes 5 and 6 for the English subsystem.

3) State Support to Private Primary Education

307- In 2022, schools received an allocation of CFAF1,584,626,000⁷⁵ as part of private education grants.

4) Preschool and Primary School Staff Strength

308- In 2021/2022 academic year, the number of primary school teachers stood at 122,597, with 65,383 in public schools and 47,214 in private schools. Of the 112,597 teachers identified, 58% were women. The pupil/teacher ratio stood at 43 pupils per teacher. The ratio recorded 56 pupils per teacher in public schools, 25 pupils per teacher in private schools and 70 pupils per teacher in public schools formerly known as Native Authority schools.

B: Demand for Primary Education

309- The national pupil enrolment stood at 4,944,290 in 2021/2022 academic year, including 2,340,740 girls and 2,603,550 boys. GSR stood at 119% with Far North Region registering the largest enrolment (1,056,333 pupils) and North West Region the least enrolment (167,344 pupils).

§5: Results of Official and Competitive Examinations

310- The national coverage rate of programmes evaluated at 94.55% made it possible to obtain satisfactory results in official examinations and common entrance into Form I for both general and technical education.

A: Results of Official Examinations

311- Results of the 2022 session of primary school official examinations were as follows:

⁷⁴ The operation that began 2 years before, started with classes 1 and 2 pupils who received some 3,000,000 textbooks in 2020 and continued in 2021 with classes 3 and 4 pupils who received some 2,500,000 textbooks.

⁷⁵ About 2,419,276.34 Euros.

Certificate d'Etudes Primaires: Registered: 339,732 Sat: 333,051 Passed: 292,597 (138,998 girls and 153,599 boys).

312- First School Leaving Certificate: Registered: 126,280 Sat: 124,799; Passed: 119,708 (138,998 girls and 153,599 boys).

B: Results of Competitive Entrance Examinations

313- Concours d'entrée en 6^{ème}: Registered: 288,677 Sat: 283,619 Passed: 223,319 (108 822 girls and 114 497 boys).

314- Common Entrance: Registered: 89,846, Sat: 88,645 Passed: 76 779 (40,532 girls and 36,247 boys).

315-Concours d'entrée en 1^{ère} année technique: Registered: 95,876 ; Sat: 93,806 ; Passed: 74,768 (30,863 girls and 43,905 boys).

§6: Combating School Violence

316- On 25 January 2022, an amateur video circulated on social media, causing collective commotion and outrage. The video featured a teacher named **B.N.** of Bilingual Primary School "La Lauréate" of Bilongue (Douala III Subdivision), administering corporal punishment with a machete, a hammer and a whip, on a 9-year-old pupil, after rubbing pepper on his body. Government condemned the act and granted financial support for the treatment of the victim.

317- In addition, the suspect was arrested and legal proceedings initiated against him.

§7: Curbing School Dropout

318- In villages with mining sites, especially in East Region, awareness-raising campaigns were organised for parents with regard to their children who leave school for mines.

319- Nurseries were opened by Alliance for the Promotion of Education and Development (APED), especially in Batouri, to accommodate children aged 3 to 6 whose parents work in mines. The goal of the campaigns is to prevent connection between children and mining activity.

320- Besides, SONAMINES, which launched the operation "no children in mines", regularly checked the sites likely to harbour children.

SECTION 2: RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

321- Access to education in secondary schools was guaranteed in a context where the settlement of claims by teachers was initiated and inclusive education consolidated. Enhanced learning led to satisfactory results in official examinations. Combating illegal schools and violence in schools, as well as suppression of obstacles to the right to education were also implemented.

§1: Guaranteeing Resumption of Classes following Claims by Teachers

322- In a bid to guarantee the right to education, corrective measures were implemented to meet the demands of teachers and a new procedure was designed to speed up the processing of their career files.

A: Implementation of Corrective Measures

323- The following measures were taken to meet the demands of both secondary and basic education teachers: financial absorption of secondary school teachers still under the 2/3 principle and the allocation, since March 2022, of housing allowance to all secondary school teachers who did not benefit from it, for a monthly cost of CFAF1,500,000,000⁷⁶; financial absorption of 4,711 State agents in the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC), including 3,966 teachers of the 2021 Batch; processing of promotion in grade files, and 10,382 incremental positions at a monthly cost of CFAF 484,500,000⁷⁷; payment update of 139,729 incremental positions signed before 1 April 2022 for 64,389 teachers at a monthly cost of CFAF1,600,000,000⁷⁸; payment from May 2022 of CFAF3,500,000,000⁷⁹ each month, of the debt due for arrears estimated at CFAF 54,500,000,000⁸⁰ (as at 31 August 2022, CFAF14,000,000,000⁸¹ had already been paid).

⁷⁶ About 2,290,076.34 Euros.

⁷⁷ About 739,694.66 Euros.

⁷⁸ About 2,442,748.09 Euros.

⁷⁹ About 5,343,511.45 Euros.

⁸⁰ About 83,206,106.87 Euros.

⁸¹ About 21,374,045.80 Euros.

B: Promptness in the Processing of Teacher Career Files

324-MINFOPRA officially launched the new absorption procedure of teachers who graduated from Higher Teacher Training Colleges and Higher Technical Teacher Training Colleges. The procedure was simplified and put online. Subsequently, teachers will be fully absorbed within 3 months instead of 3 years as was in the past. To make this new procedure effective, the 10 regional delegations of MINESEC were equipped with IT tools and on 5 November 2022, users of these tools were trained to properly understand the new process of digitising files.

§2: Access to Secondary Education

325-Secondary education supply was guaranteed to satisfy demand.

A: Supply of Secondary Education

326- In a bid to address the academic year under review, 4,371 secondary schools were opened, including 2,808 public schools and 1,563 private schools (an increase from 2021 when there were 4,309 schools, including 2,790 public schools and 1,519 private schools).

327- Some 61,758 classrooms were built nationwide, 35,002 in public schools and 26,756 in private schools. At the level of Teacher Training Colleges in both General and Technical Education, 1,515 classrooms were built, including 799 in public institutions and 716 in private institutions.

328- There were 66,089 desks and 71,760 computers, of which 12,381 for staff and 59,379 for students provided to Public and Private General, Technical and Vocational Secondary Schools.

329- In addition, 1,819 libraries, 2,770 computer laboratories, 1,315 science laboratories, 194 language laboratories, 9,290 female toilets, 9,097 male toilets, 2,338 mixed toilets and 2,262 school canteens were provided.

330- In 2022, some 1,297,858 students were provided with textbooks and the number of teachers in secondary schools stood at 77,555, including 33,330 high school teachers, 27,156 secondary school teachers, 4,256 contract teachers and 12,813 part-time teachers. The number of teachers serving in Teacher Training Colleges stood at 1,920, of which 1,899 were civil servants (1,217 women and 682 men) and 21 contract

workers (9 women and 12 men). Technical Teacher Training Colleges had 715 teachers (365 women and 350 men), including 680 civil servants (346 women and 334 men), 25 contract workers (14 women and 11 men) and 10 part-time teachers (5 men and 5 women).

B: Demand for education

331- In 2022, there were 1,983,379 students (937,237 girls and 1,046,142 boys) in general and technical secondary schools as against 1,919,924 students (895,996 girls and 1,022,928 boys) in 2021. A total of 1,386,270 students (629,168 girls and 757,102 boys) were enrolled in public schools and 597,109 (308,069 girls and 289,040 boys) in private schools. GSR was 47.86% (45.26% girls and 50.45% boys).

§3: Consolidating Inclusive Education

332- By Circular No. 2/22/C/MINESEC/CAB of 22 April 2022 on the management of cases of child pregnancy in public and private secondary schools, a pregnant student shall have the right to continue schooling until the 26th week of pregnancy when she may apply for maternity leave. The measure aimed at reducing discrimination in schools and promoting girl education.

§4: Enhancing Learning

333- Continued digitalisation of teaching and capacity development of teachers whose number remained constant, helped enhance learning in secondary education.

A: Further Digitalisation of Education

334- In addition to continued face-to-face courses, digital tools helped further distance learning in order to cover syllabuses, increase performance and achieve results.

335- In some secondary schools, both in urban⁸² and rural⁸³ areas, digitised courses or workbooks developed in the Centre for Distance Learning were circulated in parent's WhatsApp groups. Lectures and notes were also available on You Tube (MINESEC distance Learning).

⁸² Including *Lycée Technique Charles Atangana* (Yaounde).

⁸³ Including *lycée de Mora, de Kourbi* (Far North Region) ; *Lycées Technique d'Angossas, CETIC de Mindourou Dja* (East Region).

336- Furthermore, platforms such as www.minesec-distancelearning.cm enabled students, including external candidates for certification examinations, to access courses that comply with official syllabuses. In rural areas, partners such as UNICEF and Evo Solutions supported the State with a donation of 6,400 tablets in which resources produced at the Centre for Distance Learning were introduced before they were forwarded to schools with internet connection or electricity challenges.

B: Capacity Development of Teachers

337- In a bid to equip trainers with data and ICT skills and enhance the quality of teaching and learning, a workshop was held in Yaounde on 2 September 2022 on the theme: *Commitment of stakeholders of the education system in Littoral Region, West Region, South Region, Centre Region, East Region and North Region*". The workshop was an opportunity to implement the Resilience and Innovation Adaptation Project (RIAP) in a context of crisis and the digital age.

C: Secondary School Staff Strength

338- In 2021/2022 academic year, there were 118,475 teachers in secondary schools and teacher training colleges including 81,574 in public schools and 36,901 in private schools.

§5: Combating/Fight against Illegal Schools

339- By Order No. 333/22/MINESEC/SEESSEN/SG/DAJ/DESB/DESTP/DEN/BNCEP of 9 August 2022 to close down some private schools for shortcomings or violation of the legal formalities on the opening of schools, 118 schools were closed down in the following regions: 2 in Adamawa Region, 38 in Centre Region, 10 in East Region, 54 in Littoral Region, 6 in West Region and 7 in South Region.

§6: Combating School Violence

340- On 28 April 2022, a meeting of the national platform for child protection including children in emergency situations was held in Yaounde. The purpose was to assess strategies and actions for child protection from violence in and out of school and the reduction of the prevalence of drug abuse.

341- Besides, an international symposium on violence in schools held in Yaounde from 20 to 21 December 2022 under the leadership of MI-NESEC. The meeting helped identify the causes of such deviance in schools and make recommendations to remedy same. At the meeting, it was stressed that the main cause of violence in schools remains drug abuse. Discussions revealed that 70% of school violence comes from secondary grammar schools and 30% from secondary technical schools.

342- Recommendations to the education community included increase in school supervision and security staff, adoption of video surveillance, building of fences round schools, provision of adequate psychosocial assistance to students in need and the introduction of a peace education module in curricula.

343- The project “*My school, My Island of Peace*” implemented by the Peace and Security Network of the Young African Leaders Initiative, in collaboration with the Peace and Security Office of the Sub-Saharan Africa Competence Centre of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, promoted the training of 50 youths from schools in Yaounde in the dissemination of awareness-raising messages against school violence.

§7: Suppression of Violation of the Right to Education

344- By Judgment No. 10/CRIM of 22 February 2022, the High Court of Menoua found **E.R.**, Bursar of Government Bilingual High School Santchou, guilty of misappropriation of public property, including the sum of CFAF7,107,557⁸⁴, representing contributions of the Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) of the school. The accused was convicted and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and fine of CFAF57,815⁸⁵. The Court further noted that Government Bilingual High School Santchou and PTA of that institution did no longer appear before the Court to lay their claim for damages, on the ground that their lawyer had been withdrawn from the case. In addition, the Court dismissed the Bursar from office, excluded him from all other duties in any school, and ordered the publication of the Judgment in the national daily newspaper “*Cameroon Tribune*”. Considering that the convict was over 60 years old, the Court issued a remand warrant only for the execution of the prison sentence.

⁸⁴ About 10,851.23 Euros.

⁸⁵ About 88.27 Euros.

§8: Overview of Results of 2022 Session of Official Examinations

345- Syllabuses of 2021/2022 academic year were covered at 89.74%, and led to satisfactory results in the following examinations: *Baccalauréat, Brevet de Technicien, Brevets Professionnels, Probatoire de l'Enseignement Général, Probatoire de l'Enseignement Technique Commercial et Industriel, Probatoire de Brevet de Technicien, BEPC, CAP STT et Industriel, CAPIEMP and CAPIET, GCE Advanced Level, GCE Ordinary Level, Technical Vocational Education Examinations Intermediate Level, and the Technical Vocational Education Examinations Advanced Level.*

A: Results of Baccalauréat Examinations Nationwide

346- Baccalauréat Littéraire: Registered: 76,395 Sat: 75,615 Passed: 53,120 (31,208 girls and 21,912 boys).

347- Baccalauréat Scientifique: Registered: 61,232 Sat: 60,634 Passed: 36,784 (17,846 girls and 18,938 boys).

348- Baccalauréat Technique Commercial: Registered: 10,339 Sat: 10,263 Passed: 7,019 (4,677 girls and 2,342 boys).

349- Baccalauréat Technique Industriel: Registered: 10,399 ; Sat: 10,271; Passed: 7,484 (1,468 girls and 6,016 boys).

B: Results of Brevets de Technicien Examinations

350- Brevet de Technicien Commercial: Registered: 4,721 Sat: 4,685 Passed: 3,661 (3,502 girls and 159 boys).

351- Brevet de Technicien Industriel: Registered: 11,841 Sat: 11,722 Passed: 8,961 (2,279 girls and 6,682 boys).

C: Results of Brevets Professionnels Examinations

352- Brevet Professionnel Commercial: Registered: 23 Sat: 17 Passed: 15 (11 girls and 4 boys).

353- Brevet Professionnel Industriel: Registered: 273, Sat: 265 and 207 passed (175 girls and 42 boys).

D: Results of *Probatoire de l'Enseignement Général* Examinations

354- Probatoire Littéraire: Registered: 1 12,907. Sat: 1 10,387 Passed: 46,060 (25,891 girls and 20,169 boys).

355- Probatoire Scientifique: Registered: 94,846 Sat: 93,408 Passed: 41,365 (19,673 girls and 21,692 boys).

E: Results of *Probatoire de l'Enseignement Technique Commercial et Industriel*

356- Probatoire de l'Enseignement Technique Commercial: Registered: 10,757 Sat: 10,57 Passed: 6,462 (4,313 girls and 2,149 boys).

357- Probatoire de l'Enseignement Technique Industriel: Registered: 32,400 Sat: 30,637 Passed: 9,176 (2,377 girls and 6,799 boys).

F: Results of *Probatoire du Brevet de Technicien*

358- Probatoire du Brevet de Technicien Commercial: Registered: 4,781 Sat: 4,698 Passed: 3,765 (3,530 girls and 235 boys).

359- Probatoire du Brevet de Technicien Industriel: Registered: 12,805 Sat: 12,572 Passed: 8,632 (2,031 girls and 6,601 boys).

G: Results of *Brevet d'Études du Premier Cycle (BEPC)*

360- BEPC: Registered: 203,217 Sat: 200,558 Passed: 134,135 (67,097 girls and 67,038 boys).

361- BEPC Bilingue: Registered: 3,053 Sat: 3,038 Passed: 2,617 (1,571 girls and 1,046 boys).

H: Results of *Certificats d'Aptitude Professionnelle Sciences et Technologie du Tertiaire et du CAP Industriel*

362- CAP en Sciences et Technologie du Tertiaire (STT): Registered: 13,480 Sat: 13,301 Passed: 7,251 (5,988 girls and 1,263 boys).

363- CAP Industriel: Registered: 32,747 Sat: 32,279 Passed: 25,053 (5,491 girls and 19,562 boys).

I: Results of CAPIEMP⁸⁶ and CAPIET⁸⁷

364- CAPIEMP: Registered: 6,053 Sat: 5,979 Passed: 5,765 (4,229 girls and 1,536 boys)

365-CAPIET:Registered: 2,093 Sat: 2,072 Passed: 1,866 (1,117 girls and 754 boys)

J: Results of GCE Advanced Level

366-GCE Advanced Level: Registered: 62,511 Sat: 61,553 Passed: 42,762 Percentage pass: 69.47% as against 61.81% in 2021.

K: Results of GCE Ordinary Level General

367- GCE Ordinary Level: Registered: 96,935 Sat: 84,497 Passed: 56,621 Percentage pass: 67.01% as against 59.05% in 2021.

L: Technical Vocational Education Examinations Intermediate Level Results

368- Technical Vocational Education Examinations Intermediate level: Registered: 14,194 Sat: 13,425 Passed: 8,883 Percentage pass: of 66.17% as against 58.78% in 2021.

M: Technical Vocational Education Examinations Advanced Level Results

369- Registered: 8,625 Sat: 8,502 Passed: 6,659 Percentage pass: 78.32% compared to 71.35% in 2021.

SECTION 3: GUARANTEEING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

370- In response to demand for higher education, the provision of education was guaranteed and training obtained abroad assessed.

§1: Education Supply in Higher Education

371- To ensure the provision of education in higher education, the university map was expanded and human resources increased.

⁸⁶ Certificat d'Aptitude Pédagogique d'Instituteurs de l'Enseignement Maternel et Primaire.

⁸⁷ Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle d'Instituteurs de l'Enseignement Technique.

A: Expansion of the University Map

372- By Decree No. 2022/3 of 5 January 2022, the University of Bertoua, the University of Ebolowa and the University of Garoua were opened, bringing the number of State universities to 11, in addition to the Congo-Cameroon Inter-State University and the 415 private institutes of higher education.

B: Increase in Human Resources

373- Following Press Release No. 2/SG/PM of 21 November 2022 to publish the results of Phase III of the special recruitment of Lecturers in the 11 State universities, 573 new Lecturers were recruited for State universities, bringing the number of permanent Lecturers in State universities to 6,911, including 5,187 men and 1,724 women. These included Professors (711⁸⁸), Associate Professors (1,326⁸⁹), Senior Lecturers (2,998⁹⁰) Lecturers (1,574⁹¹) and Research *attaché* (302⁹²).

§2: Demand in University Education

374- The university student population was estimated at 391,492 in 2022, including 182,640 female students and 208,852 male students. They attended State universities (289,045⁹³), private institutes of higher education (98,650⁹⁴) and the Pan-African Higher Institute (3,797⁹⁵).

§3: Evaluation of Training obtained Abroad

375- In 2022, the National Commission for the evaluation of training offered abroad held 4 sessions in Yaounde to authenticate and find the equivalents of diplomas obtained in foreign countries, in the Cameroon university system. At the end of the sessions, 6,000 diplomas were

⁸⁸ Including 616 men and 95 women.

⁸⁹ Including 1,005 men and 321 women.

⁹⁰ Including 2,296 men and 702 women.

⁹¹ Including 1,061 men and 513 women.

⁹² Including 209 men and 93 women.

⁹³ Including 126,697 women and 162,348 men.

⁹⁴ Including 54,583 women and 44,067 men.

⁹⁵ Including 1,360 women and 2,437 men.

examined, of which 5,595 equivalents were granted, 62 rejected⁹⁶ and 37 false diplomas detected.

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376- In spite of the sit-down strikes that hampered the right to education, Government took necessary measures that enabled continuous teaching and helped achieve satisfactory results in official examinations. However, the State is expected to consolidate the fight against school violence, ensure optimal support for teachers so as to achieve peaceful and sustained enjoyment of the right to education.

⁹⁶ The reasons for rejection included lack of authorisation, unauthorised off-site training, unlicensed on-line training, fake certificates and training without certificate. Since statistics of fake certificates is on the increase, Government required students wishing to train abroad, to ensure that the training to which they aspire is accredited in Cameroon.

CHAPTER

2

THE RIGHT TO
HEALTH



377- In 2022, Government continued to guarantee the right to health which is Sustainable Development Goal 3. Hence, health promotion, prevention and management of diseases, especially with the outbreak of some epidemic prone diseases, maternal, adolescent and child health as well as strengthening the health system continued to be a point of concern. A new impetus was given to reproductive health, through the adoption of a law relating to Medically Assisted Reproduction and a law relating to research involving human subjects.

SECTION 1: HEALTH PROMOTION

378- In order to promote health, community action was taken, measures were initiated to improve on the living environment, combat malnutrition and illicit or harmful substances among others.

§1: Community Action for Health Promotion

379- In line with the 2021-2025 National Strategic Plan for Community Health which requires the participation of all stakeholders of the community, 40 Mayors took part in a capacity-building and advocacy meeting in Yaounde on 26 October 2022. At this meeting they took a commitment to improve on community health in their localities by making it a priority, by educating communities on how to identify health problems, as well as properly mobilising and managing resources. The meeting was jointly organised by MINSANTE, UNICEF, the United Councils and Cities of Cameroon and *Impact Santé Afrique*.

380- Also, 100 CSO leaders were trained on Primary healthcare outreach.

§2: Improving the Living Environment of the Population

381- In order to continue the promotion of a healthy environment, actions were taken to improve access to portable water (See §532 et seq), and to improve on waste management (see §738 et seq)

382- In 2022, 17 health districts out of 20 targeted in the northern regions practised Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). Moreover, CLTS was initiated in 6 villages in the Centre, East and South Regions (that is 3 out of the 6 regions not yet covered by CLTS).

§3: Combating Malnutrition

383- During the first Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Action Week SASNIM of 2022, some 5,242,049 children aged 6 to 59 months out of 5,709,806 targeted received vitamin A supplements, representing a national coverage rate of 92%. During the second Action Week 4,934,147 children of the same age group were supplemented with vitamin A.

384- In the context of the IFAS initiative, the skills of 32 trainers were enhanced on providing nutrition. Education on iron and folic acid supplementation training was given to 485 teachers from 201 secondary schools. Thus, 82,361 adolescent girls who enrolled in the programme in the Far North and North regions, were supplemented.

§4: Combating Illicit or Harmful Substances

385- According to the statistics of the National Drug Control Committee published in 2022, 21% of persons of school age have consumed drugs.

386- In 2022, through the *Operation Halte au Commerce Illicite HAL-COMI*, 100,000 tablets of Tramadol and Diapazan used as narcotics by some and 800 kg of cannabis sativa were seized by the customs department. Contraband pharmaceutical products were further seized through this Operation including 21,000 syringes and 95 tons of medication.

SECTION 2: PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DISEASES

387- Actions were taken to prevent diseases as well as to treat sick persons.

§1: Prevention of Diseases

388- Measures continued to be taken to prevent the occurrence of communicable and non-communicable diseases

A: Communicable Diseases

389- Communicable diseases included priority communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases and epidemics.

1) Priority Communicable Diseases

390- As regards **malaria** prevention, the 4th national campaign for the distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Mosquito Nets (LLINs) was launched

on 5 June 2022 and should run until 2023. The objective of this campaign, in 3 phases, was to distribute 16,756,200 LLINs. For phases 1 and 2 in 2022, 11,206,941 LLINs were distributed meanwhile, the targeted number was 10,983,775, representing a success rate of 102%. Challenges faced include delays in transporting LLINs from the regional headquarters to health districts and in the acquisition of LLINs for regions (Centre and South) under state funding

391- As regards the prevention of HIV, 26,782,199 male condoms compared to 33,111,351 in 2021. Some 2,948,355 persons were screened compared to 3,479,989 in 2021.

392- Some 169,374 blood bags were tested for viral hepatitis B in the context of blood transfusion. Among donors, 8,634 were positive, representing a positivity rate of 5.10%, slightly lower than that in 2021 (5.67%).

2) Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

393- Some 1,622 new cases of yaws were diagnosed out of the 2,000 targeted (81.1%), 264 new cases of buruli ulcer were diagnosed out of the 200 targeted (132%) while 8 cases of leishmaniasis were diagnosed out of 10 expected (80%).

3) Epidemic Prone Diseases

394- The 4th international forum on the management of emergencies and public health events in Cameroun was held from 9 to 11 November 2022 in Yaounde. The aim of the forum was to strengthen the resilience and collaboration of health systems during health crises, and to improve the multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach needed for better management of emergencies. Developing tools for the monitoring of interventions of the roadmap on the elimination of cholera in Cameroon and setting up a multi-sectoral coordination framework to respond to public health emergencies were some of the recommendations made among many others.

395- Considering the fact that the percentage of the target population who received full doses of the **covid-19** vaccin was 4.7% (660,451 persons out of a target population of 13,944,491) at the end of 2021, Government intensified campaigns in 2022. Hence, 3,251,175 received at least one dose of the vaccin in 2022 representing 23.6% of the target population.

396- Of the 55% of health districts declared to be experiencing a measles epidemic, 90% of them carried out a vaccination response in accordance with national guidelines

397- Furthermore, 77,612 communication materials on cholera were produced.

B: Non-Communicable Diseases

398- Actions taken to prevent non-communicable diseases included those on cancer and mental health issues.

1) Cancer

399- Screening campaigns were organised including those to mark the cancer awareness month in October. Such campaigns included that at the Yaounde Gyneco-Obstetric and Pediatric hospital in Yaounde from 10 to 20 October 2022. As of 14 October 2022, over 500 women had been screened for breast and cervical cancers. On 7 October a free screening campaign for cervical cancer was organised at the Bonassama District Hospital in Douala.

2) Mental Illnesses

400- Furthermore, 50 non-specialist staff from 32 health districts and Regional Delegations of Health were trained in the use of the simplified Mental Health Guide and the awareness of 70 media men and women was raised on mental health issues.

3) Some other Non-Communicable Diseases

401- On 14 and 15 November 2022, on the occasion of the World diabetes day, a free screening campaign, notably for diabetes, hypertension and obesity was organised at the Gynaeco Obstetric Hospital in Douala. The campaign targeted 150 persons.

§2: Management of Diseases

402- Treatment continued to be offered to persons infected with diseases both for communicable and non-communicable diseases.

A: Communicable Diseases

403- Measures were taken to manage communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and epidemics such as cholera.

1) Priority Communicable Diseases

404- Concerning **malaria**, there were 2,063,695 confirmed cases of simple malaria of which 1,819,101 (88.1%) were treated with 1st line ACTs and 1,878,449 (91.0%) with 2nd line ACTs. There were 1,263,686 confirmed cases of severe malaria of which 611,244 (48.4%) were treated with artesunate-1st line and 1,250,954 (99.0%) treated with injections. For the treatment of malaria in health facilities the following actions were taken: Artesunate injection (60.4%); rapid diagnostic tests (70.1%) and Sulfadoxine pyrimethamine (69.6%).

405- As concerns **HIV/AIDS**, out of the 480,228 (including 29,168 (6.1%) children under 15 and 319,509 (66.5%) women) Persons Living with HIV (PLWHA), 424,771 were on antiretrovirals (ARVs), compared to 388,358 in 2021. ARVs continued to be free as well as follow-up tests and medication for the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases.

406- 406-The number of health facilities offering HIV treatment rose from 848 in 2018 to 2,909 in 2022.

407- In 2022, there were 10,198 HIV-related deaths, compared to 12,604 in 2021.

408- A positivity rate of 6.2% was recorded for **hepatitis B** and 3.3% for hepatitis C during screening in health facilities, with a treatment linkage rate of 9.3% (1306/13988) and 30.0% (1017/3391) for hepatitis B and hepatitis C respectively.

409- Some 25,286 cases of **tuberculosis** were registered and persons put under treatment in the country's 327 Tuberculosis Diagnostic and Treatment Centres within the framework of the National Tuberculosis Control Programme. The cities of Yaounde, Douala and the Far North and North Regions accounted for 57% of the cases. Continuous training was carried out for some 22 psycho-social agents at treatment centres in charge of supporting newly-diagnosed tuberculosis patients to adhere to treatment.

410- Some of the challenges faced by National Tuberculosis Control Programme include the non-implementation of control activities in prisons and refugee camps and difficulties in travelling to the field as planned due to major delays in the delivery of rolling stock.

2) Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

411- On 16 June 2022, a new agreement was signed between the Government and the Mectizan Donation Program (MDP) geared towards the acceleration of the elimination of onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis in Cameroon where 117 health districts out of the 135 classified as meso- and hyper-endemic were under treatment for onchocerciasis. Pursuant to this Agreement, the Government shall facilitate the entry into the country of Mectizan donated by the MDP free of charge and customs duties, and shall ensure its regular, safe and equitable distribution to all in need. MDP is expected to supply 11 to 13 billion tablets over the next 10 years.

3) Epidemic Prone Diseases

412- A total of 15,123 cases of **cholera** were recorded, including 303 deaths for a fatality rate of 2%. As regards response, the incident management system was strengthened at the central level and in affected regions to ensure that proper measures were taken including vaccination campaigns like the one conducted in the Minawao refugee camp in the Far North Region from 14 to 18 November 2022.

413- Statistics on **covid-19** from the start of the epidemic were as follows: 124,234 confirmed cases, 1,965 deaths, 122,230 recoveries (98.4%). Some 4 739 health personnel were infected including 61 deaths. The overall fatality rate was 1.6%. In 2022, there were 14,568 new infections with 112 deaths.

414- In the first quarter of 2022, the number of **yellow fever** cases was 47 including 7 deaths, giving a case fatality rate of 14.89%.

415- A total of 18 confirmed cases of **monkey pox** with 3 deaths were recorded in the South West Region. There was no **meningitis** epidemic in 2022. However, there were 1,473 suspected cases and 49 deaths recorded, representing a fatality rate of 3,3%.

B: Non-Communicable Diseases

416- Measures continued to be taken to treat various non-communicable diseases.

417- There were 14,141 suspected cases of breast **cancer** and 24 confirmed cases, 969 suspected cases of Cancer of the cervix and 52 confirmed cases, while there were 267 suspected cases of prostate cancer. Patients were provided treatment both at public and privately owned health facilities.

418- In 2022, there were 1,544 new cases of sickle cell anaemia with 19 deaths, 1,862 new cases of epilepsy with 14 deaths, 589 new cases of drug addiction with 2 deaths, 11,007 new cases of hypertension and 25 deaths reported, 11,217 new cases of diabetes with 159 deaths, 688 new cases of alcoholism with 22 deaths.

419- As regards persons with **mental illness**, 350 of them were admitted and cared for at the mental health specialised institution, the Jamot Hospital in Yaounde.

420- Concerning care for kidney patients on dialysis, 22 dialysis machines, 2 water treatment units, 28 chairs, 27 dialysis tables and other related equipment were purchased.

421- Globally, activities to prepare for the response to diseases included training of stakeholders, development of surveillance guidelines like was the case with **monkey pox**, monitoring and evaluation of surveillance systems as was the case with **meningitis**, the development of the research protocol and implementation of the STAR project on **hepatitis C** self-testing in most at risk populations.

SECTION 3: REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT AND CHILD HEALTH.

422- Reproductive health was enhanced particularly through the adoption of a new law and maternal health continued to be improved including measures to access services at low cost. Ensuring the prevention and treatment of diseases in children and adolescents was also of concern.

§1: Reproductive Health

423- To enhance human reproduction, Law No. 2022/014 of 14 July 2022 relating to Medically Assisted Reproduction in Cameroon was adopted.

424- The law provides that Medically Assisted Reproduction (MAR), shall include artificial insemination, *in vitro* fertilization and gamete and embryo transfer and also states those who are entitled to benefit from MAR (section 2)⁹⁷, states the relevant age of beneficiaries (section 11)⁹⁸. The parties seeking MAR shall enter into a written agreement with the medical facility providing the treatment prior to any medical procedure relating to MAR (section 19) which medical facilities must be approved to carry out the procedures in issue (section 13). With regard to the impact of MAR on filiation, the beneficiaries of MAR shall not contest their filiation with the child born through MAR (section 38)....

425- As per section 4, MAR shall be carried out with respect for human dignity, ethics and deontology, human personality and family. The law also lays down conditions for the donation and preservation of gametes (chapter 5), sets out prohibitions and administrative and criminal sanctions for the breach of such prohibitions (chapters 8 and 9)

426- Since the inauguration of the Gynaecological Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproductive Teaching Hospital in 2016, specialised in human reproduction, 354 births had been registered as of 1 November 2022.

427- Furthermore, a workshop on sexual reproductive health Reporting was held in Yaounde on 28 and 29 September 2022. The aim of this workshop, which was part of the *Reproductive Rights Reporting Project*, was organized by the Society of Gynecologist and Obstetricians Cameroon (SOGOC), Sisterspeak²³⁷ and the Canadian Embassy in Yaounde was to create a bond and possible collaboration between journalists and doctors and enhance reporting by journalists on issues around abortion. Some 40 journalists from 6 regions were trained.

⁹⁷- couples whose difficulty or inability to conceive is due to a medical diagnosed pathological condition;
- couples suffering from a serious congenital disease likely to be transmitted to the child;
- whoever may wish to have their gametes or germ tissues retrieved and preserved for subsequent medically assisted reproduction either voluntarily or as a result of medical treatment likely to impair their fertility

⁹⁸ As per section 11 those seeking MAR must be alive and at least 21 years of age. For the woman, the maximum age is 55 years, while there is no age limit for the man.

§2: Maternal Health

428- Moreover, the total number of women who attended antenatal clinic was 853,191 out of the 1,025,427 targeted, representing 83.2% compared to 86,7%) in 2021, Some 580,242 pregnant women received the LLINs representing 76.0%.

429- With regard to the Health Voucher, launched in 2014 which enables pregnant women to access healthcare, as at March 2022, a total of 383,522 health vouchers were sold and there were 276,187 deliveries and 219,296 echographies performed on pregnant women.

430- Maternities were inaugurated including the one at Ziling in the Mayo Tsanaga Division of the Far North Region on 11 July 2022. As concerns human resources, midwives were trained including 25 who graduated from the school of midwifery in Garoua on 27 October 2022.

431- The Project for the Support to Maternal, Neonatal and Child health (PASMNI) implemented between 2016 and 2022 in 35 health districts in the Far North, North, Adamawa, Centre and East Regions had as at June 2022, resulted in: the establishment of 20 maternity networks offering emergency obstetric and neonatal care, training in obstetric fistula management and emergency obstetric care and the acquisition of equipment, medical materials and medicines.

432- Moreover, some 728 deaths of pregnant women were reported in health facilities and 597 in the community. Only 52% (below the required standard of 80%) of deliveries were assisted by a health personnel. Out of 527,164 deliveries, 7,487 still births were reported.

§3: Adolescent Health

433- The 2022 edition of the “AIDS-free Holidays” campaign launched on 10 August 2022 saw the participation of 650 peer educators, aged 15-24, who educated their peers nationwide on sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS prevention.

434- Some 100 health staff were trained on reproductive health of adolescents in 6 regions. In addition, the awareness of 3,500 teenage girls and boys was raised on reproductive health during the celebration of the 2022 Youth Day. Furthermore, in July 2022, 18 youth leaders of associations in the Far North were trained in adolescent sexual and reproductive

health awareness, including family life education and the use of modern contraceptive methods in the context of the Project *“Support to refugee women and malnourished children from the Central African Republic, Nigeria and Cameroon.”*

435- Also, on 12 August 2022, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) handed over to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education, material worth CFAF 67,000,000⁹⁹, destined for 11 Multipurpose Youth Empowerment Centers in the Adamawa, East, North and Far North Regions in the context of the same Project. These included electronic equipment and didactic material to raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health among adolescents and youths.

§4: Child Health

436- Among actions taken as concerns prevention of diseases in children was vaccination, intermittent preventive treatment against malaria, HIV and vitamin A supplementation.

A: Prevention of Diseases in Children

437- Children who received the BCG vaccine free at birth stood at 80.0% and 82% received the hepatitis B vaccine. As regards routine vaccination, 82% of children aged 0-11 months received the 3rd dose of DPT (Diphtheria+Pertussis+Tetanus) vaccine, while Children in the same age group received the 1st dose of the measles/rubella vaccine.

438- A polio vaccination campaign for children aged 0-59 months took place from 4 to 6 November 2022 and targeted 1,446 440 children in 42 health districts in the East, Far North, Littoral and West Regions. Intermittent preventive treatment against malaria for children in the North and Far North Regions were as follows for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th phases based on the number of children targeted: North 736,151 (97.5%); 763,224 (98.8%); 771,602 (99.1%); 784,267 (99.3%); 304,278 (99.2%); Far North 1,955,761 (97%); 2,004,893 (97.9%); 2,027,844 (98.4%); 2,046,652 (98.6%); 525,441 (97.9%).

439- As concerns prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT), of the 853,191 pregnant women who attended ante natal clinic, 827,126 were screened for HIV and 17,586 who tested positive, 15,935 were put on ARVs.

⁹⁹ About 102,290.08 Euros.

440- Of the 13,414 children exposed to HIV 12,655 (94.3% compared to 91.38% in 2021) were put on Nevirapine syrup to reduce the risk of HIV infection.

441- Some 4,365,525 children aged 12 to 59 months and 4,891,491 aged 5 to 14 years were de-wormed against intestinal worms. Moreover, 3,511,468 children between 5 and 14 years were de-wormed against schistosomiasis.

B: Treatment of Diseases in Children

442- Within the framework of the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project executed by the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) in partnership with the Christian Blind Mission (CBM), between 2014 and 2022, some 2,048 children were treated for clubfoot, about 70% of them below 2 years.

443- Some 1,381,582 children below 5 years were diagnosed with malaria and 680,298 were treated free of charge representing 49.2%.

444- Some 39 cases of neo natal tetanus were investigated, including 15 deaths.

SECTION 4: HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

445- Availability of health facilities, human resources and equipment continued to be improved in 2022. Efforts were also made for the population to access health care including low cost medicines.

§1: Availability of Healthcare Facilities, Human Resources and Equipment

446- Health facilities, human resources and equipment were enhanced.

A: Availability of Healthcare Facilities.

447- There were a total of 6,317 health facilities including 2,717 of the public sector. 7 of these 2,717 were of the first category, 13 of the second category, 18 of the third category, 165 of the 4th category, 269 of the 5th category and 2,245 of the 6th category. One of the new health facilities that went operational, was the Garoua General Hospital inaugurated on 18 October 2022. The hospital worth CFAF42,000,000,

000¹⁰⁰, has a 300-bed capacity. The haemodialysis centre at the Regional Hospital of Ngaoundere was inaugurated on 27 December 2022. It contains equipment including 10 treatment stations and an ultramodern water treatment room with a two-stage osmosis system.

448- Furthermore, by decree No. 2022/13 of 7 January 2022, 8 regional hospital centres were created in Buea, Bamenda, Bafoussam, Bertoua, Ebolowa, Garoua, Maroua and Ngaoundere.

B: Human Resources

449- In 2022, 239 candidates who were successful in the direct competitive examinations of 30 and 31 October 2021 were put at the disposal of MINSANTE including nurses, nurse's aid, medical-sanitary technicians, mortuary attendants and senior medical-sanitary technicians.

450- In spite of measures taken as regards human resources, there was a planned nationwide strike action by health personnel for 16 August 2022 due to a number of grievances¹⁰¹. The Strike was called off following negotiations with Government.

C: Availability of Equipment

451- Equipment was provided to several health facilities. On 11 August 2022 MINSANTE, handed over 28 motorbikes ambulances to the following health facilities in remote areas to facilitate the transportation of patients: Adamawa (6), Far North (10), East (5) and North (7) Regions. Furthermore, on 19 December 2022, 85 motorbikes were handed over to the Far North Regional Delegation of Public Health. This constitutes part of a total of 385 motorbikes acquired thanks to the partnership with GAVI (the Vaccine Alliance), in order to enhance geographic immunization coverage.

452- At the Bamenda Regional Hospital, a scanner and the renovated dialysis centre with 8 new generators were inaugurated in March 2022. Moreover, a scanner was also inaugurated at the Bertoua Regional Hos-

¹⁰⁰ 64,122,137.40 Euros.

¹⁰¹ Among the concerns raised by health syndicates was the registration of health personnel with the National Social Insurance Fund, payment of the dues of temporary staff working in hospitals, the reintroduction of the operating budget in some public hospitals as of the 2022 fiscal year, to alleviate difficulties arising from the delay in the payment of subsidies through performance-based financing (PBF), as well as the acceleration of the revision of the special status of civil servants in the health sector.

pital. The Baham District Hospital also received medical equipment worth CFAF112,603,978¹⁰² on 13 November 2022.

453- Also, on 14 June 2022, UNFPA, with funding from the Islamic Development Bank, donated equipment to MINSANTE worth 449,074.05 US dollars (about CFAF 268 000 000¹⁰³), consisting of 34 blood bank refrigerators, 21 blood donor chairs, 34 containers for the safe transportation of blood, 4 freezers for plasma storage and 4 refrigerated blood bank centrifuges.

§2: Accessibility to Healthcare

454- Government continued to take measures to make access to health at low cost including on access to medicines, progress in the setting up of the universal health coverage and free screenings of diseases.

A: Accessibly to Medicines

455- Notwithstanding initiatives undertaken to improve the public supply chain, a good number of challenges still exist due to the absence of a reference framework for the strategic orientation and coordination of interventions. It is consequently within this backdrop that the Strategic Plan to Strengthen the Public Supply Chain of Health Products in Cameroon (2022- 2026) was adopted.

456- The priority interventions adopted to strengthen the public supply chain of health products in Cameroon and the recommended activities to be implemented are presented in the Strategy. The expected outcome of the Strategy is to achieve uninterrupted availability of health products through a public supply chain network which is able to provide patients with quality medicines at low cost while ensuring resilient and sustainable operations supported by effective governance and reporting.

457- Furthermore, some treatments continued to be free including ARVs, Tuberculosis medicines, and malaria treatment for children below 5 years and pregnant women (See §405, §409 and §443).

¹⁰² About 171,914.47 Euros.

¹⁰³ About 409,160.31 Euros.

B: Universal Health Coverage

458- During a question and answer session of the National Assembly in November 2022, the Minister of Public Health presented, a report on the Universal Health Coverage Plan indicating that the pilot phase of this project geared towards implementation in 2023, had been finalised.

C: Other Actions to make Health care more Accessible

459- The Cameroon National Laboratory Policy was adopted in 2022. This Policy aims at improving healthcare of the population through quality laboratory services including, strengthening the operational capacity of laboratories, strengthening the laboratory information system and improving the financing of laboratory activities.

460- After Clinic Home¹⁰⁴, a virtual hospital providing treatment at home (set up by Cameroonian doctors practicing both in Cameroon and abroad) was experimented in Douala, it was the turn of Yaounde, from 12 September 2022. The aim of this clinic is to seize the opportunities offered by digital technology to improve the supply and quality of medical and para-medical care offered to people in Cameroon through tele-medicine.

461- Free screenings and treatment campaigns continued to be carried out, including a free surgical campaign at the Yaounde Central Hospital for persons with prostrate problems and Obstetric Fistula by the Cameroonian Association of Urologists in September 2022. The surgeries which costs between CFAF 400,000-500,000¹⁰⁵ are done free of charge. Other free screening were carried out. (See §91, §399 and §401).

SECTION 5: RESEARCH IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

462- A law was adopted regulating research on human beings and research activities were carried out.

§1: Legal framework on Research on Human Subjects

463- Law No. 2022/008 of 27 April 2022 relating to medical research involving Human Subjects in Cameroon was adopted which lays down

¹⁰⁴ Services provided include consultations in various field of medicine, home delivery of medicines to patients in collaboration with approved pharmacies, care at home such as: drip provision, dressing, injection, blood sugar control and physiotherapy.

¹⁰⁵ About 610.69-763.36 Euros.

principles and rules applicable to health research, in particular, clinical trials and intervention studies. Its aim is to protect persons involved in health research. As per section 9, the implementation of any medical research project must adhere to medical standards that promote and ensure respect for all humans and protect their health and rights. The Law further specifies the rights of persons participating in research, among which the clear information to the participant about the project and the requirement for his/she consent to be given in writing (section 11).

464- The Law as well sets out under what conditions research can be carried out on vulnerable persons such as minors, persons with disabilities and pregnant women. It also has provisions on medical research carried out on deceased persons and in emergency situations as well as obligations of investigators and sponsors of medical research projects.

§2: Research Activities in the Health Sector

465- In 2022 the Institute for Medical Research and Studies of Medicinal Plants carried out research in the health sector. One of such projects titled “Investigating malaria, other health challenges, coping strategies and opportunities for a coordinated response for street children in Cameroon” had as general objective, studying the epidemiology of infectious diseases, health challenges and coping strategies among street children in Yaounde in order to contribute to the development of effective response strategies to their plight. Partial results of the project revealed malaria parasitaemia prevalence rate of 34.31% and an intestinal helminths prevalence rate of 10.88% among the street children studied. The Institute also carried out other research projects on malaria¹⁰⁶ as well as in other areas.

466- As regards HIV/AIDS, 6 research projects were carried out, among which « *Étude de l’impact des infections infantiles courantes sur l’immunité induite par le vaccin chez les nourrissons non infectés exposés au VIH au Cameroun (MILK)* » which was ongoing.

¹⁰⁶ The research project, “A comparative study of asymptomatic malaria in a forest rural and depleted forest urban setting during a low entomological malaria transmission period” revealed that the overall prevalence of asymptomatic malaria was 27.04%. The prevalence in the impoverished urban forest community was 4.2% while the prevalence in the rural forest community was 41.5%.

467- Concerning research on emerging, re-emerging and non-communicable diseases and other conditions, among the many projects carried out was the Projet « *Etude des formes pathogènes et santé des populations riveraines des points de collecte des ordures ménagères au Cameroun* » (Study of pathogenic forms and the health of people living near household waste collection points in Cameroon) which resulted in the identification and enumeration of different pathogens (parasites) present at *Hygiène et salubrité du Cameroun* (HYSACAM)'s waste collection points in Yaoundé, Douala, Bafoussam and Dschang. Furthermore, the project, "*Le fardeau de la schistosomiase, l'impact sur la condition physique de l'hôte et l'efficacité vaccinale au Cameroun*" (The burden of schistosomiasis, impact on host fitness and vaccine efficacy in Cameroon) led to the setting up of a state-of-the-art technical platform for research on schistosomiasis

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468- Great strides were made in the normative framework of the health sector with the adoption of the law relating to medically assisted reproduction and another on research involving human subjects. Actions on maternal health continued, including good results in the health voucher project which enables pregnant women to access healthcare.

469- Prevention and treatment of diseases were ensured. However, the appearance of new diseases such as the monkey pox and the discovery in December 2022 of a new strain of the polio virus called the Circulating Derivative Polio virus Type 2 (cVDVP) (as virulent as the wild polio virus that Cameroon had been declared free of since 2020), reported in the Far North region were challenges.

470- The implementation of the universal health coverage was ongoing.

CHAPTER 3

RIGHT TO AN
ADEQUATE
STANDARD OF LIVING



471- The right to an adequate standard of living was of major concern to the Government, be it food, water and energy or decent housing. Despite several challenges, 2022 was full of initiatives seeking to guarantee this right.

SECTION 1: RIGHT TO FOOD

472- In addition to general measures taken to guarantee the right to food, actions were carried out to facilitate availability, accessibility and acceptability of foodstuffs.

§1: General Measures to guarantee the Right to Food

473- The State intensified the fight against food insecurity, strengthened the normative, institutional and strategic framework, and implemented import-substitution.

A: Strengthening the Normative, Institutional and Strategic Frameworks

474- The normative, institutional and strategic frameworks relating to the right to food were strengthened.

1) Evolution of the Normative and Institutional Framework

475- This evolution was visible through Order No. 0094/MINCOMMERCE of 14 April 2022 to make the prior submission of price lists of certain consumer products compulsory¹⁰⁷ and Order No. 95/MINCOMMERCE of 14 April 2022 to determine the list of products and services whose prices and rates are subject to prior approval procedure¹⁰⁸ as well as Order No. 43/CAB/PM of 23 May 2022 on the setting up, organisation and functioning of an Animal Health Emergency Operations Coordination Centre.

2) Evolution of the Strategic Framework

476- In order to ensure coherence of actions, new strategic instruments were adopted, finalised or updated. The National strategy to ensure de-

¹⁰⁷ Pasta, sardine in oil, margarine, alcohols and liquor, detergents and laundry soap, wrappings, electric cables and wires, paint and tiles.

¹⁰⁸ These include milk, fish, crude palm oil, refined vegetable oils, cooking salt, sugar, bread and pastries, flours, mineral water, beer and soft drinks, cooking gas, cement, reinforced concrete, roofing sheets, auxiliary maritime transport services, port services collective road and railway transport.

velopment and competitiveness of the rice sector (which seeks to develop paddy and irrigated rice to reach a production of 450,000 tons of paddy rice in 2025 and 750,000 tons in 2030) and the Agricultural Production Support Programme in Cameroon¹⁰⁹ (the main objective being to increase production of Cameroon's major agricultural crops) were therefore adopted.

477- Furthermore, the national policy for agricultural mechanisation was finalised while progress was made on finalising the rural palm oil development strategy and the banana plant strategy. In addition, the National standards development programme was updated to include the needs expressed in 2021. At the end of the process, 1 578 proposals of topics of standards were recorded from several sectors including agriculture and agri-food sector, water and sanitation.

B: Intensifying the Fight against Food Insecurity

478- Climatic disorders, insecurity and extreme poverty were the major causes of food insecurity which particularly affected the Far North, North West and South West Regions. Aside from direct assistance to households and organisations, joint structural action was undertaken to address this challenge.

1) Direct Assistance to Households and Organisations

479- This assistance was provided in diverse form. Under the Social Safety Nets Project, 1 88 500 households received direct money transfers amounting to a total of CFAF 23,569,200,000¹¹⁰. The National Community-Driven Development Programme (PNDP) carried out 576 micro-projects promoting access to basic social services including food to the tune of CFAF 7,900,000,000¹¹¹. The Sub-programme for poverty reduction at grass roots level funded agro-pastoral activities involving 2,183 organisations made up of 21,326 persons.

¹⁰⁹ Signed on 29 September 2022 and spans 2026, PARPAC which is carried out by MINADER and funded to the tune of USD 50,399,235.13 by the African Development Bank (AfDB), mainly aims to increase the production of major agricultural crops in Cameroon (rice, maize, sorghum/millet, soya, Irish potatoes, oil palm and vegetables/tomato) by providing necessary resources for the rapid acquisition of agricultural inputs, giving advice to producers and incentives in line with related reforms.

¹¹⁰ About 36,983,511.45Euros

¹¹¹ About 12,061,068.70Euros

2) Joint Structural Action

480- To guarantee coherence of actions undertaken, a National Response Plan to Food and Nutritional Insecurity in Cameroon was validated on 25 and 26 January 2022 in Yaounde. On 28 January 2022, the WFP signed an agreement with the Government to strengthen food security in Cameroon by carrying out joint activities. In order to consolidate the response of the WFP's national representation, Japan granted a subsidy of CFAF 750,000,000¹¹² to this organisation in July 2022. In August 2022, the USA provided it with 3,600 tons of rice and the European Union granted the same agency the sum of CFAF 2,771,000,000¹¹³ in December 2022.

481- International financial institutions supported Government's action. As such, in May 2022, the World Bank approved a loan of USD 100,000,000 to the International Development Association (IDA) to help Cameroon strengthen food security and increase resilience to climate shocks for households and producers targeted by the Emergency Food Crises Response Project. This project will benefit over 260,000 persons impacted by food insecurity and vulnerability, as well as 159,000 farmers, breeders and fishers affected in the Far North, North, North West, South West, Adamawa and Centre Regions. Similarly, in July 2022, the AfDB approved a loan of 62,990,000 Euros (CFAF41,258,450,000) for Cameroon, to enable the country increase the production of major agricultural crops through acquiring and distributing inputs in order to reduce the impact of the food crises caused by the war in Ukraine.

482- With a view to supporting Government actions, members of parliament and senators set up a platform in June 2022 dubbed "Cameroon Parliamentary Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security".

483- Findings of the second harmonised framework for the identification of zones and populations at risk of food and nutrition insecurity for the year 2022¹¹⁴, reveal that between October and December, 3,597,014 Cameroonians were suffering from severe food insecurity.

¹¹² About 1,145,038.17 Euros

¹¹³ About 4,230,534.35 Euros

¹¹⁴ <https://www.minader.cm/index.php/2022/12/19/analyse-cadre-harmonise-des-zones-a-risque-et-identification-des-populations-en-insecurite-alimentaire-et-nutritionnelle-au-cameroun-session-doc-tobre-2022/>

C: Implementation of Import-Substitution

484- In agriculture, the import-substitution policy seeks to strengthen national agricultural supply and health services to ensure self-sufficiency in food and consumer goods. Measures adopted under the finance Law for the financial year 2022,¹¹⁵ covered customs incentives on the one hand and the introduction or increase in excise duties on the other hand.

485- The said law renewed or introduced support measures which affect in particular priority agriculture and animal husbandry sectors. These measures cover total exemption from custom duties and taxes relating to pre-fabricated constructions for greenhouse use, improved agricultural and animal seeds as well as vaccines and drugs for veterinary purpose. The law also increased excise duties to 12.5% for meat and edible offal of cattle, goat, sheep and poultry species, cocoa butter including when used as input, and to 25% for natural honey, Irish potatoes, edible fruits, tea, coffee and its derivatives, pepper, chilli and ginger.

§2: Actions towards the Availability of Foodstuffs

486- At a cross-cutting level, these actions focused on improving factors of production in the area of research. Specifically, they focused on improving factors of production in the agro-pastoral, animal and fishery industries.

A: Improving Factors of Production in all Areas of Research

487- This aspect was handled mainly by the Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD) and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI).

488- Besides promoting and supporting innovation, the main focus areas sought to strengthen research through modernisation of the production mechanism or development of infrastructure and human capital.

1) Training Agricultural Stakeholders

489- From 8 to 10 June 2022, the capacity of food producers in Tokombere as well as nursery growers in Bang, Gadas and Douroum were built. On 1 and 2 November 2022 at Kousseri, a workshop took place

¹¹⁵ https://minfi.gov.cm/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/3-EXPOSE_DGD.pdf

to build the capacity of producers on efficient techniques for processing agricultural products in the Logone-and-Chari Division. From 13 to 15 July 2022, IRAD's task force attended a training at its Ceremonial Hall in Nkolbisson to consolidate the technical and organisational capacities of researchers.

2) Modernisation of the Production Mechanism and Infrastructure Development

490- Regarding animal and fishery production, techniques and methods for conserving meat and fishery products as well as livestock and fish farming value chains (as part of the PDCVEP Project¹¹⁶) were developed. Improved foundation seeds of priority crops were produced in bulk to improve food and nutrition security (especially 150,000 clarias, tilapia and carp fingerlings). The productivity of large ruminants and the production system of small ruminants were improved sustainably (by acquiring and maintaining genetic resources and production of hay).

491- Regarding plant production, appropriate techniques to reduce the impact of production constraints on cereals, cultivation of pop-corn in farms in Barombi Kang area on 1/2 hectare (yielding 500kg of harvested, threshed and stored seed) and activities to improve the value of continuous production of instant ginger powder and seasonal fruit drinks were developed.

492- Moreover, 100 hectares of wheat seed farms were prepared as part of the Project for the "development of wheat production and processing in Cameroon" in operational IRAD facilities and agricultural farms including 45ha at Wassande, 5ha at Mbang-Mboum, 5ha at Bansoa and Bangangte, and 2ha at Bambui and Dschang. Composite flour from tests involving substitution of wheat with tubers was produced while productivity of leguminous plants in various agro ecological zones of Cameroon was improved upon.

493- In addition, plantain vitro plants, improved varieties of yam foundation seeds, cassava, Irish potatoes and beans were produced in bulk for the North West and South West Regions as well as improved foundation seeds of priority crops to improve food and nutrition security (especially 150 tons of cereal, 50 tons of leguminous plants, 2,200,000 cuttings of mul-

¹¹⁶ Livestock and Fish Farming Value Chains Development Project

multiple use cassava varieties, and 50 tons of Irish potatoes). Productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of fruit crops in production basins were improved upon while oil palm, pineapple and plantain value chains were developed within the context of PD-CVA¹¹⁷/oil palm, pineapples and plantains. The production of improved oil palm seeds was intensified, that is about 4,281,000 oil palm grains nursed on 25 ha.

494- Similarly, strategies were put in place to massively multiply pre-foundation Irish potatoes seeds and manage diseases in the Western Highlands and the Guinean Savannas. Varieties of rice adapted to altitude zones and climate-smart varieties of maize, sorghum, wheat, bracharia, rice and cassava were introduced and disseminated to mitigate the effects of Climate Change.

495- Campaigns were carried out to distribute improved seeds to stakeholders of the agricultural sector. These seeds include: 35 tons of diverse varieties of rice (Nerica, Nerica L56, Nerica L8 and 4, Nerica L36), 500Kg of harvested and threshed pop-corn seeds, 1 ton of groundnut (40 ha of seeding), 500Kg of beans (20ha of seeding), 90,000 cashew plants, 1.5 tons of soja (50ha of seeding), 10 tons of maize (450ha of seeding), and 5 tons of rainfed and off-season sorghum (350ha of seeding).

496- Furthermore, the table below highlights assistance to seed and plant production.

Table No. 1: Situation of assistance to seed and plant production

Type of production	Amount in CFAF ¹¹⁸
Cashew plants in the Far North, North, Adamawa and Centre Regions	662,450,000
Wheat seed farms in the selected regions	115,000,000
Foundation seeds	
Nursing Acacia gum in the Far North, North, Adamawa and Centre Regions.	538,775,000
Composite corn in the North West and South West Regions	108,900,000
Improved varieties of cassava for the North West and South West areas	67,400,000
Improved varieties of Irish potatoes for the North West and South West	37,425,000
Improved varieties of beans for the North West and South West	34,500,000
Improved varieties of sorghum	50,000,000
Improved varieties of rice	35,000,000

Source: IRAD

¹¹⁷ Agricultural Value Chain Development Project

¹¹⁸ CFAF 1 million equals 1,526.72 euros.

B: Improving Factors of Production in the Animal and Fisheries Industries

497- Overall, MINEPIA's budget was increased. In addition to external finances mobilised, its budget allocation increased to CFAF 45,532,265,975¹¹⁹ in 2022 compared to CFAF 41,531,886,750¹²⁰ in 2021. Thanks to these resources various actions were undertaken in the livestock and fisheries industries.

1) Fisheries Industry

498- As part of the fight against illicit, illegal and unreported fishing, MINEPIA carried out three patrols at sea with the support of the DSFs. This led to the control of 23 industrial fishing ships and 115 artisanal fishing canoes with 7 and 68 respectively in breach of the law. In collaboration with RLAs concerned, biological rest was implemented in Lagdo, Mbakaou Mape and Maga water bodies.

499- MINEPIA supported projects of stakeholders involved in fish farming shortlisted within the context of a request for expression of interest. These stakeholders received diverse forms of assistance including the issuance of 39 authorisations to create fish farms, 5 technical approvals to import brood fish, 6 opinions for feed and fish and 5 for fingerlings. Moreover, 5 operators received tax exemptions on importing fish farming equipment and inputs, 1 operator signed a contract with IPA and 5 operators received authorisations to occupy public waterways.

2) Animal Industry

500- In terms of equipment, in addition to acquiring 6 solar-energy milk tanks with a total capacity of 1,050 litres (to reduce post-harvest milk losses), the implementation of the Livestock Development Project (PRODEL) helped to pre-fund 74 business plans of organisations of producers of small ruminants and those of the pork, cattle, bee and other sectors.

501- Besides distributing 21,100 chicks to internally displaced persons and pensioners of the Bamenda NDDRC Centre, the North West Livestock Development Fund strengthened the capacities of 104 producers including

¹¹⁹ About 69,514,909.89 Euros.

¹²⁰ About 63,407,460.69 Euros.

62 women and 42 youth on modern livestock breeding techniques for broiler and laying hens. In addition to distributing 70 improved poultry houses and 20 mini-incubators, the North Livestock Development Fund built the capacity 70 women on techniques for rearing traditional chicken.

502- Within the context of the Livestock and Fisheries Development Project (LIFIDEP), 3,641 small ruminants were acquired and distributed to members of cooperatives rearing small ruminants in the North West Region. During the implementation of the Support Program for the Renovation and Development of Vocational Training in the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Sectors, 493 persons were trained including 162 women and 331 men (agropastoral entrepreneurs, agropastoral advisers, fishing trainers and agro-pastoralists). Moreover, MINEPIA developed 74 ha of forage farms including 20 ha for forage seed production, produced and distributed 130 tons of composed feed for livestock from the Wakwa and Longuerre stations.

503- Resources transferred by MINEPIA to RLAs helped with the construction of 2 pastoral boreholes at Figuil and Hina, 2 livestock loading docks at Soa and Fouban, 2 slaughter areas at Lam and konkon, 1 slaughter area at Nyambaka, 1 elevated rail slaughterhouse at Bankim, 1 slaughter area at Bare-Bakem, 2 zootechnical and veterinary centres at Galim and Bakem, 2 pastoral boreholes, 2 vaccination centres, 65km cattle trail and 32 ha of pasture land at Djalingo.

504- Concerning technical factors, aside from capacity building of 36 organisations of producers on artificial insemination by the Wakwa station, the Limbe Nautical Arts and Fisheries Institute trained 19 students of various specialities and the zootechnical and veterinary centres trained 749 students, including 338 women, in animal, fish and livestock health.

C: Improving Factors of Production in the Agropastoral Sector

505- As regards finances, on 26 April 2022, a Funding Agreement of 172,900,000 Euros (CFAF 1 13 249 500 000) was signed between the IDA and the Government within the framework of the project to develop and add value to investments in the Logone Valley. Through this project, 12,210 ha of irrigated area will be developed for the production of 50,000

to 115,000 tons of rice per year. In October 2022 in Yaoundé, a regional Forum on rural finance was organised bringing together countries of Central and West Africa under the theme *“What model of rural financing and innovation is required to promote economic development of the agropastoral and fisheries sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa”*.

506- This forum took place after the Islamic Development Bank approved funding of about CFAF 52,000,000,000¹²¹ to implement the rice value chain development programme.

507- Regarding equipment, in order to improve productivity and competitiveness, inputs (improved seeds and plants, fertilizers and pesticides) were produced and supplied to producers, of which 831,130 plantain suckers, 5,000,000 coffee tree plants, 8,600,000 cassava cuttings, 90 tons of rice seeds, 170 tons of maize seeds, 36,000 oil palm plants, and 8 tons of cashew seeds.

508- Moreover, infrastructure and areas needed for farming were constructed, rehabilitated or modernised. As such, 650km of farm track, agricultural production basins and processing factories/units were opened up in the Littoral, Centre and East Regions within the context of the agricultural markets’ investment and development project. As part of the agricultural value chains development project, 169km of road was maintained in the Littoral, Centre and East Regions. With regard to opening up agricultural production basins, 120 km of bridges were rehabilitated, 76 km of rural roads rehabilitated, 29 km of farm tracks opened, 40 km of farm tracks rehabilitated, 4 culverts constructed, 2 culverts rehabilitated, 3 bridges rehabilitated, 7 culverts constructed and 1 metal pipe installed.

509- Resources (CFAF 3,631,902,340¹²²) transferred by MINADER to RLAs included 19 community huts out of 25 planned, 6 out of 7 community education and action centres (CEAC), 49 out of 62 store houses, 13 out of 13 drying areas, 2 out of 2 rural markets, 24 out of 39 agricultural stations, 56 forage storage sheds, 149 out of 162 water points which were constructed or rehabilitated in 300 localities. In the same way, several equipment and batches of agricultural equipment were offered to many

¹²¹ About 79,389,312.98 Euros.

¹²² About 5,544,889.07 Euros.

stakeholders in rural areas including to organisations of producers, University institutions, schools and other agricultural training centres in the form of assistance relating to the cost of fertilisers and pesticides for small producers. The Logone-and-Chari Division received food assistance of about 3,000 bags of maize, 2,800 bags of rice, fertilisers and seed.

510- In order to guarantee sustainable management of agricultural natural resources, 12,569 ha of contour agricultural lands were developed, 124,564 boundary plants, 169,919 hedgerow plants and 25,912 fruit trees were planted, 255 forebays constructed and 309,411 woody plants preserved.

511- MINADER also pursued its other missions which include development and modernisation of production, processing and marketing infrastructure and equipment such as installation of processing units for palm oil (3), pineapples (2), plantains (3) and cassava (8) as well as setting up a national food crises response mechanism. These processing units were effectively constructed in 2022 under the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (PD-CVA).

512- Regarding technical factors, 824 youth were trained on incubation, 497 productive loans were granted to youth from start-ups, representing 66.27%, 502 viable agro-pastoral companies were created, 15,504 producer organisations received collective advice, representing 224,704 family farms having received assistance.

D : Impact of Improving Factors of Production

513- Improvement of factors of production had an impact on agricultural, fisheries and animal sectors.

1) Results of Agricultural Production

514- The table below presents the quantities of the main agricultural crops produced.

Table No. 2: Production Statistics for Agricultural Crops in 2022

Crops	Volume in tons	Crops	Volumes in tons
Cereales	3 506 554,79	Groundnuts	646 544,94
Maize	2 076 558,27	Sesame	75 762,92
Rice	340 156,96	soja	180 704,15
Millette and sorgho	1 089 839,56	Beans	324 450,44
niébé	214 619,23	tubercules	9 063 364,21
voandzou	27 452,60	Cocoyams	1 544 495,28
Cassava	6 111 887,11	Pineapple	268 874,82
Yams	575 294,68	Onion	385 895,03
Irish potatoes	287 213,58	tomato	1 041 983,49
Sweet potatoes	544 473,56	Okra	105 223,58
Vegetables and fruits	...	Pepper	49 798,30
Water melon	101 539,50	Cucumba	282 971,47
Ginger	82 309,38	Plantain	4 721 145,89
Banana	1 096 686,12		

Source : MINADER

2) Production Statistics for the Animal and Fisheries Sectors

515- The table below provides production statistics for animal and fisheries sectors in 2022.

Table No. 3: Production Statistics in Tons for Animal and Fisheries sectors in 2022

Animal Production		Production of derived foodstuffs		Fish production	
Crops	Production	Crops	Production	Crops	Production
Cattle	126,512	Milk	173,608	Aquaculture	8,224
Goat	33,268	Eggs	107,169	Small-scale maritime fishing	184,642
Sheep	25,115	Honey	7,843	Continental fishing	25,329
Pork	46,031			Industrial fishing	14,929
Poultry	59,808				
Grand total	290,735		288,620		233,125

Source: MINEPIA

§3: Actions Promoting Accessibility and Acceptability of Foodstuffs

516- General and specific actions were carried out.

A: General Actions

517- Distribution channels were multiplied while price control as well as the fight against fraud or smuggling operations were undertaken. Activities towards standardisation and certification were also carried out.

1) Operations Involving Price Control and the Fight against Fraud or Smuggling.

518- MINCOMMERCE brigades for fraud control and repression controlled 21 916 facilities, sanctioned 6 388, sealed 47 and seized 71 076 products.

519- Through Operation Stop Illicit Trade, the Directorate General of Custom seized 2000 cartons of wine, 690 cans of beer, 95,960 cigarette rods, 734 cartons of whisky, 9,000 sachets of whisky, 80 barrels, that is 8,000 litres of ethyl alcohol, 295 chicha accessories, 2,145 bags of sugar and 359 packs of malta drink.

2) Multiplication of Distribution Channels

520- While strengthening operational logistics of the 7 existing sites for the organisation of Pilot Sale Stores (MTV) in Yaounde, Bafoussam, Buea and Douala, the Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (MIRAP), developed 3 new sites in Yaounde and Bafoussam. To facilitate the sale of products at a fair price and improve accessibility to said products, MIRAP intensified close follow-up in the organisation of MTVs. It also initiated preparation of the project for the direct purchase and sale of 540 tons of sugar, 540 tons of vegetable oils and 1,250 tons of rice.

521- With a view to making them more attractive, MIRAP strengthened maintenance and equipment of MTVs in Maroua, Garoua, Ngoundere, Bertoua and Ebolowa. In all MTVs, the policy to diversify and intensify supply was consolidated. As for results, the purchasing power of households that got supplies from MIRAP's MTVs improved with an average of about 17%.

3) Standardisation and Certification

522- ANOR drafted 2,737 standards, among which 27 were on fertilisers and 581 on food technologies and products. It also examined compli-

ance of both imported and local goods and issued 247 compliance certificates in the agri-food industry. Regarding imported products, 21,057 compliance certificates were issued under the Compliance Evaluation Programme before loading.

523- As shown in the table below, ANOR carried out control missions for products in the market and carried out investigations following complaints and alerts from consumers.

Table No. 4: Situation of Quality Control Missions

Actions carried out	Number of facilities controlled	Control missions on the field	Products seized	Violations observed	Investigations carried out with conclusion	Alerts
Number of activities	693	30	1,505	184	6	1

Source: ANOR

B: Specific Measures Relating to the Safety of Foodstuffs

524- These measures concerned on agricultural products as well as on animal and fish products.

1) Measures Relating to Animal and Fish Products

525- In addition to completing works towards improving offloading docks and the Youpwe-Douala fish market, infrastructure was constructed such as a modern slaughterhouse in Bamenda, 12 slaughter areas and 30 butcher's shops as part of the activities under LIFIDEP, 80 solar energy pastoral boreholes and 3 building blocks capable of hosting 30 rooms for fishermen in Bamusso under the Bakassi Peninsula Development Programme.

526- Moreover, equipment for managing outbreaks of priority animal disease were made available to MINEPIA regional delegations and 660 control screens containing residual insecticides were deployed in the transit and transhumance corridors of Mbere Division and the *Falaise de Ngaoundéré* as part of the anti-vector campaign.

527- The national veterinary laboratory opened its station in Bafoussam, collected and analysed 4,650 samples during the post-vaccination serological survey.

528- Animal diseases were reported and controlled including 10 outbreaks of canine rabies, 3 “*peste de petits ruminants*” (sheep and goat plague) outbreaks, 7 African swine fever outbreaks, 3 contagious bovine pleuropneumonia outbreaks and 14 highly pathogenic bird flu outbreaks. Besides, 296,383 cattle, 60,841 ruminants, 40,051 pigs, 3,183,911 poultry, 523 donkeys and 90 horses were inspected resulting in 11,689kg of meat and offal being seized.

529- Furthermore, 42 veterinary doctors registered into the National Order of Veterinarians, 21 veterinary doctors were authorised to practice privately, 6 authorisations were granted to open secondary cabinets and 4 authorisations to change geographic location. 32 young veterinary doctors received support from PRODEL to set up private practice taking the number of beneficiaries to 100. This State subsidy which amounts to about CFAF 15,000,000¹²³ per beneficiary helped to improve the availability and quality of services through a local service and a good territorial network of veterinary services.

2) Measures Relating to Safety of Agricultural Products

530- A draft national food safety strategy and draft instruments on laboratory accreditation, the organisation of the food safety system and food release authorisations were prepared as well as a Manual for hygiene conditions in markets in Cameroon. Moreover, MINADER continued monitoring some contaminants in food products. In collaboration with other administrations, MINADER analysed food safety situation.

SECTION 2: ACCESS TO WATER AND ENERGY

531- In an effort to enhance water and energy supply in 2022, the Ministry of Water and Energy (MINEE) set up digital monitoring platforms. Information received through these platforms and from field missions was used by the Ministry to coordinate its actions both in the Water and Energy sectors.

§1: Access to Potable Water

532- The Government carried out actions in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

¹²³ About 22,900.76 Euros.

A: Actions Carried Out in Urbain and Peri-urban Areas

533- In April 2022, the Government commissioned the Yato 2 production station and 11 operational boreholes in Douala, increasing production to 130 000 m³/day, that is, an increase of about 130% of the installed capacity.

534- By 7 October 2022, works to improve water supply in the city of Yaounde led to an increase in the production capacity of the Akomnyada plant and the rehabilitation of the Mefou plant, which helped increase its operational capacity from 100,000 m³/day to 185,000 m³/day, representing an increase of 85%.

535- Furthermore, by December 2022, the overall physical implementation rate of the project to supply drinking water in the city of Yaounde and its environs from River Sanaga (Paepys) was implemented at more than 91.8%, compared with 81.5% at the same time in 2021. At completion, this project will allow the production of an additional 300,000 m³/day, with the possibility of increasing it to 400,000 m³/day.

536- Concerning the project to supply drinking water in 9 towns, progress made allowed the first three (3) towns, namely Sangmelima, Kribi and Bafoussam, to benefit from additional production of 24,000 m³/day, representing a 43% increase in initial production. The work carried out at the Bafoussam site improved drinking water supply in the towns of Bandjoun, Baham, Batie, Bayangam and Bangou. With regard to the town of Bamenda, ongoing work allowed the population to benefit from an additional 10,000 m³/day, produced by the M'Batu plant.

537- Moreover, during the year under review, the Government provided support to Regional and Local Authorities. As part of the Three-year Emergency Plan to Accelerate Economic Growth (PLANUT), MINEE was tasked with building 900 boreholes and 19 drinking water supply systems throughout the country, and 3,000 boreholes in the northern regions. By October 2022, 1,631 boreholes and 19 drinking water supply systems were built. Approximately CFAF 13,400,000,000¹²⁴ was provided to councils through the public investment budget, enabling the construction of more than 3,200 boreholes equipped with human-powered pumps and drinking water supplies.

¹²⁴ About 20,458,015.27 Euros.

B: Actions Carried Out in Rural Areas

538- On 17 June 2022, the Minister of Decentralisation and Local Development inaugurated a drinking water supply network in Lolodorf, in the South Region. This network supplied 16 public standpipes and 80 households. This infrastructure, which aligns with the Recommendations of the 2020-2030 National Development Strategy, cost more than CFAF 416.78 million, all of which was paid for by the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance.

539- The Bibemi council rehabilitated about one hundred (100) boreholes which were previously built but were not operational.

540- Open wells were built in Makassele and Mbigou through Houla.

541- In brief, by December 2022, the rate of access to water stood at 77% in urban areas and 37% in rural areas.

542- Overall, Government investments over the last 10 years led to a 70% increase in the volume of drinking water supplied to the population, representing an additional nominal volume of 350,000 m³/day in urban and peri-urban areas.

§2: Access to Energy

543- The Government's actions focused on the electric power sector, renewable energy and gas sectors and on consumer protection.

A: Actions Carried Out in the Electrical Energy Sector

544- Government continued to improve electric power supply, with the inauguration and commissioning, in April 2022, of the Mbakaou *carrière* mini hydroelectric power station with a capacity of 1.4 Mw. In addition to connecting more than 500 new households to the North Interconnected Grid (RIN) and improving service quality for several thousand others in many subdivisions, it will also help reduce greenhouse gas emission of up to 4,893 tonnes of CO₂ per year, thanks to the partial or total shutdown of the Tibati, Ngaoundal and Mbakaou thermal power stations, which were hitherto the main sources of power in the area until December 2021.

545- The construction of the Nachtigal hydroelectric dam with a capacity of 420 MW. The project reached a milestone on 26 September 2022

with the temporary diversion of the Sanaga River, on which was being built. This operation enabled work to continue on the site, with 78% of the work completed by November 2022, compared with 50% at the same time in the previous year.

546- Completion of the Memve'ele dam transmission line was ongoing. The construction of this line will allow 211 MW to be injected into the South Interconnected Grid (RIS), as well as the installation of all pylons on a stretch of 300 km. Furthermore, the commissioning of the electricity interconnection between the East Region and the RIS was conducted at the Mampang power station. This power station is designed to receive 225 Kv energy and transform it for household use.

547- Turbines designed to supply 30 MW of electricity were installed at the Lom Pangar plant. The progress rate in November 2022 stood at 80%, compared with 40% at the same time in 2021.

548- On its part, the Lom Pangar reservoir dam, which holds 6,000,000,000 m³ of water, is designed to regulate River Sanaga's flow, in order to optimise production at the hydroelectric power plants located downstream.

549- In June 2022, the Mekin hydroelectric dam, which produces 12 Mw of the 15 Mw installed, was commissioned.

550- Moreover, the State regained control of electricity transmission assets following payment of compensation to ENEO for these assets. They are currently operated by the National Electricity Transmission Company (SONATREL). On 1 January 2019, an agreement for the sum of CFAF 13,000,000,000¹²⁵ was signed between the Agence d'Electrification Rurale (Rural Electrification Agency - AER) and ENEO with a view to pre-financing ENEO subscription charges for low-income households.

551- It is worthy of note that the population's average access rate to electricity stood at 65%.

552- Between January and November 2022, the AER connection campaigns connected 1,048 households, increasing the total number of connected households to 24,852.

¹²⁵ About 19,847,328.24 Euros.

553- The connection of households in rural and peri-urban areas continued, making it possible to cover more than 80,000 localities in 2022, increasing the number of ENEO subscribers to 1,832,634.

B: Actions Carried Out in the Renewable Energy and Gas Sectors

554- Out of the 2 modular solar power plants with a combined capacity of 30 MWp + 20 MWh installed in 2021 in Maroua and Guider, only the Guider plant (15 MWp) began injecting energy into the RIN in February 2022, thus reducing load shedding in the area. In addition, the renewable energy connection campaigns carried out as part of the project to electrify 1,000 rural localities using solar photovoltaic systems made it possible to connect more than 24,852 households, compared with 23,804 households in 2021.

555- Furthermore, the biomass-generated electricity project, financed by the Global Environment Facility and UNIDO, and executed by the Kekem Council in the West Region, reached a progress rate of 80%.

556- Following domestic gas shortage, despite Government subsidies in the sector, a ship containing 4,000 metric tonnes of gas arrived the port of Douala on 19 October 2022 and supplied the Cameroon Petroleum Depot Company's (SCDP) gas filling station at Bonaberi. Thus, gas was supplied to the entire country under the supervision of the Ministry of Trade in order to avoid profiteering.

557- In addition, on 5 November 2022, the Government launched the construction of the domestic gas filling station of the North West Region. It consists of a storage and filling unit with a planned capacity of 200 metric tonnes (MT), capable of filling 1,000 cylinders a day. The Bamenda filling station is a Hydrocarbon Price Stabilisation Fund (CSPH) project. Its cost is estimated at nearly CFAF 6,000,000,000¹²⁶ and it is designed to facilitate access to butane in the North West Region. Its construction is the third of its kind in CSPH's portfolio, after Maroua (105 MT) and Bertoua (100 MT).

SECTION 3: THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

558- In 2022, the Government implemented corrective measures to address organisational, technical and financial challenges hampering

¹²⁶ About 9,160,305.34 Euros.

access to decent housing. These measures focused on promoting people's access to decent housing, strengthening legal security of tenure, as well as completing the construction of social housing and carrying out habitability works.

§1: Measures Implemented to Promote Access to Suitable Housing

559- To facilitate access to housing, while diversifying housing construction partners, the Government continued acquiring land with a view to developing and restructuring plots.

A: Measures to Facilitate Access to Housing

560- In order to encourage the involvement of RLAs in constructing and marketing houses, the regulatory framework thereof was clarified. Focus was also on the reduction of social housing cost.

561- With regard to the regulatory framework, 3 key instruments on the promotion of housing were signed in 2022 including: Decree No. 2022/12060/PM of 30 December 2022 to establish the general regime for planning contracts and city contracts between the Government and RLAs; Order No. 7/E/2/MINH DU/CAB of 2 November 2022 to specify the terms and conditions for the exercise of certain powers transferred by the State to regions in the area of town planning; and Decree No. 2022/354 of 9 August 2022 to lay down conditions for carrying out municipal policing.

562- In the Government's programme to build 10,000 social housing units and develop 50,000 building plots throughout the country, the selling cost of those built by Cameroon-based small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) dropped considerably. Indeed, the production cost of a flat was estimated at CFAF 200,000¹²⁷/m², but was sold at CFAF 175,000¹²⁸/m². This price did not take into account the value of the land, amenities and basic urban services (water, electricity, sewerage, roads and other networks, etc.)¹²⁹.

¹²⁷ About 305.34 Euros.

¹²⁸ About 267.18 Euros.

¹²⁹ In addition, social housing is marketed under two types of contract in order to take account of social measures and to allow low income-earners to choose their form of contract. These include: simple rental and rent-to-own. In addition, rent prices for PLANUT housing were reduced by 25% in disaster areas and by 20% in low-income areas.

563- Besides in 2022, Cameroon Housing Loans Fund (CFC) granted 317 loans at preferential rates for a total amount of CFAF 14,472,077,577¹³⁰ for the construction of 1,324 housing units and 5 building lots.

564- Moreover, agreements were signed between CFC and microfinance institutions, leading to the opening of a financing line of CFAF 3,000,000,000¹³¹ to cover the property financing needs of informal sector stakeholders and employees who are not eligible for CFC products.

B: Diversification of Housing Construction Partners

565- A large number of foreign property developers and construction companies were received in audience by the public authorities and made exploratory visits in search of contracts for the construction of social housing. This led, for example, to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Minister of Housing and Urban Development and the Managing Director of *Shelter Afrique* for the construction of social housing in Yaoundé and Douala. A number of other discussions were held with motorbike taxi operators and the World Bank on the production of social housing, including a study on the construction of adaptable housing with a view to making them accessible to as many people as possible.

C: Acquisition of Land for Development of Building Plots

566- With a view to improving management and access to housing, some of Government's actions focused on acquiring and developing building plots. Programmes to create large land reserves evolved with the establishment of a commission to assess and evaluate consensual estimates obtained and to raise public awareness. These include the programme to create a 1,000 ha reserve at Mbankomo in the Centre Region and the 2,500 ha reserve at Tiko in the South West Region. As part of the programme to create 5,700 ha of land at Massoumbou in the Littoral Region, 1,800 ha have already been demarcated and funds earmarked for the Commission's work and the preparation of field surveys transmitted by the Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Mission (MAETUR) to the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF).

¹³⁰ About 22,094,774.93 Euros.

¹³¹ About 4,580,152.67 Euros.

567- In addition, in 2022, 370 plots were developed at Nkolnguet in the Mefou-and-Akono Division and 1,118 plots restructured at Nylon Zone Douala amounting to a total of 1,488 plots developed out of the 1,497 projected, representing an implementation rate of 99.39%.

568- As part of restructuring programmes, the social engineering for the *Bobongo Cité des Berges* project (250 ha) in Douala was completed and plots demarcated at a rate of 50%. Also, the emergency phase of the motorway programme was completed at 60%.

§2: Continuation of Social Housing Construction Programmes and Completion of Habitability Works

569- Programmes designed by the Government as part of housing construction continued. The same is true of the habitability works essential to the viability of the sites.

A: Continuation of Government Social Housing Construction Programmes and Projects

570- Progress was made in some components of the Government's programme to build 10,000 social housing units and develop 50,000¹³² building plots, which began in 2009.

571- With regard to the component involving the construction of 1,675 social housing units using Government funds, 720 units were already built, including 60 by 2022 (40 in Yaoundé and 20 in Douala).

572- In summary, of the 5,635 homes started in 2009 as part of the Government's programme to build 10,000 social housing units and develop 50,000 building plots across the country, 2,840 were completed in 2022.

573- On 3 June 2022, the 1st inauguration of Municipal Housing Units took place in the Biyouha Council as part of the Municipal Housing Construction Programme (PCCM) piloted by FEICOM, CFC and the Association of Cities and Councils of Cameroon. Also, on 5 August 2022, 34

¹³² The components of this programme include: construction of 1,675 housing units (1,175 in Douala and 500 in Yaoundé) using the State's own funds; construction of 1,520 housing units financed by Chinese cooperation, all of which were completed since 2021; construction of 800 housing units in regions other than Yaoundé and Douala, 600 of which have been completed except for those in the towns of Bamenda and Buea; the pilot phase of 1,000 housing units with the implementation of a prefabrication plant by a company known as Pizzarotti was not carried out as planned, and was subject to an institutional reframing.

housing units totalling CFAF 672,000,000¹³³ were inaugurated in the Pette-Bandjoun Council as part of the programme.

574- As part of the implementation of phase II of the Economic and Social Development Programme for Secondary Cities Exposed to Factors of Instability (PRODESV II), town halls were received in February 2022. These include the town halls of Baham (4,450 m²) valued at CFAF 548,676,000¹³⁴, Bangangte (3,500 m²) valued at CFAF 695,490,510¹³⁵ and Bangou valued at CFAF 465,000,000¹³⁶.

B: Improving Habitability of the Living Environment

575- Actions aimed at improving the habitability of the living environment were essentially carried out during finishing of habitability works. The amount allocated by MINDHU to MAETUR for the implementation of this work stood at to CFAF2,637,868,335¹³⁷.

576- It includes the following works carried out at Olembe: public lighting (100%), drainage and landscaping (100%) and sanitation works were in their completion phase (90%); and at Mbanga Bakoko: public lighting (100%), sanitation (100%) and landscaping works (100%) were received; masonry work was being finalised (90%).

§3: Measures to Strengthen Legal Security of Land and Land Tenure.

577- To consolidate legal security of tenure, measures to facilitate access to land ownership were strengthened. The same applies to judicial and administrative protection of land ownership.

A: Protecting and Facilitating Access to Land Ownership

578- As part of efforts to reinforce the fight against illegal sale of land and unauthorised occupation of State land, the Minister of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure signed Order No. 1/CAB/MINDCAF/LC of 2 February 2022 to prohibit acknowledgement and admission, by MINDCAF's services, of documents titled *Attestation of abandonment of customary*

¹³³ About 1,025,954.20 Euros.

¹³⁴ About 837,673.28 Euros.

¹³⁵ About 1,061,817.57 Euros.

¹³⁶ About 709,923.66 Euros.

¹³⁷ About 4,027,279.90 Euros.

rights. This Order was issued in application of the Programme for the Protection and Development of the State's Private and Public Property and the Programme for the Optimisation of Land Tenure Management.

579- In 2022, MINDCAF issued 18,941 land titles¹³⁸, including 11,044 to men, 3,955 to women and 3,942 to legal entities.

580- As concerns facilitating access to land needed for project implementation, MINDCAF received 200 applications for declaration of public utility (DUP) between January and December 2022, and issued 105 DUP orders based on the relevance and proven utility of the projects to be carried out. One of such was Order No. 557/MINDCAF/SG/DI/D14/US of 30 May 2022 declaring the work on the urban mobility project in the city of Douala to be of public utility.

581- The main beneficiaries were city councils, some ministries and public structures, with the aim of building electrical infrastructure (power transmission lines, solar power plants and dams), public services and urban roads.

B: Administrative and Judicial Protection of Land Ownership

582- Access to housing is guaranteed not only by the administration responsible for these matters, but also by the courts.

1) Administrative Protection

583- MINDCAF processed 460 cases of restoration and cancellation of land titles. For example, mention can be made, among others, of Order No. 681/Y7/MINDCAF/SG/D6/S100/MMB/MAR of 1 April 2022 to quash Order No. 39/Y7/MINDCAF/D6/CER/S120 of 8 May 2013 pronouncing the withdrawal of land title No. 43237/MFOUNDI drawn up in the name of Mr **T.F.K**; No. 2550/Y7/MINDCAF/SG/D6/S200/S210 of 15 November 2022 restoring land title No. 41182/WOURI issued to Mr **H.F.A**

2) Judicial Protection

584- Protection of landed property was guaranteed by Administrative and Criminal Courts. As regards protection provided by Administrative

¹³⁸ Including those issued on behalf of MAERTUR

Courts, several appeals were lodged. These included actions for annulment, rectification and suspension of effects of irregular land titles.

585- Out of the 724 cases filed for cancellation of land titles, 318 judgments or orders were delivered, including 180 in favour of the State and 138 against it. In addition, 53 cases were filed for rectification of land titles, with 27 decisions in favour of the State and 31 against it.

586- In addition, the procedure for suspending the effects of irregular land titles resulted in 378 cases being registered, with 182 judgments or orders delivered, 97 of which were in favour of the State and 103 against it.

Table No. 5: Statistics on Land Litigation before Administrative Courts in 2022¹³⁹.

Land litigation	Number of files received	Number of Judgments and Orders delivered	Number of cases in which the State won	Number of cases in which the State lost
Cancellation of Land Titles	724	318	180	138
Rectification of Land Titles	60	58	27	31
Suspension of irregular land titles	378	182	97	103

Source: MINDCAF

587- In order to guarantee land protection for individuals, courts issued decisions including orders for reparations. For example, by Judgment No. 23/COR of 15 September 2022, the Bandjoun Court of First Instance found **D.C.** and **M.X.** guilty of land fraud in joint action and ordered them to pay a fine of CFAF100,000¹⁴⁰ and costs of CFAF56,600¹⁴¹.

588- The same applies to Decision No. 2761/COR of 5 July 2022 in which the Douala-Ndokoti Court of First Instance sentenced **T.O.** to 6 months' imprisonment suspended for 3 years, fined him CFAF100,000 and ordered him to pay CFAF760,000¹⁴² in compensation for infringement of land ownership.

¹³⁹ These statistics do not include the South West and North West regions.

¹⁴⁰ About 152.67Euros.

¹⁴¹ About 85.58 Euros.

¹⁴² About 1,160.31 Euros.

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589- Strengthening regulatory, institutional and strategic frameworks of production factors in the agricultural, fisheries, livestock and agro-pastoral sectors, as well as price and quality control measures all helped to improve access to healthy food in acceptable quantities. Similarly, the continuation of major projects which were initiated in the past with promising progress rates, the commissioning of some power plants and the creation of digital monitoring platforms helped to increase water and energy supply. In addition, access to housing was facilitated by taking into account the most disadvantaged population segments by lowering selling costs and diversifying partners.

590- Still, better management of the renewable energy sector to fight load shedding, and matching the growing population with the availability and accessibility of housing, could be envisaged.



CHAPTER 4

**RIGHT TO WORK AND
SOCIAL SECURITY**



591- The year 2022 was characterised by a global economic recession which affected the economic sector and employment in Cameroon. In this particularly difficult context marked by inflation, measures were taken to promote decent employment, professional integration, social security, social dialogue, social peace and the protection of workers' rights.

SECTION 1: PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT

592- Employment was promoted through continued vocational training, specific trainings and institutional development for youths training.

§1: Continued Vocational Training

593- Skills development was guaranteed and vocational certificates were issued following assessment-based certificate programmes.

A: Skills Development

594- Skills were developed through several activities, namely training, granting of training scholarships and improvement of training facilities.

1) Enhancing Training

595- With regard to training activities organised in 2022, 774 vocational institutions trained 8,878 learners, namely 2,825 in 161 public training facilities and 6,053 in the 613 accredited private centres.

596- Within the framework of its vocational training sub-programme, the National Employment Fund (NEF) received 41,250 training applications and facilitated the training of 1,180 applicants. Moreover, the NEF regional agency for the Littoral facilitated the training of 48 youths with various profiles in computer maintenance, graphic design and production, industrial boiler making and pipework, electricity, aesthetics and hair dressing.

597- The African Institute of Computer Sciences (IAI)-Cameroon trained more than 360 computer engineers.

2) Scholarships

598- Out of the 2,580 application files received, 205 national scholarships were granted to youths seeking qualifications in 62 specialities, in-

cluding among others, 30 scholarships from the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation in 16 innovative specialities.

3) Improvement of Training Facilities

599- The construction of the Bandjoun, Ndop and Bertoua Trades Training Centres (CFM) continued, with a completion rate of 65%, 75% and 60% respectively.

600- Also, the completion rates for the construction and equipping of the Nanga-Eboko and Maroua vocational training centres for trades stood at 95% and 99%, respectively.

601- MINEFOP and *Nachtigal Hydro Power Compagny* (NHPC) signed a cooperation agreement for the promotion and support of vocational training centres established within the project's intervention zone. Sectors concerned were the wood industry at the Mbandjock Rural Crafts/Domestic Science (SAR/SM), car mechanics at the Obala SAR/SM, and clothing industry at the Ntui SAR/SM.

B: Issuance of Vocational Diplomas following Assessment-based Certificates Programmes

602- In 2022, 10,708 professional certificates were issued to young learners, namely diplomas for specialised technicians (593), diplomas for professional qualification (5,987), certificates for professional qualification (3,628) and attestations for professional qualification (500).

§2: Specific Trainings

603- Specific trainings focused on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), the management of staff strength and payroll in the Public Service and nurturing the culture of social innovation.

A: Training of SMEs

604- A capacity-building workshop for SMEs was held on 9 June 2022 in Yaounde on the standardisation and improvement of the quality of their products. The workshop was designed to support SMEs in strengthening and developing their production systems, as well as to promote the "made in Cameroon" label and make available quality products for consumption.

B: Training on Human Resources Management Personnel

605- On 27 and 28 November 2022, MINFOPRA organised a capacity-building seminar in Mbankomo for human resource management personnel in public institutions, under the theme Follow-up and support provided to public institutions in the Forecast Management of staff, employment and skills. The seminar aimed at ensuring the even distribution of professionals in various duty posts in the public service.

C: Nurturing a Culture of Social Innovation

606- During a conference organised on 11 November 2022 by the association, *The Okwelians*, 81 students from 28 universities and schools in 9 regions were inducted into the culture of social innovation, notably on employability issues through practical workshops on designing curricula vitae.

§3: Institutional Development to Promote Youth Training

607- By Order No. 7/CAB/PM of 18 February 2022, the National Youth Observatory (NYO)¹⁴³ was set up. NYO, which is a referral centre for youths to structures tailored to their needs, has as mission; to welcome youths, listen to them, and counsel them; promote communication and dialogue among youths; and carry out opinion polls to identify the concerns and needs of young people.

608- In addition, by Decree No. 2022/3200/PM of 31 May 2022, the National Centre for the Production and Distribution of Youth Documentation was created, with the mandate to produce and distribute documentation for the youth.

SECTION 2: PROMOTING DECENT EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

609- Actions to promote entrepreneurship and professional integration were carried out.

¹⁴³ It is a structure meant to promote the youth approach, promote the status of young persons, facilitate access to employment and information on and for youths, as well as to ensure a strategic watch on youth issues.

§1: Actions to Ensure Professional Integration

610- As at 20 November 2022, MINEFOP identified 259,000 employments created. Under its sub-programme, transparency of the employment market, NEF registered 54,989 job seekers in 2022, some 33,242 of whom were awarded paid employment and 65 self-employment. With regard to the sub-programme to support activity creation with the objective to promote self-employment and micro-enterprise, NEF registered 6,300 applications for project financing and sponsored 35 projects which generated 65 employments.

611- The support programme for the renovation and development of vocational training in the agricultural sector generated 22,000 youth employments in 2022, in fields such as agriculture, livestock and fishery.

§2: Actions in Favour of Entrepreneurship

612- Actions to promote entrepreneurship concerned among other things supporting entrepreneurship, strengthening support systems for SMEs and showcasing practical knowledge in engineering.

A: Support for Entrepreneurship

613- On 11 and 12 October 2022 in Yaounde the parliamentary network for the promotion of private entrepreneurship organised, a workshop on the theme "Global crises and local opportunities", which informed youths of the many opportunities offered by the livestock and fishery sectors and related industries.

614- Following capacity building activities for 824 youths in incubation within the agricultural sector, 497 of them were granted productive credits, representing about 66.27% of applications received. Moreover, 502 viable agropastoral businesses were set up and 15,504 producer organisations received group counselling

615- To support the development of the digital economy in Cameroon and speed up digital transformation by promoting the creation of a local digital industry and the development of *Made in Cameroon* applications, the Cameroon Digital Innovation Centre (CDIC) in Yaounde was set up and equipped with state-of-the-art technological tools, information systems and communication networks. CDIC is a contact platform and job por-

tal which provides youths with opportunities to better develop their talents and improve their innovative skills.

616- On the initiative of the Francophone University Agency, a mobile “fablab”¹⁴⁴ was set up at IAI for a month to help youths materialise their creative ideas or develop their skills and implement their ideas. Fablab aims among other things at facilitating youths’ professional integration and employment.

B: Strengthening Support Systems for SMEs

617- The entrepreneurial ecosystem was enhanced with the SME Rating System app “NOTAPME” and the Integrated Online Business Plan app, “MyOBus”. These 2 applications tailored for the search of financing were launched on 20 June 2022. In addition, to empower national SMEs to access public contracts, a consultation workshop was organised by the Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange of Cameroon (SPX CMR)¹⁴⁵, on 29 April 2022 under the theme: Support Strategy for National SMEs’ Access to Public Contracts in the light of the provisions of Public Contracts Code”.

C: Showcasing Practical Knowledge in Engineering

618- During the 4th edition of the *Génie et talent de l’étudiant Camerounais* (*Genius and Talent of the Cameroonian Student*) held on 26 and 27 October 2022 at the University Digital Development Centres and the National Inter-connection Centre, under the theme, From professionalisation of teachings to employability of Higher Education graduates: the place of digitalisation and financing, students from public and private universities showcased their practical knowledge in engineering. During this event, **Colbert MBIADA** from the National Higher Polytechnic School of Douala presented a thermal device designed by him to detect and locate human presence in battle fields, **Neil Armstrong KOUNTCHOU** from the *Institut Universitaire de la Côte* in Douala, presented a drone manufactured for the urgent delivery of medications in hospitals, and **Emelda TANKEU**

¹⁴⁴ It is a vehicle equipped with digital control machines to help students create whatever they desire. The vehicle contains, among other things, computers to design whatever object students think of and to materialise their ideas.

¹⁴⁵ SPX-CMR is a technical centre for the development of subcontracting and a platform to connect SMEs/SMIs with major national or multinational companies.

and **Edson TAYOUTSOP** of IAI-Cameroon presented a solution (*Smart Parking*) for a smarter parking management in towns.

SECTION 3: PROMOTING SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND PEACE, PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

619- Social dialogue and peace were promoted while the administrative and judicial protection of workers' rights was guaranteed.

§1: Promoting Social Dialogue and Peace

620- The promotion of social dialogue was enhanced by the entry of 55 new trade unions into the trade union register, bringing their total number to 1,098 in 2022.

621- The National Collective Agreement for Banks and Financial Institutions, signed on 22 June 2022, led to the increase of earnings in this sector. Thus, the basic salary of workers in the banking sector increased by 5%, transportation allowance increased from CFAF40,000¹⁴⁶ to CFAF50,000¹⁴⁷ and housing allowances from 30% to 40%.

622- In order to render the revised collective agreement of the *Cameroon Postal Service (CAMPOST)* effective, the Minister of Labour and Social Security and the Director General of CAMPOST signed the said agreement on 24 August 2022 in Yaounde.

623- Dialogue between the Government and trade unions led to the cancellation of 36 strike notices and protests, thus preserving social peace.

§2: Administrative and Judicial Protection of Workers

624- The administrative and judicial protection of workers was effective.

A: Administrative Protection of Workers

625- The administrative protection of workers centred on the regularisation of the workforce and the deployment of labour inspectors in companies.

¹⁴⁶ About 61.07 Euros.

¹⁴⁷ About 76.34 Euros.

1) Workforce Regularisation in Companies

626- In order to guide and improve working conditions in companies, 1,044 contracts for nationals and 997 contracts for expatriates were signed and 67 companies were controlled by MINEFOP.

2) Deployment of Labour Inspectors in Companies

627- To assess working conditions and prevent occupational risks, 4,915 inspection visits were carried out in companies by labour inspectors. Following these visits, breaches of employment legislation and regulation were registered and 563 formal notices served.

628- Moreover, during the review and settlement of individual and collective labour disputes, 6,423 conciliation reports between employers and workers were drafted.

B: Judicial Protection of Workers

629- In the year under review, courts registered 3,959 cases of labour disputes as a result of wrongful termination of contracts, including 3,401 initiated by workers and 558 by employers. Of all these cases, 2,132 were tried, with 1,498 judgments rendered in favour of workers and 634 in favour of employers.

630- In Judgment No. 53/SOC/22 of 22 May 2022, the Douala-Ndokoti Court of First Instance held SAAGRY liable for wrongful dismissal and ordered it to pay to **E.E.A.G.** compensation in lieu of notice (CFAF 50,000), a termination allowance (CFAF 683,840¹⁴⁸), salary arrears (CFAF 1,073,800¹⁴⁹), leave allowance (CFAF 185,850¹⁵⁰) and damages (CFAF 247,800¹⁵¹). The Court also ordered the company to issue to **E.E.A.G.** payslips for the litigious month subject to a penalty of CFAF 2000¹⁵² per day of delay and per document from the day after the notification of the Judgment.

¹⁴⁸ About 1,044.03 Euros.

¹⁴⁹ About 1,639.39 Euros.

¹⁵⁰ About 283.74 Euros.

¹⁵¹ About 378.32 Euros.

¹⁵² About 3.05 Euros.

631- In addition, by Judgment No. 3/SOC/TGI of 27 April 2022, the Nyong-et-So'o High Court ordered *Société Africaine d'Assurance et de Réassurance (SAAR).S.A.* to pay to its former employee **A.Y.G.** the sum of CFAF 79,016,203¹⁵³ for breach of Article 60 of the National Collective Agreement of insurance companies granting employees the thirteen month pay and bonuses, as well as for unilateral reduction of salary, non-entitlement to leave, illegal deductions for taxes, unjustified deductions for alleged debts and omission of rights.

632- Also, in Judgment No. 4/SOC of 3 February 2022, the Dschang Court of First Instance ordered *Cameroon Radio Television* to pay the sum of CFAF 7,488,364¹⁵⁴, as labour rights to **Z.J.**, for extending his employment when he was supposed to be on retirement. By Judgment No. 3/SOC of 6 January 2022, the same Court ordered *Mutuelle financière de développement (EX-MC2)* of Santchou to pay **S.M. épouse K.**'s dues estimated at CFAF 2,293,002¹⁵⁵, for wrongful termination of employment. The above-mentioned Judgments were appealed against.

SECTION 4: PROMOTING SOCIAL SECURITY

633- The National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF) guaranteed social coverage, with particular emphasis on the specific case of domestic workers. In a context marked by the strengthening of the normative framework for social security, companies' compliance with their labour obligations was considered and sanctions were meted out against defaulting employers. Social security litigation remained the same.

§1: Strengthening the Normative Framework for Social Security

634- By Decree No. 2022/311 of 20 July 2022, Cameroon ratified the Multilateral Convention on Social Security of the Inter-African Conference on Social Security, adopted in Dakar, Senegal, on 27 February 2006.

§2: Social Security Coverage

635- Social security benefits were paid and the number of persons under obligatory and voluntary insurance remained constant.

¹⁵³ About 120,635.42 Euros.

¹⁵⁴ About 11,432.62 Euros.

¹⁵⁵ About 3,500.77 Euros.

A: Payment of Social Benefits

636- The sum of CFAF 125,003,358,931¹⁵⁶ was spent for 218,820 beneficiaries (insured persons) who generated 338,987 other beneficiaries all over the national territory. The old-age and disability pensions, as well as death benefits represented 89.19% of these payments, while family allowances accounted for 8.92% and occupational risks 1.87%.

637- Some 50.59% of the beneficiaries paid by the NSIF received death benefits, while 47.42% received family allowance and 1.97% were paid for occupational risks.

B: Obligatory and Voluntary Insurance

638- In 2022, NSIF registered 103,124 insured persons, including 70,840 with obligatory insurance against 66,758 in 2021 (that is an increase of 6.11%) and 38,267 with voluntary insurance against 36,366 in 2021 (that is an increase of 5.23%).

§3: The Specific Case of Domestic Workers

639- The 2nd phase of the awareness campaign on the registration of this category of workers, launched on 8 September 2022 by NSIF, led to the registration of 506 domestic workers, including 240 in the Centre, South and East Regions, 165 in the Littoral and South West Regions, 23 in the West and North West Regions and 78 in the Adamawa, North and Far North Regions.

§4: Companies' Compliance with their Labour Obligations

640- Out of a total of 37,296 online registrations expected in 2022, 27,831 were done by companies for their employees, that is an achievement rate of 74.62%. Moreover, about 11,026 employers paid social security contributions to their staff.

§5: Sanctions for Breaches of Social Security Obligations

641- In 2022, some 23,121 employers had not paid social security contributions for their employees, that is, 89,463 debt securities amounting to CFAF 233,272,231,370¹⁵⁷ recovered. Actions for forced recovery were

¹⁵⁶ About 190,844,822.80 Euros.

¹⁵⁷ About 356,140,811.25 Euros.

taken against the employers concerned, in addition to the surcharges and penalties for late payment automatically generated for non-compliance with obligations to declare and pay.

§6: Social Security Disputes

642- Cases of social security focused on the recovery of social security contributions and payment of social security benefits.

A: Disputes over the Recovery of Social Security Contributions

643- The pre-litigation phase for the recovery of social security contributions preceded the litigation phase before Administrative Courts.

1) Pre-Litigation Phase

644- Out of the 39 petitions introduced before the Pre-litigation Petition Committee of the NSIF Board of Directors in 2022 by employers contesting social security contributions recovery instruments, 5 were re-examined for breach of procedural rules by officials handling the petitions, and 34 were deemed inadmissible for non-compliance with conditions for seizing the Pre-litigation Petition Committee.

2) Litigation Phase before Administrative Courts

645- Some 34 cases were filed before Administrative Courts by employers to challenge instruments for the recovery of social security contributions. Of all cases filed, 17 final decisions were delivered, including 12 in favour of NSIF, 4 in favour of applicants and 1 partially in favour of each party.

646- Moreso, employers who were dissatisfied with the judgments filed appeals before the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court, which after hearing the cases, rendered 4 rulings in favour of NSIF.

B: Disputes relating to Social Security Benefits

647- The pre-litigation petition Committee of the NSIF Board of Directors received 308 petitions, for which 296 decisions were rendered, including 261 in favour of NSIF and 35 in favour of insured persons. A total of 12 petitions were stayed pending additional information.

648- Moreover, Regional Social Security Disputes Commissions sitting within High Courts at the headquarters of the 10 regions ruled on social security disputes initiated by insured persons in 2022. Out of 178 cases (103 old cases and 75 new cases) before the said Commissions, 49 decisions were rendered (40 in favour of NSIF and 9 in favour of insured persons). A total of 7 cases were struck off the cause list.

649- The courts of Appeal heard cases and rendered 12 decisions, including 5 in favour of NSIF and 7 in favour of insured persons. Besides, 15 cases were pending before the said courts by the end of the year. In addition, an appeal was lodged at the Supreme Court.

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650- Despite persisting challenges, such as raising standards of living, reducing underemployment and unemployment, the Government carried out actions regarding employment sustainability and protection of workers' rights.



CHAPTER 5

RIGHT TO CULTURE
AND LEISURE



651- In 2022, the availability of cultural property as well as participation in cultural activities particularly including performances of the National Ensemble was ensured. The organisation of the 2021 Total Energies Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon was a major highlight.

652- The protection of the moral and material interests of cultural actors was guaranteed, especially with the distribution of royalties to them, while the 2 official languages of the country, English and French as well as mother languages were promoted.

653- The normative and institutional framework in the tourism and leisure sectors were strengthened, the number of licensed tourism and leisure infrastructure continued to increase while promotional activities continued to be carried out.

SECTION 1: AVAILABILITY OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

654- Major strides were made in the collection and preservation of archival material, while cultural infrastructure was enhanced.

§1: Collection and Preservation of Archival Material

655- With regard to the collection of archival material, 230 issues of the Official Gazette published between 1994 and 2022 were made available to the National Archives, bringing the total number of same at this institution to 18,831.

656- As regards the processing of archival material of the Historical Library in 2022, 8,903 archival material of which 5,670 monographs and 3,233 serial publications were processed within the framework of the project for the setting up of the Historical Library of the National Archives.

657- Furthermore, within the framework of the International Day of archives, on 23 June 2022, close to 250 personnel from various Administrations in charge of the collection, treatment and conservation of archival documents, took oath of office before the High Court of Mfoundi as per Law No 2000/10 of 19 December 2000 to regulate archives

§2: Enhancement of Cultural Infrastructure

658- Cultural infrastructure continued to be constructed. Among those constructed in 2022 were: the Ntui cultural centre; the Nanga-Eboko cultural centre and the Haute Sanaga cultural centre.

SECTION 2: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES

659- The National Ensemble treated the public to good performances throughout the year, while participation in sporting activities and other cultural and artistic events was ensured.

§1: Performances by the National Ensemble

660- The National Ensemble through its various components including the Orchestra, Ballet, Dance, and Theatre gave exquisite performances to the public.

661- The National Orchestra offered a show based on the musical heritage of the 4 main cultural areas of Cameroon (*Fang-béti, Sawa, Grass-fields and Soudano-sahélien*) during the celebration of the International Jazz Day held on 30 April 2022, at the Cameroon Cultural Centre in Yaounde. The National Ballet also performed during activities to mark the International Refugee Day, celebrated on 21 June 2022.

662- Furthermore, the National Ballet and the dance section of the National Ensemble carried out performances exhibiting traditional musical instruments and outfits from the 4 main cultural areas of the country as part of the celebration of the International Dance Day, held at the National Museum in Yaounde on 29 April 2022.

663- The National Theatre also performed during activities carried out to mark the 37th edition of international women's day on 8 March 2022. Its other performances included the play entitled "*Veillée de contes sur le vivre-ensemble*" on 28 May 2022, at the Cameroon Cultural Centre.

§2: Participation in Sporting Activities

664- Cameroonian sporting teams participated in competitions in and out of the country. On the whole, the State financed the participation of national sporting teams in 59 international competitions, including 43 out of the country. The teams obtained 382 medals including 128 gold, 120 silver and 134 bronze. Furthermore, School games were organised. In order to consolidate sporting infrastructure available in the country, Decree No. 2022/384 of 17 August 2022 to lay down the establishment,

organization and functioning of the National Sports Facilities and Equipment Board was signed.

A: Participation at the 2021 TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations and the FIFA World Cup, Qatar 2022

665- From 9 January to 6 February 2022, the Cameroon 2021 TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations was organised in 5 towns (Yaounde, Douala, Limbe, Garoua and Bafoussam) across Cameroon and witnessed by thousand live in different stadia and through the media across the world.

666- Such events usually being cultural vectors, Cameroon's cultural diversity was widely displayed through local dance choreographies and outfits by the National Ensemble during the opening and closing ceremonies presided at by the President of the Republic. The Female Indomitable Lions of Cameroon also took part in the TotalEnergies Women's AFCON 2022 in Morocco from 2 to 23 July 2022.

667- A sad moment in this tournament was the stampede outside the football stadium at Olembe, Yaounde which led to the death of a number of persons and injuries to others who had come to watch the Cameroon vs Comoros match on 25 January 2022.

668- The Indomitable Lions took part at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar which took place from 20 November to 18 December 2022. Cameroonian traditional outfits were showcased during the opening ceremony and the match past by delegations of participating countries.

B: Participation in other Sports Competitions

669- The Mount Cameroon Race of Hope was organised in Buea on 19 February 2022 and the Cameroon International Cycling tour from 2 to 12 June 2022, just to name a few activities on the national territory.

670- At the international level Cameroon's national teams participated at competitions including: the 25th edition of the Africa Handball Cup of Nations in Egypt from 9 to 19 July 2022; U-21 Men's African Nations Volleyball Championship in Tunisia from 13 to 23 August 2022; African Boxing Championship (men and women) from 9 to 18 September 2022 in Mozambique; and African Judo Championship (men and women) from 23 to 30 May 2022 in Algeria.

C: Participation in School Games

671- The 15th edition of National School Games Federation (FENASCO) League B games was organised from 20 to 24 June 2022 in Yaounde. Over 10,400 primary school pupils from the 10 Regions participated and showcased their talents in 11 disciplines¹⁵⁸. The Centre, Far North and West Regions occupied the first three positions, with the Centre Region grabbing 17 gold medals, 7 silver and 7 bronze.

672- The 22nd edition of FENASCO League A games under the theme, "School Games for Peace and Unity in Diversity" took place in Mvomeka from 30 July to 6 August 2022 with secondary and high school students participating. The Centre region came first out of the 10 Regions, followed by the Far North and the East Regions.

§3: Participation in Other Cultural and Artistic Events

673- Activities organised include, "Yaounde, culture capital in the Islamic World" (Africa zone) was launched in Yaounde on 30 June 2022 and ran up to December 2022. The event which aimed at promoting heritage and consolidating the values of peace, coexistence and civilized dialogue was organised in collaboration with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It included activities such as conferences, exhibitions, literary competitions, and musical shows.

674- Furthermore, the first edition of the 237 talents festival took place in March 2022 at the national museum in Yaounde. The festival was open to youths called upon to showcase their talents in areas such as music, dance and painting. The objectives of the Festival included promoting cultural practices among young people.

675- The 2nd edition of the artistic and cultural holiday workshops for children aged 3 to 18 took place in Yaounde from 1 July to 13 August 2022. The workshops organised by the National Museum had as aim the developing of creative minds and raising awareness of emerging art and cultural professions to improve economic growth. Various artistic disciplines were practiced such as pottery, music, traditional instruments, plastic arts, drawing, theatre, storytelling poetry and heritage dance.

676- The *Centre de la promotion du livre en Afrique* (CREPLA), organised the first edition of the event called « *Etoiles de l'édition camerounaise*»

¹⁵⁸ Judo, athletics, gymnastics, arm wrestling, football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, futsal and shot put.

(*Stars of Cameroonian publishing*) from 4 July to 30 September 2022. The objective of this event was to select the best publishing house in Cameroon, and to provide the country with a national library, able to meet the expectations of the public and strengthen the place of books in the development of citizens.

SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF THE MORAL AND MATERIAL INTERESTS OF CULTURAL ACTORS

677- The normative framework of collective management of copyrights and neighbouring rights was improved, royalties continued to be collected and distributed to cultural and artistic actors, and support provided to them. Outstanding ones were recognised.

§1: Strengthening the Normative Framework of Collective Management of Copyrights and Neighbouring Rights

678- A new management team of the Commission for the Control of Collective Management Bodies (CCOGC) was appointed and officially took office on 22 August 2022. One of the tasks assigned to the team was ushering in reforms in the collective management of the copyrights and neighbouring rights sector including harmonisation of the legal framework on collective management bodies.

679- In order to properly regulate copyright and neighbouring rights in general and to improve the living conditions of artists in particular, the Minister of Arts and Culture signed a number of Decisions¹⁵⁹ relating to collective management of copyright and neighbouring rights.

¹⁵⁹- Decision n°00192/MINAC/CCOGC of 22 December to lay down procedures for determining, recovering and collecting royalties due in respect of copyright and/or neighbouring rights by collective management bodies;

- Decision n°00193/MINAC/CCOGC of 22 December to lay down the modalities for the sharing of royalties due in respect of copyright and/or neighbouring rights by Cameroon Radio and Television (CRTV);

- Decision n°194/MINAC/CCOGC of 22 December fixing the scale for the sharing of royalties due in respect of copyright or neighbouring rights collected from certain users;

- Decision n°00195/MINAC/CCOGC of 22 December 2022 fixing the table of allocation of the portfolio of users and other debtors to the collective management body on copyrights and neighbouring rights

- Decision n°00196/MINAC/CCOGC of 22 December 2022 fixing the amount of the Royalty due in respect of satellite pay-TV

- Decision n°00197/MINAC/CCOGC of 22 December 2022 fixing the costs of collection and recovery of the Levy due in respect of copyright and related rights by collective management organisations;

- Decision n°00198/MINAC/CCOGC of 22 December 2022 setting the terms and conditions for sharing the Levy due in respect of private copying of printed works.

§2: Collection and Distribution of Royalties to Artists

680- Royalties continued to be collected and distributed to artists.

681- The tables below illustrate the repartition in February and December 2022 of sums collected for copyright and neighbouring rights.

Table No. 1: Distribution of Royalties in February 2022

N°	Collective Management Body	Total Amount in CFAF (100%)	Amount Distributed (80%)	Operating budget fonctionnement (20%)
1	SOCILADRA	75 190 973	60 152 778	15 038 195
2	SONACAM	162 947 948	130 358 358	32 589 590
3	SCAAP	83 575 117	66 860 094	16 715 023
4	SOCADAP	41 053 307	32 842 645	8 210 661
5	SCDV	98 353 272	78 682 618	19 670 654
TOTAL		461 120 617	368 896 493	92 224 123

Source: MINAC

Table No. 2: Distribution of Royalties in December 2022

N°	Collective Management Body	Total Amount in CFAF (100%)	Distribution to artists (80%)	Operating Budget (20%)
1	SOCILADRA	25 083 000	20 066 400	5 016 600
2	SONACAM	114 298 666	91 438 933	22 859 733
3	SCAAP	45 922 333	36 737 867	9 184 467
4	SOCADAP	26 331 334	21 065 067	5 266 267
5	SCDV	59 004 666	47 203 733	11 800 933
TOTAL		270 639 999	216 512 000	54 128 000

Source: MINAC

682- More than 2 000 artists of all the collective management bodies benefited from the above distribution.

683- It is in the context of an Agreement signed between *Groupement Inter-patronal du Cameroun (GICAM)* and Copyrights Collective management bodies (which defines modalities for collaboration between the 2 entities) that an information and awareness-raising meeting for enterprises was held on 15 March 2022 at the GICAM headquarters in Douala on the collection of royalties for copyright and neighbouring rights.

§3: Support to Artists and Cultural Actors

684- MINAC, through the Special Allocation Account for Cultural Policies, funded 56 artists and cultural actors including for literary, musical and cinematographic works as well as festivals.

685- The amount of support allocated for the year 2022 was CFAF102,380,000¹⁶⁰.

§4: Awards to Cultural and Artistic Actors

686- The 10th edition of Balafon Music award was organised on 17 November 2022 at Canal Olympia in Douala. It rewarded musicians in categories such as Artiste of the Year (**Ko-C**), Artiste of the Decade (**Locko**), Best Female Voice (**Krys M**), Hope of the Year (Sabrina Love), Best Religious Inspirational Song (**Sandrine Nngang**) and Best Music Producer (**Phill Bill**).

SECTION 4: PROMOTION OF THE USE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AND MOTHER LANGUAGES

687- Several activities were carried out to promote English and French as the official languages as well as mother languages.

A: Promotion of Official Languages

688- The 17th edition of the National Bilingualism Week was celebrated from 31 January to 4 February 2022 under the theme “Bilingualism, a catalyst to social cohesion within the context of decentralization”. The week was launched in Ngaoundere where students used Poems, sketches, songs and paintings among others to showcase their proficiency in the English and French languages.

689- In March 2022, the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism carried out a mission to follow up and evaluate the implementation of Law No 2019/019 of 24 December 2019 on the promotion of official languages in 70 public and private enterprises in Yaounde. The Commission observed that some enterprises had made great progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Commission following its 2018 visits to the said enterprises.

¹⁶⁰ About 156,305.34 Euros.

690- In October 2022, the Commission carried out a mission to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national policy on the promotion of official languages in the 10 headquarters of Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs). At the end of the mission, recommendations were made to improve on the practice of bilingualism by RLAs.

691- In August 2022, during the first edition of the National day of Traditional Rulers held in Bertoua, copies of Law No 2019/019 of 24 December 2019 on the promotion of official languages and “NCPBM in Brief”, the Compatriot Magazine, flyers and posters containing awareness raising messages on the promotion of bilingualism were widely distributed.

B: Promotion of Mother Languages

692- Activities were carried out in the context of the International Mother Language Day celebrated each year on 21 February. The 2022 edition was celebrated under the theme “use of technology for multilingual learning: challenges and opportunities”. Activities included those of MINE-DUB which ran from 14 to 21 February (awareness raising activities through broadcast on CRTV, a Round Table discussion on 17 February in Yaounde as well as an exhibition at the premises of MINEDUB, publications, teaching materials and teaching aids among others).

693- Moreover, Ewondo, Duala, Basa’a, Ghomala and Ffulde were taught as national languages in 43 multilingual experimental schools.

SECTION 5: PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND LEISURE

694- The normative and institutional framework in the tourism and leisure sectors were enhanced, the showcasing of Cameroon’s tourism potential continued including through the participation at events, strengthening of infrastructure as well as cleaning up of the sectors.

§1: Enhancement of the Normative and Institutional Framework.

695- Decree No. 2022/5075/PM of 4 July 2022 to lay down the modalities of application of Law No. 2016/006 of 18 April 2006 regulating tourism and leisure activities in Cameroon was signed.

696- Decree No. 2022/5077/PM of 4 July 2022 relating to the organization and operation of the National Technical Commission for Tourism and Leisure Establishments and Decree No.2022/5073/PM of 4 July 2022 on the organisation and functioning of the Commission for the Classification of Tourism and Leisure Establishments were also signed.

697- In addition, 3 Orders were signed, one opening *Centre Public de Formation Professionnelle de Référence en Hôtellerie, Tourisme et Loisirs the Bertoua*¹⁶¹, (Public Centre for Reference Vocational Training in Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure (CEPROHTOUL)), and the other 2 on the organisation¹⁶², and curriculum¹⁶³ of the Centre.

698- Order n°0142 /A/MINTOUL of 2 November 2022 on the specifications specifying the conditions and technical procedures for exercising the powers transferred by the State to Regions in the area of tourism and leisure was also signed.

699- In addition, Decision n° 0193/MINTOUL/CAB of 19 December 2022, setting the fees for the submission of applications for authorisation, licence and operation of tourism and leisure establishments, was adopted.

§2: Promoting Tourism and Leisure

700- Tourism promotion was done through initiatives including the participation at several events at the national and international levels and promoting a culture of healthy and educational leisure activities.

A: Participation at Events

701- The Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL) participated at several events in and out of Cameroon to demonstrate the tourism potential of the country.

702- At the national level MINTOUL put up stands at the 26th edition of the *Ecran Noirs* cinematographic festival held from 2 to 4 November 2022 in Yaounde; the PROMOTE trade fair in Yaounde held from 19 to 27 Febru-

¹⁶¹ Order No. 24/A/MINTOUL/CAB of 3 August 2022, opening the Public Reference Professional Training Centre in Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure (CEPROHTOUL) of Bertoua.

¹⁶² Order No. 25/A/MINTOUL/CAB of 3 August 2022, organizing the Public Reference Professional Training Centre in Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure (CEPROHTOUL) of Bertoua.

¹⁶³ Order No. 26/A/MINTOUL/CAB of 3 August 2022, governing course programmes of the Public Reference Professional Training Centre in Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure (CEPROHTOUL).

ary 2022; and participated in the 11th edition of the Government Action Fair (SAGO) from 22 June to 1 July 2023. MINTOUL also took part in the 13th edition of the Central Africa Cross-Border Economic Fair (*Foire économique transfrontalière d'Afrique central*) (FOTRAC) which was launched on 30 July in Kye-Ossi and the Cameroon International Tourism Fair in Limbe from the 3 to 5 November 2022.

703- At the international level, MINTOUL participated at the Dubai Expo 2021 (held from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022) and the 65th meeting of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Regional Commission in Tanzania.

B: Promoting a Culture of Healthy and Educational Leisure Activities

704- Activities organised by MINTOUL to promote healthy and educational leisure activities included a workshop on the popularisation and implementation of the transfer to Local and Regional Authorities of power regarding leisure on 15 and 16 June 2022 Ebolowa, a Women's Leisure Day in "les Grottes d'akok Bekoe" on 6 March 2022 and a Leisure Day for Workers on 5 June 2022 at the *chutes de Poupouma* in the Lekie Division.

§3: Strengthening Tourism and Leisure Infrastructure

705- The regular holding of sessions of the National Technical Commission for Tourism and Leisure Establishments led to the granting of a number authorisations. Thus, 309 authorisations were granted for the construction and operation of hotels, 51 restaurants received authorisations, 30 leisure establishments were authorised and 18 tourist agencies and 15 tourist guides were licenced.

706- On 15 June 2022, a leisure park financed by the State was inaugurated in Ebolowa. It is built on 40 hectares of land and has a wide range of leisure facilities, including group (basketball, volleyball, tennis, table tennis), and individual games, a number of play areas for children, swings and a food court, among others.

707- Constructions in 2022 in the area of tourism included: a Boukarou on the Mount Ngaoui tourist site; a Boukarou at the Bemplari Gorges tourist site at Djamtari ; a fence around the Bindiki tourist site; a fence at the Tourist Camp

in the Pette council; a fence at the Logone-Birni tourist camp; a tourist resort in the Bamusso council; and a fence at the Bimbria slave trade site.

§4: Cleaning up the Tourism and Leisure Sector

708- Control missions were carried out in tourism and leisure establishments to make sure they were respecting regulations in force. Hence, 350 tourist and leisure establishments and facilities were inspected in Douala (24 restaurants, 37 snack bars, 69 accommodation establishments, 26 leisure establishments and 2 party halls).

709- Some 158 illegal establishments were identified, of which 30 were sealed and the 128 other paid fines.

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710- Cultural performances and sporting tournaments resumed as the covid-19 pandemic was brought under control in 2022. The normative framework of collective management of copy rights and neighbouring rights were enhanced and so was the normative and institutional framework in the tourism and leisure sectors.

711- However, the continuous existence of clandestine establishments in the tourism and leisure sectors remained a challenge.

CHAPTER

6

**RIGHT TO A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT**



712- As part of its efforts to preserve the environment, the State took measures as regards biodiversity conservation, waste management, pollution control, as well as environmental and wildlife litigation.

SECTION 1: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

713- Some areas in which the Government carried out actions include: reforestation, the fight against climate change and conservation of vegetation cover.

§1: Fight against Desertification

714- Activities carried out as part of the implementation of the Green Sahel Project continued throughout 2022. These included: the continued securing and maintenance of seedlings, alongside watering at the Gawel 3 and Badjiwal sites which were restored in 2021, that is, a total of 500 ha, including the planting of 60,000 seedlings, reforestation of a 250-hectare site in the Diamare Division and restoration of a total area of 1,017 hectares, including 5 ha in the coastal zone and 1,012 ha in the northern part of the country after the identification of 11 degraded sites.

715- Moreover, the following initiatives were carried out: setting-up of 12 nurseries containing more than 211,628 seedlings (including 112,696 non-timber forest products (NTFPs), 98,932 bamboos and 9,000 mangroves), restoration of 39,644 ha of land at Bamboo project sites, biodiversity enhancement of 260,285 ha of forest landscape, training and support to 929 persons (including 813 men and 116 women) on plantation establishment, development of NTFP and bamboo value chains as well as assessment of opportunities for restoring forest landscapes in Waza, Mbal-mayo and Douala-Edea as part of *The Restoration Initiative* (TRI) Project.

716- Futhermore, as part of the “1,400 reforestation project” launched in 2018, the Government set the objective to reforest 1,400 hectares in 18 Councils in the country. By 11 October 2022, 3,978 ha had been reforested, including 3,578 ha in the dry savannah zone out of a target of 1,000 ha, corresponding to an achievement rate of 297.8%, and 448 ha reforested out of a target of 400 ha in the transition zone, corresponding to an achievement rate of 112%.

717- This achievement rate was reached with the assistance of RLAs, which produced 166,650 seedlings in the dry savannah zone and 13,450 seedlings in the transition zone using their own funds in 2022, with the objective of strengthening Council nurseries and supporting community orchards to disseminate species for commercial use and promote agroforestry.

§2: Fight against Climate Change

718- According to Experts, the Year 2022 was marked by heavy rainfall due to climate change, causing flooding. For example, more than 150,000 people were affected by flooding between January and mid-October 2022 in the Far North Region¹⁶⁴.

719- To fight against climate change, MINEPDED set up a project titled "Increasing the resilience of local communities to climate change through youth entrepreneurship and integrated natural resource management in Cameroon". The Project¹⁶⁵, which runs from 2022 to 2026 and is designed to the fight against climate change, was experimented in 3 national parks, targeting women and young people aged between 18 and 35. It aims at reaching more than 52,000 people living around the above-mentioned 3 parks.

720- On 7 June 2022, the National Observatory on Climate Change in Cameroon (ONACC) and the *Action pour la Biodiversité et Gestion des Terroirs* (Action for Biodiversity and Land Management - ABIOGET) signed a Partnership Framework Agreement, under which the former committed to monitoring and assessing the socio-economic and environmental impacts of climate change and proposing measures to prevent, mitigate and adapt to the harmful effects of climate change. ONACC committed itself to fight against desertification, climate change and food insecurity through the implementation of agroforestry, education and water management programmes with the aim to improve the living conditions of the populations.

721- In addition, from 28 to 29 June 2022, a forum was held in Yaounde to raise awareness among members of Regional Councils of the Centre, South and East, which are located in the agroecological forest zone char-

¹⁶⁴ In Mayo Danay, Logone and Chari, and Mayo Tsanaga Divisions.

¹⁶⁵ It was launched in Garoua on 27 October 2022.

acterised by bimodal rainfall, on the stakes involved in combating climate change in a context of decentralisation. Some 60 participants took part in the forum. It was co-organised by ONACC and the *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung* (FES) Foundation. During deliberations, a number of resolutions were formulated, including the need to take climate change into account when drawing up regional development plans.

722- On 21 September 2022, MINEPDED held an Open Day on ozone-friendly refrigeration and air-conditioning techniques at the Centre for Information and Documentation on the Environment. The Open Day, the theme of which was “@35 Montreal Protocol: global cooperation to protect life on earth”, marked the official launch of activities to celebrate the 35th International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The main objective of this year’s event was to encourage people to work towards preserving the environment by stepping up the fight against the threat posed by greenhouse gas.

§3: Conservation of Vegetation and Protected Areas

723-Conservation concerned forests and wildlife species.

A: Forest Conservation

724- On 29 March 2022, in Ebolowa, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife presided over the closing ceremony of the 12th series of Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) on community forest management in the Centre, East and South Regions.

725- This final phase of the RRI focused on monitoring and evaluating the implementation of corrective actions. These actions included site visits, document reviews and other verifications. The expected outcome was that at least 50% of the agreed corrective actions should be implemented by the stakeholders. Results achieved were as follows:

- Centre Region: 57% of corrective actions implemented (RRI target met);
- South Region: 33% of corrective actions implemented (RRI target not met);
- East Region: corrective actions implemented at 52% (RRI target met).

726- At the end of the activity, there was a significant improvement in the performance of Councils, with a satisfaction rate for the pillars of good governance which stood at 66.2%.

727- More than 80% of the Mayors targeted by the activity showed their personal and voluntary commitment to promoting good practice by co-signing Integrity Pacts with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.

728- Cameroon also participated in the 17th United Nations Forum on Forests, held in New York in the United States on 9 May 2022. The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, hailed the commitment and efforts of the international community within the framework of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, which was manifested by an announcement, at COP 26 in Glasgow, to provide USD1,500,000,000 (About 900,000,000,000¹⁶⁶) in funding to support countries of the Congo Basin. He called for further funding (USD 9,000,000) (About 5,400,000,000¹⁶⁷) to complete the management of forests in the Permanent Forest Estate.

729- Moreover, on 30 March 2022, MINEPDED, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Global Environment Facility (GEF) and WWF, Cameroon agency, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the project titled "Integrated management of Cameroon's forest landscapes in the Congo Basin".

B: Protection of Wildlife Species

730- Public and private initiatives were implemented to preserve mangroves from disappearance and abusive exploitation by man¹⁶⁸. On 13 December 2022, MINFOF, the Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS) and the Cameroon Mangroves Network, launched a project in Mouanko in the Sanaga Maritime Division to fight illegal and destructive overfishing in the waters of the Douala-Edea Terrestrial and Marine National Park.

731- Public authorities also took measures to strengthen the promotion of ecotourism in mangrove areas.

732- Indeed, on 25 October 2022, a tripartite agreement was signed between MINFOF, MINTOUL and *Africa Travel management*. This initiative aims to enable the Campo Ma'an National Park in the South Region and its buffer zones to use ecotourism to finance conservation ac-

¹⁶⁶ About 1,374,045,801.53Euros

¹⁶⁷ About 8,244,274.81Euros

¹⁶⁸ The destruction of the habitat of aquatic fauna by the illegal cutting of mangroves leads to the scarcity of certain species of fish and other fishery products. In addition, there are risks associated with rising water levels, which are no longer restricted by natural barriers, thereby endangering the lives of local residents.

tions in the Park and improve the well-being of the local population. Moreover, on 25 July 2022, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife instructed the Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife of the Littoral to organise a joint mission (elements of the regional control brigade and the regional forest and fauna services) in the Ebo forest in order to collect essential information on the creation of a road through the forest. This instruction was issued following complaints from several CSOs and foreign partners about the negative impact of creating a road through the forest.

733- The Government and the WildAid, an environmental organisation launched an awareness-raising campaign in Yaounde on 18 February 2022 aimed at limiting the illegal trade of protected animal species, particularly the pangolin, by producing and displaying awareness-raising messages on advertising posters in Yaounde and Douala.

734- On 6 April 2022 in Douala, an information and awareness-raising workshop was held for media professionals on new approaches to conservation and WWF's strategic pillars in Cameroon. The workshop, which was organised by WWF, focused on providing media professionals with information on the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and respect for Human Rights. In addition to journalists, Communication Unit Heads from MINFOF, MINEPDED and MINAS participated at the workshop.

735- During its 34th session held in Paris from 13 to 17 June 2022, UNESCO classified the Doumba-Rey peripheral zone in the Mbere Valley National Park, located between the Adamawa and North Regions, as a biosphere reserve¹⁶⁹.

736- The 2nd training and mentoring session for journalists in data journalism and investigative journalism relating to environmental issues, organised by Open Data for Environment in Cameroon (ODECA), was held in Douala from 8 to 9 September 2022. The workshop focused specifically on issues relating to the disappearance of mangroves in Cameroon's coastal areas. The aim of stage 2, before the coaching phase, was to consolidate the achievements of the first session in July 2022 for the 10 journalists who received a training grant from ODECA.

¹⁶⁹ The Doumba-Rey reserve has over 100 identified bird species. With this new reserve, Cameroon now has 4 biosphere reserves (Waza in the Far North, Dja in the South, Benoue in the North and Doumba-Rey in Adamawa).

SECTION 2: WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL

737- This involves actions taken in waste management and pollution control.

§1: Waste Management

738- The Government issued 57 environmental permits for waste management to private promoters in the collection, sorting and recycling sectors.

739- Financial resources totalling CFAF 170,000,000¹⁷⁰ were transferred by MINEPDED to 12 RLAs to fight against insalubrity, pollution and various nuisances.

740- In addition, MINDUH signed an agreement with the Setec Energy Company for a feasibility study on the implementation of a project to strengthen waste management systems in 27 secondary towns¹⁷¹. The study, which will run until 2023, is being financed to the tune of FCFA 382, 277, 440¹⁷² by the French government.

741- On 20 October 2022, MINEPDED signed 2 agreements with the One-Stop Shop. The first was on the digitalisation of technical visa procedures and the securing of related fees through the *e-Guce* payment platform, while the second related to the *E-Waste* framework agreement on the monitoring of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE), tyres and the management of related waste. (These platforms have gone operational in 2022).

742- RLAs and CSOs launched waste collection initiatives. This was the case in the town of Bafoussam, where, following a competition for the best plastic bottle collector launched on 1 July 2022, the Mayor of the town awarded CFAF500,000¹⁷³ on 30 August 2023 to the winner, who succeeded to collect 1,099 kg of plastic bottles in 2 months. A total of CFAF

¹⁷⁰ About 259,541.98 Euros.

¹⁷¹ These included Kousseri, Mokolo, Loum, Kumba, Nkongsamba, Mbouda, Foumban, Guider, Fombot, Bafang, Yagoua, Mbalmayo, Meiganga, Bali, Wum, Bangangte, Tiko, Mora, Sangmelima, Kumbo, Mbanga, Obala, Nanga-Eboko, Soa, Kye-ossi and Bonalea.

¹⁷² About 583,629.68 Euros.

¹⁷³ About 673.36 Euros.

2,000,000¹⁷⁴ FCFA was distributed for 45,024 tonnes of plastic waste collected by the 15 candidates.

743- As part of the fight against uncleanness, some towns in Cameroon chose to devote a day of the week specifically to mobilise the whole community in a hygiene and cleanliness campaign. In the towns of Ngaoundere, Kribi and Ambam, Thursday is devoted to hygiene and cleanliness. In Buea, Yaounde II and Douala II, Wednesday was chosen, while Friday was chosen for the same purpose in Yaounde VI.

§2: Fight against Pollution

744- It focused on environmental inspections and the use of eco-friendly coal.

A: Environmental Inspections

745- MINEPDED issued 1,244 technical visas to importers for the quality control of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and 2 visas for the importation of EEE, that is, a total of 1,246 technical visas.

746- With a view to strengthening environmental policing, the Environmental Inspections Brigade coordinated inspections of classified establishments, as well as compliance checks on plastic packaging. As a result of this coordination, 3 environmental investigation missions were carried out, 2,099 facilities were inspected, 96.4 tonnes of non-compliant plastic packaging were seized, and the National Environmental Inspection Strategy was finalised.

747- The Chemical Marking programme for petroleum products helped reduce the pollution rate from 1.28% in 2021 to 0.94% by 30 September 2022, a reduction rate of 0.34%.

748- Furthermore, the Global Water Partnership (GWP)-Cameroon, in collaboration with the Douala City Council, organised a 2-day multi-stakeholder workshop in Douala on 5 and 6 August 2022. The workshop aimed at presenting the results of case studies carried out by GWP-Cameroon on plastic waste pollution and its impact on the waterways of Cameroon's economic capital.

¹⁷⁴ About 3,053.44 Euros.

B: Use of Eco-friendly Coal

749- Despite the existence of a diversity of energy resources in Cameroon, 82.3% of domestic energy consumption is made up of firewood, 30.6% of coal and 27% of gas. In rural areas and some regions of the country, such as the Far North, North and East, 95 % of cooking energy comes from firewood. In addition to ever-increasing deforestation, the increased use of coal is one of the causes of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. It is also a threat to biodiversity conservation and food security.

750- In order to understand and better assess the process of making eco-friendly coal in Cameroon, the UNDP Acceleration Laboratory organised experimentation sessions and tests with 5 producers in the Far North and North Regions in the towns of Maroua, Garoua, Mokolo and Lagdo. During these trials, 4 types of coal were tested: coal made from paper, coal made from agricultural residues, coal made from biodegradable household organic waste and coal made from sawmill waste.

SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

751- This section covers both environmental litigation and forestry and wildlife litigation.

§1: Environmental Sector

752- Courts hearing criminal matters handled a number of pollution-related cases. For example, the Douala-Ndokoti Court of First Instance (CFI) found some individuals guilty of several pollution offences. This is the case, for example, of Judgment No. 3071/COR of 27 July 2022, **The People and S.D.C.** against **T.F.** The Court found **T.F.** guilty of pollution and sentenced him to pay a fine of CFAF 250,000¹⁷⁵ and to pay costs of FCFA 35,550¹⁷⁶.

753- In judgement no. 86/COR of 9 February 2022, The People and the State of Cameroon, Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development v Carcos Sarl, the Ngoumou CFI found Carcos Sarl guilty on the grounds that it had failed to carry out an environ-

¹⁷⁵ About 381.68 Euros.

¹⁷⁶ About 54.27 Euros.

mental impact assessment. Fined the company FCFA 5,000,000¹⁷⁷ and ordered it to pay costs of FCFA66,850¹⁷⁸. It also ordered the company to pay FCFA 5,000,000 in damages to MINEPDED.

§2: Forestry and Wildlife Sector

754- On 21 September 2022, an operation led by the Regional Delegation of Wildlife and Forestry of the Littoral, the police and the Last Great Apes organisation resulted in the confiscation of 26 pieces of ivory from a home in the Douala II Sub-division. 10 elephant tusks were reconstructed from these pieces and it was established that 5 animals had been slaughtered. On 29 December 2022, the Douala-Bonanjo Court of First Instance, found the accused **A.N., N., S.A.S.** and **N.A.** guilty of possession and distribution of trophies of a fully protected class A species (ivory tusks), and sentenced them to 12 months imprisonment suspended for 3 years and fines of CFAF 100,000¹⁷⁹ each, and ordered them to pay damages assessed at CFAF 2,537,000¹⁸⁰ in favour of MINFOF. Not satisfied with the judgment considering the serious nature of the facts, MINFOF, in whose custody the exhibits remained, filed an appeal against same.

755- In 2022, a total of 93 cases relating to wildlife and 71 cases relating to forestry were judged; 130 cases relating to wildlife were pending before the courts.

756- As regards administrative sanctions, MINFOF suspended 6 timber processing units; 3 authorisations; 4 bulk breaking-related businesses; 1 timber sales and public auctions business, and cancelled 2 logging permits.

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¹⁷⁷ About 7,633.59 Euros.

¹⁷⁸ About 102.06 Euros.

¹⁷⁹ About 152.67 Euros.

¹⁸⁰ About 3,873.28 Euros.

757- Biodiversity conservation was achieved, with the reforestation of more than 5,000 ha of land to fight against desertification and climate change. Wildlife species were protected and the Doumba-Rey Biosphere Reserve was established by UNESCO. Environmental litigation led to the conviction of a number of environmental offenders by courts in criminal matters.

758- However, the Government must redouble its efforts to raise public awareness on environmental protection.

CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

759- In a nutshell, Government's actions as regards economic, social and cultural rights highlighted some major trends. The first has to do with improvement of the education and health sectors. The second relates to efforts in ensuring sufficient supply of food, housing, water and energy. The third trend relates to ensuring the population feels fulfilled through cultural and leisure activities. The fourth trend focuses on preserving the quality of the environment and adopting measures to reverse damage to it.

760- In carrying out its actions, Government faced some constraints which stem from a general poor Human Rights culture and especially from limited financial, material and technical resources. In order to face these constraints, there is need for innovative solutions.

PART THREE

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND SPECIFIC RIGHTS



INTRODUCTION TO PART THREE

761- The Government continued its efforts towards restoring peace, particularly in the Far North, North West and South West Regions, and promoting peaceful coexistence. This was also the case regarding the improvement of the quality of governance and the fight against corruption, in respect of which ground-breaking measures were taken and brainstorming initiated.

762- Improving living conditions of detainees, refugees and internally displaced persons remained a priority. The protection of the rights of children, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, as well as the legal and regulatory frameworks relating to them were strengthened.

763- Furthermore, achievements at the strategic level and the inclusion of women in the management of public affairs and conflicts were key milestones which reflect the commitment of public authorities to recognise the role of women in society.

764- The above-mentioned initiatives are highlighted in part three, specifically in the following 6 chapters:

- right to peace, security and respect for Human Rights;
- good governance and the fight against corruption;
- detention conditions;
- promotion and protection of socially vulnerable persons;
- promotion and protection of women's rights and
- protection of the rights of forcibly displaced persons.



CHAPTER

1

**RIGHT TO PEACE
AND SECURITY**



765- In 2022, maintenance of security and consolidation of peace were among the main Government concerns. Actions carried out by the State allowed a relative control of the security situation. Deployment of such actions was intended not only to stem insecurity, but also to prevent it. Living together continued to be encouraged through promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism.

SECTION 1: RELATIVE CONTROL OF THE SECURITY SITUATION

766- *Boko Haram* carried out sporadic attacks in the Far North Region, while armed groups with separatist inclination carried out similar attacks in the North West and South West Regions. The West Region also experienced terrorist violence.

§1: Security Situation in the Far North Region

767- It was marked by keeping intercommunity violence and terrorist attacks in check.

A: Attacks by Boko Haram

768- Despite a reduction in its activities in the Far North Region, *Boko Haram* continued to spread terror through armed attacks affecting both the Defence and Security Forces (DSF) and neighbouring communities¹⁸¹.

769- The Cameroon army maintained its strategy to take into account the threat that remained diffused among the population. Thus, predictive and human intelligence was privileged through not only stepping up vigilance committees that received support in logistics, but also collaboration of the population. This made it possible to defeat attacks and maintain peace.

B: Curbing Intercommunity Violence

770- Between March and May 2022, some calm was observed in the Logone Birni Council, the hotspot of intercommunity conflict that broke out in the Logone and Chari Division and the Mayo Danaï Division in August and December 2021. The calm observed was the result of calls for calm and return of the population made by authorities.

¹⁸¹ This concern attacks at Hitawa on 31 May 2022 resulting in 7 dead (3 soldiers and 4 civilians), Moutchikar on 17 July 2022 with 4 civilians dead, Kordo on 7 August 2022 resulting in 3 civilians dead, and Ldaoussaf on 29 December 2022 with 1 soldier dead.

§2: Security Situation in the North West and South West Regions

771- The security situation in North West Region and South West Region was characterised by attacks carried out by secessionist groups and the resurgence of community violence.

A: Attacks by Secessionist Groups

772- Some raids by armed groups were reported and were increasingly concentrated in South West Region. The method of operation remained the same with the intrusion of these armed gangs, armed confrontations with DSFs, assassinations and kidnappings with demand for ransom.

773- Some of the attacks were halted through the bravery of DSFs and collaboration with the population. There was recurrence of the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). On 2 March 2022, an IED was triggered by unidentified individuals, causing the death of the Subdivisional Officer of Ekondo Titi, a soldier and 5 other persons.

774- On 25 June 2022, in Ballin, South West Region, at about 4 a.m., some 100 heavily armed individuals broke into the home of a member of the National Assembly, opened fire on the crowd that came to attend the funeral of the brother of the said member and cremated the body of the deceased. They also burnt down the Health Centre and houses and attacked the local Gendarmerie Post. Some 30 civilians including a teacher and 2 Nigerian nationals were murdered, many injured and about 50 houses burnt down¹⁸² in this attack.

B: Resurgence of Intercommunity Violence

775- On 26 June 2022 in Akwaya, there was resurgence of an old rivalry between the Oliti and the Messaga-Okol, two farming peoples. The clashes resulted in more than 30 people dead and many injured.

776- The crisis in the North West Region also exacerbated tensions between the local people and Mbororo nomads.

§4: Security Situation in the West Region

777- The security situation in the West Region was marked by attempts or intrusion in some towns by armed gangs.

¹⁸² Examples: attacks of Ikoro on 20 May 2022, Mamfe Hospital on 8 June 2022 and Muyuka on 6 September 2022.

778- Indeed, on 8 June 2022 in Njitafofon (Noun Division), about 100 gunmen who came by the Noun River aboard 2 canoes, stormed the Gendarmerie Post of the town during which 5 gendarmes were killed and 3 others wounded. The Post and military vehicles were also destroyed using 2 grenades and a rocket launcher.

779- In addition, on the night of 27 to 28 June 2022, the residence of the Subdivisional Officer and the Babadjou Gendarmerie Post were attacked by armed men. Three gendarmes were injured, who later died.

SECTION 2: INCREASING INSECURITY PREVENTION MEASURES

780- The State continued to secure its borders and take action to prevent violent extremism and terrorist attacks.

§1: Border Governance

781- Border governance focused on the borders between Cameroon and Gabon, and Cameroon and the Central African Republic (CAR).

A: Cameroon-Gabon Border Management

782- From 22 to 24 November 2022, Cameroon hosted the Technical Meeting of Experts to implement the recommendations of the 2nd session of the *Ad Hoc* Commission on the Borders of the two countries, and the 1st session of the Standing Joint Commission on Border Security.

783- Under the auspices of “*Frontières*” (*Borders*) programme of the Economic Community of Central African States, deliberations focused on examination and adoption of bilateral legal instruments on cross-border cooperation; formation of a Joint Border Commission and preparation of a timetable for activities relating to the subscription of the border segment between the Kom and Ayina rivers.

B: Cameroon-CAR Border Management

784- Cameroon-CAR Border Management resulted in a meeting held in Ngaoundere on 10 November 2022 bringing together Ministers of Defence of the two countries. During the meeting, they reiterated the commitment of their respective countries in the search of lasting stability and peace, guarantees of the free movement of persons and goods and

socio-economic development. They also praised improvements in border communities, in particular the Yamba border crossing and the Ngaoui cattle market.

§2: Stepping up the Fight against Terrorist Attacks

785- In this light, Cameroon readjusted its security system in the fight against *Boko Haram*. Indeed, from 24 to 25 June 2022, the Minister of Defence paid a working visit to the Adamawa Region, North Region and Far North Region to assess the security situation, reassure and comfort the population, victim of criminal actions and prescribe appropriate measures for the restoration of security and order in the 3 regions. He then instructed special security actions in consultation with Nigeria to track terrorists in the Mandara Mountains area and the deployment of special forces in the border area shared with CAR and Chad, to stem kidnappings and cattle theft.

786- In addition, Law No. 2022/17 of 27 December 2022 relating to the suppression of piracy, terrorism and offences against the safety of maritime navigation and platforms was enacted.

787- It aims to specifically suppress maritime piracy, acts of terrorism on board ships and platforms, the illicit transport of minor children, attacks on the security of maritime navigation and platforms, pollution of water and waterways, and unauthorised emissions.

SECTION 3: CONSOLIDATING PEACE BUILDING

788- The State began reaping the fruits of cooperation with international partners. She continued enhancing the security capacities of public officials, deployed peace activities and maintained actions geared towards disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants and ex-associates.

§1: Fruits of Diplomatic Action

789- State initiatives to resolve the security crisis in North West Region and South West Region¹⁸³ began producing satisfactory results. Indeed, on 28 November 2022, **C.N.**, **F.C.**, **L.N.L.** were prosecuted by judicial authorities of the United States. The accused persons were suspected of raising funds to support logistics of armed gangs operating in the said regions.

¹⁸³ §764 of 2021 MINJUSTICE Report.

790- The prosecution of the accused persons was the result of combined actions comprising complaints filed by associations and law firms established in the United States, and especially the constant appeal by the Head of State to the countries of refuge of the offenders.

§2: Peace Building Actions

791- DSFs continued to operate in collaboration with the population and enhanced the Army/Nation duo, while the programme for the reconstruction of areas affected regions continued.

A: Social Involvement of Defence and Security Forces

792- The Military Engineering Service carried out a large number of public works such as the rehabilitation of the *Institut Camerounais de l'Enfance* of Betamba in February 2022, Phase I of the maintenance of some roads in Yaounde in late March 2022; demolition of a three-storey building belonging to the Ebolowa Council; renovation of 2 administrative blocks of the Higher Teacher Training College (HTTC) Yaounde and the construction of the base of the Cameroon National Shippers Council at Ngoulentang, Centre Region in October 2022.

793- For its part, Military Health participated in the execution of cross-cutting programmes implemented by MINSANTE, such as Expanded Immunization Programme, HIV/AIDS control, malaria control and various other programmes. From 14 to 28 March 2022, the Second Region Military Hospital provided free treatment to more than 62 patients with the *Noma* or "cleft lip" pathology.

B: Reconstruction of Crisis Regions

794- Implementation of reconstruction plans and programmes continued.

1) Reconstruction and Development Plan for the North West Region and South West Region

795- During its 4th session held in Yaounde on 8 July 2022, the Steering Committee of the Reconstruction and Development Plan for North West Region and South West Region took stock of already completed projects. The balance sheet shows that out of the expected CFAF154,000,

000,000¹⁸⁴, CFAF1 1,000,000, 000¹⁸⁵ was already mobilised. Some of the projects include the rehabilitation of 19 water points for more than 170,000 people, 16 health centres for 5,000 patients and 22 schools for 7,000 learners were rehabilitated, and the building of 4 bridges.

796- Furthermore, 800 personal documents and 5 community centres were re-established for more than 120,000 persons, 60 mediators trained, 12 different festivals and cultural events funded. The plan further financed Start-ups, 47 agricultural cooperatives and 2,403 farmers through the provision of equipment, 40 greenhouses and 53 stores.

2) Special Programme for Reconstruction and Development of the Far North Region

797- By Order No. 108/CAB/PM of 4 November 2022 of the Prime Minister, the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator of the Special Programme for Reconstruction and Development of the Far North Region were appointed. They are responsible for the implementation of the main thrusts of the Programme as defined by Government¹⁸⁶.

798- Besides, during the “Far North Business Week” launched on 14 November 2022, the elite of the region held discussions on the economic development of the region, victims of insecurity and natural disasters.

§4: Monitoring and Capacity Development of Public Officials in Combating the Proliferation of Weapons

799- The different consultation frameworks on combating the proliferation of weapons held sessions and organised trainings. The frameworks included the Interministerial Committee on the Implementation of the Kinshasa Convention¹⁸⁷, the Interministerial Consultation Platform for the development of the National System of International Arms Transfer (SYNTIA/Platform) and the Interministerial Committee for the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CIAC). These meetings made it possible to assess the level of implementation of Inter-

¹⁸⁴ About 235,114,503.82 Euros.

¹⁸⁵ About 16,793,893.13 Euros.

¹⁸⁶ § 771 and 772 of 2021 MINJUSTICE Report.

¹⁸⁷ The Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components that can be used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly.

national Conventions and identify future challenges such as combating the manufacture and use of IEDs or the possession of weapons other than fissile or chemical materials by actors other than the State.

800- Training included the workshop held on 16 February 2022 in Yaounde on the theme Trafficking of IED components and diversion of commercial explosives; the workshop on the National Control List of Arms Transfers and Reporting, organized by MINREX in collaboration with *Expertise France* from 8 to 11 November 2022 in Yaounde. EFORCES, also organised an awareness seminar on the control of small arms and light weapons from 14 to 18 March 2022 in Yaounde Gendarmerie, Police, Customs, Forestry and Wildlife, and Territorial and Penitentiary Administration staff.

801- Cameroon was also present on the international scene through its attendance at different meetings such as the 1st Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons held in Vienna from 21 to 23 June 2022 and the Subregional workshop on the role of national legislation and threats from non-state stakeholders from 16 to 18 November in Dakar, Senegal.

§5: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of ex-Combatants and ex- Associates

802- The activities of the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (CNDDR) focused on stepping up international cooperation and demobilisation of ex-combatants and ex- associates.

A: Consolidating International Cooperation

803- In the Subregion, international cooperation resulted in continued discussions with Nigeria, Niger and Chad as part of the "Regional Strategy for Stabilisation, Recovery and Resilience of the *Boko Haram* affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin". This cooperation took place under the auspices of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union.

B: Demobilisation of ex-Combatants and ex- Associates

804- The NDDRC continued to receive and prepare ex-combatants for reintegration.

805- As at 31 December 2022, the number of inmates in the different regional ex-combatant centres was as follows:

Table 1: Inmates in NDDRCs as at 31 December 2022

NDDRC (REGION)	Men	Women	Children	Total
Buea (South West)	307	21	7	335
Bamenda (North West)	212	69	41	332
Mora (Far North)	667	695	1,207	2,569
Total	1,186	785	1,255	3,226

Source: NDDRC

806- The deradicalisation programme and training for reintegration of Cameroon ex-combatants into social life continued. Besides, a new selection system became functional in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders. Henceforth, *ex-Boko Haram* foreign fighters were directed to their home countries.

807- Furthermore, the construction of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Centres in Buea and Bamenda was completed in 2022.

SECTION 4: CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF LIVING TOGETHER

808- The National Commission on Bilingualism and Multiculturalism continued to consolidate living together. On 24 May 2022, it launched the “coalition for the fight against hate speech and xenophobia” platform by signing a memorandum of understanding with 14 civil society organisations. Through the media, the Commission also raised awareness on the fight against hate speech.

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809- On the whole, State actions to consolidate peace and security focused on securing the regions plagued by terrorism, monitoring borders and the reintegration of ex-combatants. However, in spite of the efforts made, the culture of living together and bilingualism remained major challenges.

CHAPTER

2

**PROMOTION OF GOOD
GOVERNANCE AND
COMBATING
CORRUPTION**



810- Government which is committed to the proper quality of the process of managing public affairs and resources, maintained good governance as a priority. The following actions were taken to enhance the overall quality of governance, and specifically combat corruption and misappropriation of public property.

SECTION 1: INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE GOVERNANCE

811- Measures taken included the participation of the private sector in the decision-making process, incentives to wealth creation, consolidation of transparency and audit of the internal debt of the State of Cameroon.

§1: Participation of the Private Sector in the Decision-Making Process

812- Dialogue previously initiated by the State with the private sector was maintained, while discussions were ongoing on the restructuring of the formal framework of the said dialogue.

A: Maintaining Public/Private Sector Dialogue

813- In addition to employee and civil society organisations, as well as parliamentarians, discussions involved employers and notably the *Groupe Interpatronal du Cameroun* (GICAM), which is the most representative entity.

814- One of the highlights was the meeting held on 18 March 2022 in Yaounde, chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government and attended by many members of Government and Directors General of public structures as well as a delegation of GICAM led by its president and comprising representatives of the following sectors; brewery, downstream petroleum industries, cement plants, agricultural inputs, oilseeds, milling, mass distribution and plastics. Focus was on the inflation crisis in the world since the second half of 2021.

815- Throughout 2022, institutional stakeholders had regular discussions with GICAM¹⁸⁸ on different issues including vocational training, labour inspection, shipping, copyright and related rights, the soaring prices of raw materials and maritime freight, taxation etc...

¹⁸⁸ For more information, consult GICAM website at <https://www.legicam.cm>

816- Besides, on 5 April 2022, GICAM attended the 2nd edition of the forum organised in the premises housing the National Assembly, by the Network of Parliamentarians for the promotion of private entrepreneurship under the theme *The impact of overarching projects on localised entrepreneurship and decent employment: the case of the Nachtigal hydroelectric dam project*.

B: Discussions on Restructuring the formal Framework of Public-Private Dialogue

817- Originally scheduled for December 2021, the 12th edition of Cameroon Business Forum (CBF) was, due to certain requirements, postponed to a later date. Since then, Government began to reflect on its conduct under the most suitable conditions. At the *Salon Promote* held in February 2022, Government, during discussions organised by the European Union, reiterated its determination to organise CBF.

818- GICAM began advocating the restructuring of CBF, the permanent formal framework for high-level consultations, suggesting the establishment of a new entity, Cameroon Business Council. It is expected to be a bipartisan structure chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, assisted by the President of GICAM.

§2: Investment Incentives

819- Institutional stakeholders dedicated to investment promotion played their role and tax and customs facilities were granted.

A: Tax and Customs Facilities

820- The Finance Law of the 2022 financial year extended or introduced tax and customs facilities to encourage investment. In the area of taxation¹⁸⁹, the law enshrined permanent and ad hoc measures. The first set of measures includes reductions in the tax burden on individuals and corporate bodies, such as from 15 to 5% reduction in the rate of registration on mass transfers of corporate rights. The second set includes support measures to enterprises in the context of youth employment and some sectors of activity, and for economic recovery operations in economically affected areas. With regard to customs, incentives mainly concerned the import-substitution policy (See § 484).

¹⁸⁹ <https://www.impots.cm/sites/default/files/documents/FT%20mesures%20nouvelles%20LF%202022.pdf>

B: Office of Investment Promotion Institutional Stakeholders

821- Decree No. 2022/214 of 10 June 2022 empowered MINEPAT to sign a financing agreement with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa to the tune of US\$18,900,000 (about CFAF11,340,000,000¹⁹⁰) to support the Cameroon private sector affected by COVID-19 pandemic. As usual, the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA), Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) and the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Promotion Agency (APME) continued to promote investment.

1) IPA Initiatives

822- From 2014 to 2022, IPA signed 310 agreements¹⁹¹, creating 14,354 decent jobs, 8,677 of which were allocated to Cameroonians and the rest to foreigners mainly in the agri-food, chemical, metallurgy and aquaculture sectors. The breakdown shows the employment of 73% of supervisors, 19% of administrators and 8% of managers (representing 79% of men and 21% of women).

2) MINPMEESA and APME Initiatives

823- The Business Creation Formality Centres (CFCE) facilitated the setting up of 7,651 individual establishments and 5,648 SMEs. During the 7th edition of the awareness-raising caravan for membership of SMEs in the Approved Management Centres (AMC), held from 24 to 25 October 2022 in Bafoussam, some 800 SMEs were drilled on the relevance of their membership of AMC. The second batch of 18 learners from the National Business Pilot Nursery (NBPN) of Edea completed their training and received a grant of CFAF100,000,000¹⁹² as seed funds. APME, which designed two digital and interactive platforms for rating SMEs (Nota-APME) and developing online business plans (MyObus), trained 7,500 youths in entrepreneurial awakening and rearmament and in the development of economic project models.

¹⁹⁰ About 17,312,977.10 Euros.

¹⁹¹ In 2022, IPA signed 42 agreements for an estimated investment of CFAF1,134,774,238 (About 1,732,479.75 Euros) representing 28% of direct foreign investment and 72% of national investment. Estimated jobs stood at 23,430 of which 30% jobs by foreign establishments and 72% by Cameroon establishments.

¹⁹² About 152,671.76 Euros.

824- Besides, 239 local networks of social and solidarity economy organisations were set up. From 17 to 21 October 2022, a workshop was held in Yaounde to develop the managerial, entrepreneurial and financial capacities of some 700 social economy stakeholders.

825- In support of income and job-generating micro-projects, CFAF700,000,000¹⁹³ was transferred by MINPMEESA to 138 Councils. The monitoring and evaluation of transfers made in 2021 showed that, for the same amount, beneficiary social economy organisations generated an overall turnover of CFAF374,821,750¹⁹⁴ and created 1,383 jobs.

826- In addition, 863 craftsmen and craftswomen were structured in 21 supporting trades at the council level and 656 were structured in 18 trades at the divisional level of Adamawa Region. Some 4,400 craftsmen and craftswomen were recorded in communal registers. Besides, 668 craftsmen and craftswomen and craft businesses were drilled in packaging techniques for handicraft products, bookkeeping, e-commerce, agro-food processing, weaving and cotton processing at a workshop on packaging held from 19 to 20 April 2021 in Douala,. Its main recommendations which were implemented in March 2022, enabled craftsmen to obtain 56 barcodes for their products.

827- Three reference studies were conducted on the structuring of agro-industrial **PMEESA** and the cotton-textile-clothing-leather sector, as well as on the establishment of a project to support the integration of PMEESA wood processing in local value chains. An advocacy document highlighting the main lines of support and financial needs was prepared and forwarded to Technical and Financial Partners.

828- As part of SME upgrade, MINPMEESA organised a capacity development workshop for SMEs in standardisation and quality improvement of their agri-food products from 9 to 14 June 2022 in Yaounde, in collaboration with UNDP. In the same vein, 80 SMEs were supported by APME in the adoption of standards in the cotton-textile-clothing, forest-wood and agro-industrial sectors.

¹⁹³ About 1,068,702.29 Euros.

¹⁹⁴ About 572,246.95 Euros.

829- Some 50 companies in the digital sector witnessed capacity development in their entrepreneurial and managerial skills, 300 SMEs were supported in the registration of their products in the official price list to facilitate their access to public contracts, 1 80 SMEs benefited from the support of the subcontracting and partnership grant as part of their profiling and reprofiling to improve their competitiveness in subcontracting.

830- The Interministerial Validation Committee of Support Arrangements and Training Modules in Incubation Structures held 2 annual sessions, following which 25 incubation structures were formalised, including 4 public and 21 private structures.

831- The 7th session of the KAIZEN Africa 2022 Annual Conference was held from 4 to 5 October 2022 in Yaounde, during which Cameroon, which has a KAIZEN Centre of Excellence located at APME, shared its best practices. The KAIZEN project has helped 107 SMEs in Centre Region, Littoral Region, West Region, Far North Region and North Region.

832- As part of the operation to support the Cameroon private sector affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, MINPMEESA supported the signing of a Cooperation Agreement on 27 September 2022 in Yaounde, between Government and UNDP worth US\$21 million for start-ups in the digital sector, Very Small Enterprises (VSE) and SMEs. As at 31 October 2022, Cameroon SMEs Bank mobilised CFAF10,875,000,000¹⁹⁵ deposits. The volume of credit realised during the same period stood at CFAF10,895,000,000¹⁹⁶.

§4: Application of the principle of transparency

833- The application of the principle of transparency concerned bank secrecy with the adoption of a new law as well as the extractive industry, public contracts, and consolidation of digitisation of procedures.

A: Adoption of a new Law on Bank Secrecy

834- Law No. 2022/6 of 27 April 2022 governing bank secrecy in Cameroon repealed Law No. 2003/4 of 21 April 2003. The new law better addresses transparency concerns. The main innovations focus on: broadening the scope of persons entitled to request the communication

¹⁹⁵ About 16,605,053.44 Euros

¹⁹⁶ About 16,633,587.79 Euros

of information, supervising the communication procedure in cases of non-violation of bank secrecy, clarification of acts giving rise to the non-enforceability of bank secrecy and the extension of institutions to which bank secrecy is not enforceable, as well as increased financial penalties.

B: Consolidation of the Digitisation of Procedures

835- The digitisation of procedures in tax, customs, forestry, public service, public contracts (§ 845 and 846) was consolidated to mobilise more public revenue, streamline operations and enhance the quality of service. The positive impact on public income and stakeholder engagement was confirmed.

836- From January to November 2022, the Directorate General of Taxation (DGI) collected revenue to the tune of CFAF2,426,500,000,000¹⁹⁷, an increase of 20.3% compared to the same period in 2021. The Directorate General of Customs (DGC) mobilised CFAF897,400,000,000¹⁹⁸, an increase of 5.3% compared to 2021.

837- In May 2022, MINFOF took stock of the second-generation Computerised Forest Information Management System (SIGIF 2). The results were as follows: 617 structures registered in the system, 1,556 user accounts created by the administration and operators, 180 applications for certificates of materialisation of limits submitted by operators in the system and 123 approved by regional delegations, 114 applications for certificates of conformity for inventory work submitted by operators and 106 approved by regional delegations, 33,839 waybills generated by operators and 575,318.180 m³ of wood recorded in SIGIF 2.

C: Deepening transparency in the Extractive Industry

838- Actions undertaken through participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the Kimberley Process helped deepen transparency in the extractive sector.

1) Actions in Connection with Participation in the EITI

839- At the normative level, Decision No. 723/MINFI/DGI of 21 October 2022 on the modalities of implementation of the Beneficial Own-

¹⁹⁷ About 3,704,580,152.67 Euros.

¹⁹⁸ About 1,370,076,335.88 Euros.

er Standard in Cameroon was signed. The decision was the result of the work of the Interministerial Committee on the Preparation of Evaluation of Cameroon for the Second Round of Peer Review of the Global Forum on Transparency and Sharing of Information for Tax Purposes.

840- With respect to reporting, the EITI 2020 Report¹⁹⁹ was presented to the public in a workshop organised on 16 December 2022 in Yaounde, to provide information on governance in the oil, gas and mining sectors. In particular, the Report reveals that Cameroon recorded revenue in the amount of CFAF686,000,000,000²⁰⁰, with CFAF558,040,000,000²⁰¹ in revenue received by the state budget, representing 81.37% of total payments by extractive companies

841- Concerning capacity development, a national workshop on beneficial ownership was held on 14 December 2022 in Yaounde. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among stakeholders involved in the context of Requirement 2.5 of the EITI Standard, for the disclosure of beneficial owners of companies operating in Cameroon in the extractive sector with a view to completing the establishment of a register of beneficial owners specific to that sector.

842- Regarding disclosure in the extractive sector, in compliance with EITI Standard (Requirement 2.4), in June 2022, Government published online, the mining agreement signed on 6 May 2022 with SINOSTEEL CAM S.A, on the industrial exploitation of iron ore in the locality of Lobe in South Region.

2) Participation in the Kimberley Process

843- With regard to training and awareness-raising, the Permanent National Secretariat for Kimberley Process (PNSKP) organised from 21 to 22 July 2022, a capacity development workshop of institutional stakeholders involved in the fight against smuggling and trafficking of mineral substances at airports in Cameroon. Besides, *Réseau de Lutte contre la Faim* (RELUF) on 27 April 2022 in Yaounde, organised a workshop for the restitution of articles and reports by journalists on land governance and other natural resources in Cameroon.

¹⁹⁹ <https://eiticameroon.org/post/3120>.

²⁰⁰ About 1,047,328,244.27 Euros.

²⁰¹ About 851,969,465.65 Euros.

844- Moreover, in a report entitled *Inventory and mapping of diamond sites in East Cameroon*²⁰² published by RELUFA in March 2022, it is stated that in 95% of mine sites, particularly diamond sites, the production is bought by informal stakeholders from Batouri, Yokadouma, Bertoua, Yaounde and Douala; a situation that frustrates the transparency process.

D: Deepening Transparency in the Management of Public Contracts

845- In addition to Circular No. 1/PR/MINMAP/CAB of 25 April 2022 on the application of the Public Contracts Code, consolidating the E-procurement project and sanctions for fraudulent practices helped deepen transparency.

846- On 25 July 2022 in Yaounde, during the ceremony to present the level of work progress of Phase II of the E-procurement project which aims to ensure transparency in the management of public contracts, the Minister of Public Contracts noted that in 2021, more than 7,800 contracts were scheduled, 235 calls for tender published and 100 contracts awarded online to the tune of more than CFAF10,000,000,000²⁰².

847- By two decisions taken in December 2022, the Minister of Public Contracts terminated the contracts of 80 companies for various breaches, bringing the number to 500 since 2019. By several decisions²⁰³ notably those of 15 June, 27 July and 22 August 2022, the same Minister temporarily suspended several companies from public procurement.

848- A list of companies and individuals excluded from public procurement and those suspended by international banking institutions for fraud and corruption is available on ARMP website (<https://www.armac.cm/sanctions>).

§5: Audit of the State's domestic debt

849- In a circular sent to members of Government at the end of 2020, officials of public establishments and corporations as well as municipal executives, the Minister of Finance announced the audit²⁰⁴ of the domestic debt of Cameroon with a view to *resolving the debt spiral* and *"rendering the signature of the State more credible"*.

²⁰² About 15,267, 175.57Euros.

²⁰³ https://minmap.cm/?page_id=24331

²⁰⁴ This audit carried out from 1st January 2000 to 31 December 2019 was assigned to an audit firm following the results of an invitation to tender published on 26 October 2021.

850- On 6 October 2022, the State published a list of 32,359 service providers whose claims were deemed auditable and eligible for the debt confirmation transaction.

851- Conversely, claims by 5,656 service providers were rejected on grounds of *duplicate, "already paid, duplication, partly paid, already processed, "same file content but different title numbers, out of reference period.*

SECTION 2: COMBATING CORRUPTION AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

852- To continue addressing the challenge of stakeholder integrity, measures relating to prevention, repression, detection and cooperation, investigation, control, assistance and counselling were consolidated.

§1: Preventive measures

853- Preventive measures included training, awareness-raising, information and communication initiatives.

A: Training Initiatives

854- In March, May, June, October and December 2022, the National Agency for Financial Investigation (ANIF) organised a series of workshops on money laundering and financing of terrorism in Ebolowa, Yaounde, Douala, Buea and Garoua for 120 civilian and military Judicial and Legal Officers, 32 military staff and 24 Judicial Police Officers (JPO) from the 10 regions of Cameroon.

855- With regard in service training at the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), 12 senior officials attended 7 in-service training sessions in many fields including techniques to combat economic and financial crimes, and the recovery of stolen assets. NACC organised trainings for other structures. Thus, in July and November 2022, capacity development workshops were organised in Ebolowa for members of the anti-corruption units of Ebolowa I Council, SIC, MAETUR, ARMP, ANOR and MIND-DEVEL. The workshops focused on the proper understanding of best practices developed by the Commonwealth in combating corruption, plans of action of anti-corruption units and the format for preparing contributions to the annual Report on Corruption in Cameroon.

856- Furthermore, CONSUPE organised²⁰⁵ the following activities: an outreach meeting on Human Rights and protection of persons suspected of financial misappropriation as part of public financial management control held on 20 January 2022 for 35 staff; a training workshop for rapporteurs of the Budgetary and Financial Disciplinary Council (BFDC) and defenders of the State before the courts, organised from 29 to 31 August 2022 for some 30 Inspectors and State Controllers; and a workshop on *The Renewed Public Contracts Framework*, held from 13 to 16 December 2022 for 30 technical staff.

857- With regard to capacity development of authorising officers and credit managers, CONSUPE organised a training workshop on *the concepts of irregularity, mismanagement, prejudice and liability in the management of a public company*, from 18 to 22 July 2022 in Garoua for staff of Société de Développement de Coton du Cameroun (SODECOTON), and a technical conference on *“awareness-raising of the risk management culture in a public entity”*. CONSUPE also updated the Internal Audit Charter and developed the quality control manual of the company.

858- As part of the launch of the three-year staff capacity development programme of the Autonomous Port of Douala (APD), following the protocol signed on 20 April 2022, a training workshop on *“the concepts of irregularity, mismanagement, prejudice and liability in the management of a public company”* was organised from 21 to 28 October 2022 in Douala.

859- In addition, the following training activities were organised by CONSUPE for FEICOM staff: a training workshop on *risk analysis and development of the risk map*, from 14 to 18 March 2022 in Douala; and an introductory performance audit workshop, from 28 March to 1 April 2022 in Yaounde.

B: Awareness-raising, Information and Communication Initiatives

860- During the 11th edition of the Government Action Show organised from 22 June to 2 July 2022 in Yaounde, CONSUPE distributed thousands of flyers to raise the awareness of the public on the need to get involved

205 A training workshop on drafting of the report of the Rapporteur was organised in February 2022 for State Inspectors and Controllers; a training workshop on *“methodology and verification techniques”* for newly recruited staff of the institution was organised from 2 to 8 August 2022.

in the protection of public property through reporting acts affecting public property and, on the need to make good use of public property. A panel discussion on the theme *the role of CONSUPE in the modernisation of public financial management* was also organised and broadcast live on CRTV News. The discussion focused on the working methodology of CONSUPE and the need for collaboration between all citizens, CSOs and CONSUPE in combating misappropriation of public property.

861- During the Promote Fair (19 to 27 February 2022), Commonwealth Week (28 February to 4 March 2022), the African Education Fair (22 to 29 October 2022), NACC, in Yaounde, raised the awareness of more than 25,000 people on combating corruption, through discussions or distribution of documentation. The awareness of more than 5,000 others was raised in the communities of Belabo, Eseka, Olanguina, Sa'a, Makak, etc., during events organised by third-parties. During celebrations on 11 July 2022 of the 5th edition of the African Anti-Corruption Day under the theme: "*Regional Economic Communities: Key Stakeholders in the Implementation of the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Fight against Corruption*", NACC organised a press conference to urge public opinion to support the fight against corruption by speaking out against the scourge.

862- In addition, NACC produced and broadcast, in French and English, 22 13-minute editions of *Espace CONAC Magazine Radio* (on Saturdays from 9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on CRTV national radio station), 24 13-minute editions of *Espace CONAC Magazine Télé* (on Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:00 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. on CRTV and Canal 2 International), 12 six minutes editions of *Espace CONAC Magazine Alerte Télé* on corruption offences and criminal implications (on CRTV National Station on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.). It also produced and distributed 2,000 copies of the 2021 Anti-Corruption Report, released on 10 November 2022 as well as 60,000 copies of the monthly CONAC Newsletter magazine, 3,000 copies of its Code of Ethics booklet and 78,550 t-shirts, caps, bags, stickers, flyers and polo shirts with anti-corruption messages.

863- With regard to specific activities, the organisation of an *Anti-Corruption Clinic* in Douala from 17 to 21 April 2022 made it possible to register 365 reports and present 3 persons caught *flagrante delicto* in the

act of corruption, to Judicial Police Officers. Posters with anti-corruption messages were affixed at airports and popular places in the 5 host cities of the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations during the *corruption-free competition campaign* organised from 3 to 7 January 2022. During the corruption-free 2022-2023 school reopening campaign, NACC teams were actively present from 22 to 28 August 2022 in 9 regions, visited 410 schools, distributed or affixed 2,700 flyers and anti-corruption posters. Some 2,000 integrity clubs, the members of which are “peer educators”, were formed, reactivated or installed in 11 State universities and more than 50 Private Higher Education Institutes.

864- In September 2022, NACC teams were deployed in 9 regions to identify and compile a directory of local 107 community radio stations to broadcast anti-corruption programmes or messages in local languages.

§2: Investigation, Control, Assistance and Counselling Initiatives

865- The initiatives were taken by the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court, ANIF, NACC and CONSUPE. In addition, the DGC received 26 reports from different institutions, opened 17 administrative investigations, suspended all emoluments, salaries and duties, sent 5 letters of dissatisfaction, 11 calls to order, and a letter of observation.

A: ANIF Actions

866- ANIF received 869 suspicious activity reports (as against 785 in 2020 and 771 in 2021) and 103 files (as against 98 in 2020 and 373 in 2021) were forwarded to judicial authorities, 140 to investigation authorities and 148 to other public administrations, for charges of money laundering, misappropriation of public property, corruption, tax fraud, customs fraud and others. Based on the files forwarded to DGT between 2019 and 2022, recovery notices issued yielded a return of CFAF3, 810, 819, 790²⁰⁶.

B: NAAC Actions

867- In 2022, 10,548 cases were reported to NACC, from Cameroon and abroad (down from 16,067 in 2021), including 4,041 from toll-free telephone numbers, 4,710 from administrative letters, 845 from e-mails and 952 from WhatsApp (658 26 26 82). Some of these reports were

²⁰⁶ About 5,818,045.48 Euros.

processed by NACC and others forwarded to the competent authorities or institutions.

868- Some corruption investigations required extended field missions to gather evidence. Following investigations, 22 investigation reports were examined by NACC for facts relating to corrupt practices. NACC²⁰⁷ forwarded 9 matters to the courts compared to 11 in 2021.

C: CONSUPE Actions

869- CONSUPE conducted 10 audit missions and 6 cross-checking missions within public administrations, public corporations, mixed corporations, public establishments, Councils and bodies of a specific nature. At the end, 9 audit mission reports were forwarded to the Presidency of the Republic. Besides, CONSUPE received 462 reports, all processed in the relevant operational units. The reports concerned acts committed in ministries, public corporations, public establishments, Councils and by private legal persons operating in the public contracts sector.

D: Actions of the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

870- This financial court conducted administrative and judicial control, and the audit and certification of public policies.

1) Judicial and Administrative Control

871- Audits of the accounts of State Accountants, Accountants of public administrative institutions, Accountants of Councils and accounts of public and semi-public enterprises resulted in 545 investigation reports and 231 judgments.

2) Audit and Certification of Public Policies

872- After a first report drawn up in 2021, audit of COVID-19 funds continued and ended with a second report adopted on 22 September 2022, which contains 12 recommendations and decisions on the initiation of pro-

²⁰⁷ NACC also carried out 14 actions through rapid interventions that led to the identification and stoppage of several cases of flagrant corruption offences or similar offences. The actions concerned allegations of corruption: extortion of funds from public road users; fraudulent issuance of driver's licences; usurpation of the title of NACC agent; attempted corruption fraud; forgery; unlawful increase of cement prices; misappropriation of public property; illegal suspension of civil servant salary; illicit sale of petroleum products; fraud in Baccalauréat examinations; fraud in driver's licence examinations; abuse of office; illicit sale of school uniforms in schools; fraud...

ceedings for mismanagement. Besides, forms for revenue declaration of the extractive sector, in connection with the participation of Cameroon in the EITI (§839..), were certified.

873- At the request of MINEPAT, the Audit Bench carried out 8 accounting and financial audit missions for the following programmes or projects: Grass-field Rural Infrastructure and Community-driven Support Project, Phase II; Transport Sector Support Programme Phases II and III; Studies and preparation of a programme for drinking water supply and sanitation in rural areas; Yaounde Sanitation Project, Phase II; Value chain development project for livestock and fish farming; Integrated Climate Change Adaptation and Development Programme in the Niger Basin, Cameroon component; and Budget Support Programme in response to COVID-19 crisis. The audit missions were completed with 21 reports on financial statements and internal control.

874- The Audit Bench also examined, in order to give its opinion on the settlement bill drawn up following the implementation of the finance law of 2021 financial year. It made 35 remarks on form and on the merits with a view to improving budget management.

§3: Cooperation Actions

875- The Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa published in March 2022, the Mutual Assessment Report²⁰⁸ adopted on 21 October 2021 in Douala by the 15th plenary of the Technical Commission of the Group. The Report presents the anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing measures implemented in Cameroon, analyses the level of compliance with the 40 Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the effectiveness of the LBC/FT²⁰⁹ mechanism of Cameroon, and sets out priority recommendations for consolidating the mechanism.

876- NACC attended the 12th Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa from 1 to 7 May 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda, the meeting of African anti-corruption authorities in Bujumbura, Burundi in July 2022, and the 5th International Anti-Corruption Conference

²⁰⁸ <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/mer-fsrb/GABAC-French-Mutual-Evaluation-Report-Cameroun-2022.pdf>.

²⁰⁹ Combating Money Laundering and financing terrorism.

in Washington, D.C, USA in December 2022, as well as the African Union Advisory Council on Corruption, held in Arusha, Tanzania. NACC was visited by a delegation of the Congo-Kinshasa *Haute autorité de lutte contre la corruption* (High Anti-Corruption Authority) from 15 to 16 March 2022 as part of a working visit to share experiences in the fight against corruption.

877- For its part, CONSUPE, as a full member, attended 10 deliberative sessions and 10 hearings of the Commission for Compensation of victims of Illegal Detention. It also attended several technical review deliberations at the Prime Minister’s Office and was represented in 4 audit committees formed by the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

§4: Repressive Measures

878- Repressive measures included administrative and judicial sanctions.

A: Administrative Sanctions

879- Administrative sanctions of authorising officers and managers of public property resulted in the examination of 87 matters during 22 sessions held by the BFDC, among which 17 ordinary matters and 5 special pre-deliberation matters. The BFDC delivered 20 decisions of which 12 acquittals and 8 decisions imposing different penalties for prejudice amounting to CFAF507,910,375²¹⁰ including CFAF499,110,375²¹¹ as balance due and CFAF8,800,000²¹² as special fine.

B: Legal Proceedings

880- Proceedings were pending before the Special Criminal Court (SCC) and other courts.

1) Proceedings before SCC

881- SCC Examining Magistrates heard a number of proceedings. The table below provides situation of the proceedings from 2019 to 2022.

²¹⁰ About 775,435.69 Euros.

²¹¹ About 762,000.57 Euros.

²¹² About 13,435.11 Euros.

Table 6: Proceedings at the level of Judicial Investigation

No. Year	Number of proceedings at the level of judicial investigation	Number of proceedings heard	Number of persons brought before SCC	Number of accused who benefitted from no-case rulings
2019	54	27	104	7
2020	34	18	90	6
2021	49	30	60	10
2022	43	16	46	10

Source: SCC

882- Proceedings were at the trial level at SCC. The table below is quite illustrative.

Table 7: Trial proceedings

No. Year	Number of proceedings enlisted	Number of judgments	Number of convictions	Number of discharge and acquittal	Number of discontinued proceedings
2019	66	19	48	18	6
2020	65	20	43	64	19
2021	73	31	37	16	4
2022	68	27	34	12	1

Source: SCC

883- The sum of CFAF1,265,329,640²¹³ (as against CFAF1,743,288,327²¹⁴ in 2021) was handed back or recovered.

2) Proceedings before other Courts

884- Other courts (CFI, HC, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) examined matters on corruption (Table 8) and misappropriation of public property (Table 9).

²¹³ About 1,931,800.98 Euros.

²¹⁴ About 2,661,508.90 Euros.

Table 8: Judgments delivered on Corruption

No. Year	Number of investigations opened	Number of matters at the level of judicial investigation	Number of judgments	Number of convictions	Number of discharge and acquittal
2019	20	2	14	08	1
2020	73	6	69	38	20
2021	45	3	44	10	2
2022	17	2	29	17	...

Source: MINJUSTICE

885- For illustrative purposes, by Judgments of 7 January and 1 February 2022, in the matters between *The People* and **E.N.C.** and between *The People* and **E.M.**, CFI of Yaounde-Centre Administratif found the defendants guilty of corruption and sentenced them to legal penalties. A similar judgment was delivered on 7 December 2022 by CFI of Bertoua in the matter between *The People* and **N.R.**

Table 9: Court Decisions on Misappropriation of Public Property

No. Year	Number of investigations opened	Number of matters at the level of judicial investigation	Number of judgments delivered	Number of convictions	Number of discharge and acquittal
2019	135	130	94	52	24
2020	148	141	169	57	17
2021	185	171	140	86	2
2022	122	122	83	38	20

Source: MINJUSTICE

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886- Enhancing the quality of governance remained a constant concern of Government, which spared no effort in stepping it up, as well as in combating corruption. Despite persistent challenges, including the deepening of the culture of integrity, the efforts had an overall positive impact on the international ranking of Cameroon with respect to the Mo Ibrahim Index, Transparency International Corruption Perception Index and the World Bank Country Policy and Institutional assessment.



CHAPTER 3

DETENTION CONDITIONS



887- The budget allocation of which slightly increased from CFAF 20,558,820,000²¹⁵ in 2021 to CFAF 22,372,037,000²¹⁶ in 2022 allowed for the continuation of actions as regards detention conditions. Thus, as part of implementation of the programme to improve penitentiary policy, the Government mapped the prison population to efficiently address challenges encountered. In addition to prison visits and controls, which made it possible to detect irregularities for which corrective measures were taken, penitentiary resources were strengthened and the quality of treatment reserved for detainees improved.

SECTION 1: PRISON POPULATION

888- In 2022, the mapping of the prison population revealed some disparities, regarding detainees in general or specific categories.

§1: General Mapping of detainees

889- With the Douala-Ngoma Prison going operational, the intake capacity of the 76 operational prisons increased to 19,070 places, compared to 18,350 in 2021. The number of detainees increased from 30,567 in 2021 to 32,998, representing an occupancy rate of 173.3 as opposed to 166,57% in 2021. The lowest occupancy rate was registered in the North West Region (27.65%) with 553 detainees for a capacity of 2000 places.

890- The occupancy rate varied according to prisons. For example, with a capacity of 50 and 200 places respectively, the Poli and Nkongsamba Main Prisons had 160 and 590 detainees, that is, occupancy rates of 320 % and 295 % respectively. With a capacity of 500 and 960 places respectively, the Garoua and Douala New-Bell Central Prisons had 1,860 and 4,739 detainees, that is, occupancy rates of 372 % and 493.64% respectively.

891- Also, there were 19,054 pre-trial detainees against 18,987 in 2021, representing an increase of 67 detainees, and 13,944 convicts against 11,580 in 2021. The number of pre-trial detainees remained superior to the number of convicts.

²¹⁵ About 31,387,511.45 Euros.

²¹⁶ About 34,155,781.68 Euros.

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892- The table below shows regional statistics of pre-trial detainees:

Table 1: Regional Statistics of Pre-trial Detainees

REGIONS	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES								TOTAL
	MEN		WOMEN		MINORS				
	N	F	N	F	BOYS		GIRLS		
					N	F	N	F	
Adamawa	851	55	27	0	32	3	2	0	970
Centre	4,999	34	258	6	223	2	3	0	5,525
East	840	111	28	1	89	4	3	0	1,076
Far North	1,263	268	62	14	75	7	1	0	1,680
Littoral	3,694	63	109	1	96	0	1	0	3,964
North	1382	103	21	4	39	2	0	2	1,553
North West	503	19	19	0	12	0	0	0	553
West	1,412	04	50	0	70	0	3	0	1,539
South	644	14	16	0	34	0	1	0	708
South West	1,314	69	51	0	41	4	6	0	1,485
Grand Total	16,902	740	641	16	711	22	19	3	19,054

Source: MINJUSTICE/DAPEN

N: Nationals

F: Foreigners

893- With regard to convicts, the highest number was registered in the Centre (2,950) and Littoral (2,583) Regions, while the lowest was in the North West (404) and South (609) Regions.

894- The Douala-Ngoma Central Prison, the Kumbo Main Prison and the Ngambe, Bétare-Oya, Makary, Moulvoudaye, Doume, Moloundou, Lomié, Doukoula and Ndikinimeki Secondary Prisons only had convicts. The overall situation of convicts is presented in the table below:

Table 2: Regional Statistics of Convicts

REGIONS	CONVICTS								TOTAL
	MEN		WOMEN		MINORS				
	N	F	N	F	BOYS		GIRLS		
					N	F	N	F	
Adamawa	777	76	13	1	14	0	0	0	881
Centre	2,799	34	72	4	38	1	2	0	2,950
East	924	115	21	4	26	3	0	0	1,093
Far North	1,494	95	23	3	21	3	1	0	1,640
Littoral	2,482	32	61	0	7	0	1	0	2,583

REGIONS	CONVICTS								TOTAL
	MEN		WOMEN		MINORS				
	N	F	N	F	BOYS		GIRLS		
	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	
North	1,186	139	14	1	8	0	0	0	1,348
North West	388	3	9	0	4	0	0	0	404
West	1,445	4	25	0	26	0	1	0	1,501
South	577	15	10	0	7	0	0	0	609
South West	843	61	16	1	14	0	0	0	935
Grand Total	12,915	574	264	14	165	7	5	0	13,944

Source: MINJUSTICE/DAPEN

§2: Specific Categories of Detainees

895- Some specific categories of detainees include women, minors and foreigners.

A: Female Detainees

896- The number of female detainees increased from 911 in 2021, 717 in 2020 and 726 in 2019 to 935 (that is, 2.83% of the prison population). There were 657 pre-trial female detainees and 278 convicts. The Douala-Ngoma Central Prison, the Yoko, Mbengwi and Kumbo Main Prisons and the NdiKinimeki Secondary Prison, among others, had no female detainees.

897- According to the table below, the highest proportion of female detainees was registered in the Centre (340) and Littoral (171) Regions, while the lowest proportion was in the South (26), North West (28) and Adamawa (41) Regions.

Table 3: Statistics of Women in Prison as at 31 December 2022

REGIONS	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES		CONVICTS		TOTAL
	Nationals	Foreigners	Nationals	Foreigners	
Adamawa	27	0	13	1	41
Centre	258	6	72	4	340
East	28	1	21	4	54
Far North	62	4	23	3	92
Littoral	109	1	61	0	171
North	21	4	14	1	40

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REGIONS	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES		CONVICTS		TOTAL
	Nationals	Foreigners	Nationals	Foreigners	
North West	19	0	9	0	28
West	50	0	25	0	75
South	16	0	10	0	26
South West	51	0	16	1	68
Grand Total	641	16	264	14	935

Source: MINJUSTICE/DAPEN

898- Out of the 935 women in prison in 2022, 19 were with their children, while 12 were pregnant. There were challenges in dealing with this category of detainees, taking into account the specific needs (food, health and clothing) of the women and of their children.

B: Minors in Prison

899- As shown in the table below, out of 982 minors in prison, only 166 were convicts (that is, 16.9%), and 816 were pre-trial detainees (83%). The Centre Region registered the highest number of minors in prison with 273 (about 27.8%), while the North West had the lowest with 16 minors (1.6%). Some prisons did not have separate sections for minors²¹⁷ and some had no minors in detention²¹⁸.

900- The table below gives details on number of minors in detention.

Table 4: Statistics on Minors in Prison as at 31 December 2022

REGIONS	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES				CONVICTS				TOTAL
	BOYS		GIRLS		BOYS		GIRLS		
	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	
Adamawa	35	0	2	1	13	0	0	0	51
Centre	227	2	2	0	39	1	2	0	273
East	123	1	1	0	26	3	0	0	154
Far North	77	7	1	0	20	3	1	0	109
Littoral	110	0	1	0	6	0	1	0	118

²¹⁷ The Sa'a, Kousseri, Makary, Guider, Yabassi, Bazou, Nanga-Eboko, Meiganga, Tibati, Yokadouma and Batouri etc. Main and Secondary Prisons.

²¹⁸ Like the Tchollire, Nkambe, Yoko, Mbengwi, Wum, Kumbo Main Prisons and the Ngambe Secondary Prison.

REGIONS	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES				CONVICTS				TOTAL
	BOYS		GIRLS		BOYS		GIRLS		
	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	
North	42	1	0	2	8	0	0	0	53
North West	12	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	16
West	70	0	3	0	27	0	1	0	101
South	34	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	41
South West	40	4	7	1	14	0	0	0	66
Grand Total	770	15	17	4	164	7	5	0	982

Source: MINJUSTICE/DAPEN

C: Foreigners in Prison

901- A total of 1,432 foreigners were detained in Cameroon prisons in 2022, including 616 convicts (43%). The prisons in the Far North, East and North Regions registered the highest number of foreign detainees, representing 407, 147 and 132 (including 82 Central Africans, 49 Chadians and one national of Niger) respectively, while the West Region had the lowest number (13).

SECTION 2: STRENGTHENING PENITENTIARY RESOURCES

902- The Government continued to address human, material and infrastructural resources in 2022.

§1: Human Resources

903- The number of penitentiary personnel remained stable, and their capacities were built and ethics consolidated.

A: Stability in Personnel Number

904- No recruitment of Penitentiary Administration staff was carried out in 2022.²¹⁹ There was a total of 4,335 personnel against 4,378 in 2021, representing a slight decrease of 43 due to the retirement of 21 penitentiary personnel and death of 22 others. The personnel/detainees ratio stood at 1/9.

905- There were 310 medico-penitentiary personnel in 2022, as opposed to 313 in 2021. Ratios were as follows: 1 Medical Doctor to 1,355 de-

²¹⁹ However, the Head of Government, in his keynote address, announced the recruitment of 2,500 penitentiary personnel in 2023, with a view to improving penitentiary policy.

tainees; 1 Nurse to 495 detainees; 1 Nurse's Aide to 258 detainees; 1 Assistant Laboratory Technician to 944 detainees. There were 61 State Registered Nurses against 63 in 2021, and 121 Nurse's Aides against 123 in 2021. The number of the other specialities remained constant. All Central Prisons had at least one medical doctor.

906- Some 698 penitentiary personnel were advanced in grade and in incremental position in 2022.

907- The number of penitentiary personnel is presented in the table below as follows:

Table 5: Number of Penitentiary Administration Personnel as at 31 December 2022

Grade	M	W	Number	(%) M	(%) W	(%)
AP	163	43	206	79.13	20.87	100
SP	276	87	363	76.03	23.97	100
CPW	902	359	1261	71.53	28.47	100
PW	1782	706	2488	71.62	28.38	100
Civilians	19	0	17	100	0	100
Total Number			4,335			

Source: MINJUSTICE/DAPEN

Key:

AP: Administrator of Prisons

SP: Superintendent of Prisons

CPW: Chief Prison Warder

PW: Prison Warder

B: Improving the Technical Capacities of Penitentiary Administration Personnel

908- From 21 to 23 September 2022 in Yaounde, from 30 November to 2 December 2022 in Maroua and from 12 to 14 December 2022 in Garoua, Penitentiary Administration personnel participated in training workshops on the protection of the rights of children in contact with the law organised by the Ministry of Justice.

C: Consolidating Discipline of Penitentiary Administration Personnel

909- During the Annual Meeting of Heads of Courts of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration organised on 13 and 14

October 2022 by the Ministry of Justice, several issues were discussed, including the coordination of penitentiary activities assigned to Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration. The aim was to remind participants of the general regulatory framework thereto, articulate the coordination, share best practices, identify challenges and propose potential solutions.

§2: Strengthening Material and Infrastructure Resources

910- In 2022, 1,500 uniforms were distributed to penitentiary personnel, as well as 4,500 pairs of Rangers shoes which were in stock.

911- In addition, a new prison was added to the penitentiary map with the partial operation of the Douala-Ngoma Central Prison. Also, the Ntui and Mfou Main Prisons were rehabilitated²²⁰. Some prisons were provided with rolling stock: these include the Yaounde Central Prison and the Ngoumou and Ntui Main Prisons. The infirmary of the Nkongsamba Main Prison was also rehabilitated and equipped.

SECTION 3: Living Conditions of Detainees

912- The nutrition and health coverage of detainees was ensured and measures were taken to guarantee hygiene, sanitation, as well as water and energy supply. Also, activities to prepare detainees for social reintegration continued.

§1: Nutrition and Health Coverage of Detainees

913- Government continued to guarantee the provision of food and Health coverage.

A: Food Security

914- The budget allocated for detainees' feeding was slightly increased to CFAF5,265,000,000²²¹ against CFAF5,015,000,000²²² in 2021 representing an increase of CFAF250,000,000²²³.

²²⁰ The following prisons were also restructured, renovated or rehabilitated: the Yaounde and the Douala Central Prisons; the Doukoula, Djoum and Mbanga Secondary Prisons; the Tibati, Abong-Mbang, Kumba, Mbouda, Tcholliré, Yokadouma, Mbalmayo, Tchollire II, Monatele, Ambam, Bangangte, Batouri Main Prisons ...

²²¹ About 8,038,167.94 Euros.

²²² About 7,656,488.55 Euros.

²²³ About 381,679.39 Euros.

915- In spite of this increase, the daily food ration per detainee reduced from CFAF 531²²⁴ in 2021 to CFAF 431²²⁵ in 2022.

B: Health Coverage

916- Health coverage can be assessed both at the level of general and specific situations.

1) General Situation of Detainees' Health Coverage

917- The budget for health coverage stood at CFAF1,100,000,000²²⁶ as opposed to CFAF1,050,000,000²²⁷ in 2021, that is, an increase of CFAF 50,000,000²²⁸ (4.54%), that is CFAF33,335²²⁹ per detainee in 2022, against CFAF25,875²³⁰ per detainee in 2021.

918- Most prisons had an infirmary, a pharmacy, a laboratory and medical personnel who referred cases of severe illnesses to hospitals with better technical equipment. The number of external consultations and hospitalisations increased. There were 1,990 cases of external consultations in 2022 as opposed to 1,934 in 2021 and 1,615 in 2020. The number of external hospitalisations increased from 181 in 2020, to 219 in 2021 and to 497 in 2022.

2) Management of Specific Situations

919- The most recurring diseases in prisons were, among others, malaria (most recurrent with a prevalence rate of 49.46% for a total of 11,459 cases), HIV/AIDS, as well as respiratory and skin infections.

920- Out of the 7,743 detainees who were tested for Covid-19 upon incarceration, 187 were positive, quarantined and put under treatment. With regard to cholera, 215 cases were registered at the Douala Central Prison in the Littoral Region, including 68 who were referred to public hospitals.

²²⁴ About 0.81 Euros.

²²⁵ About 0.66 Euros.

²²⁶ About 1,679,389.31 Euros.

²²⁷ About 1,603,053.44 Euros.

²²⁸ About 76,335.88 Euros.

²²⁹ About 50.89 Euros.

²³⁰ About 39.50 Euros.

Moreover, Chemoprophylaxis and Doxycycline were administered to about 3,000 detainees. Out of the 8,453 detainees tested for HIV/AIDS, 265 were positive and put under treatment.

921- The number of deaths increased. Some 179 detainees died (against 118 in 2021 and 98 in 2020), representing a mortality rate of 0.77 %. Most of these detainees died of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

§2: Measures taken for Hygiene and Sanitation as well as Energy and Water Supply

922- In addition to being supplied with electricity or having generators, most prisons had potable water supply provided either by CAMWATER or from boreholes. Concerning hygiene, prisons had water points and toilets. Moreover, certain secondary, main prisons and central prisons had a waste water evacuation system. Examples include the Yaounde, Douala and Maroua Central Prisons and the Kribi, Edea, Nkongsamba and Betare-Oya Main Prisons.

§3: Preparing Detainees for Social Reintegration

923- Actions in preparation for social reintegration focused on education, production activities and professional training.

A: Education of Minors in Prison

924- Despite the absence of a formal education system in prison, measures were taken to educate minors who were taught by the Penitentiary Administration Personnel or by other detainees. The following results were obtained, 2 detainees passed the *Baccalauréat* against 4 in 2021, 4 passed the *Probatoire* as opposed to 14 in 2021, 5 passed the BEPC against 14 in 2021, 26 passed the CEP compared to 12 in 2021 and 9 passed the FSLC compared to 6 in 2021; making a total 46 successful candidates in official examinations as opposed to 50 in 2021.

B: Production Activities and Professional Training

925- In 2022, 110 detainees received professional training and were given training certificates. Moreover, some detainees were trained in various fields, including 76 in tailoring (16 at the Yaounde Central Prison, 27 at the Douala Central Prison, 23 at the Kumba Main Prison and 10 at the Tchollire II Main Prison); 103 in computer science (87 in the pris-

ons of the Littoral Region and 16 at the Kumba Main Prison); 72 in weaving and handicraft production (14 at the Yaounde Central Prison, 38 at the Douala Central Prison and 20 at the Kumba Main Prison); 36 were trained in catering and 36 in dyeing at the Bafoussam Central Prison.

926- Concerning production activities, 155 detainees were trained in agriculture (10 at the Bertoua Central Prison, 10 at the Abong-Mbang Main Prison, 20 at the Edea Main Prison, 22 at the Bafoussam Central Prison, 6 at the Nkongsamba Main Prison, 5 at the Bamenda Central Prison and 82 at the Upper Farms Secondary Prison) and 55 detainees were trained in animal rearing (27 at the Kumba Main Prison, 6 at the Upper Farms Secondary Prison, 18 at the Bafoussam Central Prison, 1 at the Buea Central Prison and 3 at the Yabassi Main Prison).

927- Some other detainees were trained in oil palm cultivation, in basketry, woollen cap and fan manufacturing, hair dressing and others.

SECTION 4: PRISON CONTROLS AND VISITS

928- Controls and visits were conducted in prisons.

§1: Prison Controls

929- Prison controls were conducted by the Inspectorate General of Penitentiary Administration (IGAPEN) at the Ministry of Justice and judicial authorities.

A: Controls by IGAPEN

930- In 2022, IGAPEN conducted on-site and documentary controls. On-site controls were carried out as follows: Mbalmayo and Sangmelima Main Prisons: from 22 July to 1st August; Garoua Central Prison: from 2 to 26 August; Bamenda Central Prison: from 2 to 12 August; Douala New Bell and Douala-Ngoma Central Prisons: from 7 to 17 September; Tchollire Main Prison: from 14 to 29 September; Bertoua Central Prison and Bafoussam Main Prison: from 20 to 29 November. These included both physical controls whereby a roll call was made for detainees and documentary controls whereby prisoners' files were checked. After these controls, reports were produced on the findings. Cases of Human Rights violations were reported and corrective measures were taken.

931- Moreover, IGAPEN carried out controls of documents on the basis of statistics forwarded by Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration.

B: Controls by Judicial Authorities

932- Legal Officers carried out controls in prisons. Following these controls, measures were taken to correct irregularities detected.

933- For example, the following controls were carried out: 3 controls at the Lomie Secondary Prison, 4 at the Abong-Mbang Main Prison, 5 at the Batouri Main Prison, 4 at the Yokadouma Main Prison, 4 at the Kribi Main Prison, 4 at the Sangmelima Main Prison, 4 at the Djoum Secondary Prison, 4 at the Maroua Central Prison, 3 at the Kousseri Main Prison, 3 at the Kaele Main Prison, 4 at the Mokolo Main Prison, 4 at the Moulvoudaye Secondary Prison, 4 at the Mbanga Main Prison and 3 at the Edea Main Prison.

§2: Prison Visits

934- Visits were conducted by the Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation (DDHCI) of MINJUSTICE, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC) and Civil Society Organisations (CSO).

A: Visits by the DDHCI

935- As part of Cameroon-UNICEF cooperation, personnel from the Ministry of Justice and UNICEF Officials conducted, on 15 February 2022, a visit to the quarters for minors at the Yaounde Central Prison. The visit aimed at enquiring about the situation of minors in that prison, identifying their needs to find solutions.

936- In a bid to collect data required for the drafting of the Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2022, DDHCI teams visited prisons. Corrective measures were taken to address irregularities found, such as the case of 14 years old minors incarcerated at the Garoua Central Prison; who were released immediately.

B: Visits by the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC)

937- In 2022, the CHRC conducted 379 visits in the 10 Regions in places of detentions: 22 in the Adamawa Region, 40 in the Centre Region, 25

in the Far North Region, 2 in the East Region, 37 in the Littoral Region, 34 in the North Region, 77 in the North West Region, 44 in the West Region, 28 in the South Region and 70 in the South West Region.

C: Visits by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

938- Several CSOs, mostly religious and humanitarian associations, carried out visits to 30 prisons to offer support in the form of foodstuff, sanitary items, clothes, and others.

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939- In a nutshell, the Government worked actively to improve detention conditions, among others, by increasing the budget allocated for detainees' feeding and health, and by increasing the number of prisons. In addition, controls and visits were carried out in prison, measures were taken to improve hygiene and sanitation such as equipping most prisons with a waste water evacuation system, and energy and water/boreholes supply. Challenges encountered included, among others, the education of minors in prison, and the management of female detainees who were in prison with their children.

CHAPTER 4

**PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION OF THE
RIGHTS OF SOCIALLY
VULNERABLE PERSONS**



940- In 2022, Government continued to promote and protect the rights of socially vulnerable persons comprising children, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples. Measures were taken to enable this category of vulnerable persons to enjoy political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

SECTION 1: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

941- With respect to the promotion and protection of children's rights, Government took several measures to ensure the best interest of the child in the domain of civil rights, combating violence and exploitation, protection against crimes, Special protection measures were also taken.

§1: Civil Rights

942- Civil rights of children were improved through measures relating to citizenship, ensuring their right to participation and alternative care.

A: Right to Citizenship

943- Birth registration remained low. In 2020, only 69 % of children under 5 years had birth certificates.

944- In order to increase the issuance of birth certificates, MINDDEVEL through Order No. 000107/MF/MINDDEVEL/SG/DSL/SDSLB of 1 April 2022, officially launched the campaign for massive deliverance of birth certificates to children and vulnerable persons. The preparatory phase of this campaign consisted of carrying out a census of beneficiaries, mobilising all stakeholders of the campaign and lobbying judicial authorities to respect the set amount for the issuance of declaratory judgments.

945- MINDDEVEL also carried out the pilot phase for the digitalisation of civil status certificates in 8 councils in the Far North Region including Maroua I, 934 civil status certificates; Maroua II, 3,008; Gazawa, 1,492; Mokolo, 929; Tokombere, 163; Touloum, 8,564; Kaele: 3,588. In addition, 731,843²³¹ civil status certificates (including birth certificates) in the Mfoundi Division of the Centre Region were digitalised in 2022.

²³¹ Yaounde I, 135,920; Yaounde II, 119,828; Yaounde III, 152,621; Yaounde IV, 85,214; Yaounde V, 94,922; Yaounde VI, 109,100 and Yaounde VII:5,362.

946- To improve the rate of birth registration, local authorities of the Datcheka Council in the Mayo-Danay Division embarked on operation *No child without a birth* which enable the establishment of 680 birth certificates that were distributed on 11 July 2022 to children of the locality.

947- Also, the conflict between the Musgums and Arab Choas led to the loss of the civil status certificates (especially birth certificates of children) of displaced persons. It is within this backdrop that UNHCR and the *Centre pour la promotion et la défense des Droits de l'Homme* within the framework of the Project *Emergency Logone Birni, civil documentation of internally displaced persons in Diamare in partnership with UNHCR* established 1,000 birth certificates for internally displaced children of the Division which were distributed on 22 July 2022.

948- To enhance the civil status registration system, the National Civil Registration Office (BUNEC) in partnership with the European Union under the Cameroon Civil Status Improvement Project for active Citizenship (PASECA) carried out a series of training workshops²³² nationwide in 2022. These trainings were for Judicial and Legal Officers, Administrative and Municipal authorities, Secretaries of councils and Traditional rulers.

949- In addition, the pilot Committee on the Programme for the Strengthening of active citizenship in Cameroon met in a Session from 6 to 7 July 2022 to evaluate its actions and the way forward. Activities of the said Programme covered 179 councils in 50 Divisions across the 10 Regions with the selection of 21 CSOs for the implementation of its activities. These activities²³³ enabled the familiarisation of the public with the civil status system.

950- Furthermore, on 25 August 2022, in order to improve on the civil status system especially birth registration in Cameroon, Government through MINEPAT and the Federation of Brazil signed an agreement for the latter to provide a gift of CFAF 1, 068, 000,000²³⁴ to BUNEC.

²³² BUNEC and the Douala City Council on 17 May 2022, Judicial and Legal Officers of the South West Region on 24 May 2022 and for the Centre Region on 31 May 2022 and the Return of study relating to standards and norms on civil status on 24 June 2022 in Yaounde.

²³³ Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders of the civil status system and local administration, awareness raising of the population and improved access to civil status acts, centralisation and conservation of existing data among others.

²³⁴ About 1,630,534.35 Euros.

951- Competent Courts continued to issue declaratory judgments. For instance, the Court of First Instance Tignere and High Court of Faro and Deo delivered 176 declaratory judgments to enable the establishment of birth certificates for children in the Adamawa Region in 2022.

B: Ensuring the Right of Children to Express their Opinion

952- Respect for the views of children was guaranteed through the organisation of the 23rd Session of the Children’s Parliament on 26 June 2022 in Yaounde. It was organised under the theme *the phenomenon of child abandonment: an obstacle to the life, development and survival of children*. The 180 Junior Parliamentarians had a special discussion session on the above-mentioned theme with Parliamentarians during this session. The Junior Parliamentarians decried the scourge of child abandonment. They questioned the Ministers of MINAS, MINPROFF, MINSANTE and MINEFOP what they were doing to end the phenomenon. At the end of the special Session, the children urged the Government to intensify awareness-raising campaigns for the public. They also resolved to be ambassadors for the promotion and protection of children’s rights together with Government and its partners.

C: Alternative Care

953- Courts continued to grant applications for adoption, delegation of parental authority and guardianship taking into consideration the best interest of the child. The decisions in some of these cases cited international and regional Human Rights instruments ratified by Cameroon. Thus, in Judgment No. 47/CIV/TGI/022 of 15 June 2022, the Sanaga-Maritime High Court²³⁵, in granting an application for an adoption to a couple, stated that the parents of the child to be adopted had freely given their consent as per section 347 of the *Code Civil* and since the couple had the means to maintain the child and cater for his education, the adoption was made in the best interest of the child as per Article 3 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

²³⁵ See also Judgment No.58/CIV/TGI/022 of 20 July 2022, Judgment No.64/CIV/TGI/022 of 21 September 2022 and Judgment No.66/CIV/TGI/022 of 21 September 2022 (Sanaga-Maritime High Court).

954- With regard to guardianship, in Judgment No.101/CIV of 3 November 2022, the High Court of Moungo, Nkongsamba²³⁶ in granting the application held that since the parents of the child aged 12 had freely consented to transfer their parental authority to the applicant, a medical doctor who had enough means in France, the best interest of the child will be guaranteed as per Articles 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and 4 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

955- Concerning custody of children, for instance, the *Tribunal du Premier Degré de Bertoua*, in Judgment No. 116/TPD of 10 June 2022 granted the application for the custody of 3 children to the father. The Court stated that the applicant provided for the basic needs and education of the children.

956- Besides, statistics from some courts²³⁷ indicated that 313 applications for adoption were granted to nationals and 3 to foreigners while 561 guardianship decisions were granted to nationals.

957- Furthermore, in the course of the year 680 (279 boys and 401 girls) wards of the state and 307 (150 boys and 157 girls) wards of the nation were registered in the country.

§2: Combating Violence and Exploitation

958- The National Assembly joined the Government and other stakeholders to raise the awareness of the public on the negative impact of violence on children. On 22 June 2022, the members of the Committee on Cultural, Social and Family Affairs of the National Assembly together with MINAS organised an awareness-raising workshop on how to best guard against violence inflicted on children. Both parties identified different forms of violence meted on children and Government efforts in combating the phenomenon. The Committee however regretted that despite Government measures, violence against children still persists with practices such as early and forced marriages, female genital mutilation, breast ironing and unhealthy traditional rituals among others leaving a negative psychological impact on the health of the children. MINAS and the Committee agreed for a better collaboration to guarantee and safeguard the rights of children.

²³⁶ See Judgments No.267/TPD of 30 June 2022 and Judgment No.147/TPD of 1 July 2022, Tribunal de Premier Degré de Bertoua. 189

²³⁷ With the exception of courts in the South West Region

959- Equally the National Committee for the fight against child labour in Cameroon met in its 5th Session on 21 April 2022 in Yaounde. The said Session focused on the evaluation of the actions taken in 2021 on the one hand and on the other to plan and strengthen new strategies to combat child labour.

960- Denouncing violence meted on children was also on the Government agenda. A workshop to that effect was organised by MINPROFF and UNICEF from 9 to 11 August 2022 in Ebolowa for the creation, organisation and functioning of a child helpline (1 16) for the denunciation of cases of violence against children and orientation to various service providers in Cameroon. Consequently the said line was launched and went operational following a meeting held between MINPROFF and ART officials on 15 December 2022.

961- To prevent exploitation, violence and other forms of abuses, UNICEF partnered with MINPROFF to launch the positive parenting programme to promote nurturing and protective approaches to care, support and protection of children. Peer-to-peer parents' platforms were used to disseminate information and knowledge on their roles and responsibilities regarding access to education, nutrition, health, WASH, and child protection services for their children. At the end of the reporting period, 28,125 parents and caregivers nationwide have been enrolled in the programme.

962- To improve the protective learning environment for children, UNICEF trained 148 (including 55 women) education and social services frontline workers on preventing, identifying, and referring cases of children who face violence and abuse in the school environment. Awareness raising information sessions reached 154,389 children (79,542 girls).

963- Furthermore, on 6 December 2022, MINJUSTICE organised a workshop in Yaounde on Intra-Family Violence against children. The workshop which had as objective, to brainstorm on strategies to combat intra-family violence against children was attended by Magistrates, Defence and Security Forces and Social Workers.

964- In addition, MINPROFF, the Cameroon Child Rights Civil Society Organisations Network (CAM-CRIN) and African Partnership to End Violence Against Children (APEVAC) organised from 27 to 29 September 2022 in Yaounde, a training of trainers workshop titled, Strengthening

Violence Prevention and Response Capacity National Training on IN-SPIRE²³⁸. The general objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of national sectors and stakeholders in the prevention of violence against children and response strategies and approaches. A total of 60 participants from Public Administrations, CSOs and the Cameroon Human Rights Commission attended the training.

965- MINAS, equally organised in October and November 2022, 4 capacity building workshops in the North West, West, Littoral and East Regions for stakeholders of the education community on the fight against violence within the school milieu and on drug consumption by youths.

§3: Prosecution and Punishment of Violent Crimes against Children

966- Perpetrators of violent crimes against children such as murder, rape and kidnapping were prosecuted and when found guilty, were punished. As regards kidnapping, for example in Judgment No. 67/CRIM of 1 April 2022 of the High Court of Lom and Djerem, Bertoua, the accused was sentenced to 5 years in prison for kidnapping a 6 year old. Also, the Buea Military Tribunal in Judgment No.134/22 of 21 June 2022, sentenced the accused **N.E.M** to 5 years in prison for attempting to kidnap a minor aged 15.

967- With regard to assault occasioning the death of children, the High Court of the Ntem Valley in Judgment No.15/CRIM of 8 May 2022 sentenced the accused to 20 years in prison for causing the death of 3 children between the ages of 2 and 3.

968- Concerning smuggling of persons, the High Court of Nyong and So'o in Judgment No.38/CRIM of 18 June 2021 and Judgment No. 36/CRIM of 11 July 2022 (**The People and A.A.P vs M.M**), sentenced the same accused person to 5 years in prison in each of the judgments. The accused had between 2017 and 2019, smuggled some 5 children (ages 2 to 7 years) to Equatorial Guinea.

§4: Capacity Development relating to Child Protection

969- Capacity building activities were carried out for different stakeholders on juvenile justice and the protection of children online.

²³⁸ INSPIRE stands for: implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services; and education and life skills. These are 7 strategies which have shown success in reducing violence against children.

A: Capacity Development on Juvenile Justice

970- MINJUSTICE, organised a series of workshops on the protection of children in contact with the law which was attended by Magistrates, Defence and Security Forces, Social Workers, members of CSOs and the Penitentiary Administration Personnel. These seminars were held from 21 to 23 September in Yaounde, 30 November to 2 December 2022 in Maroua and 12 to 14 December 2022 in Garoua. The aim of the workshops was to improve the protection of minors in contact with the law, be they offenders, victims or witnesses of crimes²³⁹.

B: Capacity Building on Online Protection of Children

971- Government sought better ways for the protection of children online in a Seminar held in Yaounde from 15 to 16 November 2022. Under the auspices of MINPOSTEL, MINPROFF and MINEDUB with support from the Meta Group through its African subsidiary. The seminar which brought together participants from the administration, international organisations, electronic communication operators and other actors on child protection was aimed at strengthening Government policy on internet in order for children and youth in general to be better protected from a range of online content which are threats and potentially harmful to children.

§5: Special Protection Measures

972- Special protection measures of children in 2022 included curbing the phenomenon of street children and reintegration of children associating with armed groups.

A: Curb the Phenomenon of Street Children

973- Concerning identification and retrieving of street children, about 1,114 children (826 boys and 288 girls) were identified among whom, 118 were placed in public and private institutions. Those placed in public institutions were 39 and 79 in private institutions (57 boys and 22 girls). About 353 (265 boys and 88 girls) of these street children were returned to their families.

²³⁹ Modules at the trainings included among others: The legal framework on protection of children's rights; The specificity of procedures involving children in contact with the law; Protection of child victims and witnesses in judicial proceedings; and Child welfare institutions; role and tasks.

B: Reintegration of Minor Returnees.

974- Children enrolled or associated in armed groups continued to lay down arms and reintegrate disarmament centres. As at 31 December 2022, 1,255 children associated with armed groups were in the National Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration Centres, that is, 41 in Bamenda, 7 in Buea and 1,207 in Mora.

SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

975- The legal protection framework of persons living with disabilities as well as inclusive education, health care, awareness-raising, electoral inclusion and participation in sport activities of this vulnerable group continued to be strengthened.

§1: Strengthening the Legal Framework

976- As part of the enabling instrument of the 2010 Law relating to the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities which continued to be implemented, the Prime Minister signed Order No. 40/PM of 19 May 2022 to lay down terms and conditions for granting age exemption to persons with disabilities during competitive examinations and recruitment into the public service. To be eligible for age exemption, the person with disabilities can show proof of completing a vocational, school or university training and be holder of a national disability card (section 2). The exemption can only be granted for a maximum of 5 years above the age limit provided for by the decision opening the examination or recruitment (section 3(2)).

977- In addition, the Order indicates that notwithstanding the exemption, it can only be granted if the post is compatible with the nature of the disability (section 3(3)) which compatibility shall be established by the decision of MINAS (section 4).

§2: Health Care for Persons with Disabilities

978- The Parliamentary Network for the Fight against Malaria in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund and the Afrogiveness Movement offered health material to those receiving medical care for mental issues at the Jamot Hospital in Yaounde on 3 December 2022. The action was

in line with activities commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed every 3 December.

979- Government through MINAS signed a partnership Agreement with “fondation FairMed” on 15 June 2022 to provide care for persons living with disabilities for the next 5 years.

980- During this period, FairMed will enable easy access to health services and integrate persons living with disabilities into the community, that is, in sub-divisions, divisions and regions as well as into the central services of MINAS. MINAS on the other hand will provide technical assistance, statistics and non-confidential information to help FairMed in its mission.

§3: Inclusive Education

981- During the 2021/2022 academic year, out of the 12,321 vulnerable pupils, 6,897 had disabilities, giving 18.7% of pupils having hearing impairment, 51.4% with motor disability and 29.9% for visual impairment.

982- Statistics from MINESEC indicated that during the same period, there were a total of 4,238 (2,151 girls and 2,087 boys) students with disabilities in general secondary education and technical vocational secondary education (both public and private). With regard to general secondary education (both public and private), the number stood at 3,466 (1,795 girls and 1,671 boys) students.

983- With an increased worldwide (90%) of children living with disabilities out of school, the Government through MINAS, MINEDUB and MINESEC in collaboration with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services launched the campaign “We Ring The Bell” which seeks to sensitise the public (families and communities) on the education of children living with disabilities on 27 April 2022 in Yaounde. The said campaign placed under the theme “Leave no child with disabilities Behind in Education” also sought to achieve the 4th goal of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which calls on States Parties to promote inclusive education and equality in education for all learners.

984- In the same vein, the Association *Handicapés Dynamiques du Cameroun* launched a programme dubbed “Handi Education” on 15 July 2022 in Douala, aimed at increasing the education rate of children living with disabilities or children of parents living with disabilities. The Programme

involves the training of teachers of schools for the visually impaired, deaf and intellectual disability²⁴⁰.

985- Besides, the ordinary session of the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socioeconomic Re-insertion of Persons with Disabilities (CONRHA) met in its Ordinary Session from 13 to 14 September 2022 in Yaounde focused on social inclusion. The theme for 2022 was advances in inclusive social action and the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework for the protection of persons with disabilities. The aim of the Session was to evaluate the level of mobilization of actors, inclusive actions and multisectoral perspectives for the implementation of Government's social inclusion policy to support the socio-economic reintegration of persons living with disabilities.

§4: Awareness-Raising

986- MINAS on 22 May 2022, organised a communication session at the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger National Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NRCPD) to popularise and disseminate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The objectives were to ensure that actors in the chain of protection of the rights of persons living with disabilities mastered the content of the said Convention. MINAS equally, on 5 June 2022, at the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger NRCPD, launched a nationwide awareness campaign for early screening and rehabilitation of persons exposed to any form of disability. Also the *Association Nationale des Aveugles du Cameroun* (Association for the Blind of Cameroon) organised an International Seminar on Legal Instruments on the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities signed and or ratified by Cameroon from 21 to 22 September 2022 in Yaounde. The aim of the said Seminar was to raise the awareness of the 40 participants (representing leaders of associations of persons living with disabilities) from the 10 regions of the country to master international instruments promoting and protecting their rights.

987- In addition, the Platform Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities (*Réseau National des Organisations de Promotion de l'Inclusion des*

²⁴⁰ At the end of the Programme some 20 schools will provide favourable conditions for the education of students with disabilities, 300 students will receive didactic materials and training, 200 persons informed of the provision of facilities for the education of persons disabilities and 2,000 persons sensitised on the education of children living with disabilities and 4 schools or institutions with special needs would have received adapted teaching materials.

Personnes Handicapées) organised a series of workshops with stakeholders. For instance, on 21 June 2022, the Platform organised a workshop with BUNEC in Yaounde to encourage the adoption of a disability inclusion approach in the process of establishing birth certificates. On 22 and 23 August 2022 in Mbalmayo, the Platform organised another workshop with municipal councils on inclusive education.

§5: Electoral Inclusion

988- MINAS and Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) sought more participation of vulnerable groups especially persons living with disabilities in the electoral process. Such participation was the objective of an audience granted ELECAM officials on 27 September 2022 by the Minister of Social Affairs. ELECAM indicated that during the electoral year (1st January to August 31 2022) 365 persons living with disabilities were registered.. Both parties agreed that a focal Point be appointed in MINAS to relay information to ELECAM on the electoral process.

989- Also, Platform Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities, with the financial support of SightSavers in partnership with the *club des journalistes politique au Cameroun*, organised on 30 September 2022 in Yaounde a political cafe on electoral inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life in Cameroon. The objective was to raise the awareness and strengthened the capacities of journalists on the disability approach in their work.

§6: Participation in Sporting Activities

990- Persons with disabilities participated in different sports disciplines both at the national and the international levels. At the national level 15 athletes with physical disabilities took part in the 15th Edition of FENASCO B games in the 1000m race, badminton and handball in Yaounde.

991- At the international level physical and visual disabilities athletes took part in the 13th edition of FAZZA International Para Athletics Championship from 17 to 23 March 2022 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates where visual disability athletes won 2 medals. Also, during the Open African Powerlifting Championship in Cairo, Egypt, from 27 to 30 October 2022, physical disability athletes won 4 medals. In boxing, zone 3 championship men and women from 3 to 10 April 2022 in Democratic Republic of Congo, 7 medals were won.

992- In addition, MINAS organised some sporting and leisure activities nationwide in which about 2,107 persons with disabilities took part.

SECTION 3: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

993- In 2022, MINAS embarked on a nationwide awareness-raising campaign for older persons on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa during which staff of MINAS on the field, leaders and promoters of associations for older persons were informed of the merits of this text. It was also a means to collect the concerns, suggestions and expectations of older persons and other actors in the field in order to improve on their care. Furthermore, 2,308 campaigns on healthy and active aging were carried out and 18,554 older persons were sensitized.

994- MINAS launched during the second quarter of 2022 in the Littoral and North West Regions, awareness-raising campaigns of families on the necessity to take care of the health of older persons. In 2022, about 6,777 new families were supported in the care of older persons.

995- Equally, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was celebrated in Cameroon on 15 June 2022. The Day was not only used to call on different stakeholders to take into consideration older persons but also to raise awareness on the abuses this vulnerable group face.

996- Furthermore, as in previous years, the International Day of Older Persons was celebrated on 1 October 2022 under the theme focusing on the resilience of older persons in a changing world. Activities carried out on the Day included the organisation of intra and intergenerational discussions, production of documentaries on old age and free screening of pathologies related to ageing.

997- Besides, about 1,809 community outreach workers were trained in psychosocial support for older persons in the 10 regions.

SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

998- The legal framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples as well as capacity development, access to citizenship, education, health, land and cultural rights were strengthened in 2022.

§1: Enhancement of Legal Framework on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples

999- Decree No. 2022/5074/PM of 4 July 2022 to lay down the Procedures for the control of the Social Compliance of Projects²⁴¹ was adopted. MINAS controls the social compliance of projects in conjunction with the relevant line of ministries. Pursuant to Section 10 of the said Decree, the social approaches to project management are broken down as follows: disability and vulnerability approach, gender-specific approach, social inclusion approach and Human Rights based approach.

§2: Capacity Development

1000- MINAS and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA), organized a Capacity Building Workshop for Indigenous Peoples on Human Rights and Advocacy Techniques on 1 and 2 November 2022 in Yaounde. Indigenous peoples were edified on international instruments and mechanisms on the protection of Human Rights, special mechanisms for Indigenous peoples (expert mechanism for Indigenous peoples and special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples and UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) and, tools and techniques for advocacy.

1001- Moreover, Mbororo women in the Fako Division, South West Region acquired skills in a workshop organised by some Mbororo Women Associations²⁴² on 5 February 2022 in Buea. The said workshop brought together some 60 women and girls from the Mbororo community in the Fako division. They acquired skills on peace building, business coaching, bookkeeping, leadership empowerment, communication skills, sexual health and soap making services.

§3: Access to Citizenship, Education, Health and Land

1002- In the domain of citizenship, 2,406 National Identity Cards and 13,639 birth certificates were established for the 4Bs (Baka, Bagyeli, Bedzang and Bakola) by the Government through the National Community Driven Development Programme (PNDP). PNDP also supported some 60

²⁴¹ The objectives of the said Decree are to protect the population in general and socially vulnerable persons in particular (including indigenous peoples) against harmful human and social risks generated directly or indirectly through public and private projects.

²⁴² Daraja Reube Mbororo Development Association, BAWAC Cameroon and FALCOH Foundation

4Bs to be included in decision making bodies at the local level, that is, the councils and development committees.

1003- As regards education, some 4,025 pupils were in primary schools and 1,760 students in secondary schools (among whom about 2, 400 passed in various end of course examinations) while 53 got scholarships. Furthermore, there were, 1,985 Bakas and Mbororos, that is, 1006 boys and 976 girls in Functional Literacy Centres (*centres d'alphabétisation fonctionnelle*).

1004- With regard to access to land, 1,352 hectares was made available for agriculture to the 4Bs. Also, 840 of them were economically empowered and 53 community relays were trained on how to access land. On 4 February 2022, 17 Heads of Social Actions Services signed specifications for indigenous peoples concerned within the Framework of Planning for Indigenous Peoples and the Livestock Development Project (CPPA/PRODEL).

1005- Besides, the 10th Session of the Intersectoral Committee for Monitoring Programmes and Projects Involving Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples (CISPAV) was held on 3 August 2022, during which the National Plan for the Development of Indigenous Peoples was evaluated, one year after its launching. Statistics from the evaluation as indicated above from different programmes and projects showed an improvement in terms of access to education, citizenship, health and land.

§4: Cultural Rights

1006- MINAC organised the 4th Edition of Edjengui Malôlô (god of forest of the Baka people) Festival from 14 to 20 February 2022. This is a Festival for the promotion of the ancestral cultural rites of the Baka peoples. The Festival held under the theme Ancestral rites and customs: between promoting peace and living together, saw the participation of 350 traditional practitioners and 40 doctors who offered free consultations on a variety of pathologies to some 600 persons.

1007- On 26 March 2022, the museum for the Baka people was inaugurated at Bifolone in Haut-Nyong Division, East Region. The museum called *Le Grand Mungulu* contains about 30 artefacts (musical and hunting instruments, and kitchen utensils). The museum was constructed by the

Association *Les Nouveaux Commanditaires* with financial assistance from Goethe Institute and *Fondation de France*.

1008- Furthermore, activities for the celebration of the 28th Edition of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (11th Edition in Cameroon) were launched in Batouri, East Region on 9 August 2022. The national theme for the celebration was *Promoting Inclusive Education in a Post Covid-19 Context: The place of the Indigenous Child*. The locality of Batouri was chosen because the indigenous peoples of Baka origin live there. The launching was marked by the exhibition of the culture of the Baka. BUNEC also used the occasion to hand over about 50 birth certificates to indigenous children.

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1009- Despite efforts made by Government and its partners in promoting and protecting socially vulnerable persons including through strengthening the legal framework for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and improving access to citizenship through massive establishment of birth certificates, there were still challenges to overcome. The poor living conditions of older persons coupled with physical and psychological violence remain a concern.



CHAPTER

5

PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION OF
WOMEN'S RIGHTS



1010- Significant strides were made in the promotion and protection of women's rights in 2022. In addition to important developments made at the strategic level, other actions focused on the involvement of women in the management of public affairs, their economic empowerment, the fight against violence against them and their involvement in peace-keeping initiatives.

SECTION 1: DEVELOPMENTS AT THE STRATEGIC LEVEL

1011- These developments concerned the consolidation of gender-responsive budgeting and the update of strategic documents.

§1: The Consolidation of Gender-Responsive Budgeting

1012- In the process of involving women in the management of public affairs, the Minister of Finance published Circular No. 23/C/MINFI of 2 August 2022 on gender integration and the evaluation of gender-responsive budgeting in the State budget. This Circular was addressed to all principal, secondary and deputy authorising officers and to project and programme managers and those ranking as such. It laid down modalities for gender integration in the 2023 budget cycle in all its phases, namely the preparatory phase, the macroeconomic and budgetary framework phase, the detailed budget development phase, as well as the Finance Law finalisation and approval phase.

§2: Updating Strategic Documents

1013- The National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation were updated.

A: The National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence 2022-2026

1014- The main objective of this document is to help reduce by at least 50% the rate of GBV by 2026, in a context weakened by Covid-19, as well as security humanitarian and crises. The said strategy which takes into account the fight against violence in development and humanitarian context focuses on the prevention and repression of GBV, as well as the holistic care for victims.

B: The National Action Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

1015- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was prevalent in certain parts of the Far North and South West Regions and spread over the national territory due to migratory movements.

1016- This Plan of Action intends to fight the medicalisation of this practice, promote its eradication and take into account its cross-border dimension. In this perspective, the update of the Plan aims at efficiently contributing to a greater public awareness of stakeholders on the situation of FGM and women and girls' rights, care for FGM victims and ensuring the prosecution and conviction of FGM perpetrators. The Plan also aims at promoting the integration of FGM teachings in formal and informal education, the mobilisation of resources and partners, as well as the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of interventions at all levels.

SECTION 2: PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

1017- Women's rights were promoted in the management of public affairs, the electoral process and were taken into account in religious activities.

§1: Promotion of Women's Rights in the Management of Public Affairs

1018- Women were appointed to key positions and recruited into the Public Service.

A: Appointments of Women to Key Positions

1019- The year 2022 was marked by the appointment of several women to key positions. Thus, Mrs **AWASOM née ASAA Florence**, Super scale Judicial and Legal Officer, was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Senate. Mrs **AMUGU née ABENA EKOBENA Appoline Marie** was maintained as Vice-Chairperson of the Electoral Board. The 18 members of the said Board include 5 women.

1020- Also, Mrs **DIMODI WOUKITTY Eugenie** was appointed Research Officer at the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

1021- Mrs **Aissa FADADJO** was appointed Special Advisor at the Secretariat General of the Prime Minister's Office.

B: Taking Women into Account in Recruiting into the Public Service

1022- During recruitments into the Public Service, 48% of successful candidates were women and 52% men.

1023- Concerning the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM), except for the Common Law Section, 37 women were recruited out of the 70 pupil Magistrates at the Magistracy and Court Registry Division. For the Administration Division, out of 110 civil servants recruited, 53 were women. For the Division of Taxation, 30 women were recruited out of 75 civil servants.

§2: Women's Involvement in the Electoral Process

1024- To consolidate their involvement in the electoral process, women were encouraged to register on electoral lists. Thus, at the end of the clean-up operations, the electoral register had a total of 7,298,244 voters, representing 3,905,642 (54%) men and 3,392,582 (46%) women.

§3: Taking Women into Account in Religious Activities

1025- Initially meant for men only, the supervision of Muslim Pilgrims was progressively opened to women. Thus, the number of women supervisors relatively increased over the last years, from 3 women in 2012 to 6 in 2022. However, out of the 13 *Hadj* medical personnel, there were 6 women in 2022 against 7 in 2019.

1026- In addition, MINAC, in partnership with the Cameroon Muslim Women Association organised a multi-dimensional meeting on 15 October 2022, under the theme: *Woman in Islam and her status in the Muslim Society*. The objective of the meeting was to ensure women's rights by safeguarding values inherent to the Islamic family, by protecting the Muslim woman so that she actively participates in the development of the society. Some 300 women took part in the meeting.

1027- Moreover, within the framework of the fiftieth anniversary of their congress, the Christian Women Association of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, in partnership with MINPOSTEL, organised a women awareness-raising campaign in Makak on 26 August 2022, under the theme:

“promoting the culture of cyber security and raising awareness on the responsible use of social media”. On this occasion, about 5,000 women were sensitised on the pros and cons of social media.

1028- More so, in prelude to the celebration of the International Women’s Day, women from the *Saint Joseph* Cathedral in the Sangmelima Diocese met on 6 March 2022 for a football match to launch the great mobilisation to promote the woman’s dignity in the South Region. These women exhorted the public to respect women who play an invaluable role in church as well as in the society. They encouraged men in the South Region to respect their wives by helping them in household chores and participating in their economic empowerment.

SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

1029- The Government continued to carry out actions to improve women’s property rights, among others, through the celebration of marriages and the protection of women’s rights in case of dissolution of marriage.

A: Celebration of Marriages

1030- Within the framework of the promotion of the family, MINPROFF and its partners facilitated the collective celebration of 1,300 marriages in the 10 Regions. Couples concerned were exempted from the related costs. MINPROFF also facilitated the establishment of about 12,512 birth certificates.

1031- Thanks to the implementation of the *Because I am a girl* Programme, a campaign to end child marriage was organised by MINPROFF in collaboration with Plan International Cameroon in June 2022. The campaign reached a hundred women and girls from needy families.

1032- Moreover, the State started drafting the document on positive parenting. It is a document that encourages men’s involvement in household chores and collaboration between entities that make up the family.

B: Protection of Women’s Rights in case of Dissolution of Marriage

1033- Women’s rights were preserved whether in divorce or in the event of the death of the spouse.

1) Protection of Women's Rights in Divorce Proceedings

1034- Women's rights were protected during judicial proceedings by ordering defaulting spouses to pay damages and granting custody of children to mothers. As an example, the Douala-Bonanjo CFI, hearing a matter under customary law, in Judgment No. 13/L of 4 January 2022, and after pronouncing the divorce between the spouses with the fault lying exclusively with the husband, gave custody of the 3 minor children to the mother and ordered the husband to pay a monthly alimony of CFAF 300,000²⁴³ for the children, the sum of CFAF 10,000,000²⁴⁴ to the mother as damages and CFAF 3,000,000²⁴⁵ for settlement costs of the latter.

1035- The Nyong-et-Kelle HC, in divorce Judgment No. 27/CIV/TGI of 14 December 2022, by pronouncing the divorce between Mr and Mrs B., the fault lying exclusively with the husband, ordered the latter to pay the sum of CFAF 2,000,000²⁴⁶ to his ex-wife as damages.

2) Protection of Women's Rights following the Spouse's Death

1036- A document titled *Legal Assistance Guide for Widows*, was published in 2022 by MINPROFF to edify widows on their rights and the procedures to follow to claim these rights.

1037- Widow's rights were protected by the judicial system. For example, in Judgement No. 172/PD/22 of the Akonolinga CFI, the Judge declared the succession of the deceased opened by granting the right of usufruct and property administration to the widow.

1038- About 4,010 people were also sensitised through educative talks on widows' rights during the commemoration of the International Widows' Day in Fouban, Douala and Yaounde on 22 June 2022.

SECTION 4: IMPROVEMENT OF WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS

1039- Women's socio-economic rights were improved through employment, entrepreneurship development and the promotion of empowerment.

²⁴³ About 458.02 Euros.

²⁴⁴ About 15,267.18 Euros.

²⁴⁵ About 4,580.15 Euros.

²⁴⁶ About 3,053.44 Euros.

§1: Strengthening Women's Access to Employment

1040- Women were trained on entrepreneurship and women and girls' access to digital technologies was improved.

A: Entrepreneurship Training for Women

1041- MINPROFF through the implementation of its Programme No. 140 tagged, *Women's Economic Empowerment*, launched a study on the situation of women in informal trade and an advocacy with traditional and religious leaders on women's access to land. Some 1,360 women and girls were trained in Women Empowerment Centres (CPFFs) and received support for socio-economic integration. Moreover, CPFF in some cities were rehabilitated²⁴⁷ or equipped²⁴⁸.

1042- MINPROFF strengthened the capacities of 240 women and girls and helped them settle in agriculture, animal rearing, functional literacy and handicraft in Mogode, Amchide, Batibo, Belo, Nguti and Idenau, as part of the implementation of the *Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning* Project funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Furthermore, MINPROFF enabled 3,618 young internally displaced girls, refugees and host populations, to receive vocational training in CPFFs and women cohesion spaces and support for start-ups in sewing, ICTs, agropastoral and small-scale trade in Buea, Bamenda 2, Yaounde 6, Mora, Mokolo, Minawao, Douala, Bertoua and Ngam under the same project.

1043- Similarly, 75 women were trained on intellectual property and standardisation, entrepreneurship, financial education and packaging, procedures to obtain land titles, production of beetles, snails, plantain suckers and cocoyams in August and September 2022 in Douala and Akono.

1044- At the end of the Forum on packaging, preservation and logistics held in Yaounde from 6 to 8 December 2022, about 100 women and women's groups (cooperatives and common initiative groups (GIC)) were trained in local processing, packaging, labelling and marketing of agricultural products using new and simple technologies (customised processors, pressing and sealing machines, etc). These women were then trained to use their mobile phones to market their products online.

²⁴⁷ Bipindi, Minta, Tignere, Tcholorié, Bangem, Kumba, Abong-mbang, Banyo, Tibati, Meiganga, Mora, Kaele, Tokombere, Yagoua, Bafia, Monatele, Mfou, Edea, Isanguele, Kumbo, Fundong, Meyo-messala, Sangmeli ma, Guider, Nkogssamba, Yabassi, Fifinda, Bamusso and Olamze.

²⁴⁸ Esse, Okola, Kombo-Abédimo, Pette-Bandjoun and Mbouda.

1045- As part of the celebration of the Global Entrepreneurship Week, MINPMEESA participated, on 16 November 2022 in Yaounde, in the 3rd Edition of the African Forum of Women Entrepreneurs on the vision of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The stakes, challenges and opportunities of the AfCFTA were at the centre of discussions. About 50 women from the Central African sub-region participated in the event.

B: Improving Women and Girls' Access to Digital Technology

1046- To help women and girls navigate through digital changes, the Government promoted digital literacy through various initiatives with the aim of reducing the gender digital divide and accelerating digital transformation, among others.

1047- As such, MINPROFF signed an agreement with Orange Foundation since 2015 for the creation of digital houses in CPFF and associations to connect women to the digital economy²⁴⁹. In 2022, there was a total of 17 Digital Houses operating across the 10 regions of the country and more than 3,677 women were trained. Modules taught were: ICTs, IGAs, financial education and literacy. Each CPFF, partner of the Digital House Programme, received a digital Kit²⁵⁰.

1048- Moreover, the *Central Africa Backbone Project* reached 616,468 persons, including 344,954 women, through its component tagged "Support to Women's Empowerment", which aimed to provide CPFF and Multipurpose Community Telecentres with computer equipment, solar energy and support for the design and implementation of training programmes (ICT, entrepreneurship, etc...), thanks to the coverage of its zone of direct influence which correspond to localities crossed by main roads.

²⁴⁹ The Orange Foundation Digital House Programme consists in setting-up fully equipped digital rooms in partner associations and CPFF, in order to foster women's professional integration and/or develop their income generating activities through literacy and basic entrepreneurship training (IGA management). The modules also aim at promoting women's digital inclusion by helping them familiarise with digital tools and relevant software

²⁵⁰ The digital kit in urban area comprised: 2 Raspberry servers with SD carts content, energy supplies, 10 Laptops + 15 tablets and their energy supplies in urban area, a video projector + projection screen fabric, a printing machine, electrical multiple outlets, 1 waterproof suitcase with lock. Meanwhile, the CPFF/MD Kit in rural area comprised: 2 Raspberry servers with SD carts content, energy supplies, 5 Laptops + 10 tablets and their energy supply in rural area, a video projector + projection screen fabric, a printing machine, electrical multiple outlets, 1 waterproof suitcase with lock.

1049- On 22 July 2022, the African Institute of Computer Science (AICS) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Kribi Council for the training of 1,000 underprivileged persons in ICT, 40% being youths and 60% women.-

§2: Women's Entrepreneurship Development

1050- These included taking women into account when distributing financial resources and executing economic projects, as well as ensuring women's empowerment in rural areas.

A: Mainstreaming Women in the Distribution of Financial Resources

1051- Through Agreements and amendments signed between MINEPAT and its financing partners, a credit line amounting to CFAF 1,333,964,704²⁵¹ was opened for the financing of agropastoral microprojects in councils across the 10 regions. In 2022, the agropastoral activities of 2,183 producers organisations, including women's organisations, were financed.

1052- In addition, during the signing of the loan agreement to finance the Logone Valley Investment Development and Enhancement Project (VIVA LOGONE) on 26 October 2022, women were effectively taken into account by adapting agricultural innovations to their needs and granting them access to agricultural support. This 172,900,000 EUR project signed with the *International Development Association* forms part of the programme to improve agriculture in Cameroon and will allow for the irrigation of 12,210 hectares to increase rice production from 50,000 to 115,000 tons per year.

1053- Out of 13,299 companies created in Centres of Business Creation Formalities, about 25% were by women. Moreover, more than 500 women received support from the *She Trades Outlook Cameroon* project, the objective of which was to strengthen the presence of women in international trade channels.

B: Consideration Women in Economic Projects

1054- The 6th session of the Regional Steering Committee of the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project (SWEDD)

²⁵¹ About 2,036,587.33 Euros.

was held in Yaounde on 19 August 2022. On the agenda, was the consideration and adoption of the working plan²⁵² and the budget, as well as the procurement plan for the period running from July 2022 to December 2023. The 9 member countries were represented, including Cameroon. Thanks to this project, beneficiaries will be able to seize local economic opportunities, reduce child marriages and early pregnancies as well as enhance advocacy for demographic dividend. The direct beneficiaries of the SWEDD project in Cameroon are 703,174 girls aged 10 to 24 years, vulnerable to early marriage, pregnancy and school drop-out, as well as their communities in the 3 northern regions:

1055- UNDP trained 70 young girls who are mothers and vulnerable women who had projects in the area of women's entrepreneurship and provided them with raw materials. The training was launched on 5 July 2022.

1056- In addition, the implementation of the MINADER National Project for the Improvement of Vegetable crops (PNAPCM) enabled 125 women to receive technical, material and financial support in 8 regions of the country, namely: the Centre, East, Far North, Littoral, North West, West, South and South West Regions.

C: Women's Empowerment in Rural Areas

1057- Within the framework of the celebration of Rural Women's Day on 15 October 2022, 627 women's groups received support in the form of agricultural equipment and 711 others received financial support to create income generating activities (IGAs).

1058- The Upland Rice Development Project of the Tropical Forest Zone in Cameroon (PRODERIP) also encouraged the involvement of several women in irrigated rice cultivation and upland rice production.

§3: Women's Empowerment through the Development of Partnerships with CSOs

1059- To develop a partnership with CSOs that advocate for women's economic empowerment, the State continued to support some women Association leaders to enable them increase their activities on the field. It is

²⁵² The work plan validated for this session indicates that the SWEDD project will be implemented in 6 activity areas over the next 18 months, with the aim to spread the communication for social and behavioural change to improve knowledge, attitudes and practices in favour of education.

in this context that MINPROFF supported the candidacy of Mrs **Marie Thérèse Biloa**, Founding President of the *Bayam Selam* Association of Cameroon and of the Diaspora (ASBY), to participate at the Regional Forum for the Promotion of Women Entrepreneurship in Central Africa, held from 9 to 10 June 2022 in Kinshasa and, organised by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Women from ECCAS member States attended the event under the theme: Support for the establishment, accompanying and boosting of ECCAS women entrepreneurs' network. A network of women entrepreneurs from Central Africa was set up to contribute to the sustainable development of the sub-region.

1060- Ministries like MINPROFF, MINPMEESA and MINCOM offered various support to Mrs **Françoise PUENE**, President of the *Manycawe* Association which organised an economic trade fair, from 2 to 5 March 2022 at the esplanade of the National Museum in Yaounde. More than 1,000 women from the 10 regions of the country displayed their goods for sale and were also trained in financial intelligence, women's leadership and the transformation of raw materials like cassava into consumer products.

1061- Mrs **Kate FOTSO**, CEO of Telcar Cocoa and Ambassador of the *Stand up for African Women Entrepreneurs* (Sufawe)²⁵³ Programme, received support from the Ministry of Finance on the occasion of the official launching of activities of the said programme in Douala, on 29 March 2022.

SECTION 4: COMBATTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1062- Measures taken concerned prevention, repression of GBV and the care for victims.

§1: Prevention of GBV

1063- According to information collected by various humanitarian stakeholders thanks to a tool called *Gender Based Violence Information Management* (GBV/IMS), 11,488 cases of GBV were reported in

²⁵³ Sufawe was created after the signing on 14 March 2019 of the partnership agreement between Attijariwata Bank group and African Development Bank at the International Africa Development Forum which was held in Casablanca, Morocco, in order to make low-interests financing available to African women entrepreneurs.

2022²⁵⁴. As a way forward, awareness-raising and capacity building activities were carried out for stakeholders in the fight against GBV.

A: Raising Awareness against GBV

1064- Within the framework of the 31st edition of the campaign “16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” celebrated in Cameroon under the theme: “Working together to end violence against women and girls”, several awareness-raising activities were organised. These activities reached 70,179 people.

1065- Through social mobilisation and community involvement strategies implemented under the leadership of MINPROFF, 38,125 parents and guardians (including 23,884 women and 14,241 men) and 61 teenage mothers benefited from positive parenting interventions in the Littoral, Centre (Yaounde 2, 3, 4, 6), North, West, North West, South West and East Regions.

1066- MINPROFF, MINESEC, MINESUP and their partners²⁵⁵, organised awareness-raising campaigns for about 10 secondary schools on “Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in schools” in the Centre, Littoral, West, North West and South West Regions. On this occasion, a manual on SGBV was produced and more than 3,000 copies were shared to targeted persons.

B: Capacity Building of Stakeholders Combatting GBV

1067- As part of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Programme, 109 personnel from devolved services (46 men and 63 women) were trained in the East, Adamawa, North West and South West Regions on the fundamentals of PSEA (sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment), the 6 related principles, the responsibility of each organisation, the care for victims, the obligation to report, refer cases and give reports on the cases. In the same vein, the awareness-raising was organised for 154 representatives of community organisations (that is 50 women and 104 men) on sexual exploitation and abuses committed by humanitarian workers. Awareness sessions carried out by these community workers reached 36,381 persons in humanitarian situations.

²⁵⁴ GBV/IMS December 2022.

²⁵⁵ Namely: UNFPA, UNDP, UN-Women and CAWOPEM.

1068- With the support of UN-Women, MINJUSTICE strengthened the capacities of stakeholders in the justice chain, through the organisation of 3 workshops on the theme: *Gender-Based Violence in a crisis context*, from 26 to 28 October 2022 in Buea, from 2 to 4 November 2022 in Bafoussam and from 28 to 30 November 2022 in Maroua. Some 39 Legal and Judicial Officers, 15 Lawyers, 3 Medical Doctors and 3 members of the civil society were trained at these workshops.

1069- To commemorate the International Women's Day, the *International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Cameroon)* organised a symposium for about 50 Lawyers on 4 March 2022 in Limbe on the theme: "Gender equality is the key for a sustainable future".

1070- The National Community-Driven Development Programme (PNDP) also organised awareness-raising and training workshops on GBV for 103 security and judicial personnel from 4 target regions, namely Adamawa, East, North and Far North. The map of stakeholders involved in the fight against GBV in the above-mentioned regions was updated with the technical support of UNDP.

§2: Continued Repression of GBV

1071- In 2022, 48 cases of GBV received extensive media coverage, including 17 femicides, 2 matricides, 5 rape cases including 1 death, 19 battered women, caging of a woman, 2 cases of psychological violence, 2 cases of workplace harassment, and 1 case of cyber-violence. Faced with these alarming figures, the Government committed to eradicate impunity by ensuring the effective repression of such acts. As an example, in the case of *The People vs Dr E.K.B.*, the Fako High Court through Judgment No. HCF/CRIM/JGT/145/2022, convicted to 18 years imprisonment the accused who was prosecuted for the rape of a trainee nurse. The case was pending before the Court of Appeal at the end of the year.

1072- Moreover, in Judgment No. HCF/CRIM/JGT/096/2022 of 1 March 2022 by the same Court, the judge, justifying the sentence of life imprisonment against **N.R.F.**, described rape as a form of violence, the impact of which goes beyond physical assault and severely damages the victim's soul forever. The Mezam High Court in Judgment No. 29/CRIM/2022 of 30 August 2022 sentenced **A.J.M.** to 12 years im-

prisonment and a fine of CFAF10,000,000²⁵⁶ as damages to the minor T.F.A., victim of indecency and rape.

§3: Care for Victims of GBV

1073- Out of the 11,488 cases of GBV reported in 2022 by GBV/IMS, 99% received psychosocial care.

1074- With the support of UN-Women, 120 non commissioned female officers working in the North and Adamawa Regions were trained during the 3-day *Gender-Desk* workshop organised in Ngaoundere in October 2022. The Local Committees to Combat FGM platforms were launched in 2022 with the drafting and validation of their specifications.

1075- For better care of the victim, MINPROFF equally developed and published the map of operational safe spaces across the 10 regions, 7 of which received dignity kits for survivors. In addition, 1,585 survivors of GBV received care.

SECTION 5: INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1076- This involvement relates to the role played by female defence forces in peace-keeping initiatives, as well as that of civil society.

§1: The Role of Female Defence Forces in Crisis Resolution

1077- With regard to women's involvement in peace and security processes, in August 2017, Cameroon adopted a National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions for the 2018-2020 period. This document was being reviewed in 2022.

1078- Women were part of DSF deployed to the field in the North West, South West and Far North Regions. As such, women represented 7 % of each Gendarme contingent deployed to these regions.

1079- The number of women who participated in peace-keeping missions till 2022 accounted for 10 % of the total number of each contingent deployed in those missions, namely MONUSCO²⁵⁷ and MINUSCA²⁵⁸. Wom-

²⁵⁶ About 15,267.17 Euros.

²⁵⁷ United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

²⁵⁸ United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.

en were also lowly represented within the Army Staff of the Multinational Joint Force. According to SED statistics, 33 women were deployed in peace-keeping missions in 2022, that is 18 in the Formed Police Unit 1 (FPU1)/Bangui and 15 in the Formed Police Unit 2 (FPU2)- BOA, including 1 female doctor.

1080- The General Delegation for National Security (DGSN) deployed 4 women to the Central African Republic.

§2: The Role of Other Stakeholders in Conflict Resolution

1081- Within the framework of a capacity building workshop on peace building, MINDDEVEL, in collaboration with UN-Women trained community stakeholders on 21 and 22 July 2022 in Yaounde. There were about 50 participants, including religious leaders, traditional authorities, youth and women associations, as well as local elected officials. The aim was to raise awareness on the need to unite forces in order to consolidate peace and strengthen social cohesion and community life at local level.

1082- As part of the commemoration of the 41st edition of the World Peace Week celebrated from 15 to 21 September 2022, the association Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF-Cameroon) in collaboration with MINJEC, MINPROFF and UN-Women, organised on 16 September 2022, a peace building session at the Emana Government High School in Yaounde, in order to enlighten students on the importance of non-violence as a conflict resolution method in school and within the family.

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1083- In 2022, the gender approach continued to be implemented, especially through the consolidation of gender-responsive budgeting and updating of strategic documents. Thus, the repression of violence against women and girls was strengthened with heavy sentences passed against perpetrators. However, women's empowerment remained a challenge

CHAPTER

6

**PROTECTION OF THE
RIGHTS OF FORCIBLY
DISPLACED PERSONS**



1084- Cameroon has always maintained her assistance policy by guaranteeing the rights of people seeking refuge on her territory and internally displaced persons, victims of the persistent attacks of Boko Haram, natural disasters or intercommunity violence in Far North Region, and socio-political instability in North West Region and South West Region of the country.

SECTION 1: GUARANTEEING THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

1085- Actions to improve the standard of living of thousands of asylum seekers received on the national territory continued in 2022. Similarly, implementation of sustainable solutions continued for refugees whose number slightly increased.

§1: Statistics on Refugees and Asylum Seekers

1086- The number of refugees and asylum seekers continued to grow²⁵⁹, and Government continued to welcome them.

A: Trends in the Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

1087- According to data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of persons with refugee status increased from 466,263 in 2021 to 473,887 by 31 December 2022. The growing number of Central Africans was estimated at 346,689 compared to 342,877 in 2021, followed by 124,651 Nigerians compared to 120,928 in 2021 and 2,547 refugees of other nationalities compared to 2,458 in 2021.

1088- The number of asylum seekers also increased from 8,031 in 2021 to 9,265 in 2022.

B: Settlement of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

1089- In 2022, refugees lived either in developed sites or in communities in the Far North Region, North Region, Adamawa Region, East Region, Centre Region and Littoral Region. Thus, some Central African refugees were in communities in the East Region (85,903 in Lom-and-Djerem Di-

²⁵⁹ About 12,320 recorded entries, of which 9,662 Central African refugees, 1,213 Nigerian refugees and 1,445 refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities.

vision, 53,435 in Kadey Division, 5,632 in Boumba-and-Ngoko Division and 14 in Upper-Nyong Division), North Region (49,111 in Mayo-Rey Division) and Adamawa Region (52,940 in Mbere Division; 4,984 in Vina Division and 1,505 in Djerem Division). Others settled in 7 developed sites in the East Region, including Gado Badzere (25,337), Lolo (11,686), Borgop (10,975), Mbile (10,802), Ngam (6,860), Timangolo (6,680) and Ngarisingo (1,334). In urban areas, there were 11,903 Central African refugees in the Mfoundi Division and 7,588 in the Wouri Division. The only site where Nigerian refugees, 76,063 in number were lodged was the Minawao site in the Far North Region with. The others lived in communities in the Logone-and-Chari Division (29,880), Mayo-Sava Division (9,349), Mayo-Tsanaga Division (4,992), and Diamare Division (2). In the Benoue Division in the North Region, there were 2,461 refugees; in the Adamawa Region, 75 refugees in Bankim, 836 in Banyo and 177 in Mayo-Darley; in the North West Region, 86 in Nkambe and 85 in Nwa; and in the South West Region, 618 in the Ndian Division.

1090- In urban areas, 12 Nigerian refugees were registered in the Wouri Division, and 15 in the Mfoundi Division.

1091- Refugees of other nationalities lived in urban areas including 456 in Douala (Littoral Region), 157 in Langui (North Region) and 1,934 in Yaounde (Centre Region). On the whole, there were 23,942 refugees living in urban areas.

1092- Similarly, 4,875 asylum seekers settled in Douala and 4,390 in Yaounde. In all, Central Africans accounted for 73% of refugees, Nigerians 26% and refugees of other nationalities 1%, with 53% being women and girls.

§2: Enhancing the Standard of Living of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

1093- Actions taken to enhance the standard of living of refugees and asylum seekers included protection, education, health and nutrition, and improvement of the living environment.

A: Protection of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

1094- Consultations and access to documentation helped protect the interests of refugees.

1) Cooperation

1095- From 25 to 27 April 2022, the 1st Regional Ministerial Conference on Solutions to Forced Displacement linked to the Central African Crisis held in Yaounde, jointly organised by Government and UNHCR in consultation with the Central African Republic (CAR). The meeting that aimed at exploring new approaches to address problems faced by refugees, IDPs and returnees from the Central African Republic, resulted in the Yaounde Declaration which marked the commitment of the 7 States present²⁶⁰, affected by the above-mentioned crisis, to take a number of initiatives to consolidate the normative and institutional framework on the protection of such persons, their socio-economic inclusion, resilience and empowerment, promoting sustainable solutions and establishing a regional coordination mechanism. With a view to monitoring the implementation of recommendations resulting from the regional conference, Government, in collaboration with UNHCR, organised a workshop²⁶¹ on 8 November 2022 in Yaounde, bringing together representatives of sector administrations, the United Nations system and technical and financial partners.

1096- Besides, in order to preserve the interests of refugees, the Ministry of External Relations organised several interministerial meetings to prepare the Multi-stakeholder Workshop to conduct a survey on the living conditions of refugees, known as *Flagship Household Survey Programme* held from 30 to 31 August 2022, with the collaboration of the National Institute of Statistics and UNHCR in Yaounde. The purpose of the workshop was to provide participants with an understanding of the missions and expected results of the Programme and to gather inputs for its implementation. The Programme consists in collecting reliable and available data based on surveys, in order to better guide the actions of public authorities and partners in enhancing the living conditions of refugees.

²⁶⁰ They include Cameroon, CAR, Congo, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and South Sudan, in collaboration with regional and international institutions present in the Subregion. Representatives of UN Agencies, international, regional, civil society and non-governmental organisations, and representatives of refugee communities were also in attendance.

²⁶¹ The objective of this Workshop was to institutionalise an annual exchange platform between the Government, the HCR and its different partners involved in the management of refugees and host communities, as well as reaffirm Cameroon's leadership position over the governance of refugees in the sub-region.

2) Access to Documentation

1097- In June 2022, birth certificates were established in the Far North Region for 508 persons²⁶² (230 girls) including 31 refugees from the Minawao Site. In addition, an awareness-raising campaign for refugees, IDPs and host populations of the Region on the relevance of civil documentation was organised, during which some 100 persons were advised and directed on accessing legal identity. In the same period, 9 information sessions on civil and legal documentation were conducted in Mayo-Tsanaga Division, Mayo-Sava Division and Logone-and-Chari Division. In support, UNHCR facilitated the issuance of 19,000 birth certificates and 1,800 national identity cards in the Far North Region²⁶³ for returned Cameroon refugees and IDPs.

1098- In addition, as part of implementation of Decree No. 2016/375 of 4 August 2016 to lay down the characteristics and conditions for establishing and issuing the National Identity Card, to amend and supplement some provisions of the Decree of 4 September 2007 to lay down the enabling instrument of the Law of 12 January 1997 on the conditions of entry, stay and exit of foreigners in Cameroon, the DGSN issued in June 2022, some 5,164 biometric cards for Central African refugees living in the localities of Mandjou and Gado-Badzere in East Region. In the same vein, to facilitate access of refugees to basic needs, protection and sustainable solutions, UNHCR issued 80,190 refugee cards in November; that is, 19,806 in Maroua in the Far North Region, 17,674 in Meiganga in Adamawa Region, 16,301 in Batouri and 15,664 in Bertoua in the East Region.

B: The Right of Refugees and Asylum Seekers to Education

1099- Efforts made by authorities across the country²⁶⁴ to step up education supply encouraged refugee children to attend school. In 2021/2022 academic year, of the 5,827 children registered in nurseries²⁶⁵, 1,176 were enrolled in public schools (544 girls and 632 boys),

²⁶² IDPs and host communities also received birth certificates.

²⁶³ In localities of Logone and Chari, Mayo-Tsanaga, and Diamare.

²⁶⁴ See Chapter on Right to Education, §326 et seq.

²⁶⁵ East Region stands out with 1,305 kids.

3,439 in private schools²⁶⁶ (1,805 girls and 1,634 boys) and 1,212 in Native Authority schools (558 girls and 654 boys).

1100- At primary school level²⁶⁷, 73,635 children were enrolled, with 68,293 in the public sector (29,877 girls and 38,416 boys), 4,748 in the private sector (2,217 girls and 2,531 boys) and 594 in Native authority schools (252 girls and 342 boys). In primary schools, in priority education areas of the country, 84.5% of refugee children were enrolled. In Functional Literacy Centres (FLC)²⁶⁸, 428 learners were registered with 55 refugees (33 girls and 22 boys) in public FLCs, 100 in private FLCs (70 girls and 30 boys) and 273 in Native Authority FLCs (168 girls and 168 boys). As for the Non-Formal Basic Education Centres²⁶⁹, 343 learners were trained, 219 refugees in the private sector (110 girls and 109 boys) and 124 in Native Authority (Community) Centres (78 girls and 46 boys).

1101- In general and technical secondary education, 3,842 refugee students were registered in 2021/2022 academic year, including 1,669 girls and 2,173 boys.

1102- With regard to higher education, 139 refugee students were granted DAFI scholarship, 18 students at the Masters level won scholarships²⁷⁰ in France and Italy.

C: Access to Health and Nutrition

1103- At the Minawao camp, the gross mortality rate recorded in 2022 was 0.23 deaths/1000 inhabitants/month. Among children under 5 years of age, the rate stood at 0.43 deaths/1000 children/month, while in sites in the East Region, Adamawa Region and North Region, it was 0.17 deaths/1000 inhabitants/month and 0.46 deaths/1000 children under 5 years/month.

²⁶⁶ About 1,136 boys and 1,220 girls in lay private schools; 221 boys and 266 girls in Catholic schools; 233 boys and 273 girls in protestant schools; 44 boys and 46 girls in Muslim schools.

²⁶⁷ East Region had the highest enrolment (30,191 pupils).

²⁶⁸ East Region had the highest enrolment (231 refugee learners with 133 boys and 98 girls).

²⁶⁹ No refugees enrolled in public centres. In private and Native authority (community) centres, the East Region registered the highest number of learners with 276 refugees.

²⁷⁰ The bursaries are part of UNICORE and University for Refugees programmes.

1104- Some 190,438 consultations were recorded in all refugee camps and the main pathologies identified were respiratory tract infections (36.30%), malaria (23.26%), intestinal parasites (6.29%), and water-borne diseases (5.77%). Besides, 1,967 children under one year of age at Minawao camp were vaccinated against measles, representing a vaccination coverage rate of 98.4%. The rate was 94.6% in CAR refugee camps of the 3 regions hosting them. UNHCR supported Nigerian refugees by providing them with essential medicines to address stockouts.

1105- Some 22,873 antenatal visits were conducted in refugee camps and 6,608 births were registered, 98% of which were attended by medical staff. 21,101 of the persons using contraceptive methods were tested for HIV, 137 of whom 64% of pregnant women were tested positive and put on ARV treatment.

1106- Regarding cholera control, one of the responses guaranteed by the Public Health Emergency Operations Coordination Centre, through the incident management system activated on 3 January 2022, concerned the organisation of a vaccination campaign at Minawao site from 14 to 18 November 2022. In the camp, 144 cases were recorded and 4 deaths identified on 25 November 2022, a fatality rate of 2.8%.

1107- As part of malnutrition reduction, the Far North Regional Delegation of Public Health (DRSP), with the assistance of its partners, supported 174 refugee children under 5 years in several health facilities and 97 refugee children from Minawao site. At the site, 67,110 refugees including 36,231 women also received food from development partners. In some camps in the East Region and Adamawa Region, nutritional surveys revealed a deterioration in acute global malnutrition which stood at 17.4%, contrary to the 10% standard.

D: Enhancing the Living Environment

1108- In a bid to enhance their environment, refugees were involved in reforestation and the decline of desertification. In the Far North Region at Minawao, for example, 463,761 seeds were planted by refugees and host populations in June 2022 and nearly 86% of these seeds produced trees. Similarly, in Bogo, 2000 seeds were planted. Regarding lighting, some 90 solar lamps were installed in 7 refugee camps²⁷¹ in the East Re-

²⁷¹ They include Botgopet site in Ngam, Adamawa Region, and Gado Badzere, Lolo, Mbile, Ngarisingo and Timangolo in East Region.

gion and Adamawa Region. The installations were intended not only to light up the camps, but also to curb insecurity, sexual assault and other Gender-Based Violence.

1109- In addition, the installation of solar energy to power the water distribution system at Minawo, Gado Badzere and Mbile sites was completed during the year. It covered about 150,000 people and increased the number of solar-powered boreholes in refugee sites in Cameroon by 40%.

§3: Implementing Sustainable Solutions for Refugees

1110- Among the 3 sustainable solutions offered refugees²⁷² as part of the management of their status by Government and UNHCR, voluntary repatriation of refugees continued with the voluntary return of 2,021 refugees out of the 10,000 who had wished to return, including 1,998 Central Africans, 13 Ivorians, 8 Chadians, one Rwandan and one Burundian. They received vaccines, as well as flight tickets for those from urban areas and for others, buses were available for their transport, luggage and livestock. Resettlement negotiations started in January 2022 also made it possible to resettle 468 refugees in Canada, 234 in France, 5 in Sweden and 3 in the United States of America. Resettled refugees received social and health assistance, employment, education and an opportunity to live in safety and dignity.

1111- Some 996 resettlement applications; that is, 552 in the United States, 416 in France, 17 in Canada, 5 in Sweden, 4 in Australia and 2 in Finland were still being processed at the end of 2022.

1112- As part of the complementary admission pathways in a third country, the displacement of 12 refugees to Italy and 6 to France, in order to enable them to pursue higher education there, was facilitated.

SECTION 2: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

1113- In 2022, management of IDPs, victims of incursions by Boko Haram and attacks by separatists in the South West Region and North West Region continued in spite of insufficient financial resources. Actions for IDPs consisted in emergency assistance, guaranteeing the right to education, access to basic social services and returning to original settlements.

²⁷² This concerns voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin, on-the-spot integration or naturalization and resettlement.

§1: Assistance to Victims of Flood and Intercommunity Violence

1114- Floods caused by heavy rains from August to October 2022 in the Far North Region resulted in the displacement of some 314,000 persons living in Logone-and-Chari (227,620), Mayo-Danay (85,141) and Mayo-Tsanaga (1,337) Divisions. For some of these people, Government established temporary resettlement sites in Kousseri (150 tents set up for families) (28,700) and Goré (6,354), Yagoua (130 tents), Domo (50 tents) and Dana (50 tents). These resettlement sites located near their places of origin and the Logone River allowed IDPs to continue their agricultural, fishing and commercial activities. They were also supported in the manufacture of sun-dried bricks used to rebuild their homes.

1115- Similarly, 17,950 IDPs, including 9,692 flood-affected women, received in-kind food assistance and 17,339 IDPs of whom 9,395 women received cash-based food assistance in the Logone-and-Chari Division.

1116- Following intercommunity clashes recorded in December 2021 in the Far North Region displaced persons living in Logone Birni, received support from Government and its partners comprising 50 tents, food, materials²⁷³ and assistance in cash. In support, UNHCR and its partners coordinated initial protection, coordination and management of resettlement sites, as well as crisis response for 38,000 IDPs. The response²⁷⁴ provided support in terms of shelter, nutrition, food security, protection, health and water-sanitation-hygiene (WASH).

§2: Guaranteeing the Right of IDPs to Education

1117- As a result of incentives for education, 156,211 IDPs gained access to education in the 2021/2022 academic year. At the nursery level, 10,901 children (5,435 girls and 5,466 boys)²⁷⁵ were enrolled in schools: 3,261 (1,555 girls and 1,706 boys) in public schools, 7,514 (3,816 girls and 3,698 boys) in private schools and 126 (64 girls and 62 boys) in Native Authority schools. In primary education, 143,565²⁷⁶

²⁷³ Sleeping equipment, buckets, kettles, soap etc.

²⁷⁴ On 21 January 2022, some 35 community settlements, 152 family settlements and 3,269 basic household kits and articles were provided. Concerning WASH, 4,339 emergency WASH kits were provided.

²⁷⁵ South West Region enrolled the highest number of pupils (3 319 children).

²⁷⁶ Far North Region enrolled the highest number of pupils (38,460 children).

students were enrolled in public schools as follows: 104,002 (49,232 girls and 54,770 boys), 38,360 (19,039 girls and 19,321 boys) in private schools and 1,203 (550 girls and 653 boys) in Native Authority schools.

1118- In FLCs, 1,116 learners (599 girls and 517 boys)²⁷⁷ were registered with 593 IDPs (314 girls and 279 boys) in the public sector, 272 in the private sector (159 girls and 113 boys) and 251 (126 girls and 125 boys) in Native Authority/Community schools. For Non-formal Basic Education Centres, 629 IDPs (351 girls and 278 boys)²⁷⁸ were registered, 29 (18 girls and 11 boys) in Public Sector Centres, 215 in the private sector (94 girls and 121 boys) and 385 (239 girls and 164 boys) in Native Authority schools.

1119- In general and technical secondary education, 28,469 IDP students were registered, including 15,390 girls and 13,079 boys in 2021/2022 academic year.

§3: Access of IDPs to Basic Social Services and Empowerment

1120- In June 2022 in the Far North Region, activities on prevention and treatment of malnutrition of children aged 0 to 59 months led by DRSP, supported by development partners, enabled 552 malnourished IDP children to be taken care of in 205 health facilities in 18 supported districts. Towards the end of the year in Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga, 22,875 IDPs including 12,339 women received in-kind food assistance.

1121- The partners also provided IDPs in the Region with shelter assistance to approximately 1,137 households and essential household items to some 2,143 households. Furthermore, about 1,364 emergency and family latrines were built at IDP resettlement sites in the Region and IDPs were drilled on good hygiene practices before receiving kits. To ensure proper management and coordination of the resettlement sites, information and capacity development sessions were organised between November and December 2022 for hundreds of State actors, community leaders and humanitarian stakeholders.

²⁷⁷ The Far North Region had the highest number of learners with 554 IDPs.

²⁷⁸ The highest numbers of enrolment of about 303 IDPs were in the Far North region.

1122- Similarly, governance, vigilance and dispute management committees set up by administrative authorities in Bogo, Pette, Maroua 1, Mokololo, Mogozo, Mayo-Moskota, Mora and Kolofata Subdivisions were formed with the support of administrative authorities. In addition, 1,468 IDPs were trained on roles and responsibilities for protecting IDPs at the sites, consolidating complaint and feedback mechanisms.

1123- In addition, with the support of the Embassy of Israel to Cameroon, Powerful Action for the Development of Kadey and Cameroon Active Youth Association organised a training seminar on the empowerment of IDP women, from 22 to 26 October 2022 in Ngotto locality in the East Region. Through the activity, the 20 participants were trained on farming methods, composting, multiplication of banana shoots, entrepreneurship, making bread and jam.

1124- As at 30 June 2022, some 15,000 IDPs returned²⁷⁹ including 4,000 from Chad, to their localities of origin, in particular Logone-and-Chari, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, Mayo-Danay, Diamare and Mayo-Kani Divisions.

1125- In the South West Region and North West Region, MINADER, MINPROFF, local organisations and FAO supported the formation of 6 common initiative groups; that is, 3 per region, to assist 143 members of vulnerable communities including IDPs, to support themselves, and start or develop their activities. Besides, in the South West Region, UNHCR-supported MINADER assist farmers including IDPs, with more than 1,000 hoes and shovels.

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1126- The multifaceted assistance provided to persons forced to leave their habitual places of residence to other localities within the country for various reasons continued and the issuance of the first biometric cards to refugees is an example. However, the sustainability of the action and the effective functioning of the Refugee Eligibility Status Commission would contribute to better protecting them and giving them access to essential services for their well-being. Similarly, securing areas affected by crises or natural disasters would help reduce the phenomenon of forced displacement.

²⁷⁹ The reasons for the returns were related either to the security of return areas, access to arable land or difficulties of survival in the host settlement.

CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

1127- From the foregoing, it appears that widespread security measures to protect life and property, and those designed to promote peace in crisis-affected areas, made it possible to preserve relative peace and promote peaceful coexistence across the country.

1128- The participation of the private sector in decision-making processes, the implementation of tax and customs facilities to encourage investment, the enshrining of the principle of transparency through the adoption of a new law on banking secrecy, and the monitoring of public contracts helped to enhance governance, while prevention, detection, administrative and judicial repression measures were instrumental in fighting corruption, preserving public wealth and rebranding Cameroon's image internationally.

1129- Efforts focused in particular on increasing, albeit slightly, the prison budget, building the capacity of personnel, extending the prison map with the commissioning of the Douala-Ngoma Prison, among others, all contributed to enhancing the living conditions of prisoners. Similarly, actions to protect vulnerable persons continued, with one of the highlights being the Order by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, granting an age exemption to persons living with disabilities as regards administrative competitive examinations.

1130- The year under review was also marked by the updating of several strategic documents on the promotion and protection of women's rights, while safeguarding the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons remained a priority, despite limited financial resources.

1131- However, the availability of sufficient financial resources to enhance the rights and living conditions of detainees, the elderly and persons living with disabilities, as well as refugees and internally displaced persons, and more initiatives to empower women, will contribute to further guaranteeing the rights of these categories of persons. Similarly, more awareness-raising on the importance of living together and a change in mentalities, while stepping up security measures, will foster greater social cohesion.



GENERAL CONCLUSION



1132- At the end of this Report, it can be noted that the major challenges with the promotion and protection of Human Rights in Cameroon in 2022 included maintaining peace and security and improving the quality of governance as well as the living conditions of the people. A retrospective look on the one hand to highlight significant progress made, and on the other hand, to identify challenges encountered in order to envisage solutions.

1133- Talking about progress made in terms of civil and political rights, in addition to updating the electoral register and using an inclusive approach in recruiting into the Public Service, the Government further consolidated decentralisation by allocating more resources for this purpose and specifying by way of law the modalities for the functioning of the municipal police. In addition to renewing the various bodies of the Bar Association, construction of judicial infrastructure such as the judicial complexes of Yaounde and Douala continued. Aside the training of DSFs, the numbers of which increased and sanctions imposed on them for violation of the right to integrity and liberty, emphasis was laid on monitoring town planning and road safety rules. The putting in place of the online visa system significantly facilitated access to Cameroon for foreigners.

1134- As concerns economic, social and cultural rights, the Government increased human resources and infrastructure in the education and health sectors with the opening of the Garoua General Hospital and the creation of 3 new State Universities. The enrolment rate and results in official examinations also improved. The normative framework on its part was enhanced with the adoption of laws on medically-assisted reproduction, medical research, copyrights and neighbouring rights. Regarding sports, Cameroon successfully organised the African Cup of Nations football tournament 2021 and in order to consolidate infrastructure and related assets, the National Sports Facilities and Equipment Board was created.

1135- Moreover, significant resources allocated to agricultural production boosted results obtained while the import-substitution policy was enforced with tax and custom measures included in the Finance Law for the year 2022. Furthermore, strengthening of factors of production, such as plants and dams, led to an increase in access to water (77% in urban areas and 37% in rural areas) and to electricity (65%). Various measures adopted improved access to housing, to decent work and the possibili-

ty of employment. In addition, the multilateral convention on social security of the Inter-African Conference on Social Security was ratified and social coverage was extended. As regards the environment, biodiversity preservation was boosted with reforestation of over 3,500 hectares.

1136- Regarding cross-cutting issues, a huge number of detainees (more than 1,000) received professional training and their health and food coverage was improved. The Douala Ngoma central prison went operational. Moreover, the management of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons continued with emphasis laid on education, food, health care, housing and documentation. Regarding women, besides increasing gender-sensitive budgeting, strategic documents on GBV were updated. Cases of vulnerability were better addressed following clear provisions of the law as regards exercising control on social compliance of projects and granting age waivers for persons living with disabilities who apply to join the Public Service. The quality of governance was strengthened following intensified digitalisation, legislative reform on bank secrecy and the effect of joint action by institutions dedicated to combating corruption.

1137- Government worked to curb hate speech through media regulatory bodies and continuous promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism. Alongside military response and continuous execution of plans to reconstruct the Far North, North West and South West Regions (impacted by terrorist attacks), judicial response was made easier following the ratification of the Budapest Convention on cybercrime and the Law relating to the suppression of piracy, terrorism and offences against the safety of maritime navigation and platforms. Moreover, thanks to diplomatic diligence, proceedings were initiated by American judicial authorities against accomplices of acts of terrorism perpetrated in Cameroon.

1138- Despite all the progress made, challenges were encountered in promoting and protecting Human Rights. Key among these included: budget constraints which reduced Government's capacity to act; threats to social cohesion linked to the emergence of conflicts in the community and increase in hate speech especially on social media; persistent terrorist acts committed by *Boko Haram* and armed groups in the South West and North Regions which led to significant economic loss and loss in human lives; and the increased number of cases of GBV, fire outbreaks and road accidents that resulted in several deaths.

1139- Similarly, the following were identified: difficulties in accessing water and electricity in rural areas; increase in cost of living affecting mainly basic commodities; the scale, though small, of food insecurity and extreme poverty; persistent acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property; judicial delays and prison overpopulation; and the fact that Human Rights violations are not systematically prosecuted .

1140- These challenges require robust action in the future which could include among others: increased budgetary resource mobilisation; continuous improvement of the quality of governance; rapid implementation of plans to reconstruct the regions affected by terrorism; continuous consolidation of the culture of Human Rights among State employees and in the community; systematic suppression of Human Rights violations; more diligent management of judicial proceedings and inadequate resources allocated for the management of prisons which could be facilitated on the one hand by the adoption of an enabling instrument on alternative measures to deprivation of liberty and on the other hand by increasing infrastructure and equipment of the justice sector; multiplication of initiatives to consolidate living-together and systematic suppression of hate speech; reducing inequalities; strengthening agricultural production and the import-substitution policy as well as increasing water and electricity supply both in quality and quantity.



APPENDIX



The following institutions contributed in preparing this Report: 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 / Administrative Services

- Supreme State Audit Office (CONSUPE);
- Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER);
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS);
- Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT);
- Ministry of Communication (MINCOM);
- Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE);
- Ministry of State Property, Survey and Land Tenure (MINCAF);
- Ministry of Defence (MINDEF);
- Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB);
- Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE);
- Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP);
- Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT);
- Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED);
- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA);
- Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC);
- Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP);
- Ministry of Finance (MINFI);
- Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform (MINFOPRA);
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU);
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC);
- Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE);
- Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP);
- Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT);
- Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA);
- Ministry of External Relations (MINREX);
- Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE);
- Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL);

- Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS);
- Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL);
- Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF);
- Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI);
- Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL);
- General Delegation for National Security (DGSN);
- General Delegation for External Research (DGRE);
- Secretariat of State In Charge of the National Gendarmerie (SED);

Courts

- Supreme Court;
- Special Criminal Court
- The 10 Courts of Appeal;
- Administrative Courts.

Independent Administrative Institutions and Public and Semi Public Establishments

- National Financial Investigation (ANIF);
- Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR);
- National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC)
- Investment Promotion Agency (IPA);
- Cameroon Water Utilities (CAMWATER);
- National Committee for the Fight against AIDS (CNLS);
- National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC);
- Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC);
- National Communication Council (NCC);
- Elections Cameroon (ELECAM);
- Urban and Rural Land Development Authority (MAETUR);
- Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (MIRAP);
- National Community-Driven Development Programme (PNDP);
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD);
- National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC);
- National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM);

- National Disarmament, Demobilization and Rehabilitation Committee (NDDRC);
- Cameroon Housing Corporation (SIC);
- Cameroon Housing Loan Fund (CFC);

International Organizations and Civil Society

- United Nations High Commissioner for - Refugees (UNHCR Cameroon);
- Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA);
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women);

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