





REPORT BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMEROON IN 2010



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Report by the Ministry Justice on Human Rights in 2010

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FOREWORD

It goes without saying that the rationalization of our economies and the protection of our natural environment must go hand in hand with the best possible public governance, that is to say, smooth functioning democracy, respect for human rights, proper management of public finances, taking into account the aspirations of the civil society and recognizing the role of the private sector.

***Paul BIYA, President of the Republic
Speech made during the closing ceremony of
the « AFRICA 21 » international conference
of Yaounde on Africa's new challenges,
19 May 2010***

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAA	: African Action on Aids
ADPAM	: Artisanal and Maritime Fishing Development Project
AfDB	: African Development Bank
AI	: Amnesty International
ANIF	: National Agency for Financial Investigation
ANOR	: Standards and Quality Agency
APERP	: Employment Promotion and Poverty Reduction Support Project
ARMP	: Public Contracts Regulatory Agency
ARSEL	: Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency
ARV	: Anti-Retro Viral
ASOJHAC	: Association of Young Businessmen of Cameroon
BEPC	: Brevet d'Etudes du Premier Cycle
BIP	: Public Investment Budget
BRIE	: Environmental Inspections Brigade
CA	: Court of Appeal
CAA	: Autonomous Sinking Fund
CADEL	: African Conference on Decentralization and Local Development
CAMTEL	: Cameroon Telecommunications
CAMWATER	: Cameroon Water Utilities Corporation
CAPIEMP	: Pedagogical Aptitude Certificate for Teachers of Nursery and Primary Education
CEP	: Certificat d'Etudes Primaires
CCC	: Cameroon Chemical Complex
CDBF	: Budgetary and Financial Discipline Board
CDU	: Cameroon Democratic Union
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CENAME	: National Centre for the Supply of Drugs and Essential Medical Consumables
CEPE	: Certificat d'Etudes Primaires Élémentaires

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CETIC	: Technical, Industrial and Commercial Education College
CFA	: Franc of the African Financial Community
CFC	: Cameroon Housing Loan Fund
CFI	: Court of First Instance
CH	: Central Hospital
CHOC	: Change your Attitude Oppose Corruption
CIMENCAM	: Cement of Cameroon
CMPJ	: Multifunctional Youth Promotion Centres
CNIC	: Cameroon Industrial Shipyard Company
COBAC	: Central Africa Banking Commission
CONAC	: National Anti-Corruption Commission
CPC	: Criminal Procedure Code
CPDM	: Cameroon's People Democratic Movement
CUD	: Douala City Council
DGSN	: General Delegation for National Security
DGRE	: Directorate General of External Research
ECCAS	: Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	: Economic Community of West African States
EDC	: Electricity Development Corporation
EIA	: Environmental Impact Assessment
ELECAM	: Elections Cameroon
ENIET	: Technical Education Grade I Teachers Training College
ENS	: Higher Teacher's Training College
ESCR	: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
FEICOM	: Special Council Fund
FSLC	: First School Leaving Certificate
GCE	: General Certificate of Education
GESP	: Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
GICAM	: Inter professional Group of Cameroon
GIR	: Gross Intake Rate
GTZ	: German Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit)
HC	: High Court
HIPC	: Heavily Indebted Poor Country Fund
HIPC-I	: Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative
HYSACAM	: Hygiene and Sanitation, Cameroon

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IAI	: African Institute of Computer Science
ICCPR	: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICT	: Information and Communication Technology
IDB	: Islamic Development Bank
IDDP	: International Day of People with Disabilities
ILO	: International Labour Organization
JICA	: Japanese International Cooperation Agency
IVET	: Part-time Teachers of Technical Education
LRA	: Local and Regional Authority
MDGs	: Millennium Development Goals
MDRI	: Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
MICONSUPE:	: Supreme State Control
MIDENO	: North West Development Authority
MINADER	: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAS	: Ministry of Social Affairs
MINATD	: Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
MINCOM	: Ministry of Communication
MINCOMMERCE	: Ministry of Commerce
MINDAF	: Ministry of Land Tenure and Land Affairs
MINUH	: Ministry of Urban Development and Housing
MINDEL	: Minister Delegate
MINEDUB	: Ministry of Basic Education
MINEE	: Ministry of Water and Energy
MINEFOP	: Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
MINEP	: Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
MINEPIA	: Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINESEC	: Ministry of Secondary Education
MINESUP	: Ministry of Higher Education
MINFI	: Ministry of Finance
MINFOF	: Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINFOPRA	: Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform
MINJEUN	: Ministry of Youth Affairs
MINJUSTICE	: Ministry of Justice
MINPLAPDAT	: Ministry of Planning, Programming, and Regional Development
MINPMEESA	: Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts

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MINPROFF	: Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Family
MINRESI	: Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
MINREX	: Ministry of External Relations
MINTOUR	: Ministry of Tourism
MLDC	: Mouvement pour la Libération et le Développement du Cameroun
MNT	: Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus
MP	: Progressist Movement
MRC	: Multimedia Resource Centres
MRI	: Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MT	: Military Tribunal
NAC	: National AIDS Control Committee
NCHRF	: National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms
NEF	: National Employment Fund
NGO	: Non Governmental Organization
NGP	: National Gender Policy
NIR:	: Net Intake Rate
NLO	: National Labour Observatory
NSIF	: National Social Insurance Fund
UNDP	: National Union for Democracy and Progress
OBC	: Cameroon Baccalaureate Board
ODS	: Ozone Layer Depleting Substance
OHADA	: Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa
ONEFOP	: National Employment and Vocational Training Observatory
OVC	: Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PACDET	: Programme for the Improvement of Detention Conditions and Respect for Human Rights
PAD	: Port Authority, Douala
PADER	: Rural Development and Employment Programme
PADES-BAKA	: Support Programme for the Socio-Economic Development of the Baka People
PAN/LCD	: National Action Plan for Desertification Control
PANGIRE	: National Action Plan for the Integrated Management of Water Resources
PAPENOC	: Non-Conventional Livestock Development Support Programme

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PASE	: Education System Support Programme
PC	: Penal Code
PCR	: Primary Completion Rate
PDFP	: Swine Industry Development Programme
PHEIs	: Private higher education institutions
PIAASI	: Integrated Support Project for Informal Sector Stakeholders
PLP/PSFE	: Forest/Environment Sector Development Programme
PLWHA	: People Living with HIV/AIDS
PMTCT	: Mother / Child Transmission Prevention
PRECESSE	: Environmental and Social Energy Sector Capacity Building Project
PRSP	: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RLA	: Regional and Local Authorities
SIC	: Cameroon Real Estate Corporation
SMIG	: Guaranteed Minimum Wage
SNH	: National Hydrocarbons Corporation
SNLCC	: National Strategy Against Corruption
SONEL	: Cameroon National Electricity Corporation
SYNAME	: National Essential Drugs Supply System
TPD	: Tribunal de Première Degré
UDHR	: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNAPHAC	: Union nationale des associations de et pour les personnes handicapées du Cameroun
UNESCO	: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	: United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	: United Nations Development Fund for Women
UPC	: Cameroon's People Union
UPR	: Universal Periodic Review
WFP	: World Food Programme
WHO	: World Health Organization



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Preface

If Government's attitude towards human rights in 2010 had to be summarized in one word, the most appropriate term to use would be transparency. Two major events attest to this fact.

Firstly, the maiden visit to Cameroon, from 4 to 12 August 2010, of two representatives from Amnesty International. Very sensitive and thorny issues on human rights protection were honestly and responsibly discussed during audiences with the Prime Minister, Head of Government, several members of Government and other officials. Government clarified its management of and position on homosexuality, the death penalty, press offences, freedom of opinion and expression, detention conditions, deaths in prisons especially the case of Ngota Ngota Germain alias Bibi Ngota that was given a lot of coverage and was highly controversial, the independence of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom (NCHRF), the handling of public protests during the sad events of February 2008, the state of personalities detained at the National Gendarmerie and evictions in Yaounde and Douala. Amnesty International representatives met freely with civil society organizations and detainees of their choice in the absence of officials. Our prisons and detention centres became, and we wish that they remain, glass houses.

Secondly, the ratification, by Decree No. 2010/347 of 19 December 2010 of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, is without doubt, a clear indication of Government's willingness to transform prisons and detention centres into legal territories where detainees' human rights are protected. It should be recalled that this protocol requires each State Party to authorize the Sub-committee for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the Committee against Torture and its national mechanism on the prevention of torture, to visit, in accordance with the Protocol, any place under its jurisdiction or control. These visits may equally be carried out wherever people, who have been deprived of their freedom by order or instigation of a public authority, or with his express or tacit approval, are or could be found, in order to reinforce if necessary, their protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment.

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The Head of State, President Paul Biya's quest for transparency is guided by the respect for human dignity which is at the centre of his social policy. Such dignity requires the State to protect people under its jurisdiction against violation of the right to life, physical integrity and freedom of opinion and of movement. It equally has to ensure that this people have decent housing, sufficient food, quality education, good health and a healthy environment. This is a demanding task that human rights impose on Government.

Government strives to meet this huge challenge daily in spite of obstacles including the appropriation of human rights culture by those who, in the administration, are responsible for protecting it.

This report has adopted a new methodology that underscores structural indicators of methods and results compatible with those proposed by the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights. This new method should permit, over the years, the appraisal of the level of realization of objectives fixed for the implementation of international conventions ratified by Cameroon, as well as the recommendations and remarks of supervisory organs that protect human rights.

May this new approach enable slowly but surely the better exploitation and visibility of measure to implement the rule of law that we want to consolidate in Cameroon.

AMADOU ALI

Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals

General

Introduction



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1- This report by the Ministry of Justice on human rights in Cameroon in 2010 is in line with the previous Reports of 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. It aims to report on the measures, actions and activities, or regressions observed in the promotion and protection of human rights in Cameroon.

2- If this Report were to begin by highlighting two major events that marked human rights in Cameroon in 2010, the Ngota Bibi Matter, a journalist who died in the Central Prison, Nkondengui, Yaounde on the night of 21 to 22 April 2010 and the first visit of the international NGO Amnesty International from 4 to 12 August 2010 would take pride of place. The first event unleashed passions and rumors of all kinds. Through its visit, Transparency International took stock itself of the human rights situation in Cameroon, by conducting investigations and interviews, instead of obtaining information through secondary sources. The re-accreditation of the NCHRF of the "A" Status after the promulgation of Law No. 2010/4 of 13 April 2010 above is also an important event.

3- Apart from these events, the normative and institutional framework, international legal commitments as well as training and awareness on human rights were intensified.

Normative and Institutional Framework

4- Many legislative and regulatory measures were taken to further improve the normative and institutional framework for promoting and protecting human rights. The following, without any claim to be exhaustive, can be mentioned:

- Law No. 2010/1 of 13 April 2010 to promote small and medium-sized enterprises in Cameroon;
- Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 relating to the protection and promotion of people with disabilities;
- Law No. 2010/3 of 13 April 2010 to lay down the Referendum procedure;
- Law No. 2010/4 of 13 April 2010 to amend and supplement certain provisions of Law No. 2004/16 of 22 July 2004 to set up the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms;
- Law No. 2010/5 of 13 April 2010 to amend and supplement certain provisions of Law No. 2006/11 of 29 December 2006 to set up and lay down the organization and functioning of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM);

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- Law No. 2010/12 of 21 December 2010 relating to cybersecurity and cybercriminality in Cameroon;
- Law No. 2010/13 of 21 December 2010 to regulate electronic communications in Cameroon;
- Law No. 2010/20 of 21 December 2010 to organize leasing in Cameroon;
- Law No. 2010/23 of 21 December 2010 on the rules and regulations governing public interest groups;
- Decree No. 2010/158 of 20 May 2010 on commutation of sentences;
- Decree No. 2010/319 of 13 October 2010 relating to the recognition of the establishment of ELECAM; and
- Decree No. 2010/2996/PM of 3 November 2010 to lay down conditions for applying Law No. 2007/4 of 3 July 2007 governing craft in Cameroon.

International Legal Commitments

5- Cameroon, by Decree No. 2010/347 of 19 November 2010, ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to consolidate its international commitments in line with the recommendations made after its passage before the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 5 February 2009¹.

6- Commitments undertaken with respect to international humanitarian law can also be mentioned. They concern the ratification of the instruments below:

- the second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict ratified by Decree No. 2010/146 of 6 May 2010 by virtue of Law No. 2009/12 of 15 December 2005 to authorize the President of the Republic to ratify the said Protocol;
- the Second Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction of 2 April 1972 ratified by Decree No. 2010/147 of 6 May 2010 pursuant to Law No. 2009/13 of 15 December 2009 to authorize the President of the Republic to ratify this Convention;

¹ See 2009 Report pp 27-28.

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- the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques of 10 December 1976 ratified by Decree No. 2010/148 of 10 May 2010 in accordance with Law No.2009/14 of 15 December 2009 to authorize the President of the Republic to ratify this Convention; and
- the Additional Protocol of 8 December 2005 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III) ratified by Decree No. 2010/149 of 6 May in accordance with Law No. 2009/16 of 15 December 2009 to authorize the President of the Republic to ratify the said Protocol.

7- At the bilateral level, mention can be made of the Agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and the Government of the French Republic relating to the concerted management of migratory movements and interdependent development, signed in Yaounde on 21 May 2009 and ratified by Decree No. 2010/150 of 6 May 2010 by virtue of Law No. 2009/16 of 15 December 2009 to authorize the President of the Republic to ratify this Agreement.

Seminars, Workshops and Celebrations

8- Since acquiring "reflexes" in protecting human rights requires information and awareness of related standards and their permanent appropriation, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the NCHRF organized a number of seminars and activities in Cameroon in 2010.

8-1- The Centre organized during this period:

- a sub-regional seminar for media professionals on human rights and elections (Douala, 23 to 25 March 2010);
- a sub-regional seminar for journalists on human rights and elections (Douala, 23-25 March 2010);
- a regional workshop on the role of electoral commissions in promoting and protecting human rights during the electoral process (Yaounde, 6 to 8 July 2010);

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- a sub-regional training and advocacy on the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (Yaounde, 28 to 30 November 2010);
- a sub-regional dialogue on migration (Yaounde, 6 to 8 December 2010);
- a sub-regional forum on the role of human rights defenders (Yaounde, 9 December 2010); and
- the celebration of the World Day of Human Rights, at the National Assembly of Cameroon, on the theme "Express Yourself ... End Discrimination" (Yaounde, 10 December 2010).

8-2- As part of its work in the promotion of human rights, NCHRF in turn:

- held, on 27 January 2010, a meeting with the Minister of Basic Education on the monitoring of the National Education Programme on Human Rights; and
- signed, on 6 July 2010, a cooperation agreement with UNIFEM, now UN/WOMEN, to educate women on their civil and political rights;
- organized on:
 - 7 March 2010, within the context of the celebration of the 25th Edition of the International Day of the Woman, an educative talk on the theme "Invest in Women and the Girl Child";
 - 31 March 2010, a talk on urban evictions and the need to safeguard human rights;
 - 6, 7 May and 11 May, 24 and 25 September and 23 and 24 December 2010, awareness and development workshops on the Draft National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights for officials in charge of planning and budgeting in public services, focal points of the NCHRF, members of the civil society, parliamentarians and journalists; and
 - 21 October 2010, a workshop on the rights of suspects during preliminary inquiry.

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Methodology

a) Data collection

9- The preparation of this report was preceded by a meeting held on 27 January 2011 with all focal points for an appropriation of the indicator approach that the Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation intended to experiment in data collection and exploitation. Teams were later sent to the Courts of Appeal for the same purpose. It should be remembered that during the seventh inter-committee meeting of treaty monitoring bodies relating to human rights, a report on the use of indicators for promoting and monitoring the implementation of these rights was adopted. It identified three types of indicators: structural indicators, which focuses on policy framework and strategy of the State for the implementation of the right considered. The normative and institutional framework and general policy statements are taken into account. Methods indicators that focuses on specific programmes and interventions made to implement the law and performance indicators that facilitate understanding and assessing the level of realization of the right.

10- Like the previous reports, very close collaboration between the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, other ministries and similar bodies concerned with human rights issues yielded relevant information used in this report. These are the:

- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization;
- Ministry of Social Affairs;
- Ministry of Commerce;
- Ministry of Defence;
- Ministry of Basic Education;
- Ministry of Culture;
- Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development;
- Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms;
- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry;
- Ministry of the Environment and Nature Protection;
- Ministry of Secondary Education;
- Ministry of Higher Education;
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife;

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- Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family;
- Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economics and Craft;
- Ministry of External Relations;
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security;
- Ministry of Public Health;
- Ministry of Transportation;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Ministry of Youth Affairs;
- Supreme State Control;
- General Delegation for National Security; and
- Secretary of State for Defence in charge of the National Gendarmerie.

11- This report was equally produced with the help of independent administrative structures, public and para-public establishments and the following civil society organizations:

- National Financial Investigation Agency (ANIF);
- National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC);
- City Council, Douala (CUD);
- Cameroon Real Estate Corporation (SIC);
- Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL);
- National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF);
- Elections Cameroon (ELECAM);
- Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOS-CUDA);
- National Union of Associations for People with Disabilities;
- African Action on Aids (AAA);
- New Human Rights, Cameroon (NDH-Cameroon);
- Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT);
- Episcopal Conference of Cameroon;
- League for the Promotion of Women and Children (LEFE); and
- *Confédération Camerounaise du travail (CCT)*.

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b) Focusing on 2010 data

12- This report is based on facts, activities and measures taken in 2010. However, concern for updated information at the time of its publication led to the mentioning in footnotes in particular, of data from 2011.

c) Participatory approach

13- Preparing and validating reports by the Ministry of Justice on human rights in Cameroon has become a traditional framework for dialogue, consultation and strengthening of the partnership between government and the civil society on human rights. The 2010 Report adopts the participatory approach requested by the Minister of Justice.

d) Structure of the report

14- This report is made up of three parts dealing respectively with civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights as well as the right to healthy environment and cross-cutting issues on human rights. These three parts are preceded by a common preliminary chapter entitled "Cooperation with International Mechanisms on Human Rights Protection".

15- Ultimately, it is structured as follows:

- Cameroon's cooperation with international mechanisms on the promotion and protection of Human Rights (preliminary chapter);
- Civil and Political Rights (part one);
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Right to Healthy Environment (part two);
- Cross-cutting issues on Human Rights and Rights of Specific Groups (part three).



PRELIMINARY Chapter

CAMEROON'S COOPERA- TION WITH INTERNATIO- NAL MECHANISMS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROMO- TION AND PROTECTION



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16- The year 2010 was marked essentially in this domain by the defense of 5 periodic reports requested by treaty organs. This exercise allowed, within the framework of constructive dialogue with the Committee against Racial Discrimination², the Committee on the Rights of the Child³, the⁴ Committee against Torture, the Human Rights Committee⁵ and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights⁶, to assess the state of cooperation with these mechanisms. The use of the different concluding remarks by these organs reveals their common points of satisfaction and concerns and the concerns of each committee. The examination of their recommendations will allow for some that have been implemented to be highlighted.

SECTION I : COMMON POINTS OF SATISFACTION AND CONCERNS

17- Because of the cross-cutting issues of human rights the various treaty organs rightly noted points of satisfaction and concerns.

§1: Points of satisfaction

18- Firstly, the various treaty organs welcomed the critical nature of Cameroon's report and appreciated the high-level multi-sector delegation that enabled them to gain a better understanding of the human rights situation.

19- The treaty organs noted with satisfaction the legal and institutional advances achieved by the State party.

A: Legal Advances

20- The treaty organs stressed the adoption of new laws and the ratification of conventions for the improvement of human rights.

² The Committee against Racial Discrimination examined Cameroon's fifteenth to eighteenth periodic reports presented in one document (CERD/C/CMR/15-18) during its 1983rd to 1984th Sessions (CERD/C/SR.1983 and 1984), held on 22 to 23 February 2010. It adopted its final remarks at its 2001st Session (CERD/C/SR/2001) held on 5 March 2010

³ The Committee on the Rights of the Child examined Cameroon's second periodic report (CRC/C/CMR/2) during its 1464th and 1466th Sessions (see CRC/C/SR.1464 and CRC/C/SR.1466), held on 14 January 2010 and adopted its concluding remarks at its 1501st Session held on 29 January 2010

⁴ The Committee against Torture examined Cameroon's fourth periodic report (CAT/C/CMR/4) at its 930th and 944th Sessions on 28 April and 7 May 2010 (CAT/C/SR.930 and 934), and adopted its final remarks, at its 950th and 951st Sessions, on 12 May 2010 (CAT/C/SR.950 and 951)

⁵ The Human Rights Committee reviewed Cameroon's fourth periodic report (CCPR/C/CMR/4) at its 2725th and 2726th Sessions on 19 and 20 July 2010 (CCPR/C/SR.2725 and 2726). It adopted its final remarks at its 2739th and 2740th Sessions of 28 and 29 July 2010 (CCPR/C/SR. 2739 AND 2740).

⁶ The African Commission on Human and People's Rights reviewed Cameroon's second periodic report at its 47th Ordinary Session on 12 to 26 May 2010 in Banjul Gambia. That report covers the 2003 to 2005 period.

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20-1-At the legislative level, the laws include:

- Law No. 2005/15 of 29 December 2005 relating to the fight against child trafficking and slavery;
- Law No. 2005/6 of 27 July 2005 on the Status of Refugees;
- Law No. 2005/7 of 27 July 2005 on the Criminal Procedure Code;
- Law No. 2004/16 of 22 July 2004, relating to the setting-up, organization and functioning of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF); and
- Law No. 2009/4 of 14 April 2004 to organize legal aid.

20-2-The legal instruments below that have been ratified were recalled:

- Convention No. 182 by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Immediate Action for their Elimination (1999), ratified on 5 June 2002;
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa ratified on 20 May 2009;
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime ratified on 18 May 2004; and
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, additional to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified on 18 May 2004.

21-The treaty organs also highlighted the institutional advances made by Cameroon.

B: Institutional Advances

22-At the institutional level, the following reforms were welcomed:

- The setting up of the Ministry of Youth Affairs in 2004;
- The setting up of the Department of Social Welfare of Children in May 2005, by Decree No. 2005/160 to organize the Ministry of Social Affairs;
- The attachment, by Decree No. 2004/320 of 8 December 2004 to organize the Government, of the Penitentiary Administration to the Ministry of Justice; and

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-The setting up, by Decree No. 2005/122 of 15 April 2005 to organize the Ministry of Justice, of the Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation.

23-Despite these advances, many concerns were raised by the treaty organs and they made recommendations.

§2: Main recommendations by the organs⁷

24-The treaty organs expressed cross-cutting concerns and made the recommendations below grouped by theme and legal category to the State of Cameroon.

A: Recommendations to improve the normative and institutional framework on the promotion and protection of human rights

25- The State was requested to:

1- better ensure the independence of the NCHRF by providing it with sufficient resources to enable it to effectively carry out its duty. More so, NCHRF reports should be widely published and easy to obtain;

2- render the Senate and Constitutional Council operational and amend Law No. 2004/4 and 2004/5 of 21 April 2004 relating to the organization and functioning of the Constitutional Council and to lay down the statutes of its members in order to avoid uncertainty over the renewal of the mandate of its members;

3- amend Section 30 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), the Law on the state of emergency and that on the maintenance of law and order taking into account of the criteria laid down by Article 4 of the ICCPR;

4- amend the provisions of the CPC on debt and adopt a new system for detainees to pay their debts;

5- ensure that the commission for the examination of applications for compensation set up by Section 237 of the CPC goes operational without delay;

6- adopt implementing decree of the Law of 2005 on the status of refugees; and

7- continue intensifying efforts for judges and auxiliaries of justice to better understand the various conventions and verify that they apply them.

⁷This part contains concerns expressed by at least two treaty organs.

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B: Recommendations on the right of the child

26-The State is expected to:

- 1- prohibit corporal punishment by law in the family, institutions for children and at work; and
- 2- guarantee access to education including preschool education within the national territory by laying emphasis on the girl child and vulnerable children including indigenous children and those without birth certificates.

C: Recommendations on the right of women

27-The State was called upon to:

- 1- intensify its efforts to reduce maternal mortality and to ensure that women and girls have access to reproductive health services. In this regard, the State Party should amend its legislation to actually help women and adolescent girls to avoid unwanted pregnancies and protect them so they do not have to resort to illegal abortions that could imperil their lives;
- 2- guarantee that the law does not discriminate against women where customary law is applied;
- 3 - amend the law to harmonize it with the ICCPR, by prohibiting polygamy and by aligning the legal minimum marital age for girls with that of boys;
- 4- organize awareness campaigns to protect girls especially those living in the North and East Regions against harmful traditional practices such as early marriage;
- 5- adopt specific legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation and intensify efforts on further public awareness on the need to end this practice;
- 6- accelerate the adoption of a specific law on violence against women. Equally take measures in order that women who run away from a violent partner or husband can receive help and seek refuge in a crisis centre;
- 7- repeal the provision by virtue of which rape is not a criminal offence where the victim accepts to marry the rapist;
- 8- ensure that female detainees are guarded by female staff; and
- 9- ensure that violence on women and girls, including family violence, rape, even conjugal and sexual violence are considered as criminal offences. The offenders should be prosecuted and punished and the victims rehabilitated

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and that women and girls who are victims of violence should have immediate access to redress, protection and compensation.

D: Recommendations against ethnic discrimination

28-The State is expected to:

- 1- continue and intensify its efforts to abolish discriminatory traditions and customs through education and awareness campaigns;
- 2- develop the implementation and systematic follow up of programmes for indigenous children making sure that these programmes respect their culture;
- 3- harmonize land law and adopt special measures so that indigenous people can fully enjoy their rights especially their right to land and take into account their cultural specificities including nomadism in order to prevent this factor from stopping them from enjoy their rights; and
- 4- adopt a law on the rights of indigenous people and ensure that it fully includes the definition of indigenous people enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, stop using the concept of "marginal people" that is against the spirit of the Convention, that stigmatizes minorities to which it refers and prevents the taking into consideration of the specificities of indigenous people and guarantee their participation and those of their representatives in drawing up the said law.

E: Recommendations against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

29-The State party is called upon to:

- 1- ensure that allegations of serious human rights violations during the 2008 social disturbances, especially those on excessive use of force by security forces, torture and poor treatment received by detainees and summary trials, are properly investigated and the offenders charged to court;
- 2- strongly commit to eliminate persistent torture and impunity;
- 3- take immediate measures to guarantee that allegations of torture and poor treatment are promptly, impartially and efficiently investigated and that officials (forces of law and order and others) are prosecuted and sanctioned without need for prior authorization from their superior or Ministry of Defence. Investigations should be carried out by an independent body;

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- 4- update training of staff in charge of applying the law and the military forces on the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment as well as training for State Counsel and judges on rejecting confessions and statements under torture by including the Robben Island Directives on the prevention of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;
- 5- ensure that medical staff taking care of patients are properly trained to identify signs of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in line with international norms as stated in the manual to efficiently investigate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment(Istanbul Protocol);
- 6- ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- 7- envisage abolishing the death penalty or, at least make official the de facto moratorium currently observed;

F: Recommendations on detention conditions

30- The State of Cameroon is expected to:

- 1- take measures to improve the quality and quantity of food and access to health care in prisons and to see that in prisons women are separated from men, children from adults including police posts and suspects from convicts;
- 2- take appropriate measures to stop corruption and especially holding prisoners on ransom in prison;
- 3- take appropriate measures to guarantee respect of the CPC and to reduce preventive detention periods;
- 4- ensure that detention centres are fully open to independent inspections by national and international bodies; and
- 5- ensure that people who loss their liberty are treated humanely in respect of the dignity inherent to the human being and that detention conditions are in accordance with the ICCPR and the UN Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Detainees;

G: Recommendations on freedom of expression

31- The State was called upon to review the law and practice in order that journalists and the media are not bullied and prosecuted for their criticisms

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and that restrictions to freedom of the press and media strictly comply with the provisions of Article 19 (3) of the ICCPR and the ACHPR.

H: Recommendations on the right to fair trial

32- The State is expected to:

- 1- adopt necessary measures to ensure that trials of civilians before military tribunals are the exception and that they proceed under conditions that offer all the guarantees provided by Article 14 of the ICCPR;
- 2- repeal Section 64 of the CPC and take other appropriate measures to guarantee and protect security of tenure and impartiality of the Judiciary;
- 3- ensure that plaintiffs and witnesses are protected against poor treatment and intimidation related to their complaint or witness; and
- 4- take measures to facilitate access to justice for all victims of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and extend the possibility of legal aid to the poor independent of their punishment.

33- Apart from these cross-cutting concerns and recommendations, each treaty organ made specific recommendations on the rights guaranteed by the convention whose implementation it oversees.

SECTION II: -SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS BY EACH TREATY ORGAN

34- Recommendations by the Committee against Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee against Torture, the Human Rights Committee as well as those by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights are presented below.

§ 1: Recommendations by the Committee on Racial Discrimination

A: Recommendations on the presentation and form of periodic reports and on the follow-up of recommendations

35- The aim of these recommendations is to:

- 1- include in its next periodic report detailed statistics on proceedings instituted and convictions for offences against racial discrimination as well as compensation measures taken by the courts;
- 2- provide in its next periodic report specific information on the implementation of action plans and other measures adopted to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in the national level;

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3- provide within a time limit of one year from the adoption of these final observations information on measures taken with regard to the recommendations of paragraphs 12, 14 and 15 above;

4 - provide data on the ethnic composition of the population based on the self-identification of the individuals concerned, in accordance with general comment No. 8 (1990) of Committee on the interpretation and application of paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article I of the Convention and paragraphs 10 and 11 of its revised guidelines for the preparation of periodic reports (CERD/C/2007/1);

5 - extend the dialogue with civil society organizations working in the area of human rights protection, particularly with those who struggle against racial discrimination, in drawing up the next periodic report;

6 - provide the public periodic reports upon their submission and disseminate the concluding observations adopted by the Committee following their review in the official languages and other languages commonly used, as appropriate;

7 - submit an updated version in accordance with the harmonized guidelines on reporting established under international human rights, namely those that relate to the common core document, as adopted by the fifth Inter-Committee meeting under the treaties of human rights in June 2006 (HRI/MC/2006/3); and

8 - submit the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports in one document, on 24 July 2012, taking into account the guidelines for the specific document on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted by the Committee at its seventy-first session (CERD/C/2007/1) and address all points raised in these concluding observations.

B: Recommendations on improving the regulatory and institutional framework for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

36- The State Party was requested to:

1-adopt a law to give the NCHRF a constitutional basis;

2-consider ratifying international treaties on human rights, particularly those whose provisions have a direct effect to the issue of racial discrimination, such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948) Convention No. 169 (1989) of the ILO concerning

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Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the UNESCO Convention on the fight against discrimination in education (1960);

3- make the optional declaration provided for in Article 14 of the Convention;

4- ratify the amendment to paragraph 6 of Article 8 of the Convention, adopted on 15 January 1992 at the Fourteenth Meeting of States parties to the Convention (see CERD/SP/45, annex) and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111;

5-give effect to the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance, taking into account the outcome of the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva in April 2009;

6-take the necessary legislative measures to prohibit racial discrimination in accordance with Articles 1, 2 and 4 of the Convention, especially by accelerating the process of harmonization of the Penal Code to ensure that racial discrimination will be defined and criminalized in light of the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party, under Article 3 of the Convention should prevent, prohibit and punish racial segregation and racist propaganda in its legislation; and

7- complete its national action plan for judicial reform and strengthening measures to fight against the phenomenon of mob justice in particular by intensifying awareness campaigns for the extension of the CPC.

C: Recommendations on the fight against discrimination based on ethnicity

37- The State party is expected to take measures to:

1- prevent and eliminate discrimination against indigenous children in the exercise of their right to education. In particular take the necessary steps to adapt the education system to their lifestyle and culture and to fight against violence against indigenous children in schools;

2- ensure equal access to justice for indigenous people, in particular:

a) reduce the distances between the national courts of the areas inhabited by indigenous people;

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- b) institute official interpretation services in the languages of indigenous peoples in national courts, including traditional courts;
- c) ensure that the assessors of native customs serve effectively in the customary courts;
- 3 - guarantee indigenous peoples a just and fair compensation for the lands, territories and resources they traditionally owned or otherwise occupied, used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free and prior consent having full knowledge of the facts;
- 4 - protect indigenous people against any attack on their physical and mental integrity, and prosecute acts of violence and assault against them;
- 5 - in addition to solving ethnic conflict through measures to compensate victims, take preventive measures. In particular, undertake awareness campaigns for different communities to promote understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence between ethnic groups and involve traditional leaders in the sustainability of social peace; and
- 6 - step up efforts in implementing bilingualism policies and ensure that the English-speaking population in the south of the country is not the victim of such inequality in employment, education, litigation and representation in the media and provide detailed information on this issue in its next periodic report.

§2: Recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child

A: Recommendations on the presentation and form of periodic reports and on the follow-up of recommendations

38- The aim of these recommendations is to:

- 1- include in its next periodic report detailed information on the measures and programmes relevant to the Convention it has undertaken to implement the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related intolerance, taking into account General Comment No. 1 (2001) by the Committee on the aims of education, as well as on measures taken in response to the Durban Review Conference of 2009;
- 2- provide in its next periodic report information on the implementation by the State Party of the recommendations of the Study; and

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3- indicate the outcome of the recommendations contained in the concluding observations on the initial report, including those concerning the definition of a child, corporal punishment, child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice.

B: Recommendations on improving the normative and institutional framework

39-The State party was called upon to:

1- ratify the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography of Children, and on involving children in armed conflicts. Equally ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearances;

2- accede to Convention No. 33 (1993) of The Hague on the Protection of Children and cooperation in international adoption;

3- adopt the draft Child Protection Code and the draft Code on Persons and the Family, provide sufficient human and financial resources for the full implementation of those instruments, and do everything necessary to ensure the effective implementation of all legislation on the rights of children;

4- take all appropriate measures to ensure that the principle of best interests of the child are duly taken into account in all legislation and implemented in judicial and administrative decisions and programmes, projects and services affecting children, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Convention;

5- establish clear standards for the care of children deprived of parental care and set up periodic review mechanisms and monitoring of placement under Article 25 of the Convention and the Guidelines for the alternative care for children stated in Resolution 64/142 of the General Assembly, adopted on 20 November 2009;

6- amend its legislation on adoption to establish a procedure under Article 21 and the principles of the Convention;

7- adopt a single national law on adoption;

8- adopt a strategic framework for the care of orphans and vulnerable children;

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9- set up within the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms a senior position of Commissioner for Children or appoint an independent ombudsman to oversee the implementation of the Convention at national and local levels;

10- institutionalize the Children's Parliament through the enactment of relevant legislation and rules of procedure;

11- properly set up, on the initiative of children's parliaments, children's governments and municipal councils for children and young people at the regional and local levels;

12- set up a mechanism that would be responsible for monitoring court decisions on the payment of child support;

13- consider setting up a national fund that would pay maintenance for the child in cases where the recovery procedure fails;

14- increase budget allocations and investments for children at national and local levels, ensuring especially that the Ministries of Social Affairs, Public Health and Education are allocated sufficient financial, human and technical resources to do their work for children;

15- define strategic budgetary lines for disadvantaged or particularly vulnerable children and in situations that may require affirmative social measures (such as birth registration) and ensure that these budget lines are protected, even in case of economic crisis, natural disasters or other emergencies;

16- use the system of expenditure indicators and disaggregated data to conduct impact assessments to determine how to improve investment in the best interests of all children by avoiding discrimination or disparities based on gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and geographic location;

17- provide the National Institute of Statistics with sufficient human, technical and financial resources to enable it to implement the National Strategy for Statistical Development and ensure that data collected about children will be broken down according to age, sex, geographic location and socioeconomic status, the various categories of vulnerable children, including children living in poverty, disabled children, street children, child laborers and child victims of trafficking or sexual exploitation;

18- enter commitments for breastfeeding in the annual budget allocation for the Ministry of Public Health; and

19- increase budgetary allocations for primary and secondary education.

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C: Recommendations on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child

40- The State is requested to:

- 1- allocate human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of the national action plan and ensure monitoring and evaluation required to regularly measure progress in the various sectors, identify gaps and corrective measures to be taken;
- 2- strengthen its data collection system, with the help of partners, and use the information as a basis to assess progress in achieving the rights of the child and facilitate the development of effective policies for the implementation of the Convention;
- 3-continue to work with the media to ensure the rights of all children;
- 4-carry out awareness campaigns to draw the attention of parents and children on the dangers of slavery;
- 5- take all necessary measures to implement the recommendations contained in the UN Study on Violence against Children (A/61/299), taking into account the results and recommendations of regional consultations for West and Central Africa, held in Bamako from 23 to 25 May 2005;
- 6-integrate in national surveys collecting and analyzing data on harmful traditional practices to develop measures to combat and eliminate such practices, ensuring the full participation of women and girls who are victims ;
- 7-provide the necessary assistance to families to help them care for their children and ensure their well-being; and
- 8- mobilize sufficient and appropriate human, technical and financial resources to support aid programmes to assist parents in fulfilling their responsibilities.

D: Recommendations on administrative and judicial procedures concerning children

41-The State party is requested to:

- 1- intensify efforts to ensure that the views of the child are duly taken into account within the community, family and school, and to guarantee the child's right to be heard in judicial or administrative proceedings affecting the child, in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention;
- 2- ensure the best interests of the child and that the child is consulted during the adoption process;

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3- extend the deadline for obtaining a free birth certificate from thirty to one hundred twenty days and set up easily accessible registration centres and mobile units for remote or rural areas, with priority to setting up centres in underserved areas where the rate of birth registration is low and providing the resources for this purpose;

4- be more transparent in the application of the procedure for granting legal status of NGOs and provide increased support to NGOs working for children's rights;

5- provide legal aid services and social assistance for the recovery procedure of child maintenance to parents in need ;

6- conduct a study on why parents cannot pay child maintenance or initiate proceedings to seek recovery of such pension;

7- establish legal safeguards to ensure that parents are informed of all legal and social effects of adoption; and

8- intensify efforts to inform parents of the provisions of national law on the recovery of maintenance for the child and ensure that women who demand the payment of child support are provided fast and secure access to justice.

E: Recommendations on the right of the child to education

42- These recommendations require the State party to:

1- develop systematic education and training on the principles and provisions of the Convention for all professional groups working for and with children, including media personnel and traditional leaders;

2 - guarantee free primary education in addressing indirect and hidden costs of basic education;

3 - ensure that schools are safe places for children and that schools will be free from sexual, physical and psychological violence;

4 - improve the quality of education, including increasing the level of student supervision, and ensuring that teachers are properly trained and fully qualified and that they receive adequate remuneration. In this regard, the State party should take steps to recruit teachers, including trained graduate students to replace teachers affected by HIV/AIDS who can no longer perform their functions;

5 - give children, especially those who left school early, opportunities for access to quality training and vocational education;

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6 - improve school infrastructure, including equipment for water and sanitation, and construct separate toilets for boys and girls;

7 - take into account general comment No. 1 (2001) on the aims of education;

8 - carry out impact evaluations of programmes and strategies in education and take appropriate corrective action to correct the disparities between children, particularly by gender and region; and

9-promote and strengthen community social networks that are equipped with child care and provide families with appropriate information on the education of children.

F: Recommendations on training on the rights of the child

43- The State party is expected to

1 - increase the number of professionals working with children (health care providers, teachers, social workers, health professionals, police and judicial institutions) and ensuring that they receive training on the rights of the child and on their obligation to report cases of children who seem to face violence and take appropriate action;

2 - provide training for children's rights to personal care facilities and ensure that children have access to complaint mechanisms;

3 - take additional measures to prevent child abuse and neglect of children, including setting up training programmes for parents to enable families to protect the welfare and rights of children, as well as to carry out, for purposes of prevention, public education campaigns on the consequences of abuse and neglect of children.

G: Recommendations on the right of the child to health

44- The State party is called upon to:

1 - continue the efforts undertaken to expand coverage to the entire country, including the provision of financial resources;

2 - step up its efforts to reduce maternal mortality throughout the country and set up culturally appropriate health services for pregnant women;

3 - take additional measures to increase access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation;

4 - improve health facilities, recruit and train more health workers to meet the needs of children across the country, mainly in regard to primary health care;

5 - continue efforts to promote breastfeeding;

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6 - take the necessary measures, including allocation of sufficient resources to prevent and combat malnutrition among refugee children and ensure they have adequate access to essential health care, education, other sanitation and safe drinking water;

7 - intensify efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, taking into account its general comment No. 3 (2003) on HIV/AIDS and the Rights of the Child and the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and human rights;

8 - provide to all children, including those over 15 years, free counseling and voluntary testing and antiretroviral treatment;

9 - develop awareness campaigns and education programmes on the effects of harmful traditional practices on the health, status and dignity of children, particularly girls, and ensure that these campaigns are systematic and continuous in all sectors of society, including the general public and men as well as community, traditional and religious leaders;

10 - implement the 2001-2015 Health Sector Strategy, by ensuring adequate access to health services for all children, particularly girls and children living in remote rural areas of the country;

11 - develop and strengthen policies and programmes to provide care and support to children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, including programmes and policies to build the capacity of families and the community to care for these children;

12 - carry out activities to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS and to raise awareness of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS;

13 - strengthen mental health counseling services, while respecting the sensitivity of adolescents, and making these services accessible to people with disabilities;

14 - continue and intensify efforts to disseminate information and materials to the public on prevention and protection methods, including safe sex;

15 - redouble efforts to improve the health status of children and increase health budgetary allocations by supporting programmes through clearly affected resources;

16 - conduct a comprehensive study to assess the nature and extent of adolescent health problems, with their full participation, and from its findings, develop policies and programmes focused on adolescent health, paying special attention to adolescents with the problem of sexually transmitted diseases, as well as adolescents who left school early;

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17 - develop confidential services for reproductive health for adolescents and improve sex education in schools;

18 - make teenagers to better know and understand HIV/AIDS prevention methods and protection against the virus, including safe sex;

19 - ensure the full involvement of civil society and children in these programmes and campaigns against these practices;

20 - take additional measures to reduce child mortality, with emphasis on prevention and treatment; and

21 - take necessary measures to fight against drug and alcohol use among adolescents and make available to them appropriate social assistance programmes and psychological support and rehabilitation aid.

H: Recommendations on the right of the child to food

45- The State party is called upon to:

1 - Continue to pay special attention to the malnutrition of children and ensure that measures to combat it are fully integrated into policies and programmes of the Ministry of Public Health and in the GESP. In this regard, the State party should ensure that measures apply to all children in all regions, without discrimination, and are funded through appropriations specifically for the fight against malnutrition;

2 - effectively implement the policy of promotion of breastfeeding and the National Code of Marketing of Breast milk Substitutes and allocate adequate resources for implementation and follow-up, particularly in rural areas;

3 - a policy focus on children which aims to eliminate child poverty by paying particular attention to the rights and needs of children when developing and implementing national development plans and ensure that GESP, clearly reflects the rights of the child, particularly in the areas of health, nutrition, education, social protection and the environment;

4 - give the National Nutrition Committee appropriate authority and financial, human and technical resources and ensure that it plays an effective role in the coordination of efforts to reduce child malnutrition;

5 - strengthen multisectoral coordination and allocate human, technical and financial resources to provide support to families, especially the most marginalized and deprived, to ensure children's right to an adequate standard of living;

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6 - put in place a comprehensive system of data collection on breastfeeding based on age, gender, ethnicity, region and other indicators related to the child, in accordance with the Convention;

7- ensure the full involvement of civil society, particularly NGOs interested in breastfeeding and infant feeding, development and implementation of national policy to promote breastfeeding and the programme in this area;

8 - raise awareness increasingly among mothers about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding until the age of 6 months, inform and involve traditional leaders on this issue and train health workers on it;

9 - widely disseminate the National Code on the Marketing of Breast milk Substitutes to the public and ensure its translation into all appropriate languages;

10 - implement legislative and other measures to protect parents claiming the payment of child support for the maintenance of a child against retaliation; and

11 - adopt a National Action Plan for Children and include this plan in the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

I: Recommendations for the fight against exploitation, trafficking or child labour

46- These recommendations request the State to:

1 - continue to strengthen its legislative and other measures to fight against child labour;

2 - effectively enforce its labour laws and the National Action Plan to fight against child labour and trafficking of children and allocate adequate human and financial resources for this purpose;

3 - prosecute and punish those who employ children, especially those who subject them to forced labour;

4 - respect the rights of working children to be heard with respect to all decisions, all policies and programmes affecting them;

5 - address the root causes of the economic exploitation of children and support parents through poverty reduction programmes to eliminate child labour;

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- 6 - strengthen and effectively enforce the law on the fight against trafficking and child trafficking and the National Action Plan for participatory action against trafficking and exploitation of children;
- 7 - collect statistics broken down properly on child trafficking and use them to develop policies and programmes and strengthen existing ones;
- 8 - set up a toll-free permanent three-digit number accessible to children at national, regional and local levels, inform them on the use of this service and provide the human, technical and financial resources for its operation;
- 9 - ensure that child victims of sexual exploitation are not criminalized or penalized;
- 10 - monitor the evolution of the phenomenon of abuse and neglect of children, especially by integrating the collection and analysis of data on the issue in all social surveys, to develop appropriate policies;
- 11 - continue its efforts to fight against the sexual exploitation of children in accordance with the Declaration and Programme of Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in 1996, 2001 and 2008, and the findings of other international conferences on this issue;
- 12 - implement effectively the laws, policies and programmes relating to the fight against sexual exploitation of children;
- 13 - take appropriate measures to bring to justice the perpetrators of sexual offences against children; and
- 14 - ensure that child traffickers are brought to justice without delay.

J: Recommendations to control the phenomenon of street children

47- The State is expected to:

- 1 - implement, in close cooperation with the children themselves, NGOs and other relevant agencies, the project against the phenomenon of street children and provide the steering committee with adequate human, technical and financial resources;
- 2 - develop and implement, with the active participation of children themselves, a comprehensive strategy with sufficient resources to address the root causes of the phenomenon, define measures of prevention and protection and establish annual numerical goals for reducing the number of children affected;

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- 3 - ensure that street children have access to education and are assisted in their education, and that they receive satisfactory health care services, accommodation and food, taking into account specific needs of girls; and
- 4 - solicit the help of NGOs and other organizations to establish clear guidelines in this area.

K: Recommendations for the fight against violence on children

48- Through these recommendations, the State is required to:

- 1 - ensure, through legal and statutory regulations provisions, that all children victims or witnesses of crimes such as abuse, domestic violence, sexual or economic exploitation, abduction, sale or trafficking, enjoy the protection prescribed by the Convention and take full account of the Guidelines on justice in matters involving children who are victims and witnesses of crime (annexed to Resolution 2005/20 of the Economic and Social Council of 22 July 2005);
- 2 - to take additional measures to prohibit and prevent violence against children and to intensify its efforts to protect them against all forms of violence;
- 3 - set up in all regions a sufficient number of specialized courts for specialized and properly trained staff- State Counsel, lawyers, law enforcement agents and social workers in particular - especially for those of them who will care for children who are victims of exploitation, rape and other forms of violence; and
- 4 - disseminate widely the results of the study conducted by NGOs and government on child abuse.

L: Recommendations for the reintegration of child victims and adolescents

49- These recommendations aim at:

- 1 - setting up programmes for the physical and psychological rehabilitation of children who are victims of harmful traditional practices and providing adequate resources for their implementation;
- 2 - focusing on support for rehabilitation and ensure that children who are victims have access to education and training, and receive psychological assistance and advice;

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- 3 - involving persons, engaged in the practice objected, to efforts to promote the abandonment of that practice and, where appropriate, to give them the opportunity to retrain;
- 4 - strengthen policies and education programmes for children in rural areas and provide children who have been forced to work appropriate opportunities for rehabilitation, education and vocational training;
- 5 - effectively implement the National Strategic Framework for the HIV/AIDS Control and the National Programme to Support Orphans and Other Children Made Vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, as well as allocate sufficient resources for this purpose.

M: Recommendations on discrimination based on ethnicity of the child

50 - The State party should:

- 1 - intensify its efforts to end all discriminatory practices against children and ensure equal rights for all children, girls and boys, including indigenous and refugee children, children living in poor rural areas and children with disabilities;
- 2 - enhance and further develop its national registration system to ensure that all children born in the country are registered, a special attention to the most disadvantaged children, including Bororo, Baka, Bakola and Mafa children, girls, children living in rural areas and refugee children;
- 3 - ensure that indigenous children are involved in planning, implementing and evaluating plans and programmes that affect them;
- 4 - ensure that indigenous children, especially adolescents, are provided with information that meets their needs and interests, especially in terms of education, employment opportunities and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections;
- 5 - seek to address geographical disparities in protecting the rights of indigenous children, paying particular attention to Mbororo, Baka, Bakola and Mafa children living in remote areas; and
- 6 - ensure the full involvement of the civil society, NGOs and children to design and implement programmes and policies to achieve the rights of indigenous children.

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N: Recommendations on refugee children

51 - The State party is expected to:

- 1 - adopt concrete measures to protect children living in refugee camps, especially girls, against all forms of violence, including early marriage and sexual exploitation;
- 2 - establish, in close cooperation with UNHCR and UNICEF, a comprehensive system for collecting data on refugee children by age, gender and nationality, and provide adequate resources for this purpose;
- 3 - create at all institutional levels structures with adequate human, technical and financial resources that allow the establishment of a compulsory and free birth registration system, accessible to all, especially in rural or remote areas and in refugee camps;
- 4 - effectively implement the UNHCR programme against sexual violence, prosecute and punish perpetrators of violence against refugee children and provide victims with appropriate counseling and rehabilitation assistance; and
- 5 - reinforce protection and assistance provided to refugee children.

O: Recommendations on children with disabilities

52 - These recommendations invite the State Party to:

- 1 - take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of legislation protecting children with disabilities and ensure that the review process of the law on the protection of persons with disabilities takes full account of the rights of children with disabilities and is completed within a reasonable time;
- 2 - provide training for professionals working with children with disabilities, such as teachers, social workers and medical, paramedical and related personnel;
- 3 - ensure effective access for children with disabilities to adequate social services and health and quality education in mainstream schools;
- 4 - continue efforts to conduct campaigns to raise awareness of the rights and needs of children with disabilities and encourage the integration of these children into mainstream education and the society;
- 5 - increase the human, technical and financial resources for children with disabilities, focusing on the development of community services - the best position to reach families with children with disabilities - in all regions, and provide these children basic education and social services and health; and

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6 - ensure effective access for children with disabilities to adequate health social services and quality education in mainstream schools.

P: Recommendations on the protection of children in conflict with the law

53 - The aim of these recommendations is to:

- 1 - raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 12 years at least;
- 2 - take preventive action to help eliminate social factors that lead children to becoming involved in the criminal justice system;
- 3 - perfect its juvenile justice system through the establishment of juvenile courts and the appointment of trained juvenile judges and ensure that the system integrates and fully respect international standards in this area, in particular articles 37 (b) , 39 and 40 of the Convention, as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Principles), the UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (Havana Rules) and General Comment No. 10 (2007) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Juvenile Justice System ;
- 4 - develop alternative measures to deprivation of liberty, such as probation, mediation, community service or suspended sentences whenever possible;
- 5 - ensure rapid response by the juvenile justice system for juvenile offenders in custody;
- 6 - ensure that children deprived of their liberty receive appropriate and sufficient care;
- 7 - ensure that when new mechanisms for the replacement of detention are put in place, required human, technical and financial resources are provided;
- 8 - conduct a study to assess the situation of different categories of children in institutions and adopt measures to improve their living conditions and services provided to them; and
- 9 - support family reunification programmes and other measures to develop alternative care and ensure that these arrangements take full account of the interests of the child.

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§3: Recommendations by the Committee against Torture

A: Recommendations for improving the regulatory and institutional framework on the fight against torture

54 - These recommendations tend to:

- 1 - provide the Committee with the necessary information to assess whether the State party has included in its Criminal Code a definition of torture in conformity with Articles 1 and 4 of the Convention; and
- 2 - adopt effective measures to stop the harassment, arbitrary detention, torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and death threats against journalists and human rights defenders and prevent further acts of violence.

B: Recommendations on the fight against torture in prisons

55 - The State party should:

- 1 - implement effective measures immediately in order that suspects have in practice all the fundamental guarantees provided by the CPC;
- 2 - update systematically and regularly, prison registers containing the name of each detainee, the identity of officials conducting the detention, date of admission and discharge of the prisoner and all other elements relating to the keeping of such registers;
- 3 - revise the CPC so that any person granted habeas corpus is released immediately;
- 4 - take measures to reduce the length of pretrial detention, making sure that the time limits prescribed by law for that detention are respected;
- 5 - provide detailed information on the results and/or difficulties in developing the project to improve prison life, produced by Cameroon with the European Development Fund between December 2006 and December 2010;
- 6 - take urgent measures to prevent violence between inmates and against detainees and deaths in custody. All cases of violence and death in detention facilities should be immediately investigated impartially, thoroughly and, if necessary, forensic expertise carried out and that those responsible

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are prosecuted and convicted. The filing of legal complaint by prisoners should be facilitated;

7 - repeal the decree relating to prison discipline and find methods in accordance with the Convention for prisoners who are a security risk; and

8 - ensure the opening of an exhaustive and forensic judiciary inquiry on the death of the journalist Ngota in the Central Prison, Kondengui.

C: Recommendations on effective implementation of the Convention

56 - Their aim is to:

1 - publicly and unequivocally condemn the practice of torture in all its forms, particularly by law enforcement officials, military and prison staff, while issuing a clear warning to the effect that any person committing, participating or abetting such acts, will be held personally responsible before the law and shall be subject to criminal sanctions;

2 - ensure that in cases of alleged torture, suspects are immediately suspended from duty for the duration of the investigation, particularly if there is a risk that their maintenance could impede the investigation;

3 - compile as soon as possible relevant and complete statistical data on complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and penalties in cases of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;

4 - ensure strict application of the absolute prohibition of torture in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the Convention;

5 - revise procedures and practices on expulsion, turning back and extradition in order to fulfill its obligations under Article 3 of the Convention;

6 - develop programmes to provide alternative sources of income for people for whom female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices are means of subsistence; and

7 - raise awareness, through outreach programmes and education, to the fact that all forms of violence against women and girls is a violation of the Convention.

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§4: Recommendations by the Committee on Human Rights

A: Recommendations on improving the regulatory and institutional framework for the promotion of human rights

57 - The State party has to:

- 1 - take the necessary measures to give full effect to the Committee and create mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the findings of the Committee, to ensure the right to a remedy, pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 2;
- 2 - take immediate steps to decriminalize sex between consenting adults of the same sex in order to bring legislation into conformity with the ICCPR;
- 3 - take the necessary steps to end prejudice and social stigma of homosexuality and make it clear that the State does not tolerate any form of harassment, discrimination and violence against people on the grounds of sexual orientation and public health programmes to combat HIV/AIDS, should be universal and offer all the same access to prevention, treatment, care and support in this regard; and
- 4 - accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

B: Recommendations for better promotion and protection of human rights

58 - The State party must:

- 1 - condemn extrajudicial killings and ensure that such claims are subject to prompt and effective investigation in order to eliminate such crimes, to bring the perpetrators to justice and providing remedies to victims;
- 2 - take effective measures to tackle the phenomenon of persistent "mob justice" and ensure that such acts are properly investigated and those responsible brought to justice;
- 3 - take appropriate measures, including providing training to law enforcement officers, to ensure that the guarantees contained in the CPC are effectively met and also ensure that persons subject to arbitrary and unlawful detention are able to expose such violations, and are given remedy and reparation; and
- 4 - take necessary steps to ensure that restriction on freedom of association is strictly compatible with the provisions of Article 22 of the Covenant.

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§5: Recommendations by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

A: Recommendations for the drawing up of the periodic report

59 - The aim of these recommendations is to:

- 1 - take all necessary measures for the submission of the next periodic report in 2012;
- 2 - provide detailed information on the living conditions of the elderly as well as measures to guarantee their rights;
- 3 - produce reliable statistics and strengthen policies and plans promoting the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the right to food, access to clean water, housing and electricity;
- 4 - collect and analyze disaggregated data on the situation of women's rights in Cameroon at all levels and areas;
- 5 - take the necessary steps to implement the recommendations of the African Commission contained in its concluding observations after the previous report and the current concluding observations; and
- 6 - provide disaggregated statistics in the next report to illustrate the state of implementation of rights enshrined in the African Charter and to assess progress made and pending challenges.

B: Recommendations for improving the regulatory and institutional framework of human rights promotion

60 - The State party should:

- 1- decriminalize press defamation;
- 2- take necessary measures to give full effect to the Solemn Declaration on Equality between Men and Women of the African Union, starting in particular by submitting to the African Union, annual reports on the situation of the rights of women in Cameroon;
- 3- ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance⁸;
- 4- ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and ensure that the Declaration provided for in Article 34 (6) of the Protocol is made;

⁸ This Charter was ratified by decree of the President of the Republic No. 2011/240 of 9 August 2011.

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5- deposit instruments of ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa in the shortest possible time;

6- take legislative and other measures for the effective implementation of all rights prescribed in the African Charter, including Articles 27, 28 and 29 of the African Charter; and

7- set up a permanent team that will work with the National Commission on Human Rights, members of the civil society and other actors involved in the promotion of human rights in Cameroon for the development of reports from conception to completion.

C: Recommendations on the right to participate in the management of State affairs

61 - The State party should:

1 - take all necessary measures to ensure political parties and citizens free and transparent elections during the next elections in Cameroon; and

2 - establish a gender representation policy in decision-making bodies, including the adoption of a 50 per cent quota for women's political representation.

D: Recommendation on the right to work and to social security

62 - This recommendation seeks to guarantee workers the full and complete exercise and enjoyment of all their social and economic rights to prevent the cycle of strikes that are likely to cripple the economy.

E: Recommendation on the protection of Human Rights Defenders

63 - The State party should ensure that human rights defenders are guaranteed security in the conduct of their business in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and principles enshrined in the African Charter.

F: Recommendations on the Fight against Discrimination

64 - The Commission invites the State party to:

1 - collaborate with the Working Group on Indigenous People and to invite the Commission to a promotional visit to Cameroon in order to continue dialogue on the topic and to find durable solutions for the effective implementation of the rights of indigenous people;

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2 - take special measures to ensure the protection and implementation of the rights of indigenous women because of their extreme vulnerability and the discrimination against them; and

3 - provide information on the lives of people with disabilities and measures taken on their behalf.

65- Cooperation with treaty organs was intensified in 2010. It should be noted however that reports reviewed in 2010 were submitted to these organs in 2008 and therefore contained data on the period preceding their submission. Meanwhile, since Cameroon's passage for review, recommendations have been made and some of them have been implemented while others will be done after government consultations⁹.

SECTION III: IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY TREATY ORGANS

66- The implementation of some recommendations made by all treaty organs is included in this section. Many others being implemented by Government have been mentioned in the 2009 Report as well as other parts of this Report.

67- With respect to the recommendation referred to in §25, No. 1 above on the independence of the NCHRF and the publishing of its reports, to better guarantee its independence, the National Assembly adopted and the President of the Republic promulgated Law No. 2010/4 of 13 April 2010 to amend and supplement the provisions of Law No. 2004/16 of 22 July 2004 relating to the setting-up, organization and functioning of the NCHRF. This law deprives government representatives of the right to vote. They now have observer status during deliberations. Because of its promulgation the International Committee for the Coordination of National Human Rights Institutions (INDH) granted the NCHRF "A" Status re-accreditation.

68- The budget of the NCHRF increased from CFA 500,000,000 in 2010 to CFA 750,000,000 in 2011. Its investment budget was CFA 360, 000,000.

⁹ On 15 April 2011 the Prime Minister, Head of Government signed Order No. 81/CAB/PM of to set up and organize an interministerial committee on the follow-up of the implementation of recommendations and/or decisions by international and regional mechanisms on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

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69- Reports by the NCHRF are distributed through several channels and forms in order to reach its institutional partners, civil society organizations and the public.

70- In line with the recommendation referred to in §25, No. 7 requesting for the continuation and intensification of efforts to enable judges and law officials to better understand the different conventions and how to enforce them, three collections of international, regional and national legal instruments on human rights which have already been drawn up are being produced. They will be put at the disposal of judicial and para-judicial staff. Capacity building seminars for Legal and Judicial Officers have been organized since 2009 on the enforcement of international human rights conventions¹⁰.

71- Government efforts are presented in the chapter on right to education¹¹ regarding the guarantee of access to education including preschool education throughout the national territory, by paying special attention to the girl child and vulnerable children, indigenous children and children without birth certificates, requested by the Recommendation referred to in §26, No. 2 above.

72- The recommendation on §27 No. 4 above on awareness campaigns to protect girls especially those living in the North and East Regions against harmful traditional practices such as early marriages is implemented through community awareness on the dangers of early marriages, violence on women especially, female genital mutilations, breast ironing and sexual harassment through:

- radio programmes presented by officials of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family over CRTV national and regional stations and community radios;
- the distribution of translated versions of CEDAW initially in four national languages (Fulfulde, Bulu, Pidgin, Ghom'ala), leaflets containing the CEDAW in simple English and French and the booklet "Passport to Equality" containing commented CEDAW provisions; and
- round-table conferences and educative talks throughout the national territory during commemorative days on the woman and the family.

¹⁰ See pp 17 to 20 of 2009 Report.

¹¹ See chapter below on the right to education.

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73- The recommendation referred to in §29 No. 6 above relating to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was implemented after the ratification by Presidential Decree No. 2010/347 of 19 November 2010.

74- The recommendation mentioned in §30, No. 1 relating to the improvement of detention conditions and the visit of detention places is implemented as it is indicated in the presentations on detention conditions¹².

75- The recommendation referred to in § 41, No. 3 requesting the State to extend the time limit for birth registration was taken into account¹³.

76- By adopting Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 relating to the protection and welfare of people with disabilities, the State of Cameroon addressed the concern expressed in §51, No. 1 above requesting her to complete the adoption of this text within a reasonable time limit.

77- The legal framework to fight against torture was reinforced by adopting Law No. 97/9 of 10 January 1997 that inserts Section 132 bis entitled torture in the Penal Code dealing therefore with the recommendation provided in § 54, No. 1 asking the State to include a definition of torture in the Penal Code that is in compliance with that of the Convention against Torture. That law equally solves the issue of prohibiting torture raised in § 56, No. 4.

78- The inquiry recommended relating to the death in prison of Mr Ngota in § 55, No. 8 above was ordered and investigations are ongoing as shown by the presentation in the chapter on freedom of expression and communication below.

¹² See chapter on Detention Conditions below.

¹³ See Sections 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of Law No. 2011/11 of 6 May 2011 to amend and supplement provisions of the Ordinance of 81/2 of 29 June 1981 to organize Civil Status Registration and provisions relating to the status of persons.



PART ONE

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS



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INTRODUCTION OF PART ONE

79-In 2010, events on civil and political rights in Cameroon concern measures taken by the Government to protect the right to life, liberty, security and against torture, thereby implementing international legal instruments ratified by Cameroon. The implementation of the right to fair trial can be analyzed through the evaluation of effectiveness of the safeguard provided by the courts and those provided for the accused persons who may be convicted only by reasoned judgments. The normative and institutional framework and the promotion of freedom of expression and communication are assessed while the role of human rights defenders is reaffirmed and errors inherent in their activities identified. The implementation of political rights is marked by the progress made in strengthening the electoral system and the effective implementation of decentralization. Measures taken or envisaged to ensure equal access to the Public Service are also analyzed.

80-This part is divided into five (5) chapters:

Chapter 1: Right to Life, Liberty, Security and the Right not to be subjected to Torture;

Chapter 2: Right to Fair Trial;

Chapter 3: Freedom of Expression and Communication;

Chapter 4: Human Rights Defenders; and

Chapter 5: Right to Participate in the Management of State Affairs.



Chapter 1

RIGHT TO LIFE, FREE- DOM, SECURITY AND THE RIGHT NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE



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81-The protection of the right to life, prohibition of torture, guarantee of the right to liberty and security are rights guaranteed by international instruments to which Cameroon is party. The review of the effectiveness of these rights requires that method and result indicators related to violent crime, freedom and measures taken to punish violations of these rights and fight against impunity be presented as well.

SECTION I: VIOLENT CRIME

82-Violent crimes are felonies and misdemeanours resulting in the death or serious bodily harm on the victim. They are offences characterized by violence used by perpetrators on victims at the time of commission. They include assassination, murder, torture and serious harm. The situation at judicial police services and in the courts provides an overview on the issue.

§1: Violent Crimes Recorded by Judicial Police Services and Crimes Committed with Firearms

83-According to statistics from the Department of Judicial Police in the course of 2010, judicial police services recorded 4,512 cases of violent crimes of which 357 were committed with the use of firearms and 530 suspects arrested and brought before the competent courts.

§2: People Arrested, Tried and Convicted for Violent Crimes

84-The Table below shows the state of judicial proceedings concerning a category of violent crimes generally committed with arms by providing details on indicators such as investigations, prosecutions, convictions, decisions on release and acquittal and the status of the authors¹⁴.

¹⁴ For further details see chapter on Right to Fair Trial below

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Table 1: People arrested, tried and convicted for violent crimes

Offence	Number of investigations	Number of proceedings	Number of convictions	Number of acquittals	Victims			Authors		
					M	F	C	Law enforcement officials	Person with authority over the victim	Others
Assassination	245	230	82	36	103	19	3			34
Murder	222	202	106	47	100	10	3	1	2	55
Torture	8	8	2		4		1			
Serious harm	88	84	24	4	41	11				9

Source: MINJUSTICE

SECTION II: LITIGATIONS ON FREEDOM

85-The Table below allows for the assessment of litigations on the legality of the detention (habeas corpus procedure) and that on the relevance of detention (application for bail). It should be stated that preventive detentions could be reviewed during the examination of means of appeal¹⁵. Information on detention statistics in prisons is explained in another chapter¹⁶.

Table 2: Statistics on litigations on freedom

	Number of detentions	Application for bail		Bail		Habeas corpus: granted (G) rejected (R)				Discharge/acquitted	Release decision reviewed by the competent Court of Appeal
		Granted	Rejected	With bail	Without bail	Administrative Detention	Military detention	Detention under ordinary law n	Others		
CFI	5112	1045	224	264	702			626		3192	10
HC	2279	392	93	224	124	20	24	A6	R9	215	11
								72			
CA	1534	139	440	38	101	32	46	1456	31		33

Source: MINJUSTICE

¹⁵ See chapter on the Right to Fair Trial below.

¹⁶ See Part III on Cross-cutting Issues, Chapter 1 on Detention Conditions.

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86-The Supreme Court received three proceedings for habeas corpus¹⁷, a proceeding to waive a warrant of arrest¹⁸ and a petition for an arrest warrant that was granted¹⁹.

87-Violation of both the right to life and the right to security caused officials to take disciplinary sanctions and to institute proceedings against people involved in committing these offences.

SECTION III: DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

88-Administrative sanctions were taken against civil servants of the National Security. A Judicial and Legal Officer was warned for ordering illegal remand in custody²⁰. Judicial proceedings were instituted against military personnel. The general aim of these proceedings, which are followed by sanctions, is to fight against the impunity of people in charge of applying the law.

Table 3: Sanctions against civil servants of the Police

Rank	Number	Offence	Sanctions/number	
Senior Superintendent of Police	1	- Violation of instructions and negligence in carrying out his duties	✓ 3 months suspension	Serious warning recorded in file: 9
Superintendent of Police	5	- Dishonesty in performing duties; - Illegal remand and dishonesty	✓ 20 days suspension without salary (2)	✓ 5 days suspension without salary 25

¹⁷ File No.184/P/10 of 18/11/10: DINGANA Faustin Vs The People and PAD; File No.214/P/10 of 23/12/10: Lydienne YEN EYOUM Vs The People; File No.278/P/10 of 24/12/10: STE SICO Vs The People and Daniel SANDJOU, Christian Dagobert PAMY

¹⁸ File No.44/P/10 of 29 April 2010.

¹⁹ YAYA DAIROU Vs The People and ISSA BABANGIDA, Order No.42/P of 17 June 2010.

²⁰ See Right to Fair Trial below.

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Superintendent of Police	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in performing duties; - Violation of instructions; - Notorious negligence in performing duties; - Maladministration, by illegal sale of fiscal stamps, swindling, abusive arrests and release against payment, wheeler-dealing; - Irregular absence from service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3 months suspension (2) ✓ Severe warning recorded in file (1) 	✓ 5 days suspension without salary 25
				7 days suspension without salary 16
				10 days suspension without salary 28
Assistant Superintendent of Police	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dishonesty in performing his duties. 	✓ 3 months suspension	14 days suspension without salary 1
Assistant Superintendent of Police 2 nd Scale	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor habitual manner of rendering service; - Refusal to pay debts owed "le grenier" a micro-finance establishment; - Unauthorized patrol, harassment of road users, insolence ; - Obstruction and infringement of the duties of the Special Division for Services Control, concealing of a delinquent wanted within the framework of a judicial procedure; - Unjustified absence in a sport activity organized by his boss and refusal to carry out punishment; - abusive use of a service weapon provoking bodily harm; - drunkenness, scandal and disorder in service, violence and assault on service users; - accomplice in evasion of person remanded in custody; - non-respect of instructions on road controls resulting in a road accident with loss of life and serious harm; - Extortion, established maladministration in performing his duties; 		15 days suspension without salary 3 19 days suspension without salary 1
				20 days suspension without salary 93
				Irregular absence 1
				1 month suspension 2
				3 months suspension 92

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notorious insubordination ; - Continuous and persistent bad faith in rendering service; - violation of instructions on crossing borders; - maladministration, violation of rules of ethics governing esprit de corps; - abandonment of stand-by post; - refusal to execute order especially to belong to a police contingent during uprisings at the Mokolo market, Yaounde; - embezzlement of service property; - signing official document without capacity; - daytime control of vehicles in violation of instructions relating to the organization and functioning of Police Controls; - poor habitual manner of serving; - refusal to pay debt; - unauthorized control, harassment of road users, insolence; - Obstruction and infringement of the duties of the Special Division for Services Control, concealing of a delinquent wanted within the framework of a judicial procedure; - Unjustified absence from organized sport activity; - Accessory in clandestine emigration; - Accessory in escape of a person remanded in custody; - drunkenness, scandal and disorder in service; - non-respect of instructions relating to road controls resulting to loss of human life and serious harm; - travel beyond area of competence without leave of absence; - fighting, scandal and disorder in town; - travel without permission to Fundong and illegal attempt to arrest a person; - present in uniform in a licensed beverage room, brutality, violence and assault; - stealing of a motorcycle; - influence peddling; - false arrest and blackmail; - participation banditry in rural areas; - irregular bearing of service weapon, illegal use of service weapon resulting in bodily harm; - disgraceful private life; - illegal use of a service vehicle; - brutality, violence and assault on a subordinate; 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - notorious negligence in performing duties; - insubordination to superior; - failure to honour contractual commitment with a creditor; - offending behaviour/inappropriate reflective thinking with respect to bosses; - harassment, racketeering and extortion of funds; - refusal to execute an administrative sanction, rebellion, incitement of indiscipline and disobedience; - use of private vehicle for clandestine transportation of passengers, inappropriate behaviour on highway; - disclosure of professional secrecy, violation of professional secrecy and inquiries, especially by granting an interview to a press organ; - unauthorized withdrawal and illegal retention of official documents; - irregular issue without capacity of administrative documents; - -oppression and appropriation of another person's property sometimes through fraud. 		
Police Inspector 1 st scale	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dishonesty in performing duties; by extorting funds from road users, accessory in a case of irregular emigration, embezzlement of service user's property. - Abandonment of post. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 3 months suspension (1) ✓ 20 days suspension without salary (1) ✓ Desertion of duty post with loss of salary(2) 	
Senior Police Inspector	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - failure to honour his contractual commitment with a creditor; - notorious insubordination to boss, disrespectful behaviour; - refusal to execute an order especially joining a police contingent to stop riots at the Mokolo Market, Yaounde; - Violation of service instructions and notorious negligence in performing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 20 days suspension without salary (3) ✓ 3 months suspension (1) ✓ Written warning (1) 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> duties; Maladministration characterized by harassment of a foreigner in transit, notorious insubordination to superior, inducement to indiscipline and disobedience, disrespectful behaviour Extortion of funds from an ordinary passport applicant 		
Police Inspector 2 nd scale	65	See offences against Assistant Superintendent of Police 2 nd scale in Table above		
Police Inspector 1st scale	46			
Senior Police Constable	20			
Police Constable 2 nd scale	103			

Source: DGSN

Table 4: Statistics of proceedings against soldiers and gendarmes in 2010

Court	Number of proceedings	Number of People Involved	Offences	Remarks
Military Tribunal, Douala	14	25	Harm, torture, tolerance of abuse of individual rights, oppression, false arrest.	
Military Tribunal, Garoua	15	32	Corruption, false arrest, manslaughter, murder, aggravated theft, invasion of residence, assault occasioning death.	
Military Tribunal, Yaounde	24	39	False arrest, assault occasioning death, manslaughter, slight harm, simple harm.	
Military Tribunal, Buea	3	16	Torture, false arrest, assault occasioning death, violence on a superior, simple harm.	
Military Tribunal, Bafoussam	1	3	Destruction of property and violence on a subordinate.	

Source: MINDEF

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Table 5: Statistics on convictions by military tribunals

Number of proceedings	21
Number of people prosecuted	37
Ranks	Captain (1) ; Lieutenant (1) ; Chief Warrant Officer (1) ; Chief Warrant Officer) ; Sergeant (3) ; Gendarme (2) ; Private 2 nd class (14)
Unspecified ranks	10
Offences	Manslaughter, violation of instruction, false arrest, violation, torture, dangerous bearing of fire arm, oppression, attempted manslaughter.
Conservatory measures	Disciplinary sanctions
Remarks	Ongoing judicial proceedings

Source: MINDEF

89-It follows from the above that sanctions and measures are taken to preserve the right to life, safety and security as well as the prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

Chapter 2

RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL



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90- The right to fair trial is essentially characterized by two kinds of guarantees: guarantees relating to the court and the trial and guarantees granted to people who are prosecuted. The legal framework for the implementation of this right did not change in 2010 because the primary concern was to consolidate and control the application of existing instruments after the major legislative activity conducted in the judicial sector between 2005 and 2009. On the contrary, jurisprudence clarified some of its elements including justification of judgments.

SECTION I: COURTS AND TRIAL

91- This section will review access to justice and equality before the courts, the public nature of trials, impartiality and the independence of the court.

§ 1: ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND EQUALITY BEFORE THE COURTS

92- To assess the level of access of citizens to the courts to obtain fair justice, the judicial map of Cameroon, the impact of legal aid and the use of an interpreter and the link between the alleged offences and prosecutions will be examined.

A: Judicial Map

93- The judicial map of Cameroon is legally²¹ copied from the administrative map. Administrative units are the regions, divisions and subdivisions. Cameroon has 10 regions, 58 divisions and 360 subdivisions²². The judicial map provides for a Supreme Court with national jurisdiction, a Court of Appeal, Regional Audit Court and an Administrative Court for each Region, a High Court for each division, and a Court of First Instance for each subdivision.

94- Although these courts are set up by law, they are opened gradually by presidential decree based on service needs and available facility. Also, the decree to set up a court determines its jurisdiction that may extend to several administrative units and establishes its seat. Moreover, High Courts and Courts of First Instance may be merged.

²¹ Laws No. 2006/15, No. 2006/17, and No. 22 of 29 December 2006.

²² Decrees No. 2008/376 of 12 November 2008 and No. 2010/198 of 16 June.

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95- As at 31 December 2010, Cameroon's judicial map was made up of a Supreme Court, 10 Courts of Appeal, 56 High Courts opened in the chief towns of the corresponding divisional headquarters. 44 of these High Courts are merged with Courts of First Instance. There are 67 Courts of First Instance whose seats correspond to sub-divisional headquarters.

96- Two divisions do not yet have High Courts, and 293 Courts of First Instance have not been opened. Similarly, Administrative Tribunals and Regional Audit Courts have not been opened yet.

97- The population of Cameroon, unevenly distributed across regions and according to urban and rural areas, was estimated at 19.4 million inhabitants as at 1 January 2010²³. The smallest subdivision has at least 40,000 inhabitants. The judicial coverage rate of a court for every 100,000 people, which itself depends on an adequate number of judicial staff is not yet feasible, but attempts are made to achieve this goal in the long term.

98- For example, two lots were acquired for the building of Courts of First Instance in Yaounde (Mendong), Yaounde VI Subdivision in the Mfoundi Division, Centre Region and Douala (Bonaberi), Douala IV Subdivision in the Wouri Division, Littoral Region.

99- Moreover, the proposed setting-up of Administrative Courts and Regional Audit Courts has been launched with the organization of training seminars for judicial staff that are likely to serve in them.

B: Impact of Legal Aid and Use of an Interpreter

100- Poor litigants may seek and obtain legal assistance from the State²⁴ that has the duty to provide an interpreter for free to anyone who is criminally prosecuted if they do not understand or speak the language used during hearings²⁵.

1) Legal Aid

101- The implementation of Law No. 2009/4 of 14 April 2009 to organize legal aid gave the following results in 2010, taking into account that each jurisdiction has a legal aid commission.

²³ Cameroon Tribune of 15 April 2010.

²⁴ See p. 54 and following of 2009 Report.

²⁵ Art. 14 (3) of the ICCPR

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Table 1: Statistics on application for legal aid

<u>Court</u>	<u>Number of applications</u>	<u>Number of judgments delivered</u>	<u>Number of dismissals</u>	<u>Agreements</u>		<u>Beneficiaries</u>	
				<u>Total</u>	<u>Partial</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
CFI	158	142	16	126	00	22	106
HC	149	148	52	72	24	80	32
CA	65	20	9	11	00	80	32
SC	24	5	2	3	00	1	2
Total	396	315	79	212	24	113	141

Source: Legal Departments of Courts of Appeal: Adamawa, Centre, East, Far North, Littoral, North, West, South and the Supreme Court.

102- This Table is not exhaustive as the application of the Law of 2009 still faces the following barriers:

- Difficulty in installing legal aid commissions by appointing representatives of the services involved; and
- Lack of awareness of the target audience.

103- The consequence is that some courts located in major cities have not received applications. This is the case of CFI Bonanjo, Douala and the courts of Edea. At the Court of Appeal, Far North Region, only its own Commission and those of the CFI and HC Maroua have worked. At the Court of Appeal, Centre, only four out of twelve courts have received applications for legal aid.

2) Use of Interpreter

104- English and French are the official languages of Cameroon, but it is unusual to find Cameroonians who master both languages. In addition, 250 national languages are spoken in Cameroon. To ensure that members of the court and litigants understand each other, the courts usually use, if necessary, an ad hoc interpreter who is not always mentioned in the case file or records of hearing. Some courts have a staff interpreter in the local language most spoken in the region.

105- However, some courts show proof of the use of an interpreter. Parties used the services of interpreters in 4,770 cases in all courts.

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106- It was observed that it is especially litigants in rural or low school rate areas who need interpreters. Thus, in the jurisdiction of the Courts of Appeal in the North, Far North and South, for example, 90 per cent of cases require an interpreter in the local language and each court has at least an interpreter paid from legal fees. In addition, the parties need not apply for an interpreter. The court appoints an interpreter from among those attending the hearing, whenever the need arises, where the court does not have one or where the court's interpreter does not know the language spoken by the litigant.

C: Relationship between Alleged Offences and Prosecutions

107- In the Cameroon criminal system, prosecution is exercised by the State Counsel who may be seised in writing or verbally by disclosures from any person with knowledge of an offence, by complaints addressed to him directly or through reports prepared by competent authorities²⁶. In practice, any case brought before the State Counsel gives rise to an investigation, after which he decides whether to prosecute by initiating proceedings before the competent courts.

108- Statistics on investigations in 2010 on the abuse of some particularly sensitive human rights and related prosecutions are stated below:

Table 2: Investigations, proceedings and convictions for violating human rights

Offence	Number of investigations	Number of prosecutions	Number of cases heard and determined	Number of convictions	Number of discharge/acquittals	Victims		
						M	F	C
Murder	245	230	118	82	36	103	19	3
Manslaughter	222	202	165	106	47	100	10	3
Torture	8	8	4	2	2	4		1
Serious Harm	88	84	34	24	4	41	11	
Arrest and False Arrest	95	89	33	26	12	57	10	6
Forced Labour	1	1						1
Trafficking	3	3	1		1			3
Violence against children	41	36	11	9	2			15
Kidnapping of Minor	115	105	47	34	13		61	54

²⁶ Section 135 of the CPC.

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Kidnapping with fraud or violence	34	32	16	13	8		13	21
Indecency to a minor of less than 16 years	486	468	290	237	39		486	486
Indecency to a minor aged between 16-21 years	113	113	81	69	12	1	113	113
Forced marriage	1	1					1	
Prostitution	25	25	14	9	5			
Homosexuality	27	20	9	8	1	7		12
Defamation by press	31	31	2	2		9	1	
Corruption	20	16	2	1	1	8	1	
Embezzlement of Public Funds	235	231	123	92	35			
Rape	131	110	55	42	11	1	68	62
Incest	11	10	4	4			11	
Pollution	27	27	5	4	1	1	1	
Total	1959	1842	1095	764	230	332	806	778

Source: Legal Departments of Courts of Appeal: Adamawa, Centre, East, Far North, Littoral, North, West, South and the Supreme Court.

109- It is noticed that most of the investigations resulted in prosecution of the related offence. Of 1,095 cases heard and determined, 764 accused and defendants were convicted.

§2: Public Hearing, Impartiality and Independence of the Court

110- Everyone has a right to fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial court.

111- The independence of the Judiciary which results in the judge's impartiality guarantees fair trial for litigants. The judge as an individual must be independent which means that he takes his decisions without being influenced by personal interests, interference or by the reaction of those around him. The Judiciary as an institution must also be independent of other national or international institutions. Indicators of this objective relate, among others to the:

- proportion of judicial staff who have been suspected or investigated for unethical behaviour, irregularities, excesses (e.g. corruption);
- proportion of investigations concerning judicial staff that led to disciplinary or judicial proceedings;
- proportion of cases tried in open court;
- share of budget allocated to the Judiciary; and
- average salary of Judicial and Legal Officers.

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A: Impartial and Independent Court

112- A party has the right to request, by recusation that the presiding judge refrain from hearing his case if that party has reason to suspect that the judge is biased against him.

113- In 2010, the Supreme Court sitting as a joint Bench received 21 applications for disqualification. At the hearing of 15 April 2010, it delivered 17 judgments with 7 in favour and 10 dismissed. It reiterated in Judgment No. 5/FCR of 15 April 2011: *Kago Lele Jacques Vs CFI Bafoussam (the People and Happi Messack) that there are legitimate grounds for suspicion that cast doubt over the impartiality of the Examining Magistrate or the trial court, where judges investigate a case in which they have an interest.*

114- The 7 cases where the judges were convinced of bias were referred to other courts.

115- On 31 December 2010, four new cases were recorded for challenge by the Supreme Court, from the Courts of Appeal for the South and the Littoral.

B: Judicial and Legal Officers Prosecuted

116- Only disciplinary proceedings against Judicial and Legal Officers are indicated here. In fact, disciplinary procedure for Judicial and Legal Officers, governed by the Rules and Regulations of the Judicial and Legal Services are confidential until completion.

117- Investigations of Judicial and Legal Officers led to five cases of disciplinary proceedings in 2010. During the same period, disciplinary proceedings resulted in sanctions stated in the Table below:

Table 3: Disciplinary proceedings against Judicial and Legal Officers

Number of sanctions	Type of sanctions	Reasons
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drop in incremental position : 2 - Delayed promotion : 1 - Warning: 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breach of obligations, professional incompetence; • Judgment delivered as “<i>final judgment</i>”, judgment falsified by adding : “<i>orders the temporary execution</i>” after it was delivered in open court; • Professional incompetence resulting in violation of the law, general principles of law and glaring ignorance of the rules of procedure; • Abusive remand in custody.

Source: MINJUSTICE/IGSJ

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C: Cases tried in Open Court

118- National legislation²⁷ has adopted the universal principle which states that hearings shall be public while hearing in camera is an exception left to the discretion of the court. The judgment must mention this fact. In addition, all cases in which juveniles are prosecuted are heard in camera. In all cases, judgments are pronounced in open court and proceedings in chambers must be provided by law. The Table below shows that this principle is applied in most case

Table 4: Cases heard in open court and in camera

Courts	Number of proceedings at public hearing	Number of proceedings in camera	Remarks
CFI	45,463	247	
“TPD”	10,635	86	
HC	4,947	28	
CA	10,488	25	
Total	71,533	386	

Source: Legal Departments of Courts of Appeal: Adamawa, Centre, East, Far North, Littoral, North, West, South and the Supreme Court.

D: Budget Allocated to the Judiciary

119- The Ministry of Justice, among other responsibilities, ensures the functioning of the courts, manages the career and oversees the discipline of Judicial and Legal Officers, Court Registrars and other judicial staff²⁸.

120- The budget allocated to the Ministry of Justice represents about 1 per cent of the State budget. In 2010, it was CFA 26.329 billion²⁹ that is, CFA 21,729,000,000³⁰ for recurrent expenditure and CFA 4.6 billion³¹ for investment³².

121- It is obvious that attempts should be made in order that the budget of the Ministry in charge of Justice may be in line with the objectives assigned to it in particular, the effectiveness of the Judiciary in promoting good governance.

E: Salary of Judicial Staff

122- Judicial and Legal Officers and Court Registrars are involved in the administration of justice, but Judicial and Legal Officers are responsible for

²⁷ Section 302 of CPC, Section 6 of Law No. 2006/15 of 29 December 2006 on Judicial Organization.

²⁸ Decree No. 2004/320 of 8 December 2004 to organize the Government.

²⁹ 40,196,946 Euros.

³⁰ 33,174,045 Euros.

³¹ 7,022,900 Euros.

³² This budget was drastically reduced, dropping from 1 per cent to 0.6 per cent of the State's Budget.

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an independent Judiciary. Admittedly, the principle of independence of the Judiciary was not enacted for the personal comfort of Judicial and Legal Officers. However, their living and working conditions should enable them to comply with ethical requirements and protect them from demands and pressures.

123- In Cameroon, Judicial and Legal Officers are ranked from first to fourth scale and the super scale exceptionally. Their pay packet is based on rank and position. Their monthly income, excluding cuts, calculated on the basis of the salary (salary index + benefits) from absorption in the first scale and serving as Deputy State Counsel at the Court of First Instance is CFA 271,406³³. At the end of their career in the fourth scale and the highest position corresponding to that scale (Supreme Court Judge), their salary is CFA 650,000³⁴. Where a Judicial and Legal Officer ends his career at the rank of super scale and as President of a Bench of the Supreme Court, his salary would be CFA 731,485³⁵. It should be noted that their pension is calculated on the basis of the wage index and the value of the salary index is the same for all civil servants, at least those who like them, suffered salary cuts in 1993.

124- Government is concerned about the salary of civil servants. This explains why the value of their salary index was increased in 2008. The salaries of Judicial and Legal Officers should be increased because it has been diagnosed as an obstacle to an efficient Judiciary, not only in Cameroon, but in most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa³⁶.

SECTION II: SAFEGUARD OF PROSECUTED PEOPLE

125- Every person who is criminally prosecuted has the right to be tried without undue delay, to defend himself in person or through counsel of his choice and to be assigned counsel as of right, free of charge, if he cannot afford one. In addition, any person convicted of a crime shall have the right to have his case reviewed by a higher court. The proportion of accused persons who have benefited from counsel for their defence and those who have entered appeals will therefore be examined.

³³ About 414 Euros.

³⁴ About 992 Euros.

³⁵ About 1116 Euros.

³⁶ Regional seminar, September 2009; See pp 61-62 of 2009 Report.

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§1: Right to Counsel

126-The CPC enshrines the right to counsel by stating in Section 37 that: "Any person arrested shall be given reasonable facilities ... to obtain legal advice ... " and Section 417 (2) that: "where the accused is being prosecuted for a felony punishable with death or with loss of liberty for life and he has no counsel, the Presiding Judge shall, of his own motion, assign one to him".

127-Furthermore, and in all matters, legal aid may take the form of an appointment of counsel paid by the State as in the case of automatic appointment provided by the law above.

128-The following Table shows the proportion of people who briefed counsel paid either by themselves or the Public Treasury. However, it should be noted that appellants to the Supreme Court must brief counsel subject to revocation of their appeal.

Table 5: People for whom counsels were appointed

Court	Number of defendants/accused/people helped		Counsels appointed by the court : paid by the State	Counsels paid by defendant/accused
	Civil proceedings	Criminal proceedings		
CFI	5,254		123	5,131
HC		1,150	623	537
CA	1264	158	81	1,341
Total	6,518	1,308	827	7,009

Source: Legal Departments of Courts of Appeal: Adamawa, Centre, East, Far North, Littoral, North, West, South and the Supreme Court.

129- It should be noted that the State appointed counsels for defendants facing the death penalty or life imprisonment in accordance with Section 417 of the CPC cited above. It also defended defendants incurring temporal and criminal punishments with the aid of development partners such as the EU and the National Justice and Peace Commission.

§ 2: Appeals

130- This feature of the right to fair trial is reviewed in the Table below:

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Table 6: Appeals

Appeal	Number of Appeals Received				Appellants			Number of convictions reduced or quashed	Number of preventive detentions reviewed
	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	SC	Parties	Others		
Objection	146	266	134	28		456	1	63	8
Appeal	94	1,503	1,448		432	2,556	47	193	23
Appeal to the Supreme Court	387				14	366	6		
Review									

Source: Legal Departments of Courts of Appeal: Adamawa, Centre, East, Far North, Littoral, North, West and South

131- It is clear from this Table that appeals are brought against judgments delivered by all courts. The majority of appeals are brought by parties while a significant number of sentences were either reduced or quashed after appeal. Persons temporarily detained were released.

SECTION III: REASONED JUDGMENTS

132- The court must decide on the merits of a criminal charge or a civil suit³⁷. In internalizing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Section 7 of the Law of 29 December 2006 on judicial organization provides that *"All judgments shall set out the reasons upon which they are based in fact and in law. Any breach of this provision shall render the judgment null and void"*. Pursuant to these statutory provisions, the Supreme Court quashed judgments delivered by Courts of Appeal in Ndongo Asse Alwis, Chanas Assurances, UTC Vs Nganfong Hubert and Tchaptche Jean Claude Vs The People and Jacques Nyemba.

133- In the first case, the Supreme Court held that the fault committed by the victim of a traffic accident, who drove a land motor vehicle, may have the effect of limiting or excluding compensation for moral and material damages that he suffered³⁸. Therefore, the court is required to state the precise degree of the fault of the wrongdoer and especially his responsibility

³⁷ Article 14 of the ICCPR.

³⁸ Section 227(1) of the CIMA Code

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as sole author or not. Consequently, by Judgment No. 49 / P of 17 June 2010, it quashed Judgment No. 189 / P of 11 December 2003 by the Court of Appeal for the Littoral. It upheld Judgment No. 1214/Cor of 12 June 2001 by the Court of First Instance, Edea, found Ndongo Asse Alwis guilty and confirmed the sentence against him. However, on application by Nganfang Hubert, it held the protagonists equally responsible.

134- In the second case, the Supreme Court interpreting the provisions of Section 318 (1) (c) of the Penal Code, said that in matters of fraud, deceit alone cannot constitute fraud; deceit can constitute fraud only where there is window dressing or it is supported by the presence of a third party that lends credibility to the lie in order to convince the victim to hand over his property. By Judgment No. 43/P of 17 June 2010, it quashed Judgment No. 157 / Cor delivered by the Court of Appeal for the South on 22 June 2004. It upheld Judgment No. 1303/Cor No. of 4 September 2002 by which Jean Claude Tchaptche was found not guilty of attempted fraud on the sole ground that he was alleged to have demanded the improper payment of a sum of money.



Chapter 3

FREEDOM OF EXPRES- SION AND COMMUNI- CATION



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135-The effectiveness of freedom of expression and communication in Cameroon in 2010 can be assessed in the light of the changing legal and institutional framework as well as promotion activities, regulatory measures and legal action against media professionals

SECTION 1: CHANGING LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

136-The changing legal and institutional framework is supported by structural indicators marked by the adoption of two laws: Law No. 2010/12 relating to cyber security and cyber criminality and Law No. 2010/13 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications.

§1: Law on Cybersecurity and Cyber criminality

137- This law governs the security framework of electronic communications networks and information systems while defining and punishing offences related to the use of information and communication technology. It aims at building confidence in electronic communication networks and information systems, setting up legal regimes of digital evidence of security activities, encryption and digital certification. It also seeks to protect the fundamental rights of individuals including the right to human dignity, honour and respect for privacy and the legitimate interests of legal persons.

§2: Law Governing Electronic Communications

138- Law No. 2010/13 of 21 December 2010 aims at promoting the harmonious and balanced development of networks and electronic communication services, to ensure the sector's contribution to the development of the national economy and to meet multiple user needs. It sets the terms of exploitation of electronic communication networks in accordance with the requirements demanded by national defence and public security. It encourages and promotes private sector participation in the development of electronic communications in a competitive environment.

139- The aim of the national policy of access to information and communication technology is to strengthen the legal and institutional framework that enabled 26 community tele-centres to operate in 2010.

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140- In addition to the legal framework that has been strengthened, promotion activities, regulatory measures and legal action against journalists were recorded.

SECTION II: PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, CONTROL MEASURES OF THE COMMUNICATION SECTOR AND PROCEEDINGS BROUGHT AGAINST MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

141- The following parameters allow for the assessment of process indicators and outcomes related to freedom of expression and communication: seminars on capacity building, public support to private communication and the number of prosecutions against journalists and other media professionals.

§1: Capacity Building Seminars for Media Professionals

142- The following five seminars can be mentioned:

- Kribi, 6 - 8 May 2011: Awareness seminar for journalists on decentralization, organized by MINATD for about thirty journalists;
- Training for 40 hours in computing for members of the press in Introduction to Computing (50 vacancies), Computer Mastery (100 vacancies), Computer Graphics (50 vacancies exclusively for women) and Computer Maintenance (50 vacancies exclusively for women)³⁹;
- Awareness seminar for journalists of the Cameroon Association of English-speaking Journalists on "Understanding the Public Investment Budget", organized by MINEPAT Limbe;
- Training workshop for journalists of Central and West Africa who specialize in health issues, organized by Network of African Media against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria on the theme "Media and HIV/AIDS, Gender and Human Rights in West and Central Africa", Yaounde, 5 - 8 October 2010; and
- Media awareness workshop on promoting the rights of people with disabilities, co-organized from 23 - 24 December 2010 by the NCHRF and the International Organization Sight savers.

³⁹ This training, the outcome of the MINCOM/IAI Cameroun partnership is in line with celebrations of the International Press Day.

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§2: Public aid to Private Communication

143- By Decision No. 28/MINCOM/CAB of 5 August 2010, the Minister of Communication, (for the 2010 financial year,) gave CFA 200 million to four (4) sectors as public aid to private communication.

144- In the media sector and with respect to the audiovisual communication sub-sector, 22 community radio stations, 8 commercial radio stations, 3 television stations and 1 audiovisual producer received public aid.

145- Community radios included: Radio Mendumba, Radio Jeunesse, Radio Odama, Sawa FM, Radio Communautaire de Noun, Radio Site-Dar Bafang, Radio Salaaman, Radio Communautaire de Baham, Radio Bon Berger, Radio Soleil, Radio Soleil de Sa'a, Radio Nkuli Bining d'Esse, Radio Femme FM, Radio M'malli, Bonakanda Rural Radio, Radio Communautaire de Mokolo, Radio Communautaire de Bouam, Radio Communautaire Développement de la Mvila, Radio Nka FM, Tikiri FM, Radio Yemba and FM Benoue.

146- The following commercial radios benefited from this support: Abakwa FM, Eden Radio, Radio Lumière, Dynamic FM, Radio Aurore, Magic FM, Satellite FM and Radio Hot Cocoa.

147- Televisions included: Vision 4, Samba TV, Ariana TV.

148- With regard to audiovisual producers, Inter-village is the only producer to have received audiovisual assistance in this subsector.

149- In the print sub-sector, the following press organs received aid: *La Lumière*, *The Guardian Post*, *Les Grands Secrets*, *Afrique Matin*, *Le Medium*, *City Time*, *Journal du Peuple*, *L'Indépendant*, *L'Intégrale*, *The Post*, *Zok Hebdo*, *Chronicle Newspaper*, *La Nouvelle Vision*, *La Météo*, *Comm News*, *L'Anecdote*, *Pile ou Face*, *Ouest Echos*, *Weekly Post*, *L'Eveil Républicain*, *La Une*, *Le Nouveau Monde*, *C Média Pro Info*, *Le Nouvel Informateur*, *La Découverte Régionale*, *monde Professionnel*, *Afrique International Magazine*, *Télé Plus Clair*, *Le Héraut National*, *Génération Libre*, *Le Reporter Indépendant*, *Eden Newspaper*, *Info Tribune*, *Le Soleil*, *Crises et Solutions*, *The Star Headline*, *Meyomessala International*, *Demain l'Afrique Magazine*, *Le Droit*, *La Voix du Sud*, *Le Procès International*, *Repères*, *Prospectives Nouvelles*, *Le Jour*, *The Sun* and *Espérance Santé Magazine*.

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150- Regarding the cyber news sub-sector, 237online.com and lb.com were declared eligible.

151- In the global communications sector, the Media and Services Group benefited from government support.

152- As regards the professional organizations sector, the files of the following associations were approved: *Association pour la promotion de l'audiovisuel et du spectacle (APPAS)*, *Association des journalistes pour l'économie (AJES)*, *Association des Journalistes africains pour l'environnement (AJAFE)*, *Association camerounaise des éditeurs de presse (ACEP)*, *Groupe des presses indépendantes du Cameroun (GPIC)*, *C MEDIA PRO*, *Association des jeunes journalistes du Cameroun (AJJC)*, *Cameroon Professional Journalists Association (CAPJA)*, *Club Télé jeune*, *Association des médias chrétiens*, *Newspaper Publishers Association of Cameroon (NEPAC)*, *Association des Reporters indépendants du Cameroun (ARIC)*, *Association des producteurs libres du Cameroun (AREP)*, *Association régionale des éditeurs de presse (AREP)*, *Association des professionnels et auxiliaires de la presse privée au Cameroun (APAP)*, *Association camerounaise des femmes de l'image (ACAFI)*, *Association des dépositaires et marchands de journaux de Yaoundé (ADMJY)*, *Club média Ouest (CMO)*, *Association des photographes indépendants du Cameroun (APIC)*, *Association des journalistes et communicateurs indépendants d'Afrique Centrale (AJCIAC)*, *Association des journalistes scientifiques du Cameroun (AJSC)*, *Groupement des éditeurs de journaux du Cameroun (GEJC)*, *Réseau africain des acteurs médiatiques (RAAM)*, *Cameroon Association of English Speaking Journalists (CAMESEJ)*, *Club des analystes politiques*, *Association nationale des professionnels de la communication institutionnelle (ANAPROCI)*, *Gic le Continent* and the *Association des producteurs des émissions religieuses du Cameroun*.

153- Pertaining to the printing industry, Mvomberg, Inter Space, JV Graf, Camteph, Ets Mama Press, 2HM received public aid.

§3: Prosecutions against Journalists and other Media Professionals

154- Related statistics by jurisdiction of Courts of Appeal and a topical human rights case in 2010 are presented below.

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A: Statistics on Prosecutions against Journalists

Table 1: Proceedings against journalists

COURT OF APPEAL	NUMBER OF FILES
ADAMAWA	2
LITTORAL	17

155- One of these cases that may be commonly called the Bibi Ngota⁴⁰ Matter hit the headlines in 2010. The case highlighted the issue of decriminalization of press offences⁴¹ and that of the status and ethics of journalists, among others.

B: Bibi Ngota Matter

156- In April 2010, information fed by rumour and then relayed by the national and international media hit headlines. This was the death of the journalist Ngota Ngota Germain Cyrille alias Bibi Ngota, which occurred on the night of 21 - 22 April 2010 at the Infirmary of the Central Prison, Nkondengui-Yaounde. Based on the circumstances of the arrest and the imprisonment of the journalist, opinions and diverse views fuelled debate and controversy surrounding this suspicious death.

157- On instructions of the Head of State, a judicial inquiry was opened and assigned to the Department of Judicial Police, which submitted its report on 11 May 2010 to the Legal Department of the HC, Mfoundi. Before giving the findings of the investigation ordered by the President of the Republic, it is necessary to revisit the facts.

1 – Facts

158- In February 2010, Mr. Mintya Meka Harris, Editor of the Group "LE MONDE INFO/LE DEVOIR" received from Simon Hervé Nko'o Mvondo, through his collaborator Ngota Ngota Germain Cyrille alias Bibi Ngota, at a cost of CFA 30,000, a document alleged to have been written by Mr Sabouang Serges Yen, Editor of the newspaper "La Nation".

⁴⁰ It should be noted that Honourable AWUDU MBAYA Cyprian, Member of Parliament, asked an oral question on this case. Two UN Special Rapporteurs sent an urgent appeal to Government after the death of Bibi Ngota: they are the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders.

The Chair of the NCHRF also reacted after this death; p. 3 CT of 28 April 2010.

⁴¹ In a letter sent to the President of the Republic on 22 April 2011, the Committee for the Protection of Journalists advocated the reform of the criminal regime of the press in Cameroon, one year after the death of Bibi Ngota.

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159- The document allegedly signed by the Minister of State, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic asked the General Managing Director of the National Hydrocarbons Corporation (SNH) to pay Dooh Collins, Finance Expert, Bikoro Antoine, Director General of the Cameroon Shipyard and Industrial Company and Dayas Mounome, General Manager of the Port Authority, Douala the sum of CFA 1.375 billion for SNH to finance the buying of the ship Rio Del Rey by the State of Cameroon.

160- The Minister of State, Secretary-General at the Presidency of the Republic, informed about this document, asked the Delegate General for National Security, by a letter of 5 February 2010, to identify Robert Harris Mintya Meka, hear him for forgery and refer him to the competent Legal Department for further legal action.

161- The judicial inquiry led to the arrest of Mintya Meka Harris, Cyril Germain Ngota Ngota alias Bibi Ngota and Sabouang Yen Serges. Nko'o Mvondo Hervé Simon escaped although he was identified. On 5 March 2010, the first three people were referred to the Legal Department of the HC, Mfoundi at the initiative of the investigator.

162- The State Counsel requested the opening of a judicial inquiry against the aforementioned persons and the issue of a remand warrant against the co-offenders for forgery of signatures, marks and stationery punishable by Sections 74, 96, 203 and 204 of the Penal Code.

163- While the criminal investigation was ongoing, Mr. Germain Ngota Ngota Cyril died on the night of 21 to 22 April 2010 at the infirmary of the Central Prison, Yaounde. The inquiry provided the following facts on the cause of his death.

2 - Conclusions of the investigation on the death of Ngota Ngota Germain Cyrille

164- Investigations by the Department of Judicial Police marked by findings, hearings and a requisition for an autopsy revealed that Ngota Ngota Cyrille Germain was arrested, referred to the Legal Department and then imprisoned at the Central Prison, Yaounde, Ward 9, Room 94, with an area of 15 square meters, which he shared with 28 other inmates. This room contained only five beds and the deceased slept on a mattress on the floor.

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165- His roommates Apande Jacob, Amougou Théodore Roger and Kamgue Martial Thierry, unanimously stated that he arrived in this room visibly weakened by illness saying that he was suffering from hernia, gout and hypertension. They said he was reluctant to submit to medical consultations and complained about the overcrowding of the room. He said that he wanted to leave for another room where he could breathe freely.

166- Some family members of the deceased were heard. His adopted father and maternal uncle, Ngota Essiane, said there is no doubt that this was a natural death so he will not file a complaint. But Ngota's concubine, Essiane Colette, said her companion was not HIV/AIDS positive based on a health check that they conducted together in December 2009. She said that shortly before the arrest of her partner, four officers of the Directorate General of External Research (DGRE) harassed him constantly to the point of coming over and over again for him at home.

167- As for the mother of the deceased, Ngoulou Mang Edima Essiane Georgette, her son was already sick before his arrest and refused to receive treatment in appropriate health facilities preferring second class health centres. She said that during the detention of her son, she worked in vain for him to be transferred to a less unsafe quarter because of his health. She said she had given CFA 30,000 for this purpose on 12 March 2010 to Prison Superintendent Meya Amou'ou Emmanuel who had spontaneously offered to help.

168- Naturally, he refuted this allegation claiming that he had not received anything. He said that he merely asked her to see the Superintendent in charge of the prison.

169- Reacting to this, Administrator General of Prisons, Nkemmanda Lebule Francis, Superintendent in charge of the Central Prison, Yaounde at the time, disclaimed responsibility by saying he had not received a request for transfer by Ngota Ngota Germain Cyrille. He also said that consideration of such a request is made by a commission he set up in order to combat the ransom of prisoners who had a right to visits, communication and food. He said that the deceased was treated as all prisoners because he was entitled to visits, communications and food.

170- Dr. Ndi Norbert Francis, Chief Medical Officer at the infirmary of the Central Prison, Yaounde, said that after his arrival at the penitentiary, medical examinations were conducted on Ngota Ngota Germain Cyrille and it appeared that he suffered from hypertension, gout and left inguinal hernia.

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171- Two days later supplementary medical examination for HIV/AIDS at the expense of the Prison was conducted on him. However, he said, the medical care of this patient was not regular because he failed to respect his appointments. Thus, he did not pick up his test results for HIV/AIDS on 13 March 2010.

172- On 29 March 2010, Ngota Ngota Germain Cyrille, honoured the appointment for control and monitoring of treatment by showing up at the infirmary of the Central Prison, Yaounde. The clinical progress was favourable. Since his blood pressure was back to normal, he was asked to continue treatment.

173- On 5 April 2010, the patient suffered from high fever and generalized rash and was admitted for observation at the Infirmary for further consultations and appropriate care. He stayed there for 4 days. Because he was making progress, he went back to his ward on 8 April 2010. Additional tests to determine if he were eligible for antiretroviral treatment were requested.

174- On 15 April 2010, he was again admitted for observation for a long-term fever and general body disorder. He received appropriate care until the night of his death (21 - 22 April 2010), while arrangements had been made for good medical care, including the opening of a medical record in the Support Unit for People Living with HIV/AIDS.

175- The doctor emphasized that there was no objective reason to take Ngota Ngota Germain Cyrille to another health facility because that infirmary has a management unit with proven expertise.

176- Dr. Ndi Norbert Francis concluded that he died of opportunistic infections associated with HIV/AIDS since his immune system had completely collapsed. He signed a death certificate on 22 April 2010.

177- In addition to these hearings, a forensic autopsy was performed by a team of doctors led by Professor Jean Essame Oyono at the University Teaching Hospital (CHU), Yaounde. The autopsy was on the thorax, abdomen, pelvis and genitals of the deceased.

178- Based on the report prepared on 26 April 2010, it appears from the external examination of the body with supporting photographs that there were neither recent nor old lesions resulting from assault or injuries caused by torture.

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179- After internal examination of the body, the report concluded that *"death was caused by serious heart condition as a result of chronic tuberculosis complicated by water and/or puss in the lungs."*

180- The judicial inquiry report submitted to the Legal Department of the HC, Mfoundi, on 11 May 2010 was, after examination, returned on 9 August 2010 by the State Counsel to the Department of Judicial Police. He had to verify some facts including the passage of Ngota Ngota Germain Cyrille at the DGRE and the confrontation between the mother of the latter and the Superintendent of Prisons, Meya Amou'ou Emmanuel relating to the sum of CFA 30,000 to change the ward of the deceased.

181- In conclusion, it should be noted that apart from the "Bibi Ngota Matter" that obstructed the freedom of communication enjoyed by the media⁴², Government strengthened the legal framework with a view to securing a better enjoyment of this right.

182- In addition to the freedom already enjoyed by the audio-visual sector, Government granted financial aid and training to many communication organs. It is hoped that legislative, structural and professional capacity building policies granted to communication stakeholders will contribute to guarantee freedom of expression in a peaceful environment.

⁴² This matter no doubt negatively influenced Cameroon's ranking by Reporters without Borders.



Chapter 4

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



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Report by the Ministry Justice on Human Rights in 2010

183- 2010 was marked by activities to promote the human rights of human rights defenders. Many cases were also recorded on the arrest of some of these stakeholders.

SECTION I: ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN 2010

184- The celebration by the United Nations on 10 December 2010 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was an opportunity to pay sustained tribute to human rights defenders through the call for action under the slogan "Speak Up, Put an End to Discrimination." Each year, according to Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, thousands of human rights defenders are harassed, abused, unjustly imprisoned or killed. This is why the 2010 Day of Human Rights is dedicated to them and their courageous fight to end discrimination in all forms.

185- In Cameroon, an awareness Parliamentary session was held at the National Assembly, under the aegis of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. The normative framework of the international and regional mechanisms of human rights defenders, one of the issues discussed provided details on that group of men and women who work individually and collectively to promote and protect human rights⁴³. That day was particularly marked by presentation of papers by representatives of UN organs and national officials.

§1: Papers by Representatives of UN Organs

186- Papers were presented by the Director of the UN Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (CNUDHDAC), the Bureau of the UN System Coordinator, the High Commissioner of Canada to Cameroon and the Francophonie University Agency in Central Africa and the Great Lakes.

A: Paper by the Director of CNUDHDAC

187- The presentation consisted in reading the declaration of Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

⁴³ Read p. 39 of the 2006 Report on the legal framework on the protection of human rights defenders.

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188- She explained the meaning of human rights defenders and the risk they take daily. She talked about poor treatment they receive and actions by the international community in their favour. She continued by presenting the situation of victims of discrimination in the world.

189- Finally, she expressed the wish that action by human rights defenders including discrimination should be supported by all.

B: Paper by the Coordinator of the UN System in Cameroon

190- The Coordinator of the UN System in Cameroon read the message of the UN Secretary-General. The message stated that human rights are at the centre of UN activities that lay emphasis on the work of human rights defenders who help victims of violence to seize the courts. However, their activities are not always welcomed. They are sometimes brutalized, intimidated, thrown to jail or killed. They therefore risk their lives for those of others. He remarked that whenever they were poorly treated in any country justice is threatened.

C: Paper by the Canadian High Commissioner to Cameroon

191- The High Commissioner refused to give lessons on human rights. He called on the National Assembly, NGOs of the civil society and the NCHRF to collaborate.

192- He said that these units should be concerned with protecting common values including the fight against discrimination and human rights violations which result in intolerable injustice.

193- He insisted that each society should implement appropriate measures to formally support solidarity in the fight against discrimination. This fight should not be left to Parliamentarians. It should be the outcome of joint actions. Finally, each one should contribute in the fight against all forms of discrimination.

D: Paper by the Director of the Francophonie University Agency for Central Africa and the Great Lakes

194- The speaker noted that equality and non discrimination are pillars of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see especially Article 7). He stated that the Francophonie gives special attention to human rights issues. It carries out many actions because it collaborates at the international level

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in the drawing up of universal instruments to protect and promote human rights. It participates in implementing these instruments by encouraging their ratification and through partnerships.

195- The institution equally observes human rights related events and human rights practice in different countries. Francophonie is convinced that democracy, development and sustainable peace cannot thrive without human rights.

§2: Presentations by National Officials

196- Speeches were made by the Chairman of the NCHRF, the Minister Delegate to the Minister of Justice and the First Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly.

A: Speech by the Chairman of the NCHRF

197- In his speech, the Chairman of the NCHRF stated the context in which the international day of human rights and the theme of the year were celebrated. He thereafter explained the meaning of human rights defenders and the importance the international community gives to this category of civil society stakeholders.

198- He then presented Cameroon's commitments to the respect of human rights. Cameroon is part of several UN initiatives against discrimination, including the Durban Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001 as well as the final document on the evaluation meeting of the Durban Conference of 2009. Cameroon equally participates in UN initiatives to protect human rights defenders.

199- In Cameroon, the NCHRF participates in the drawing up of the National Human Rights Education Programme and the National Plan of Action to Promote and Protect Human Rights. That plan is pending Government validation.

B: Speech by the Minister-Delegate in the Ministry of Justice

200- The Minister-Delegate (MINDEL) in the Ministry of Justice focused on Cameroon's attachment to the principle of equality and non discrimination contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). He then summarized the conventions ratified by Cameroon in this domain.

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201- At the national level, the MINDEL referred to the Constitution that proclaims equal rights and obligations for all, Law No. 2005/6 of 25 July 2005 on refugees, Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 to protect and promote people with disabilities, Law No. 90/53 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of association, and Law No. 99/14 of 22 December 1999 to govern NGOs. According to him, these encouraged the setting-up of many civil society organizations dedicated to the defence of human rights. Their members include both independent administrative authorities like the NCHRF and ordinary citizens who report violations of peoples' rights and ensure the respect of fundamental rights.

202- The State makes sure that these individual or collective stakeholders carry out their duty freely. They are guaranteed protection where they carry out their duty in respect of the laws and regulations of the Republic. However, their excesses are equally reported and punished.

203- It has been noticed that some people who claim to be human rights defenders carry out activities that tarnish their noble goal. When they have to account for their misdeeds they claim they are harassed. The State cannot prevent citizens from complaining because offenders claim to be human rights defenders. This category of people is not granted immunity of prosecution.

204- The MINDEL emphasized on the place and usefulness of human rights defenders, the attention they deserve from Government and their social responsibility.

C: Opening Speech by the First Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly

205- The First Vice-Speaker, representing the Speaker of the National Assembly, said that the organization of this celebration at the National Assembly was an occasion for parliamentarians to learn about human rights issues.

206- Afterwards, he stated and assessed the relevance of themes on which parliamentarians will be educated.

207- He said that legislative power contributes to the implementation of human rights promotion and protection in Cameroon. He referred to Law No. 2010/4 of 13 April 2010 by which the NCHRF complies with the Paris Principles and Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 relating to the protection and promotion of people with disabilities.

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208- He requested an increase of these measures that build the capacity of parliamentarians to further involve them in promoting and protecting human rights in Cameroon.

209- Promotion activity did not hide the situation of human rights defenders. International organizations drew Government attention to the situation of some of them.

SECTION II: REQUESTS FOR EXPLANATION BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

210- Bikoko Jean Marc, Mbassi Ondoa, Tobie Emmanuel, Nla'a Eric, Phouet Foe Maurice Angelo, NkiliEfoa, Felein Claude Charles and Ze Joseph, union leaders, were arrested on 11 November 2010 for attempting to defy the ban on demonstrations notified on them by the Assistant Divisional Officer of Yaounde III. The above-named were arrested by elements of the Central Police Station No. 1 in Yaounde, at the head of a procession demonstrating in front of the Prime Minister's Office despite the formal prohibition by the administrative authority, who had received a declaration of public demonstration a few days earlier.

211- The protesters carried leaflets and memoranda in which they demanded, the restoration of salaries to the level of 1992, harmonization of the retirement age, increasing the guaranteed minimum wage (SMIG), payment of dues to laid-off workers of Cameroon Telecommunications (CAM-TEL), effective freedom of association and the immediate absorption of all part-time teachers.

212- BIKOKO Jean Marc, Chair of the Central Labour Body of the Public Sector of Cameroon, and his members were arrested. They admitted that the demonstration took place, saying they had intended to publicly hand over a memorandum to the Prime Minister to be sent to the Head of State. They also claimed that public demonstration is a legitimate means of exercising trade union action. They said they were not bound by the ban on demonstrations issued by the Assistant Divisional Officer of Yaounde III Subdivision. In their view, the act by the administrative authority was illegal because public demonstrations were governed by the declaration regime

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and not that of authorization.

213- On 12 November 2010, they were arraigned before the Court of First Instance, Yaounde, Administrative Centre on charges of unlawful assembly provided for by Section 231 of the Penal Code. They were set free⁴⁴. The case that was enlisted for hearing on 15 November 2010 on the grounds of flagrante delicto is ongoing.

214- Government ensures that the people concerned receive fair trial in accordance with national laws and relevant international conventions to which Cameroon is party. The accused, it must be remembered, are not prosecuted because of their views. They are prosecuted because they failed to respect the rules governing public demonstrations that remains a fundamental freedom guaranteed to all citizens, subject to compliance with the law and public order including Law No. 90/55 of 19 December 1990 on the regime of meetings and processions Article 8 (3) and (4) of which provide for appeal where the administrative authority bans a planned demonstration.

⁴⁴ Between February and March 2011, many foreign dignitaries and the NGO "Front Line, Protection of Human Rights Defenders", based in Dublin, Ireland sent petitions to the authorities of Cameroon and Cameroon's High Commissioner to Britain to terminate the proceedings against Cameroon unionists.

Chapter 5

RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF STATE AFFAIRS



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Report by the Ministry Justice on Human Rights in 2010

215- The most visible manifestations of the right to participate in the management of State affairs in 2010 were the consolidation of the electoral system, the continuation of the decentralization process and access to the public service.

SECTION 1: CONSOLIDATION OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

216- Assessment of the electoral system will focus on the electoral process itself and the leadership of political parties.

§1: Electoral Process

217- The normative and institutional framework of the electoral process was reinforced and steps were taken to respect the electoral calendar. In addition, an assessment of the occupation of elective offices was made.

A: Strengthening the Normative and Institutional Framework

218- The normative framework of the elections was reinforced in 2010 through two laws⁴⁵ and a regulatory instrument:

- Law No. 2010/3 of 13 April 2010 to lay down the Referendum procedure;
- Law No. 2010/5 of 13 April 2010 to amend and supplement certain provisions of Law No. 2006/11 of 29 December 2006 to set up and lay down the organization and functioning of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM)⁴⁶; and
- Decree No.2010/319 of 13 October 2010 on the installation of ELECAM.

⁴⁵ Note can also be taken of the adoption and promulgation of Law No. 2011/13 of 13 July 2011 relating to voting by Cameroonians based or resident abroad.

⁴⁶ The composition of the Electoral Council was reviewed by Law No. 2011/1 of 6 May 2011. It now has 18 members instead of 12 pursuant to the original organic law of 29 December 2006. Cameroon, by this act has shown it is open-minded by reconsidering the recommendation made by the UN Human Rights Council during its passage before the Universal Periodic Review of 5 February 2009. The 6 new members were appointed by Presidential decree No. 2011/204 of 7 July 2011 and took oath before the Supreme Court sitting as the Constitutional Council on 21 July 2011. Sections 6 and 22 of that Law prevent the Electoral Council from giving trends on behalf of the Constitutional Council that publishes the results of presidential and legislative elections and referenda in accordance with the provisions of Article 48(1) of the Constitution.

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219- The first text repealed Ordinance No. 72/10 of 26 August 1972 to lay down the Referendum procedure. It identifies areas for which the President of the Republic may call a referendum by expanding his scope of action. It lays down the procedure for this type of electoral process, regulates disputes and the proclamation of results in the light of new institutions in this field.

220- The second text amended Sections 7 and 40 of the Organic Law of ELECAM to clearly state the principle of consultation between this institution and other stakeholders in the electoral process and that of the collaboration and support of the administration in electoral matters.

221- In this regard, the important role of political parties is recognized through the participation of their representatives in various committees in charge of the revision of electoral registers, distribution of voter cards, the voting process and the counting and addition of votes.

222- In addition, the amended law has allowed for a welcomed involvement of government services, the judiciary and civil society to ensure transparency of the electoral process.

223- At the institutional level, the effective implementation of ELECAM was established by Decree No. 2010/319 of 13 October 2010. This Decree was signed in application of Section 42 (3) of the Law of 29 December 2006 above and came into force after the installation of all organs of the institution including its external services and joint electoral committees.

B: Respect of the electoral calendar

224- In view of the presidential election scheduled in October 2011, several measures were taken in 2010 for the election to be organized. Measures were taken by both Government and some political parties. All these measures allowed for a mid-term renewal of the electoral register.

1) Government Measures

225- Since electoral districts are similar to administrative units, the administrative reorganization of the Republic of Cameroon by Decree No. 2008/376 of 12 November 2008 was supplemented in 2010 by raising existing districts to subdivisions, pursuant to Decree No. 2010/198 of 16 June 2010. The administrative units are actually made up of regions, divisions and subdivisions.

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226- The mechanism for renewal of the electoral register has been set in motion by the competent organs of ELECAM spread throughout the country with the support of administrative and municipal authorities.

227- However, the State has not assigned a special budget for awareness campaigns and voter registration. ELECAM through its operating budget informed the public and provided financial and logistical support to the joint committees for the revision of electoral registers.

228- Because voter registration is conditional on having a national identity card, the Head of State reduced the cost of obtaining this official identification document.

2) Measures by Political Parties

229- As political parties are associations that contribute to voting in accordance with Law No. 90-56 of 19 December 1990 and Decree No. 2008/372 of 11 November 2008 to fix the procedure for the enforcement of ELECAM's organic law, some parties were involved in the campaign for registration on the electoral registers. This is the case of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM).

230- Indeed, after the Chairperson of ELECAM presented the composition of joint committees for the revision of electoral registers, the last of which was by Decision No. 272/ELECAM/DGE of 30 September 2010, the Secretary-General of the CPDM Central Committee published a memorandum on 15 October 2010, *to organize a campaign to increase voter registration on electoral registers for the 2011 presidential election*. A supervision unit of the campaign was installed in Yaounde and regional, divisional, municipal, local (village or neighbourhood) and proximity (neighbourhood or block of settlements) committees were formed.

231- These different organs of the ruling party supported the action of ELECAM by educating members and supporters of the party to register on voters' registers and bringing them closer to registration commissions. They also helped the needy to obtain national identity cards. But it should be noted that no one was required to prove their membership to the CPDM to take advantage of facilities offered by the party to update the electoral register.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ This initiative continued in 2011.

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3) Outcome of Mid-term Renewal of the Electoral Register

232- After the official closure of registration, a general assessment will determine the proportion of people eligible to vote who actually registered as voters as well as any irregularities recorded during voter registration.

233- However, based on data from the electoral register of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINADT) sent to ELECAM with 5,067,836 voters, added to 690,646 new registered voters, the number of people of voting age registered on the electoral register as at 31 December 2010 was estimated at 5,758,482 for a target of 9,000,000 voters set by ELECAM.

234- Two types of irregularities were identified during the mid-term review of voter registration: the tendency to register many times and the registration of people without electoral capacity. Whenever such cases were reported, these registrations were cancelled.

235- With regard to disputes on registration on the electoral register, mention should be made of:

- appeals by the Social Democratic Front (SDF) before the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court. The SDF lodged two appeals before the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court on 4 October 2010 one of which was in camera requesting that the President of the Republic establishes the effective installation of ELECAM. At the hearing of 10 December 2010, the judge in charge of hearing urgent matters took note of the withdrawal by SDF and notified ELECAM⁴⁸. The date for hearing on the merits of the same matter was not been fixed.
- Motion against the Director General of Elections by the Democratic Movement for the Modernization of Cameroon (RDMC).

The Democratic Movement for the Modernization of Cameroon (RDMC) headed by Pierre Mila Assoute seised the judge in charge of hearing urgent matters of the CFI, Yaounde, Administrative Centre for registration of his members and Cameroonians in the diaspora in the electoral register in Cameroon's embassies and consulates. The plaintiff withdrew his case and the judge informed ELECAM of the withdrawal on 3 March 2011 and struck the matter off the cause-list⁴⁹.

⁴⁸ Following the signing of Decree No. 2010/319 of 13 October 2010 to establish the installation of ELECAM

⁴⁹ Law No.2011/13 of 13 July 2011 relating to voting by Cameroonians based in or resident abroad solved this problem.

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C: Evaluation of the Occupation of Elective Office

236- This assessment focuses on gender equality such as the proportion of women in elective office compared to men and the proportion of elected officials whose term was interrupted.

1) Women in Elective Office

237- At the end of the dual legislative and municipal elections of 2007, Cameroon's Parliament was composed as follows:

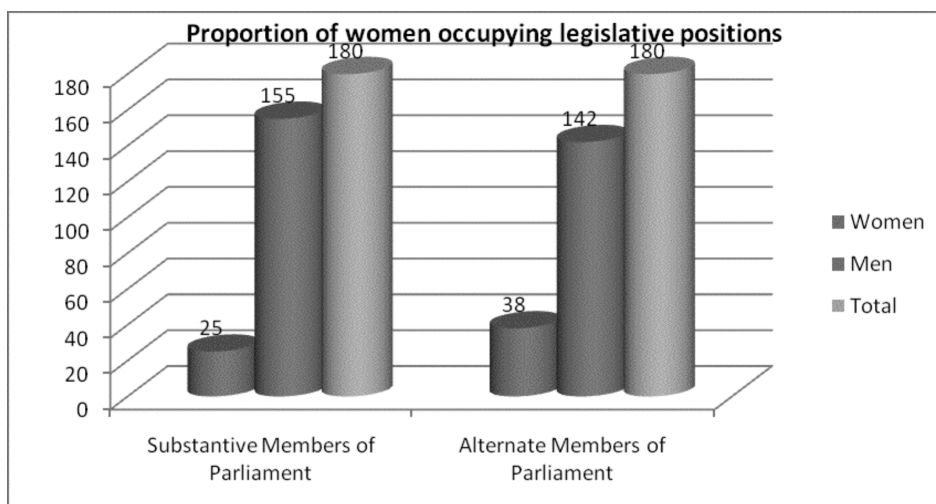


Table 1: Women /Men ratio in Parliament

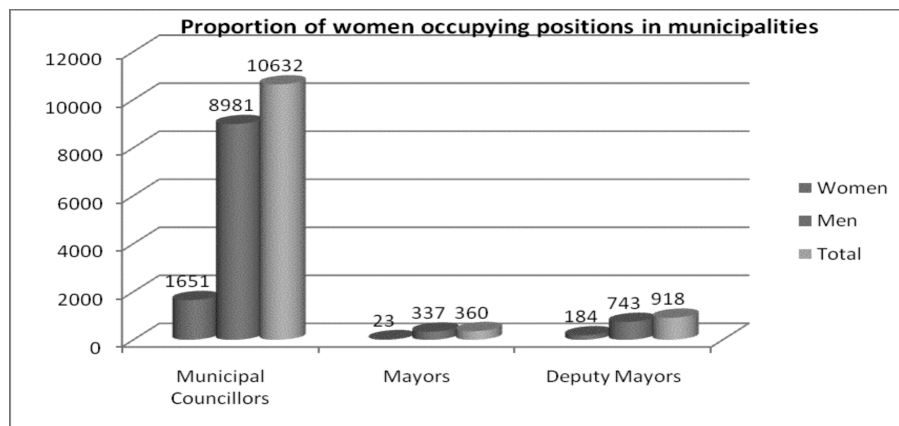
	Substantive Members of Parliament		Alternate Members of Parliament	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Women	25	13.89	38	21.11
Men	155	86.11	142	78.89
Total	180	100	180	100

Source : MINATD

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Municipalities are composed as follows:



Source: MINATD

Table 2: Women/Men ratio in municipalities

	Municipal Councillors		Mayors	Deputy Mayors		
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Women	1,651	15.53	23	6.39	184	20.04
Men	8,981	84.47	337	93.61	734	79.96
Total	10,632	100	360		918	100

Source: MINATD

2) Interrupted Mandates

238- As at 31 December 2010, the mandates of mayors of DikoumeBalue in the South West, Furu Awa in the North West, Minta and Kikki in the Centre and the Bertoua II Subdivisional Council in the East Regions were discontinued due to death.

239- The Mayor of Ambam accused of mismanagement, that of Kye-Ossi appointed Deputy Director General of a company and that of Garoua-Boulai accused of absenteeism were relieved of their duties.

240- Regarding legislative elections, the mandates of 7 Members of Parliament of the electoral districts of Kumba Central, Lom and Djerem (2), Djerem, Mayo-Rey (2) and Wouri-Central⁵⁰ from the election of 22 July 2007 were terminated because of death.

⁵⁰ Mr ABBA Aboubakar, Chairman of the political party "Révolution camerounaise du peuple uni" (RCPU) complained about the failure to replace them to the ACHPR by a communication of 20 September 2010.

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§2: Number and Supervision of Political Parties

241- Political parties are set up freely and operate freely in accordance with the Constitution, laws and regulations including Law No. 90/56 of 19 December 1990. The number of political parties increased in 2010 and the State continued to supervise them. In addition, disaggregated statistics of the participation of social groups in the activities of political parties allows for an assessment of the level of their involvement in politics.

A: Number of Political Parties

242- The number of political parties is increasing with the institutionalization of multi-party system. Cameroon had 254 legalized political parties as at 31 December 2010. Besides, Government authorized 20 new political parties in 2010, which are listed in the Table below.

Table 3: Authorized political parties in 2010

1	Cameroon Green Movement	C.G.M	Bamenda	Decision No.4/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 7 January 2010	1 st Secretary FRU Martin MANTOHBANG 2 nd Secretary: Mrs GUENJI Micheline Aimée
2	Front patriotique Républicain	F.P.R	Douala	Decision No.12/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 13 January 2010	Chair: NYEMECK NOE SG: BELL BOOH Eric Etienne
3	Cameroon Party of promise	C.P.P	Bamenda	Decision No.15/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 15 January 2010	1 st Secretary: CHI NGANTE Francis SG: Mrs BESEN ASAH Magaret
4	Les patriotes Démocrates pour le Développement du Cameroun	PA.D.D.E.C	Douala	Decision No.47/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 16 March 2010	Chair: Mr ZEBAZE DONFACK Narcisse Gaétan SG: DJEMENI Yannick
5	Front Populaire pour le Développement	F.P.D	Ngaoundere	Decision No. 50/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 16 March 2010	National Coordinator : Mr DOUKOU DARMAN SG: Mrs IVO AISSATOU BOUBA Rita
6	Rassemblement Démocratique pour la Défense de la République	R.D.D.R	Yaounde	Decision No. 64/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 5 April 2010	Chair: FOULA DAMBALDI SG: HLAMGOLO Dieudonné
7	Grand Cameroun	G.C	Yaounde	Decision No. 79/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 7 April 2010	Chair: ATANGANA NSOE Simon Pierre SG: ALAPA BUKWALAKE
8	Parti d'Amour, de foi et d'Espérance	P.A.F.E	Douala	Decision No. 80/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 7 April 2010	Chair: BINKO ABRAHAM

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9	Forum Républicain	FO.RE	Yaounde	Decision 81/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 7 April 2010	No. 7	Chair KOUOTOU ROLAND ROMAIN SG : Mme MOUSSONO Bernadette Flore
10	Peuple Uni pour la Rénovation Sociale	P.U.R.S	Douala	Decision 152/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 14 May 2010	No. 14	Chair : MATOMBA Serge Espoir Secrétaire National : KELLE KING François
11	Egalité Sociale Démocratique du Cameroun	E.S.D.C	Douala	Decision No.423/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 22 October 2010	No. 22	Chair : MBEN Jean Delors National Secretary: NGOUEN Maurice
12	Union pour la Fraternité et la Prospérité	U.F.P	Yaounde	Decision 424/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 22 October 2010	No. 22	Chair: BILE Olivier Anicet SG: KUENBOVE PETCHONO SCHMIDT
13	Parti nationaliste Républicain du Cameroun	P.N.R.C	Yaounde	Decision 446/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 22 October 2010	No. 22	Chair: NDOUMBE Quasimodo National Secretary: MENGUE Irène Constance
14	Partisocialiste Populaire Camerounais	P.S.P.C	Yaounde	Decision No.469/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 12 November 2010	No. 12	Chair: TEUABO André Vice-Chair: OHANDJA
15	Mouvement pour La Libération des Camerounais	M.P.L.C	Yaounde	Decision 478/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 19 November 2010	No. 19	Chair: GATSI Jean Vice-Chair : NGOUE Willy James
16	Bloc pour la Reconstruction et L'Indépendance économique du Cameroun	B.R.I.C	Douala	Decision No.483/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 23 November 2010	No. 23	Chair PEKEUHO TCOFFO Ernest Vice-Chair: BANEN Michel Géremie
17	Mouvement Citoyen	MO.CI	Yaounde	Decision n°00488/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP du 30 novembre 2010	No. 30	Chair: YIMGANG MOYO Théophile SG: MBPOAPFOURI Eli
18	Mouvement Patriotique Africain	M.P.A	Yaounde	Decision 494/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 6 December 2010	No. 6	Chair: NDOM Pierre SG: MATHO MOTSOU Anne
19	Parti des Serviteurs Loyaux de la Nation	P.S.L.N	Yaounde	Decision 500/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP of 10 December 2010	No. 10	Chair : TSALA Jacques Désiré Vice-Chair: NSEN BIYIHA Louis Ronald
20	Renaissance Sociale Démocratique du Cameroun	R.S.D.C	Yaounde	Decision No.526/D/MINATD/DAP/SDE/SPP du 29 December 2010	No. 29	Chair : FOMO NGOTA Jean Marie Philippe SG: MESSOE William Aurélien

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243- To encourage political pluralism, the State provides financial support to political parties, especially during elections.

B: Supervision of Political Parties

244- To encourage the expression of political pluralism, the State passed Law No. 2000/15 of 19 December 2000 on the financing of political parties and election campaigns. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 6, 7, 8 and 11 of that Law, a grant of CFA 1,500,000,000 (one billion five hundred million francs) was allocated under the 2010 fiscal year to political parties according to the following quota:

1) CFA 750 million was allocated to political parties that participated in the last parliamentary elections of 22 July and 30 September 2007 in proportion to their seats in the National Assembly as follows:

Table 4: Public financing of political parties represented in the National Assembly

No.	Beneficiary Political Party	Number of Seats in the National Assembly	Amount in CFA
1	CPDM	153	637,499,999.998
2	SDF	16	66,666,666.666
3	NUDP	6	24,999,999.999
4	CDU	4	16,666,666.666
5	MP	1	4,166,666.666
Total		180	749,999,999.995

Source: MINATD

2) CFA 750 million was allocated to political parties with at least 5 per cent of the votes cast in at least one constituency in the general elections of 22 July 2007 and partial elections of 30 September 2007 and distributed as follows:

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Table 5: Public financing of political parties at the end of general parliamentary elections of 22 July 2007 and partial parliamentary elections of 30 September 2007

No.	Beneficiary Political Party	Number of constituencies in which the party received 5 per cent of votes cast	Amount in CFA
1	CPDM	85	335,526,315.789
2	SDF	45	177,631,578.947
3	NUDP	28	110,526,315.789
4	UPC	7	27,631,578.947
5	CDU	4	15,789,473.684
6	ADD	4	15,789,473.684
7	MDR	4	15,789,473.684
8	ANDP	3	11,842,105.263
9	AFP	2	7,894,736.842
10	MP	1	3,947,368.421
11	UPR	1	3,947,368.421
12	MDP	1	3,947,368.421
13	MLDC	1	3,947,368.421
14	FSNC	1	3,947,368.421
15	POPC	1	3,947,368.421
16	MCNC	1	3,947,368.421
17	RCPU	1	3,947,368.421
	TOTAL	190	749,999 999.994

Source: MINATD

C: Participation of social groups in the activities of political parties

245- The aim is to determine the actual involvement of members of political parties casting votes, taking into account the criteria of age and gender.

246 - The voting age is set at 20 years and following the last census published in January 2010, half of Cameroon's population is under the age of 18 while the elderly (60 +) represent 5.5 per cent of the population estimated at 19.4 million people.

247 - The proportion of people of voting age affiliated or not to political parties, was difficult to determine. This difficulty is due to the fact that political parties do not publish the list of their members and that political affiliation is not required for citizens who register on electoral lists. However, at the close of registration as voters it will be possible to have disaggregated data.

248 - The same difficulty arose with regard to the proportion of women members of political parties or presented as candidates in elections.

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SECTION II: DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS

249- Assessment of the decentralization process will consist of three points:

- authority and resources transferred to regional and local authorities (RLA);
- elected representatives and local technicians trained in the mechanisms of the new system (balance sheet on the capacity building of local elected officials); and
- local development plans adopted by municipalities.

§1: Power and resources transferred to RLA

250- The transfer of power and State resources to RLA began in 2010. The legal framework for the transfer of power and resources resulted in the signing of regulations including, 9 Prime Ministerial Decrees of 26 February 2010 to lay down the terms of exercise of the powers transferred, ministerial orders on the specification of these powers, the joint memorandum MI-NATD-MINFI-MINEPAT on the distribution of resources transferred.

251- Law No. 2009/19 of 15 December 2009 on local taxation that laid down local taxes to be paid to RLAs⁵¹ was implemented in 2010. They are:

- Communal duties;
- Communal additional levies on State duties and taxes;
- Communal taxes:
- Regional duties and taxes; and
- All surcharges provided by law.

1: Power Transferred to RLA

252- The decentralization process made significant progress in 2010 with the initial transfer of power to municipalities and city councils. This transfer relates to the following areas:

- Drinking water supply;
- Creating and maintaining rural roads and managing and constructing crossings;

⁵¹ See p. 96 and following of 2009 Report on Human Rights.

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- Managing and maintaining the Women Empowerment and Family Centres;
- Promoting agricultural production and rural development activities;
- Allocating aid and relief to the poor and needy;
- Promoting pastoral production and fishery activities;
- Culture (organization of cultural days, support for cultural associations);
- Public Health (constructing, equipping and managing of integrated health centres);
- Basic Education (constructing, servicing and maintaining of schools and facilities);
- Craft;
- Urban planning, creating and maintaining earth roads;
- Constructing, equipping, maintaining and managing periodic markets;
- Developing and operating local tourist sites; and
- Managing vocational training centres.

253- During its meeting on 11 November 2010, the National Decentralization Council validated the second phase of power transfer.

B: Resources Transferred to RLA

254- Resources corresponding to power transferred amounted to CFA 23,072,363,000⁵² in addition to the general decentralization allocation of CFA 9,694,000,000⁵³ charged to the budget of the State for the 2010 financial year.

1) Distribution of the general allocation for decentralization

255- By Decree No.2010/165/PM of 23 February 2010, the Prime Minister, Head of Government fixed the distribution of the general allocation for decentralization for the 2010 financial year. CFA 9,694,000,000 was split into recurrent budget of CFA 5,000,000,000⁵⁴ and investment budget of CFA 4,694,000,000⁵⁵. The recurrent budget was distributed based on targeted jobs while the investment budget was split with respect to identified projects.

⁵² About 35,224,981 Euros.

⁵³ About 14,800,000 Euros.

⁵⁴ About 7,633,587 Euros.

⁵⁵ About 7,166,412 Euros

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2) Distribution of transferred resources

256- Government transferred CFA 23,072,363,000 to RLA that was distributed as follows:

- Promoting agricultural production and rural development activities: CFA 1,023,000,000;
- Promoting pastoral production and fishery activities: CFA 1,961,500,000;
- Works control and management of wells and boreholes;
- Constructing, equipping and managing of integrated health centres: CFA 2,701,200,000;
- Constructing, equipping, servicing and maintaining of nursery, primary and pre-schools, buying of school equipment and supplies, recruitment and absorption of support staff: CFA 15,448,404,000
- Creating and maintaining rural roads and managing and constructing crossings: CFA 1,091,659,000;
- Managing and maintaining Women Empowerment and Family Centres: CFA 471,500,000
- Allocating aid and relief to the poor and needy: CFA 213,550,000 and
- Organizing cultural days and support for cultural associations at the local level: CFA 45,000,000.

§2: Training of elected officials and local technicians on the new decentralization mechanism system

257- A national seminar on managing transferred skills and resources was organized in 4 phases (Garoua, Yaounde, Buea and Bafoussam) from 5 - 30 July 2010. Each phase brought together administrative authorities, elected officials and technicians at all levels of LRA and the heads of decentralized services of the Ministry of Finance of neighbouring regions of the seminar venue.

258- The central theme of the seminar was "*Organization of Municipal Services and Management of Transferred Experts and Resources.*" The workshops enabled decentralization stakeholders to understand the legal framework of this system of management of State affairs, better understand human resources management including division of labour and the use of financial resources allocated to municipalities and urban cities.

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259- This national seminar which began in mid-year for a mechanism that entered its operational phase since February also helped in assessing the first steps of the decentralization process with the participation of central and local stakeholders. Many documents (collection of texts, guides) were distributed to participants.

260- It should also be noted that a seminar for journalists in communication on decentralization was organized from 5 to 6 May 2010 in Kribi. Another impregnation workshop was organized for leaders of the civil society, religious associations and community radio on decentralization from 12 to 17 December 2010 in the same locality.

§3: Local development plans adopted by municipalities

261- 155 of the 360 councils in Cameroon adopted a communal development plan in late 2010.

SECTION III: ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE

262- The right of access to the Public Service concerns vacancies to be filled through the selection of men and women and other specific groups and the state of litigations on access to the Public Service.

§1: Job Allocation

263- The Public Service of the State comprises all the jobs corresponding to different levels of classification. It is organized in corps, cadres, scales and categories. A civil servant is anyone who holds a permanent job and tenure in a cadre of government services⁵⁶. The State also administers another category of public employees who are not civil servants. These are State Agents⁵⁷ divided into categories according to skill levels, under the Labour Code.

264- Access to public jobs is restricted to Cameroonians without discrimination. Currently, there is no quota system to reserve jobs for women and men. However, the implementation of the National Gender Policy Document prepared by Government with the participation of the civil society which is being adopted will lead to greater consideration of gender in the distribution of Public Service jobs. Formal gender equality defined by texts should be translated into real equality that provides the same opportunities for women and men to enjoy the full benefits of citizenship.

⁵⁶ See General Rules and Regulations of the Public Service.

⁵⁷ They are governed by the Labour Code and special instruments.

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265- In compliance with current regulations, 10 per cent of jobs are reserved for the vulnerable consisting of people with disabilities.

266- According to statistics, some Cameroonians were recruited into the civil service in 2010 as shown in the Table below.

Table 6: Statistics of Cameroonians recruited into the Public Service

Number	Method of recruitment	Vacancies
1	Competitive examination for training	1,080
2	Direct competitive examination	937
3	Selection tests	230
4	Professional competitive examination	1,067
5	Recruitment into professional schools: ENAM, FMSB, IRIC, ENS, (Yaounde, Maroua, Bambili)	5,480
Total		8,794

Source: MINFOPRA/DDRHE

267- After rendering service to the State, the public employee has a right to retire if he has reached the retirement age of his cadre. In 2010, 2,616 retirement acts as well as their related pension claims were signed.

§2: Disputes on Access to the Public Service

268- Some cases on the dispute over the right to participate in governance have been taken before an international dispute resolution court. This concerns communication No. 2035/2011, filed on 20 September 2010 by NGAPNA Ebenezer Jeremiah and 22 others against the State of Cameroon, to the UN Committee on Human Rights. The applicants complained of violations of the right to non discrimination and the right to participate in governance, guaranteed by Articles 3, 25 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

269- Internally, 35 cases were recorded at the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court in 2010. Nine were adjudicated including that of Police officer Pyssang Ewang Patience disqualified after passing the entrance examination into ENAM for sitting for the examination without the authorization of the Delegate General for National Security. The Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court quashed her action for lack of legal ground because the required authorization is provided for by the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service.



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CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

270- The relatively low number of violent crimes and the related judicial action taken demonstrate Government's commitment to protect the physical integrity of people. The application of the rule that freedom is the principle and detention the exception is reflected in the proportion of releases in response to requests from persons awaiting trial and those in administrative detentions and by the number of acquittals. The reality of the continuous fight against the impunity of law enforcement officials is exemplified by both disciplinary and judicial sanctions taken against offenders.

271- However, it appears that the judicial map of Cameroon is not in line with the administrative organization to which it is normatively patterned. Similarly, the budget allocated to the Ministry of Justice and the salaries of key players in the Judiciary are not likely to ensure the independence and efficiency of the Judiciary. Nevertheless, attempts have been made to guarantee the access of all citizens to justice, protect the right of the defence and promote a healthy Judiciary.

272- Despite the negative impact of the "Bibi Ngota Affair", advances have been made to promote freedom of expression and communication including the strengthening of the legal framework that is in line with contemporary socio-cultural progress and sustainable Government support for a responsible private press. The few arrests of human rights defenders prove sufficiently that they are becoming more aware of their role.



PART TWO

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND RIGHT TO HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



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INTRODUCTION OF PART TWO

273- In compliance with measures to promote governance and the rule of law as well as the fight against corruption, the business climate was improved and redress of the behaviour of public officials intensified.

274- The right to education was consolidated by improving the provision of formal education and its budget. Accessibility, adaptability and acceptability in preschool, primary and secondary schools, and the university were also improved. Furthermore, measures by Government and the civil society focused on improving the health system, health care and health services as well as health promotion. Strengthening the legal framework provided a better view of the strategy to fight against high prices while measures were taken to increase the supply of drinking water, electricity and adequate housing. The right to work and the right to social security, pillars of the new development strategy in Cameroon, mobilized government actions by providing decent employment for young people and humane working conditions. Finally, the repression of violation of environmental protection regulations was intensified.

275- The issues raised and measures taken by Government to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights are discussed in the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption;
- Chapter 2: Right to Education;
- Chapter 3: Right to Health;
- Chapter 4: Right to Adequate Standard of Living;
- Chapter 5: Right to Work and Social Security;
- Chapter 6: Right to Culture; and
- Chapter 7: Right to Healthy Environment



Chapter

1 GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



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276- Improved governance was identified as one of the pillars of the strategy for growth and employment. To achieve better management of State affairs, three priorities were chosen: improving the business environment, curbing corruption and embezzlement, and ameliorating citizens' access to information for the control of the management of public affairs. The first two priorities mentioned will be discussed.

SECTION I: IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

277- In this domain, measures chosen to achieve the objective involved strengthening public/private sector dialogue, harmonizing the legal framework with OHADA Law, and implementing the Investment Charter.

§1: Dialogue with the private sector

278- Intensifying dialogue with private sector was concretised in 2010 through the Cameroon Business Forum which provides a framework for meeting and discussion between members of Government in charge of economic issues, private sector operators led by GICAM, representatives of the International Finance Corporation, Doing Business and the World Bank OHADA Project. The inaugural meeting of the Forum was held on 18 January 2010 chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government. It focused on tax issues, incorporation of enterprises and the settlement of commercial disputes.

279- The 2010 balance sheet shows that of 27 complaints made by the private sector, 12 were executed (facilitating the setting-up of businesses), 7 were ongoing, and 8 could not be implemented.⁵⁸

§2: Harmonization of the Legal Framework with OHADA Law

280- This harmonization process comprised compliance of domestic law with OHADA law, translating the Uniform Acts and training stakeholders.

A: Compliance of Domestic Law with OHADA Law

281- In view of the compliance of domestic law with OHADA Law, the Consultancy Firm EVERSHEDS was committed in 2006 as part of the proposed ADB support to NGP to conduct a study on the subject. This was to identify key instruments that pose difficulties for the implementation of the Uniform Acts and propose reforms to harmonize national laws and regulations with a view to adapting them to the OHADA Treaty. A monitoring committee of that study was set up in the Ministry of Justice by Order No. 270/DL/MJ of 26 September 2008. The consultant has already produced several progress reports on which comments were made by the Ministry of Justice. The latest remarks were sent to him in 2010.

⁵⁸ Source: Cameroon Tribune No. 9803/6004 of Thursday, 10 March 2011.

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B: Translation of the Uniform Acts

282- In 2010, the translation of the Uniform Acts was still in progress. Indeed, after an international tender for the support project by the ADB through the NGP, EVERSHEDES was awarded the contract to translate the Uniform Acts from French into English. Following the interim report submitted in October 2009 by the consultant, a review committee was set up by the Minister of Justice by Decision No. 298/MJ/DAG/SDPJ/SFS of 14 October 2009. The Committee identified serious shortcomings in the work that could not be corrected in subsequent reports by the consultant. It was then suggested that the translation be completely revised. The Committee embarked on this task until the end of 2010.

C: Training Stakeholders

283- In 2010, 21 judicial staff received training in OHADA Law at ERSUMA (Advanced Regional School of Magistracy) in Porto-Novo, Benin as shown in the Table below:

Table 1: Judicial staff trained in OHADA Law at ERSU

Type of Training	Number of participants	Profession					
		Judicial and Legal Officers		Court Registrars		Advocates	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
Training of Judicial and Legal Officers and arbitrators of arbitration centres	7	4	1			2	
Training in Business Public Law of ECOWAS/ECCAS	5	2	3				
Training of trainers	5	2	3				
Training of Court Registrars	4			3	1		
TOTAL	21	8	7	3	1	2	00

Source: MINJUSTICE (DAG)

§3: Implementation of Investment Charter

284- The implementation of the Investment Charter continued in 2010, by the adoption of the following instruments:

- Law No. 2010/1 of 13 April 2010 on the promotion of SMEs.
- Law No. 2010/11 of 29 July 2011 to amend Law No. 1 of 16 April 2011 on the Mining Code. The aim of this law is to make the mining sector more attractive and competitive. It contains many incentives for businesses and provides that the State will own 10 per cent of the shares of mining companies.

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285- The Finance Law of 2010 has also provided a number of facilities for businesses, including free renewal of the taxpayer's card, exemption from the formality of certification of statements and tax statistics, free incorporation and extension of businesses and corporate acts on capital increase.

286- At the institutional level, the Investment Promotion Agency set up in 2005⁵⁹ went operational with the appointment, on 22 February 2010 of its managing director. The Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR) is also operational and focuses on standards development and revision, quality control and certification⁶⁰.

287- Operationally, the most significant advances are mainly the facilitation of business incorporation. In this respect, mention can be made of the creation of one-stop-shops for business incorporation and Pilot Formality Centres for setting up businesses in Douala and Yaounde, with over 450 companies incorporated in 2010.

288- As part of fiscal management policy, companies involved in developmental projects receive incentives. Moreover, to improve the cash flow of businesses, current account agreements and loan agreements for credit and microfinance institutions are exempt from registration fees. Mention should also be made of the lowering of the threshold for VAT reimbursement credits from CFA 100 million to CFA 25 million, as well as the penalty rate for companies that show good faith from 50 per cent to 30 per cent.

289- In addition, guaranteeing taxpayers' rights has been strengthened through the elimination of bank guarantee within the judicial tax dispute framework thereby facilitating access to the courts. Finally, taxpayers are monitored by the Department in charge of Large Tax Unit, specialized centres for liberal professionals and tax offices for SMEs and SMLs. They are equally followed up through the improvement of communication channels, the provision of tax documentation, the restoration of the call centre with the "8200"⁶¹ toll-free number and the renovation of the Website of the Directorate General of Taxation www.impôts.gov.cm.

⁵⁹ Its duty is to promote Cameroon's image abroad, participate in creating attractive environmental efficiency incentives for investors, suggest measures that could attract investors to Cameroon and to welcome, assist and guide national and foreign investors in all phases of the setting up of investment projects.

⁶⁰ The Agency prepared 67 new norms in the agro-food, construction equipment, electricity, and fruits and vegetables sectors. It also reviewed wheat flour and refined vegetable oil norms for vitamin enrichment. In order to guarantee the circulation of quality products that respect norms and that are not harmful to the health and security of consumers, the Agency regularly organized quality control and certification compliance of products during importation and exportation. Besides, 5 local production companies were audited for the certification of their production system. See p. 9 of Cameroon Tribune of 28 June 2011.

⁶¹ This number can be dialed from a land line or CT Phone.

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SECTION II: REINFORCING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND EMBEZZLEMENT OF FUNDS

290- Government is committed to intensify the fight against corruption by strengthening control mechanisms with the effective involvement of the Executive and the Judiciary and if necessary to enhance the legal anti-corruption mechanism. The measures are focused on systematic accountability, sanctions against unscrupulous managers and recovery of misappropriated funds, increased public education and awareness of moral values, implementation of action plans by CONAC and ANIF, enhancing strategies and increasing means at the disposal of the State Audit.

291- In 2010, this vision was formalized through the adoption of the national strategy against corruption by CONAC. It also strengthened community-driven monitoring of the phenomenon and developed an education programme on integrity. Pending the implementation of this strategy, prevention, control and sanction units continued to be deployed.

§1: Adoption of the National Strategy against Corruption

292- The national strategy against corruption (SNLCC) was validated on 21 October 2010 and coordinated by CONAC and the CHOC Project (Change your Attitude Oppose Corruption). It is based on a vision, specific tools, a methodology on building the pillars of integrity and a participatory approach.

293- The aim is to make Cameroon corruption free by 2035 through prevention, education, understanding the conditions of success in the fight against corruption, incentives and sanctions (specific tools).

§2: Prevention, Control and Punishment

294- Prevention, Control and Punishment will be discussed in this section.

A : Prevention: Developing a National Education Programme on Integrity

295: A National Education Programme on Integrity was developed to prevent long-term corruption by training citizens. It lays the foundation for an honest, ethical, moral and republican society.

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296- It also sets out broad strategic guidelines and the curricula of all levels of education. Education on honesty will be included in the education system and examinations.

B: Control

297- As regards control, CONAC has strengthened its participatory surveillance by validating the National Coalition Charter against Corruption. Administrative and judicial institutions also exercised their competence in control.

1) Adoption of the National Coalition Charter against Corruption.

298- The National Coalition against Corruption is a framework for dialogue and action involving all experiences, resources and expertise in this area. It was launched on 19 November 2008, after consultation with civil society stakeholders. Membership is open to any person or entity. Some of its members belong to trade unions, associations, the media and secular and religious institutions. Others are opinion leaders and human rights activists. The Charter defines the legal status of the Coalition and its role within CONAC. It works alongside the monitoring and evaluation committees that follow up the recommendations of forums organized by CONAC with social stakeholders.

2) Continued Administrative and Judicial Control

299-Activities of ANIF and the State Audit will be examined below:

a) ANIF

300- In 2010, ANIF received 124 reports on suspicious cases and sent 35 files to the competent Legal Departments. To accomplish its duty, ANIF carries out training and cooperation activities.

301- Thus, to build the capacities of stakeholders in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, three seminars were organized in Yaounde from 18 to 22 January and from 8 to 12 March 2010 for officials of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, Ministry of Finance, the Judicial Police, COBAC and CONAC. Another seminar was organized in Douala from 16-17 September 2010 for micro-finance institutions.

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302- Training on financial investigation was conducted from 28 September to 1 October 2010 for investigators, Judicial and Legal Officers and the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court of Cameroon and Central African Republic, Judicial Police Officers, Executives of NACC and ANIF analysts. They were trained in financial, legal and technical analysis of money laundering.

303- ANIF and CONAC signed a partnership agreement on intelligence exchange. ANIF also joined the Egmont Group during that Group's 18th plenary assembly held in Cartagena from 27 June - 1 July 2010. As a member, it has access to financial information in 120 countries and participates in training and capacity building sessions regularly organized for partners from financial intelligence units.

b) Activities of the State Audit

304- In 2010, the Supreme State Control received complaints, carried out control and verification. It equally produced and sent reports to the Presidency of the Republic.

• Complaints

305- The Operations Unit received and examined complaints submitted. Some of them were taken into consideration in conceiving technical sheets for special teams sent in 2010 to North West Development Authority (MIDENO), Ports Authority, Douala (PAD), University of Douala, Public Contracts Regulatory Agency (ARMP), National Refining Corporation (SONARA) and accounting posts in all Regions in the country.

• Control and Verification Teams

306- CONSUPE carried out two types of assignments: special and programmed assignments. These were carried out both by the Department of Inspection and Control of Public Services and Regional and Local Authorities and

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the Division of Inspection and Control of Public Administrative Establishments and Public and Para-public Enterprises.

307- DIAC sent out 14 teams on special assignment to all main Public Treasuries and 12 teams to control the execution of the public investment budget (programmed assignment).

308- The DIEP could not complete the 9 assignments planned and approved for 2010. Nevertheless, it carried out special missions to the South West Development Authority (SOWEDA), University of Yaounde II, Soa, Ports Authority Douala, MATGENIE, Autonomous Sinking Fund (CAA), MIDENO, SONARA, University of Douala, Baccalaureate Board, ARMP and Cotton Development Corporation (SODECOTON).

• Reports Produced and Submitted

309- Reports on 6 assignments carried out at the end of 2009 were produced and 5 on the GCE Board, SEMRY, University of Ngaoundere, the Cameroon Housing Loan Fund and the Electricity Development Corporation (EDC) were sent to the President of the Republic.

C: Sanctions

310- Both administrative and judicial sanctions will be analyzed.

1) Administrative Sanctions

311- Emphasis will be laid on sanctions by the Budgetary and Finance Discipline Board (CDBF). In 2010, 7 accountants and managers were brought before this body for management offences with or without assessable financial prejudice. In addition, 14 cases involving fifteen people were actually enlisted during the 14 sessions held in 2010. The decisions taken at the end of these sessions are listed in the Table below:

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Table 2: Sanctions by CDBF

No.	Name of Accused	Position	Date of session	Decision taken
1	SIL SABOUANG Maurice	Former Mayor of Ndikinimeki Rural Council	2/2/2010	Acquittal
2	MARIGO MBOUA Richard	Former Mayor of Nguelebock Rural Council	2/3/2010	Special Fine CFA500,000
3	HAGBE Mathieu	Director of CEFAM	2/3/2010	Acquittal
4	NZIOU Abraham	Former Subdivisional Head at the Delegation of Public Works for the Ocean Division	16/3/2010	Special Fine : CFA 500 000 Debit: CFA12, 189,100 Total : CFA12, 689,1000
5	TAGNE NOTUOM Pierre	Former Director of the National Higher School of Post and Telecommunications	24/4/2010	Acquittal
6	NGOLZAMBA Joseph Camille	Mayor of Mbang Rural Council,	26/6/2010	Special Fine CFA500,000
7	NTOMB Edouard	Former Divisional Delegate, MINESEC Vina	29/6/2010	The CDBF noted that the charges against the accused courts. The Council took note of this fact.
8	DIMBELE BOUI	Former Mayor of Batouri Rural Council,	27/4/2010	Acquittal
9	ISSA AOUDOU	Former Director of CETIC, Garoua	22/6/2010	Acquittal
10	OBAMA ZE Paul	Former Director of CETIC, Garoua	29/06/2010	Acquittal
11	ZANG MBA OBELE et FOE MBALLA	Mayor and Former 1 st Deputy Mayor of the Mbalmayo Council	14/12 2010	Special fine of CFA500 000 ordered against Mr. ZANG MBA OBELE Acquittal for Mr.FOE MBALLA
12	MBIAM NGOMEZO'O	Former Director of General Affairs, Ministry of Public Works	29/12/2010	

Source: MINCONSUPE

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312- The CDBF sanctioned four workers with special fines amounting to CFA 14,189,100 and requested one worker to reimburse undue earnings. It acquitted 7 people accused of mismanagement for want of evidence and declared its incompetence in another case.

313- It should be noted that CDBF did not complain to the Ministry of Justice on behalf of the State. Its Permanent Secretariat sent 17 files to the Audit Bench.

b) Legal sanctions

314- The following statistics for 2010 reflect the situation of legal proceedings relating to embezzlement of public funds before courts.

Table 3: Corruption proceedings

Court	Number of procedures	Number of convictions	Number Discharged/ acquitted
CFI ⁶²	4		
HC ⁶³	7	1	
CA ⁶⁴	2		

Source: MINJUSTICE

Table 4: Proceedings on the embezzlement of public funds

Court	Number of procedures	Number of convictions	Number Discharged/ acquitted and no-case
CFI ⁶⁵	22	3	7
HC ⁶⁶	99	65	18
CA ⁶⁷	22	4	1

Source: MINJUSTICE

⁶² Data from 2 CFI of the East and Far North Regions.

⁶³ Data from 4 HC of the West, South and Littoral Regions.

⁶⁴ Data from 2 CA of the Adamawa and North

⁶⁵ Data from 6 CFI including 1 of the South and the East, 2 of the North, 1 of the Adamawa and 1 of the Far North

⁶⁶ Data from 20 HC of CA of the West, South, Littoral, East, North, Adamawa and Far North, CFI of the East and Far North Regions

⁶⁷ Data from 3 CA of the Adamawa, North and Far North



Chapter 2

RIGHT TO EDUCATION



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315- In 2010, measures to promote the right to education were taken in order to continue and consolidate gains by carrying out activities aimed at achieving the objectives of the Education Sector Strategy. Marked improvement was recorded in basic education. The main objective of secondary education activities was to provide quality management through good governance and effective pedagogy. Reforms were consolidated in higher education.

SECTION 1: IMPROVING BASIC EDUCATION

316- This improvement is particularly marked by significant changes in education indicators, consolidating education gains, further initiatives for improving education quality and promoting the education of the girl child and the development of the gender approach.

§1: Significant Schooling Indicators

317- Cameroon has made significant changes in coverage indicators and internal efficiency of the basic education system, with a gross pre-school rate of 27.2 per cent and an intake primary education rate which rose from 123 per cent in 2009 to 126 per cent in 2010.

A: Improvement of Gross Pre-school Rate

318- Pre-school population increased from 287,885 in 2009 to 316,722 pupils in 2010.

319- Thus, in terms of improving access and equity, gross pre-school rate increased from 25.3 per cent in 2009 to 27.2 per cent in 2010.

320- In the same vein, and with Government effort to develop gender equity, the gross pre-school rate for male pupils is 26.7 per cent against 27.8 per cent for female pupils.

321- However, the gross pre-school rate is 44.8 per cent in urban areas and 14.6 per cent in rural areas.

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322- Overall, pre-school education offered in 2010 was as follows: 4,933 nursery schools for 14,544 teachers, out of which 5,779 are in public schools. 97 per cent of these teachers are women. Private schools enrol about 65 per cent of pupils at this level who are taught by 8,765 teachers of which 76 per cent are untrained. More appropriate management of personnel is required.

B: Increased Gross Intake Rate in Primary Education

323- This growth was marked by the increase in absolute value of the school population at this level. Thus, it increased from 3,350,662 in 2009 to 3,502,636 pupils in 2010, with 1,891,423 (54 per cent) boys, and 1,611,213 (46 per cent) girls.

324- Regarding supervision, it can be noted that 77.4 per cent of the pupils (2,712,118 pupils) are supervised by 52,971 teachers in public primary schools across the country.

325- Improved student flow indicators resulted from the synergy between Government measures and those of technical and financial partners in the education sector.

326- For example, the gross enrolment rate of female pupils increased from 96 per cent in 2009 to 104 per cent in 2010, while among male pupils, this rate increased from 111 per cent in 2009 to 117 per cent in 2010.

327- In the same vein, the gross intake rate in primary education in 2010 was 126 per cent as against 115 per cent in 2009. This indicator for the girl/boy ratio increased to 117 per cent for girls and 131 per cent for boys in 2010 as against 107 per cent for girls and 123 per cent for boys in 2009.

328- Essentially, the increase observed also took into account net enrolment, school attendance and retention rates. The following data reflect the situation in 2010:

- primary school pupils: 3,502,636 of which 46 per cent were girls; public education trains 2,712,118 children (77.4 per cent) of pupils at this level; and
- Net Intake Rate (NIR): The NIR is 62 per cent and represents pupil population from the age of 6 years recently admitted in primary school.

329- The absolute difference between the GIR and the NIR (64 per cent) indicates the proportion of children entering for the first time out of primary school age. 21 per cent of new admissions are children who are less than 6 years which is the legal intake age.

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- Primary Completion Rate (PCR): It is 72.5 per cent with a PCR of 67.7 per cent for girls and 77.2 per cent for boys. This indicator which is the best proxy for measuring progress towards universal primary education has not changed in the last two years.
- Retention rates: Girls 57.8 per cent; Boys 58.9 per cent; Total 57.8 per cent; Nearly 42 per cent of children admitted to primary school dropped out before reaching the last year. The dropout rate is the same for girls and boys; and
- Academic Offer, teaching staff: Public and Private Education: 77,215 including 35,788 women (46 per cent) and 41,427 men (54 per cent). Public education has 52,971 teachers working effectively.

§2: Consolidation of Achievements in Education Provision

330 - The consolidation of achievements concerned providing education particularly through the recruitment of new teachers and school infrastructure development.

A: Recruitment of New Teachers

331- The Teachers Contracting Programme launched in 2006 with the help of technical and financial partners, continued in 2010 with the fifth and final phase involving 7,461 new teachers in general education. This recruitment consolidated the reduction of uncertainties to correct regional disparities in the provision of education.

B: School Infrastructure Development

332- School infrastructure development involved:

1) Construction

333- 1,061 classrooms, 29 equipment blocks, 430 latrine blocks, 35 water points, 200 houses for teachers, 2 General Education Teacher Training Colleges, 4 Regional Delegations, 5 Divisional Delegations, 6 Subdivisional Inspectorates, 18 schools connected to AES-Sonel networks and 8 fences were built.

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2) Rehabilitation of School Infrastructure

334- 15 nursery schools, 99 primary schools, 10 General Education Teacher Training Colleges were rehabilitated.

3) Classroom Equipment

335- Classrooms were equipped with 38,690 desks, 30 micro science kits, 2,880 chairs and 960 shelves for 24 nursery schools, 1,061 tables for teachers and 144 easel boards.

§ 3 Further Actions to Improve Education Quality

336- Improving education quality continues in particular with regard to the teaching of national languages and the teaching of information and communication technology.

A: Teaching National Languages

337- Introducing the teaching of national languages __in primary school continued in collaboration with the Operational Research Project for Language Education in Cameroon (PROPELCA).

338- In fact, 22 national standardized languages with a writing system consistent with the general alphabet of Cameroon's national languages were taught on an experimental basis in some localities in the 10 regions of the country.

339- Results were recorded after a first evaluation of this teaching (mother tongue/national language) in the French-speaking Regions where French is the most taught language. They showed that the children who begin the first 3 years of primary, schooling in their native language, do better in school than those who start learning directly in the French language.

340- Based on the results obtained in the experimental phase, the activities have enhanced the performance of young learners in French.

341- For more efficiency, the teaching aids and the existing pedagogic manuals need to be improved in view of their use in formal education.

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B: Teaching of Information and Communication Technology

342- During the 2010 examination session, the first optional tests on information and communication technology were administered in all examinations held at the level of basic education including the "Certificat d'Etudes Primaires" (CEPE), First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) and the Pedagogical Aptitude Certificate for Teachers of Nursery and Primary Education (CAPIEMP).

C: Improving Informal Education

343- This improvement stems from the publication by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, of Decree No. 2010/1099/PM of 7 May 2010 relating to the organization and functioning of Multifunctional Youth Promotion Centres (CMPJ) that replaced youth centres (CJA).

344- Government extended informal education coverage by setting-up new CMPJ thereby increasing their number from 55 in 2009 to 69 in 2010.

§4: Promotion of the education of the girl child and gender approach development

345- In spite of efforts made in creating awareness and the introduction of human rights courses, promoting the education of the girl child still faces some challenges.

346- The following specific measures were taken in partnership with development partners to educate the girl child:

- intensive education of the girl child;
- development of the Approach of the School: A Friend to Children and the Girl Child (EAEAF);
- improving parental education;
- promoting tutoring;
- instituting the School Canteen and Uncooked Food Project; and
- gender approach development.

A: Intensive education of the girl child

347- This initiative consisted in implementing innovative strategies to boost statistic indicators in favour of the education of the girl child in accordance with the MDG. These strategies revolve around four main thrusts: awareness, capacity building, advocacy and partnership.

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B: The School: A Friend to Children and the Girl Child (EAEAF)

348- The approach requires and facilitates the enforcement of the rights of the child. Through Children Governments, girls are strongly involved in school management and decision taking because boys and girls are equally represented. This approach equally requires separate latrines for boys and girls, enforcement of rules of hygiene as well as the embellishment of the school compound.

C: Improving parental education

349- The strategy to improve parental education gave parents a new attitude in providing education for the girl child. It aimed at improving parental knowledge and competence for the survival and full development of the child. A curriculum for parental education was prepared by the Ministry of Basic Education with UNICEF support by drawing up programmes for the girl child, parents, families and communities for an integrated action approach for children in the health/nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation, protection, equity/gender, awareness and early stimulation sectors.

D: Promoting tutoring

350- This is equally an approach that facilitates keeping the girl child in school. Because of violence and difficulties faced by girls in school, tutoring enables senior students to take care of junior students.

E: School canteen and uncooked food project

351- This project has been implemented in the Adamawa, North and Far North Regions with WFP support. It provides dry food to increase the number of girls in school and to improve their attendance and maintenance rate to the end of the cycle.

352- For example, between January to June 2010, 1,545,328 tonnes of food was transported and distributed to 52,231 pupils in 246 schools covered by the programme. Cooked food made up of rice, oil, beans, salt and vegetable supplied by communities is served to all pupils.

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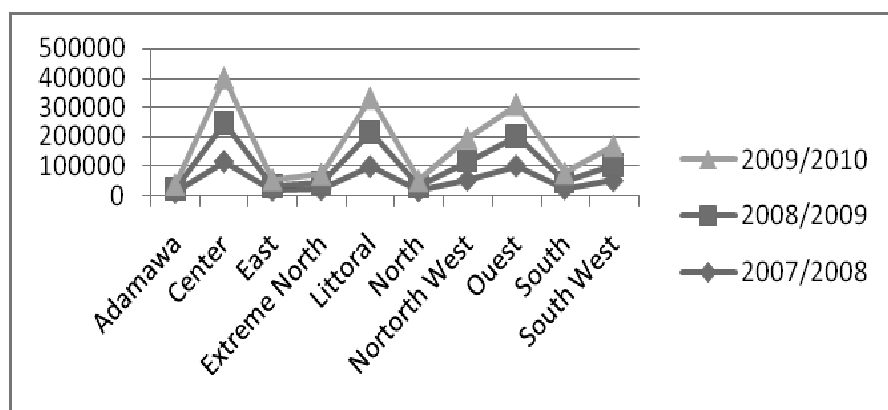
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353- Finally, the Minister of Basic Education contributed in updating the 2010 Plan of Action with a view to implementing the final recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women after producing curricula and teaching manuals on sex education, population and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Table 1: Change in enrolment of girls

Regions	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
Adamawa	10806	12821	15012
Centre	113930	134735	151315
East	17429	18169	20139
Far North	19839	25585	28214
Littoral	97155	118890	115400
North	15241	17177	18954
North West	52073	65391	77820
West	99227	103671	107178
South	22623	25262	29605
South West	49559	55139	64530
Total	497882	583419	628167

Source: MINEDUB



Source: MINEDUB

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SECTION II: EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

354- Activities undertaken by Government were organized with respect to the Participatory Programme of Action with a view to supporting economic growth based on the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP). These measures involved the quality of education and the number of general secondary and technical secondary schools. Their impact was also felt.

§1: Improved education quality

A: General Secondary Education

355- The objectives based on GESp consisted in providing appropriate solutions to reducing repeater rates and streamlining higher education.

1) Decrease in Repeater Rates

356- Repeater rate had to be reduced by internal efficiency and improved teaching quality through:

- intensifying further training with the capacity building of 22,877 teachers including
 - 87 Physical Education and Sports teachers;
- improved control of punctuality and attendance of all education staff from the central services to the schools; and
- availability of school books by:
 - rapid publication of books in the syllabus between July and August, well before the school year begins in September; and
 - maintaining the same books in the syllabus.
- recognition and encouragement of merit by awarding scholarships to some 7,590 deserving students.

357- The establishment of proximity educational support and more rigorous management of the assessment of pupils have reduced the average repeater rate in the English-speaking and French-speaking subsystems.

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2) Streamlining Higher Education

358- In this streamlining exercise:

- The Baccalaureate was organized in collaboration with universities. The Presidents of Jury were university lecturers; and
- Guidance counsellors from the Ministry of Secondary Education included in some of the activities of the National Day of Counselling organized on 15 October 2010, information and counselling workshops to prepare students in upper sixth form to choose appropriate courses at higher education.

B: Technical Education

359- Advances made by technical education in the educational system in Cameroon are more remarkable. The number of technical schools rose from 163 in 2004 to 417 in 2010 representing an increase of over 150 per cent.

360- In addition, substantial reforms have been undertaken to encourage the growth of scientific and professional specialisations, take account of a training adaptability test for labour market needs, encourage adaptability to national cultural needs, and partnership development with members of the society.

1) Scientific and Professional Specialisations

361- They were intensified in 2010:

- Promoting ICT

362- Private operators revised regulations on the offer of computer services. Thus, 15 multimedia resource centres were set up and equipped, 33 computer service providers were approved for the management of 222 computer labs representing an ICT penetration rate of 21.66 per cent, calculated from 299 equipped public schools out of the existing 1,930.

- Promoting Bilingualism

363- The promotion of bilingualism contributed to the promotion of science subjects in general and ICT in particular, because English is now the language of scientific communication.

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2) Adapting Training to Labour Market Needs

364- Through the Technical Education and Vocational Training Reform Support Project (PARETFOP), Government has developed skill-based approach vocational training programmes in 11 (eleven) Technical High Schools and 8 Women Empowerment Centres to provide female students with training adapted to the new context of the labour market in Cameroon.

365- Technical assistance was required in the development of training programmes according to the skill-based approach.

3) Adaptability to National Cultural Needs

366- To help rooting and adaptation to national cultures, some technical education fields were removed, like Typing that was replaced with Office Automation. Other courses have been updated or introduced such as Hair Dressing.

367- Promoting cooperative education is effective in technical education and the teaching of national languages and cultures has been introduced in public schools. Although it is still in its experimental phase, this course is taught in 7 high schools to 5,281 students.

368- Focus was laid on the arts in post-tertiary academic activities and the institutionalization of open days contributed to this intense promotion of technical education.

4) Developing Effective Partnership with Members of Society

369- In 2010, emphasis was placed on the need to:

- include skills promoting self-employment in the curricula;
- provide possibilities and mechanisms for strengthening the training/employment link.

370- As a result of measures taken, it can be noted that:

- eight curricula for the Professional Competence Certificate of Technical Education Teachers (CAPIET) were developed;
- one hundred and twenty six students were trained in four schools in two new fields: cosmetics, hair dressing and biomedical hospital maintenance; and
- sixteen companies were involved in this initiative.

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371- In addition, the good collaboration between the General Inspectorate for Teaching and the National Council for the Approval of Instrument books and Teaching Aids helped in ensuring a more objective evaluation of technical books submitted for approval.

§2: Increase in staff and Infrastructure

372- This measure was implemented both in general secondary and technical education.

A: General Secondary Education

- Workforce Adjustment

373- Cameroon's education system is overpopulated. To control this situation, the Ministry of Secondary Education continued its strategy based on increasing educational opportunities. The national standard, the ratio defined by law, is a teacher for 60 students in the first cycle, and a teacher for 55 students in the 2nd cycle.

374- The Table below presents the general statistics for the 2009/2010 school year.

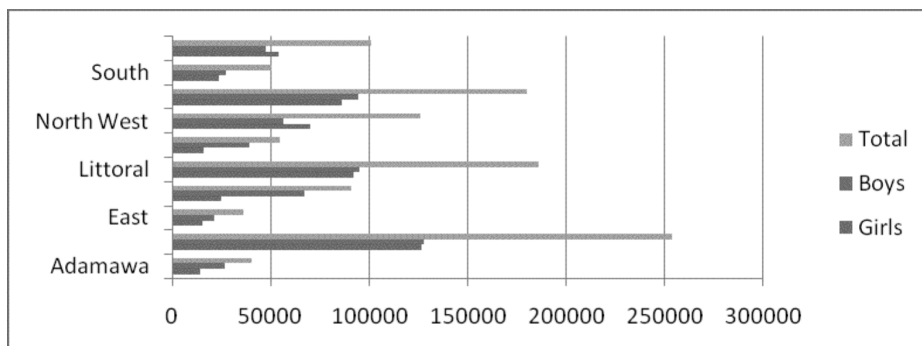
Table 2: General statistics 2009/2010: Number of students in General Secondary Education

Regions	Girls	Boys	Total
Adamawa	13637	26370	40007
Centre	126437	127243	253680
East	15060	20604	35664
Far North	24323	66425	90748
Littoral	91413	94520	185933
North	15387	38778	54165
North West	69488	56217	125705
West	85657	94274	179931
South	23431	26744	50175
South West	53636	47081	100717
Total	518469	598256	1116725
Percentage	46.43 per cent	53.57 per cent	100 per cent

Source: MINESEC

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- Infrastructure

375- It focused on the rehabilitation of, 10 computer rooms, 657 classrooms, 7 completed schools, 21 administrative blocks, 6 Divisional Delegations, ongoing construction of 5 Regional Delegations, equipping 456 classrooms with desks, equipping 20 administrative blocks built in 2009 and supplying 26 water and electricity connections.

376- In all 1,422 schools were functional in 2010 against 723 in 2004 representing 116 schools constructed each year.

- Human Resources

377- A summary of the recruitment of secondary school teachers in 2010 is presented below:

- 2,444 Teachers of General Education High Schools;
- 1,067 Teachers of General Education Secondary Schools; and
- 606 Senior Guidance Counsellors.

B: Technical Education

378- Technical secondary education was improved by an increase in facilities and human resources. Government rehabilitated 40 workshops, equipped 10 computer rooms, 225 workshops and 15 multimedia resource centres. The number of technical schools rose from 163 in 2004 to 417 in 2010, giving an increase of more than 150 per cent.

379- The increase in capacity in this type of education has led to the enthusiasm of students for technical education. In 2004, for example,

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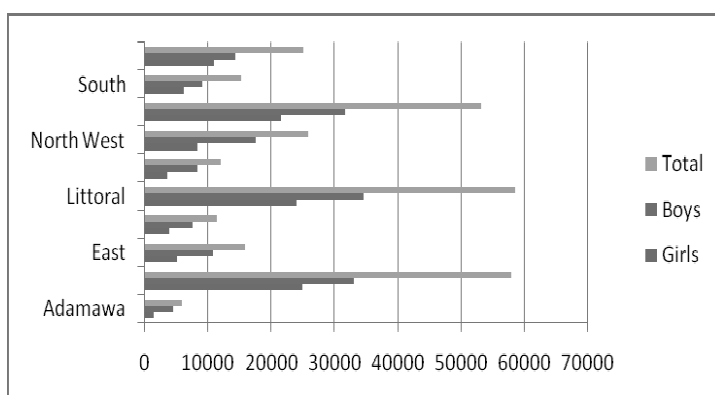
114,040 pupils enrolled in the first year of Technical Education against 198,974 in 2010, representing a growth rate of 74.47 per cent.

In 2004, 3 Technical Education Teacher Training Colleges (ENIET) were functional, against 4 in 2010.

380- The Table below presents general statistics for the 2009/2010 academic year for technical education.

Table 3: General statistics 2009/2010: Number of students in Technical Secondary Education

Regions	Girls	Boys	Total
Adamawa	1375	4420	5795
Centre	24878	33061	57939
East	5079	10814	15893
Far North	3891	7512	11403
Littoral	23987	34560	58547
North	3567	8383	11950
North West	8332	17479	25811
West	21521	31706	53227
South	6174	9127	15301
South West	10894	14236	25130
Total	109698	141298	280996
Percentage	43.70 per cent	56.30 per cent	250996



Source: MINESEC

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§3: Impact of measures

381- The key indicator to evaluate the impact of these measures are results obtained in the different official examinations organized by MINESEC and units it supervises in charge of examinations.

382- The summary of success rate in official examinations is given below taking account of units that organize them namely Department of Examinations, the General Certificate of Education (GCE) and the Cameroon Baccalaureate Board:

Table 4: Results overview of all Examinations

REGIONS	SAT	ABSENT	PRESENT	PASSED	%2010	%2009	DIFFERENCE
DECC	458236	9168	44068	197 175	43.91	43.7	0.20
GCE Board	103 111	10317	92 794	55 259	59.55	57.26	2.29
OBC	273526	5018	268 508	117 199	43.65	37.92	5.73
TOTAL	828 988	24 199	804 789	195 734	46.71	43.42	8.29

Source: MINESEC

383- Compared to 2009, each examination maintained its position and improved its results.

384- The Tables below present the results of examinations of different Boards.

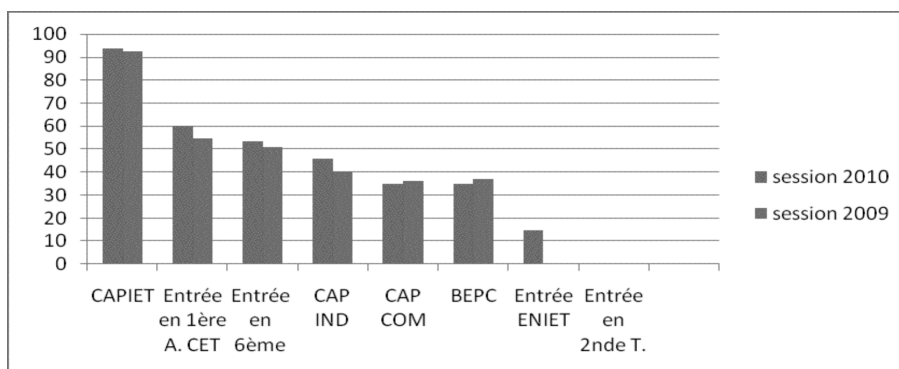
Table 5: Synopsis of Examinations Organized by the Department of Examinations, Competitive Examinations and Certification Ranked by Success Rate

Examinations	Registered	Absent	Present	Passed	%2010	% 2009
CAPIET	789	1	788	738	93.65	92.39
Entry 1 st Year CET	39826	1765	38061	22807	59.95	54.79
Entry Form I	154719	2434	152285	81416	53.46	50.97
CAP IND	31956	351	31605	14434	45.67	39.78
CAP COM	9844	163	9681	3377	34.88	36.15
BEPC	216006	4151	211855	73700	34.79	37.18
Entry ENIET	5096	303	4793	703	14.67	
Entry 2 nd T.	Statistics unavailable					
Total	458 236	9168	449068	197175	43,91	43,70

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Histogram of examinations organized by the Department of Examinations, Competitive Examinations and Certification



Source: MINESEC

385- Results are relatively stable for all DECC examinations (43.91 per cent against 43.70 per cent in 2009).

386- Compared to other examinations, the CPIET has been very successful with a rate of 93.65 per cent. The entry into first year CET and into Form One comes next respectively with 59.92 per cent and 53.46 per cent. Other examinations scored below 50 per cent.

Table 6: Synopsis of Examinations Organized by the General Certificate of Examination Board Ranked by Percentage

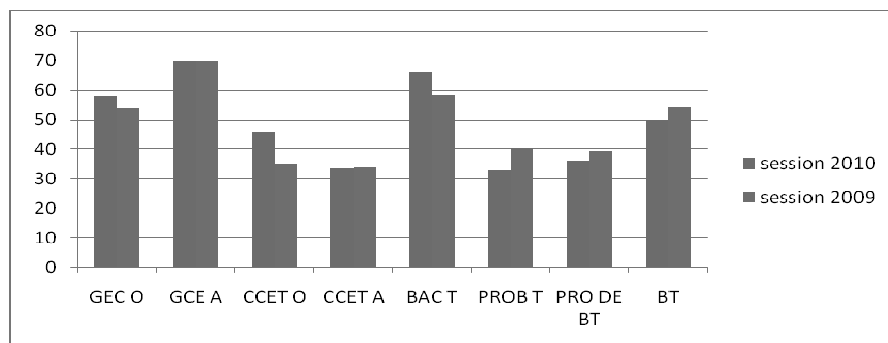
Examination	Registered	Absent	Present	Passed	% 2010	% 2009
GCE Ordinary Level	60875	9000	51875	30099	58.02	53.89
GCE Advanced Level	28631	840	27791	19345	69.61	70.07
GCE Technical O Level	5178	402	4776	2178	45.6	35.13
GCE Technical A Level	2967	58	2909	1282	33.5	33.39
Baccalaureate Techniques	1062	3	1059	703	66	58.53
Probatoire Technique	2011	4	2007	660	33	40.03
Probatoire de BT	1418	8	1410	510	36	39.17
Brevet de Technicien	969	2	967	482	50	54.33
Total	103111	10317	92794	55259	59.55	57.26

Source: MINESEC

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Histogram of Examinations Organized by the General Certificate of Examination Board



Source: MINESEC

387- The success rate for examinations organized by the GCE Board improved slightly: 59.55 per cent against 57.26 per cent in 2009. Compared to other examinations, the GCE "A" Level had the highest pass rate as in 2009, with a success rate of 70 per cent. On the contrary, absenteeism rate is exceptionally high for the GCE "O" Level (14.78 per cent).

Table 7: Synopsis of Examinations Organized by the Baccalaureate Board Ranked by Percentage

Examination	Registered	Absent	Present	Passed	% 2010	% 2009
Baccalauréats ESG	71397	1079	70318	41444	58.94	50.43
Brevets Pro.Ind.	1553	51	1502	792	52.73	42.21
Baccalauréats Co.	6939	132	6807	3256	47.83	56.88
Baccalauréat Ind.	5090	74	5016	2168	43.22	47.18
Probatoire ESG	141807	2961	138846	54843	39.5	32.33
Brevets de Techn.	6164	80	6084	2362	38.82	26.99

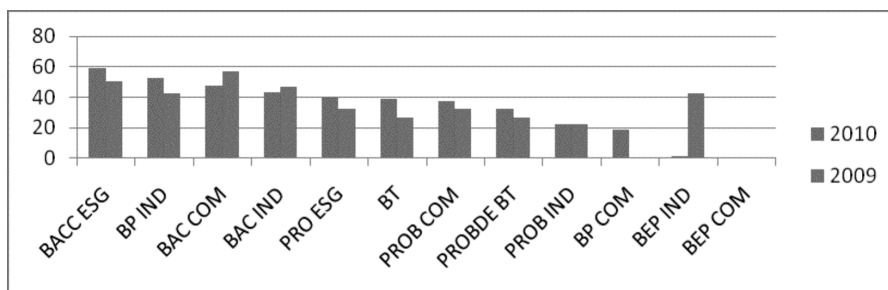
Probatoires T. Com	15445	271	15174	5656	37.27	32.6
Probatoires de BT	11490	173	11217	3651	32.26	26.36
Probatoire T. Com.	13548	187	13271	30051	22.64	22.38
Probatoire T. IND.	123	10	113	21	18.58	0
Brevets Pro. Et. Ind.	60	0	60	1	1.67	42.21
Brevet Pro.ET.com	0	0	0	0	00.0	0
Total	273526	5018	263508	117199	43.65	37.92

Source: MINESEC

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Histogram of Examinations Organized by the Baccalaureate Board of Cameroon



Source: 2010 MINESEC

388- For the examinations organized by the Baccalaureate Board, despite improved overall success rate (43.65 per cent against 37.92 per cent in 2009), only the Industrial and ESG Baccalaureate scored above 50 per cent.

SECTION III: HIGHER EDUCATION

389- Progress was made in this area of education through the effective control of universities and student poverty control.

§1: Control of Personnel and Expansion of the University Map

390- Expansion of the university map was evident with the opening of new universities, functioning of new establishment and control of student population.

A: New Universities

391- The President of the Republic signed two decrees in 2010, one to set up the State University of Bamenda and the other turning ENS-Bambili Annex into two schools of the University of Bamenda.

392- Article 1 of Decree No. 2010/371 of 14 December 2010 provides that, a State university called University of Bamenda is set up in Bamenda.

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393- Decree No. 2010/372 of 14 December 2010 changed ENS-Bambili Annex, into two schools of the University of Bamenda:

- The Advanced Teacher Training College, Bambili, Bamenda; and
- The Advanced Teacher Technical Education Training College, Bambili, Bamenda.

394- The same Decree specified the different Departments that make up these schools. The Decrees were implemented on the same day by the appointment, by Decision No. 1000695/CAB/MINESUP of 14 December 2010, of two officials to take care of the daily running of the Schools.

B: Functioning of new schools

395- Government improved the training of students by rehabilitating facilities already constructed or under construction as part of PRO-ACT for technology, medical or teaching fields. Besides, it opened several professional schools in some universities.

Table 8: Professional schools in universities

Universities	Professional Schools
DSCHANG	IBA Foumban
DOUALA	IBA Nkongsamba
	ISH Yabassi
MAROUA	ISS
NGAOUNDERE	ESMV
YAOUNDE I	Wood IUT, Mbalmayo
BAMENDA	Recently set-up
YAOUNDE I	Digital Campus

C: Student Population Control

396- In 2010, enrolment in universities increased because of the high success rate at the Baccalaureate that reached nearly 60 per cent.

397- The capacity of each university is thus central to many concerns. This capacity takes into account the impact on housing supply, collateral requirements such as the ability to eat well and to have clean water.

398- The following Table shows the number of students in State universities in 2010:

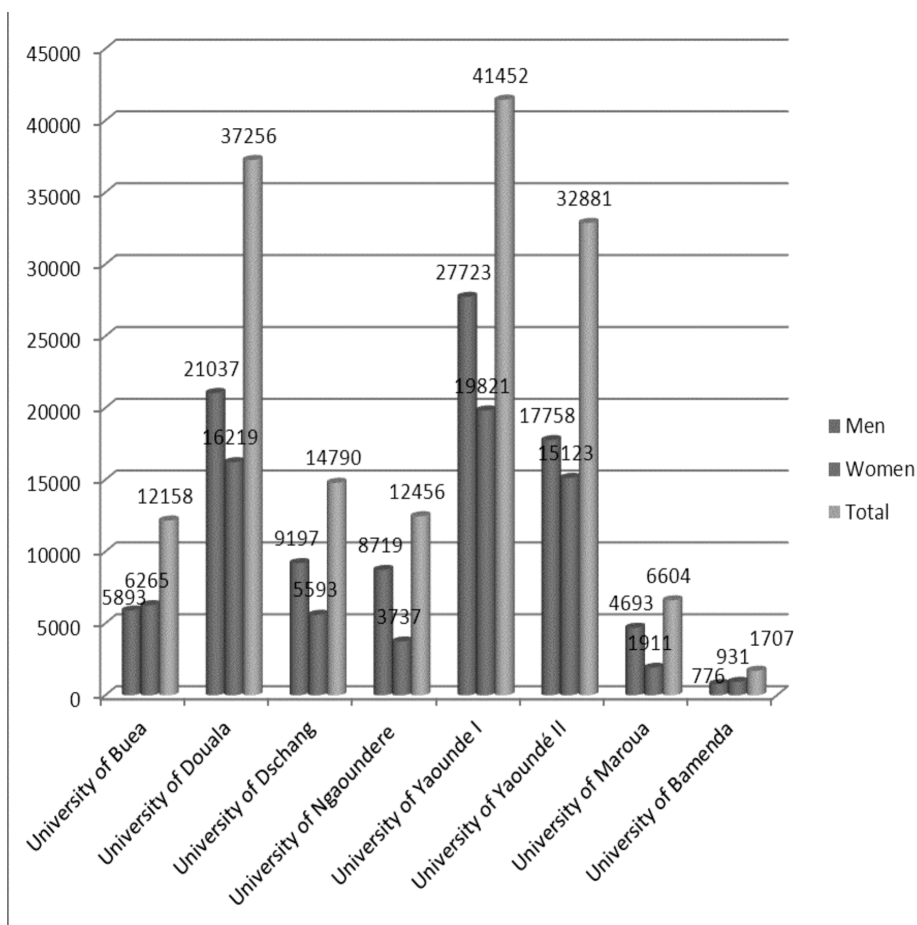
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Table 9: Number of students in State universities

University	Male	Female	Total
University of Buea	5893	6265	12158
University of Douala	21037	16219	37256
University of Dschang	9197	5593	14790
University of Ngaoundere	8719	3737	12456
University of Yaounde I	27723	19821	41452
University of Yaounde II	17758	15123	32881
University of Maroua	4693	1911	6604
University of Bamenda	776	931	1707
Total	95806	69600	165406
Percentage	57.92 per cent	42.08 per cent	

Source: MINESUP



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399- It should be noted that these statistics for the academic year 2008/2009 indicate an increase. The student population in 2010 in State universities⁶⁸ was estimated at 200,000.

400- Students in State universities are trained by lecturers presented in the Table below:

Table 10: Distribution of Teachers during the Year 2010⁶⁹

University	Grades				Staff
	ASS	SL	AP	Pr	
BUEA	199	139	29	14	381
BAMENDA		1			1
DOUALA	231	251	45	8	535
DSCHANG	142	232	35	18	427
MAROUA	199	29	9	3	240
NGAOUNDERE	67	109	28	11	215
YAOUNDE I	207	437	207	123	974
YAOUNDE II	93	173	48	29	343
TOTAL	1138	1371	401	206	3116

Source: SIGIPES/MINESUP

Key

ASS: Assistant Lecturer

SL: Senior Lecturer

AP: Associate Professor

Pr: Professor

401- Private higher education institutions (PHEIs) also absorb a considerable proportion of the student population. The number of authorized institutions in the country as indicated in the Table below gives an idea of their importance in the education sector.

⁶⁸ Not taking account of students enrolled in private higher education because of lack of reliable statistics

⁶⁹ Based on their administrative units

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Table No. 11: Approved PHEIs

REGION	Number of PHEIs
CENTRE	31
EAST	1
FAR NORTH	1
LITTORAL	32
NORTH	2
NORTH WEST	12
SOUTH	3
SOUTH WEST	7
WEST	9

Source: MINESUP

§2: Student Poverty Control

402- The following measures were taken to improve the lives of students:

- Academic excellence award granted to 58,000 top students from universities and HIPES;
- Allocating cooperation grants to 95 students;
- Allocating national financial support to 38 students from State universities;
- Continuing Work-Study programme, involving 200 students;
- Continued practice of holiday jobs for 698 students;
- Granting of special assistance to 662 students in Senegal in October 2010;
- Providing special assistance to 433 students in Nigeria;
- Assigning of one-off grants to 130 non-scholarship students abroad;
- Granting of additional scholarships to 1,189 students receiving co-operation grants from friendly countries; and
- Providing tickets for commissioning, training and repatriation to 103 students.

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403- Advances made in education were possible because of the increased budget allocated to each ministry in charge of education. Thus, the budget of the Ministry of Secondary Education increased from about CFA 150 billion in 2005 to CFA 208 billion francs in 2010. These efforts deserve support including more systematic monitoring of the activities of private institutions of higher education whose student population grows over the years.

Chapter 3

RIGHT TO HEALTH



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404- In 2010, Government continued to promote and protect the right to health in the country. With a budgetary allocation of CFA 123,701 billion⁷⁰ voted for the health sector, concrete actions focused on the improvement of the health system, health care and services and health promotion.

SECTION I: IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH SYSTEM

405- Measures were taken to better manage human resources and improve on the health infrastructure so as to improve on the health system.

§1: Improvement in Human Resource Management

406- An overview of the 2010 data reveals a total of about 30,000 health staff in the public and private sectors as well as NGOs. However, geographical distribution per professional corps remains inequitable to the detriment of rural areas which suffer from insufficient staff, infrastructure and biomedical equipment as illustrated in the Table below. Similarly, Table 2 below illustrates disparity in the geographical distribution by Region of health-care personnel in all sectors.

⁷⁰ An increase of CFA 10.371 billion in relation to the 2009 budget

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Table 1: Distribution of Health Staff by Region

Regions Corps	Adamawa	Centre	East	Far North	Littoral	North	North West	West	South	South West	Global workforce
Doctors	37	738	52	54	167	36	43	93	57	40	1,317
Specialist Doctors	7	226	2	2	118	7	10	14	6	3	395
Dentists	1	25	2	4	10	1	1	5	5	4	58
Pharmacists	2	28	-	2	5	-	-	3	-	2	42
Public health Administrators	2	28	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	2	44
Nurses	248	1,717	373	452	830	383	462	877	287	328	5,957
Nurse's aid	198	1,371	298	361	662	306	369	701	229	262	4,757
Health Technicians	86	697	108	126	285	81	73	237	96	107	1 896
Sanitary engineers	9	153	11	33	44	17	29	50	18	22	386
Biomedical technicians	2	3	3	-	4	2	3	2	2	3	24
Contract workers	66	458	320	37	65	46	122	64	79	60	1,317
Workers employed by decision	94	1 281	123	190	219	289	219	355	101	194	3,065
Others	33	130	41	53	13	25	7	93	54	2	451
Total	785	6 855	1 334	1 316	2 426	1194	1 339	2 496	935	1 029	19,709
Percentage	3,98	34,78	6,76	6,67	12,30	6,05	6,79	12,66	4,74	5,22	100
Population in 2010	1,015 622	3 ;52 5	801 968	3,48 0	2,865 795	2,05 0	1,80 229	1,78 5	692 142	1,38 4	19,406 100
Ratio nurses/pop. (per 10, 000)	2.44	4.9	4.7	1.3	2.9	1.9	2.6	4.9	4.1	2.4	3.1
Ratio doctors/pop. (per 10,000)	0.4	2.7	0.7	0.2	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.9

Source: MINSANTE

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Table 2: Total Staff: Public/Private Sub-sectors by Region

REGION	Public	Private	Total	Population	Ratio HR Health/Population (per 1,000 inhabitants)	% Public	% Private	% Public and % Private
Adamawa	785	349	1,134	1,015,622	1.59	3.98%	4.35%	4.09%
Centre	6,855	1,825	8,680	3,525,664	2.63	34.78%	22.73%	31.29%
East	1,334	368	1,702	801,968	2.34	6.77%	4.58%	6.14%
Far North	1,316	320	1,636	3,480,414	0.57	6.68%	3.99%	5.90%
Littoral	2,426	1,663	4,089	2,865,795	1.53	12.31%	20.71%	14.74%
West	2,496	1,177	3,673	1,785,285	1.66	12.66%	14.66%	13.24%
North	1,194	410	1,604	2,050,229	0.80	6.06%	5.11%	5.78%
North West	1,339	1,305	2,644	1,804,695	1.59	6.79%	16.25%	9.53%
South	935	222	1,157	692,142	2.09	4.74%	2.76%	4.17%
South West	1,029	390	1,419	1,384,286	1.41	5.22%	4.86%	5.12%
Total	19,709	8,029	27,738	19,406,100	1.55	100%	100%	100%

Source: MINSANTE

407- These statistics reveal that Cameroon is facing a quantitative and qualitative human resources deficiency. The following remedies were initiated to redress this situation:

- the contracting of 3,280 part-time technical staff and 336 temporary workers of which 206 were sent to different health programmes;
- the granting of 21 scholarships and the organisation of several capacity building workshops held notably in the area of the promotion of Result-Based Management in New Material and Financial Governance and Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care and the training of 25 youth peer educators in interpersonal communication skills;
- commencement of a public/private partnership with the non-profit making private sub-sector that represents 35 per cent of national available health personnel; and
- improvement of the management of existing human resources with a view to increasing its productivity. In this vein, result-based management with respect to performance remuneration is experimented in many health structures.

§2: Infrastructure Development

408- In 2010, the following major activities aimed at improving on infrastructure were carried out:

- ongoing construction of 130 Integrated Health Centres and 13 Sub-divisional Medical Centres as well as the renovation of some 100 health centres at different levels of the health pyramid;

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- execution of 90 per cent of the first phase of construction works of the Referral Hospital, Sangmelima, while the second phase on the provision of equipment and the construction of staff houses was commenced; and
- construction works to the level of masonry reinforcement, for two (2) haemodialysis centres for Buea and Maroua and two (2) medical imaging centres for Ngaoundere and Bafoussam while the construction site of the Gyneco-Obstetrics and Paediatrics Hospital, Douala was launched.

SECTION II: IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH CARE AND SERVICES

409- The offer of healthcare services was improved considerably. Government actions focused principally on access to drugs, disease control, and maternal, adolescent and child healthcare.

§1: Access to Drugs

410- As part of the implementation of drug policy, measures taken to strengthen the drug distribution system by the National Essential Drugs Supply Centre (CENAME) and its territorial detachments, continued in 2010, including:

- registration of pharmaceuticals: 669 new references mostly generics were marketed in Cameroon after evaluation, thus bringing the total number of drugs marketed in the country to 4,349;
- downward revision of prices of 350 drugs in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies;
- in the context of drug monitoring and market surveillance, marketing authorizations of 21 pharmaceutical references were withdrawn or their batches recalled;
- within the framework of strengthening the supply of quality drugs, three new wholesales pharmaceutical companies were approved and so new drug manufacturing unit established in Cameroon was also approved;
- the National Essential Drugs List was also reviewed in order to introduce innovative products in the protocols while drugs that became ineffective were withdrawn;

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- acquisition and provision in the 10 regions of a stock of sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine free of charge for the intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnant women to the tune of about CFA 30 million;
- acquisition of drugs, antiseptics and medical supplies for the management of cholera epidemic; and
- support in essential drugs to some integrated health centres and district hospitals that experienced operational difficulties.

411- However, it is worth indicating that there is a major disparity in the spatial distribution of pharmaceutical establishments throughout the country, with close to 100 per cent of these establishments located in urban and peri-urban areas, therefore rendering access to them difficult for the rural masses. To resolve this problem pharmacies have been set up at Government health centres which supply medical equipment and generic drugs to patients. In fact in 2010, the sum of CFA 3,187,061,000 from the budget of the Ministry of Public Health was devoted to essential drugs while international aid provided essential drugs worth CFA 4,500,000,000. This solution notwithstanding, 1/3 of Cameroon's population was still excluded from access to drugs.

412- Furthermore, in spite of efforts made to promote the national pharmaceutical industry (two generic pharmaceutical plants exist in Douala) and drug supply policy through the National Essential Drugs Supply System (SYNAME) and CENAME 93 per cent of available drugs in the national territory were imported.

§2: Disease Control

414- Government action on disease control focused principally on epidemiological surveillance, control of cholera, malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and non-endemic diseases.

A: Epidemiological Surveillance

415- The Table below shows the epidemiological situation in the country as at 31 December 2010.

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Table 3: Epidemiological situation

No.	Disease	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Cumulated Lethality	Remarks
1	Cholera	10,759	657	6.1%	
2	Cerebro-spinal meningitis	835	71	8.5%	
3	Measles	818	18	2.20%	91 cases IgM+
4	Yellow fever	1 240	9	0.72%	17 cases IgM+
5	Neo-natal tetanus	78	35	44.87%	Routine notified cases
6	Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP)	230	2	0.86%	No PVS
7	Classical human influenza	383	0	0	Confirmed cases
8	Human influenza of avian origin	0	0	0	
9	Pandemic influenza A(H1N1) 2009	194	0	0.00%	Confirmed cases
10	Malaria	188 093	32	0.01%	
11	Paediatric bacterial meningitis (pneumo/Haemophilus influenzae type b)	27	3	11.11%	6 Positive cases
12	Rotavirus gastroenteritis	299	12	4.01%	91 Positive cases
13	Viral haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola Marburg, Rift Valley)	0	0		
14	Human African trypanosomiasis	15	1	6.66%	
15	Arboviroses (Dengue, Chikungunya)	0	0	0%	
16	Plague	0	0		
17	Dracunculiasis	0	0		
18	Human rabies of canine origin (suspected cases)	3	3	100%	

Source: MINSANTE

416- The low death rate registered for the epidemics indicated in the Table above is a pointer to the great effort made by Government to rescue the situation and protect the health of citizens.

B: Cholera Control

417- An extensive cholera epidemic prevailed in 2010. 8 Regions out of 10 were affected by the epidemic (Far North, North, Centre, Adamawa, West, South West, North West). 67 out of 179 health districts were affected. There were a total of 10,441 cases and 657 deaths, representing a fatality rate of 6.1 per cent.

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418- To handle the situation Government implemented a series of multi-sectoral actions aimed at controlling the disease including:

- setting up a Multi-sectoral Cholera Control Operational Committee;
- setting up in Maroua of a Cholera Control and Coordination Centre;
- reactivation of Local Cholera Control Committees;
- building of epidemiological surveillance and capacities of response staff; and
- free case management and sensitization of the population on good hygiene and sanitation practices.

C: Malaria Control

419- With 38 per cent of morbidity, malaria continued to be one of the main reasons for consultation in 2010. To cope with the situation, prevention and management actions were taken including:

- free distribution of 187,500 Long Lasting Insecticide-Treated bed Nets with indoor residual spraying in 1,887 households in Yaounde;
- provision of 1.3 million doses of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies to health facilities and communities for uncomplicated malaria; and
- free distribution of about 5.9 million tablets of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine to pregnant women as part of the intermittent preventive treatment of malaria.

D: HIV/AIDS Control

420- The prevention of mother-to-child transmission was developed in all health facilities providing antenatal care. The management of cases was strengthened with the setting up of new Management Units, which currently cover 100 of the 179 health districts in the country. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) on free treatment increased from 76,228 in 2009 to nearly 91,000 by the end of 2010. However, the number of new infections is increasing and stands at 52,515 cases in 2010 (28,635 women, that is, 55.8 per cent as against 22,680 men, that is, 44.2 per cent)⁷¹.

421- To handle the situation, 5,899 health workers were trained to care for PLWHA and 67 support structures were equipped with adequate medical facilities for patient care. Community care of patients was equally improved, particularly through the training and retraining of 1,371 members of 293 civil society organizations, the reactivation of 331 Community Relay Agents in 60 Community Management Units and 21 Approved Processing Centres.

⁷¹ Source: National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STI Control, 2011-2015, Ministry of Public Health, Yaounde, December 2010, p. 23.

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E: Tuberculosis control

422- Approximately 25,000 new cases of tuberculosis (TB) were detected and treated in 2010. 74 per cent of these patients agreed to be screened for HIV and it was noticed that HIV sero-prevalence among TB patients stands at 40 per cent. The cure rate of TB patients is 78 per cent including 33 cases of multi-resistant tuberculosis.

F: Non-endemic Diseases

423- 570 cases of Buruli ulcer were detected and treated. Concerning leprosy, although the elimination threshold was reached since 2006, there are still some pockets of resistance in the Adamawa, North and South West Regions. Within the framework of intestinal worm control, the national deworming campaign organized in 13,000 primary schools in May 2010 helped deworm nearly 4 million children of school age thanks to a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Basic Education.

G: Mental Health

424- Mental health services exist in the Jamot Hospital, Yaounde, the Laquintinie Hospital, Douala, and in some private-owned hospitals. These services in the public hospitals were regularly inspected.

425- The Department of Psychiatry at the Jamot Hospital in Yaounde receives and takes care of 6 to 8 cases every day of victims of the consumption of psychotropic substances.

§3: Maternal, Adolescent and Child Healthcare

A: Maternal Healthcare

426- Under maternal health care, emphasis was laid on the reduction of maternal mortality⁷² and obstetric fistula control. Within the framework of

⁷² According to WHO estimates, the maternal mortality rate in Cameroon is 1,000 cases of death for 100,000 live births (but EADS III, 2004 puts the number at 669 deaths for 100,000 live births).

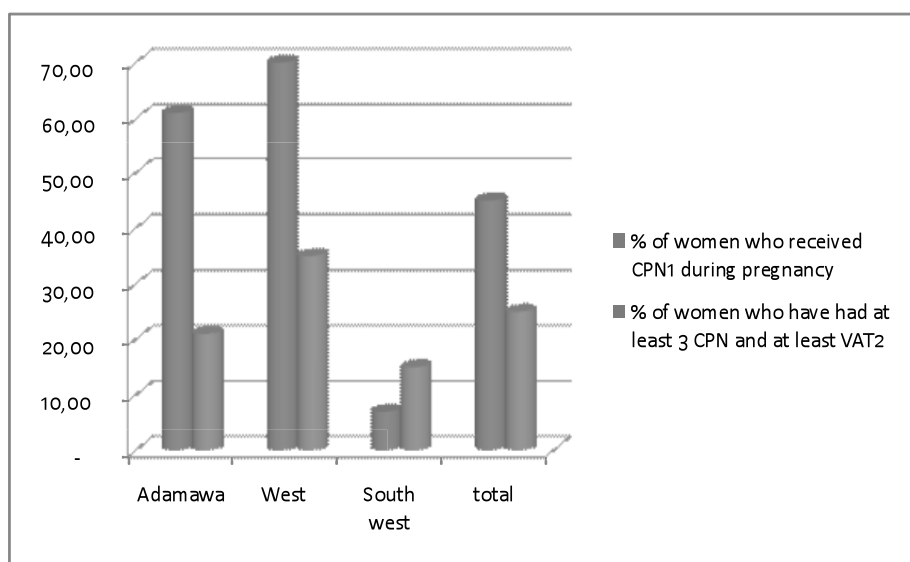
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the Campaign for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa, launched on 8 May 2010, Cameroon embarked on the process to speed up maternal mortality reduction. Concrete actions were undertaken such as the provision in the Northern Regions of caesarean and delivery kits under the implementation of innovative projects.

427- Concerning obstetric fistula control, 11 health staff were trained in clinical management and 125 women were treated in the North and Far North Regions. This number is however insufficient compared to existing cases. According to WHO estimates, 1 per cent of pregnancies in Cameroon are expected to be obstetric fistula. There were about 970,305 pregnancies in 2010 including about 10,000 cases of obstetric fistula.

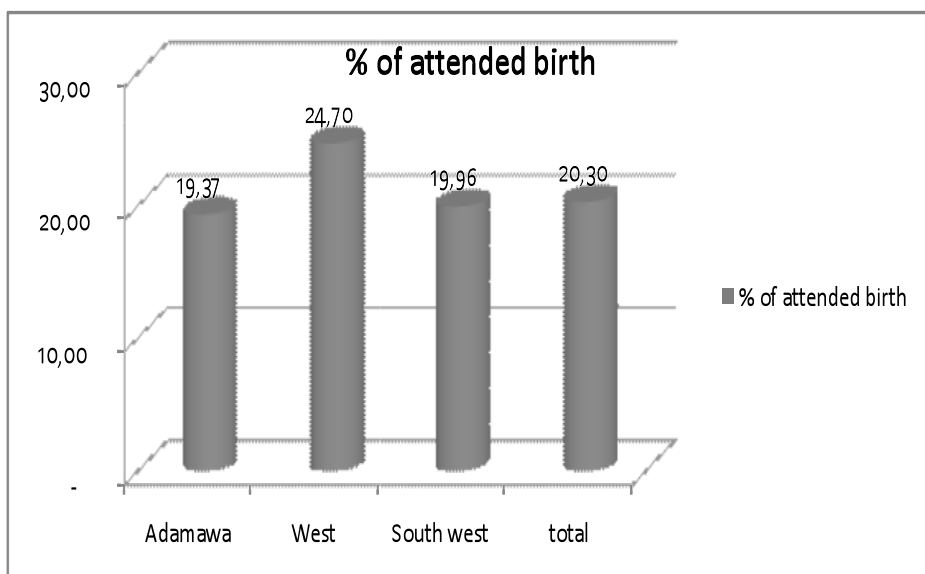
428- The graphics below show antenatal consultation rates and rates of births attended by qualified staff as well as stillbirth rates in three Regions in the country.



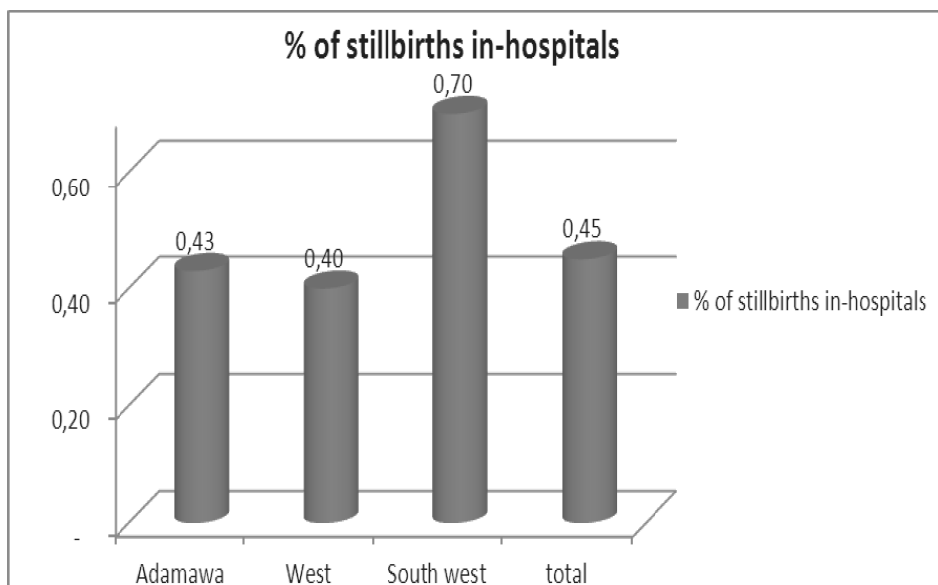
Source: Department of Family Health, Ministry of Public Health

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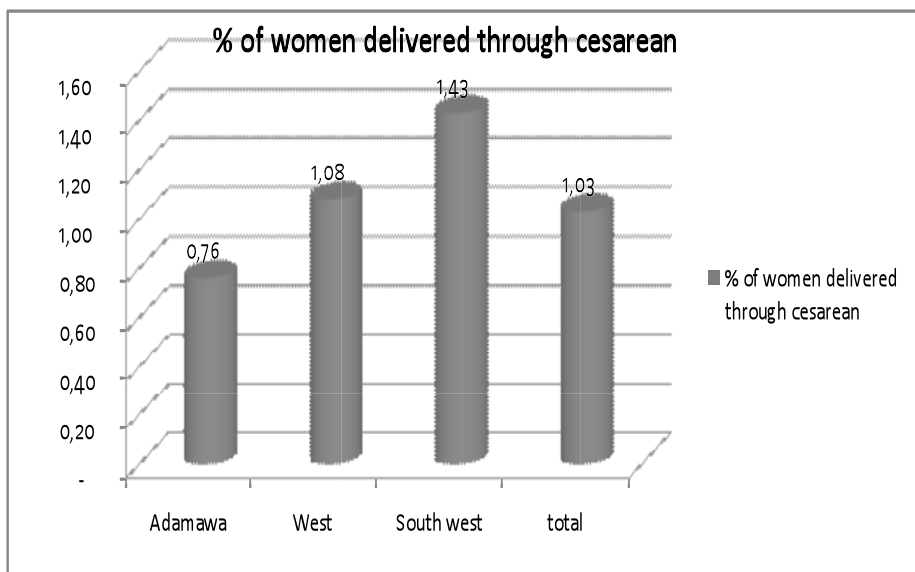
Source: Department of Family Health, Ministry of Public Health



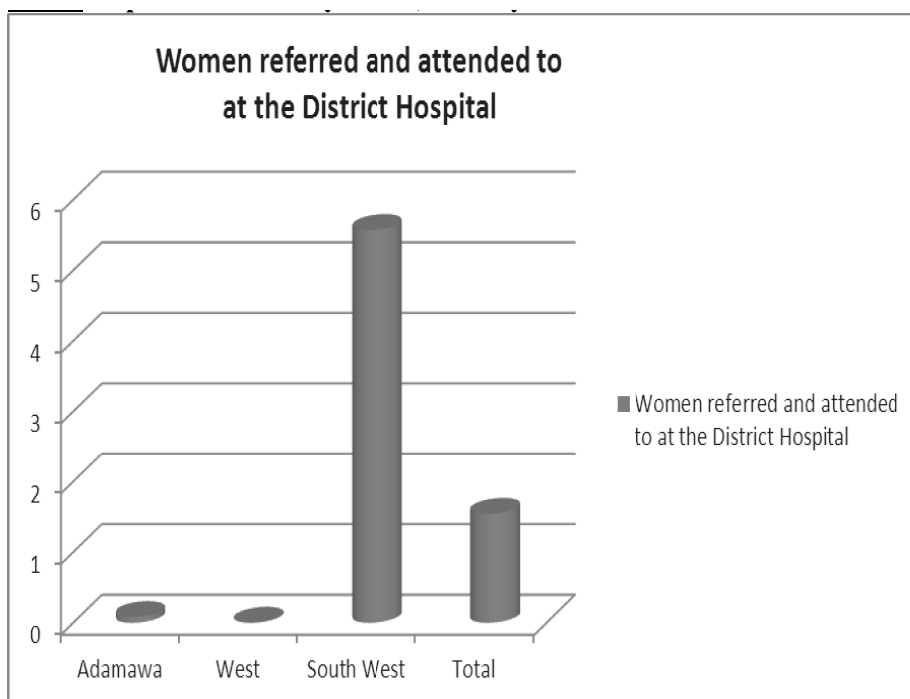
Source: Department of Family Health, Ministry of Public Health

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Source: Department of Family Health, Ministry of Public Health



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B: Adolescent Health

429- Significant actions were carried out especially in terms of health education, drug prevention and alcohol consumption programmes.

1) Health Education

430- Given that 10 to 15 per cent of adolescents are affected by early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, a programme was drawn up and implemented in schools through filmed and written documents put at the disposal of schools, colleges and grammar schools. In this regard, three films to raise awareness on adolescents and reproductive health were produced in collaboration with ADB and UNESCO.

2) Drug Prevention and Alcohol Consumption

431- It was noticed that mental health problems among adolescents in Cameroon are to a large proportion linked to the consumption of alcohol, narcotics and other psychotropic substances. Statistics show that about 40 per cent of Cameroon's population is affected by drugs such as cannabis which is produced and consumed locally. 21 per cent of these people have used hard drugs⁷³ at least once. 10 per cent use drugs regularly including 60 per cent of the young aged between 20 and 25.⁷⁴

432- Mental health problems among adolescents are also the result of very high consumption of strong unregulated spirits. A number of programmes were drawn up and implemented by the Drug Addiction Control, Tobacco and Alcohol Control, and Health Education Services of the Ministry of Public Health to prevent and treat the above adolescent health problems.

C: Child Health

433- Government actions in this domain centred principally on the promotion of breastfeeding, improvement of nutrition of children under 5 years,

⁷³ Drugs are natural or synthetic substances whose introduction into an organism affects one or more of its functions by acting primarily on the brain. They are classified into three main categories: drugs that are both stimulants and depressants of the central nervous system (amphetamine and its derivatives, crack, cocaine, ecstasy, caffeine, antidepressants, etc ...), those that are depressant only of the central nervous system (analgesics, opium, sleeping pills, alcohol, heroin, morphine, methaqualone, etc ...) and drugs that disrupt the central nervous system (cannabis, marijuana, hashish, LSD, some mushrooms, inhalants (solvents, aerosols, adhesives)

⁷⁴ Figures published by the National Drug Control Committee

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high immunization coverage, child mortality reduction and the improvement of school health conditions. The extension of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses continued in 2010. The implementation of the Expanded Programme on Immunization made it possible to achieve satisfactory rates of coverage: 81.1 per cent for tracer antigen (Penta3), 75.37 per cent for immunization against measles and 77.82 per cent for TT2 with a data completeness of 99.24 per cent that exceeds the immunization coverage goal of 92 per cent.

434- In 2010, 48,736 out of 560,306 people living with HIV/AIDS were children aged between 0 and 14 years representing 8.5 per cent. 3,408 of the infected children were under free antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. With the free ARV treatment offered by Government, there was an increase in the survival rate of the number of PLWHA including infected children.

SECTION III: HEALTH PROMOTION

435- In addition to Government action in this domain, civil society organisations such as African Action on Aids (AAA) also supported health promotion.

§1: Government Action to Promote Health

436- Concerning health promotion, Government activities focused on nutrition, immunization, sanitation and hospital hygiene, fight against road accidents with emphasis laid on communication and public awareness.

A: Nutrition

437- To ensure health security of food derived from animals and fish, Government regularly carried out veterinary health inspections at various levels of the food chain including: farms, slaughter houses, processing establishments, cattle markets, conservation/stocking, distribution units and restaurants. The table below indicates inspections carried out in slaughter houses in some Regions.

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Table 4: Controlled Slaughtering

Species Region	Cattle	Piglet	Caprine	Ovine	Poultry	Equine	Seizures Reason	Quantity (Kg)
ADAMAWA								
CENTRE	5,622	1,797	97	69			- Partial Tuberculosis - Distomiasis - Cirrhosis	- 913 - 1217 - 314
EAST	446		12	3				
FAR NORTH							- Partial Tuberculosis - Generalized Tuberculosis - Distomiasis - Others	- 1236 - 20000 - 1850 - 1352
LITTORAL	1,445	600			54,000	20	- Generalized Tuberculosis - Partial Tuberculosis	- 6068 - 900
NORTH	27,137	2,722	17,838	7,117	12,600		- Generalized Tuberculosis - Partial Tuberculosis - Distomiasis - PPBC	- 2800 - 1026 - 497 - 5
NORTH WEST								
WEST								
SOUTH								
SOUTH WEST							- Partial Tuberculosis - Distomiasis - Others	- 19 - 451 - 64
TOTAL	34,650	5,119	17,947	7,189	66,600	20	- Generalized Tuberculosis - Partial Tuberculosis - Distomiasis - Cirrhosis - PPBC - Others	- 8868 - 2858 - 2165 - 314 - 1355

Source: MINEPIA

438- The inspection missions seized large quantity of contaminated food including the following:

- withdrawal and destruction of sausage imported from France by the Casino Supermarket based in Yaounde and Douala because they were suspected of being contaminated by the bacteria, listeria monocytogen;
- seizure of illegally imported and transported sliced chicken; and
- withdrawal of tainted meat and fish from some fish depots.

439- The Table below recapitulates the quantities seized in 2010.

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Table 5: Seizures during Inspection

Commodity Region	Imported beef (Kg)	Local meat (Kg)	Fishery products (Kg)	Sliced chicken (Kg)	Sausage (Kg)	Pork (Kg)	Ovine Meat (Kg)	Milk	Sardine s	Butte r
ADAMAWA										
CENTRE				1260	7.5					
EAST										
FAR NORTH										
LITTORAL	1958	Cattle 610	313	1,350	16	6,068	63			
NORTH		Cattle 235 Pork 12 Goat 3						24 boxes	103 boxes	235 boxes
NORTH WEST										
WEST										
SOUTH			32	142				72 boxes 26 packets	3 cartons	
SOUTH WEST										
TOTAL	1958	610	345	2,752	23.5	6,068	63		3	

Source: Department of Veterinary Services

440- Other activities in this domain to ensure proper and balanced nutrition included:

- the establishment of a micronutrient food fortification programme initiated by the signing of agreements with 10 national companies including 6 oil-mills and 4 flour mills; and
- the training of 26 clinical healthcare providers in the Adamawa and Far North Regions in popularizing water purification techniques in households.

B: Immunization

441- Immunization campaigns against diseases preventable through vaccination such as meningitis, yellow fever, hepatitis, measles, etc... were carried out. 1.3 million vulnerable people for example, were vaccinated against the 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1). During such campaigns, vitamin A was distributed to children aged 6 to 59 months and to post-partum women; and iron and folic acid were distributed to 370,000 pregnant women.

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C: Sanitation and Hospital Hygiene

442- To promote hygiene and the better management of hospital waste, incinerators were acquired for the Douala and Yaounde central and regional hospitals.

D: Control of Road Accidents

443- The control of road accidents in 2010 involved prevention, punishment and organization of care for victims.

1) Prevention

444- Prevention efforts focused on improving the institutional framework, reform of driver's license and the improvement of road infrastructure.

445- Institutionally, the signing of Order No. 102/PM of 7 June 2010 to set up an ad hoc inter-ministerial commission on road safety for the optimization of prevention and road safety.

446- Regarding the reform of the examination for the award of driver's license, the Minister of Transport signed Ministerial Instruction No. 2010/01026/IM/MINT/SG/DTT of 18 June 2010 on the organization of the examination for the award of driver's license to streamline training in driving schools, the examination for the award of driver's license and its issue.

447- The innovations introduced by this instruction to the organization of the examination of driver's license are computerization of the entire chain from approved driving schools, the publication of lists of candidates and those who pass the driver's licence examination, grouping of divisional centres at the regional level and supervision of examinations by official representatives such as those for the Baccalaureate examination to ensure the effectiveness of the practical tests.

448- In terms of infrastructure, the Douala-Yaounde highway was secured⁷⁵.

2) Punishment

449- Punishment comprised the suspension of driver's licenses, public transport and ordinary public transport licenses.

Thus, 60 driver's licenses and 32 public transport licenses were suspended for a period of 1 month for speeding. Moreover, due to traffic fatalities, 10 ordinary public transport licenses of all categories owned by public transport companies and individuals were suspended from 1 month to an indefinite period.

⁷⁵This requires reshaping curve areas, increasing the number of lanes on steep slopes, installing lane separators in high speed areas, improving horizontal and vertical road markings covering 264 km, installing road safety features, especially zippers with auto reflective bulbs and creating pedestrian crossings (bridges) in accident-prone areas.

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3) Care for Victims

450- It was marked by the signing of Order No. 161/CAB/PM on the setting up, organization and functioning of the committee for the medical follow-up of highway casualties for quick and better management, collection and processing of reliable and harmonized statistics on road accidents and victims.

E: Communication and Public Awareness

451- Communication and public awareness of health programmes was ensured in particular through the national vaccination campaign against pandemic influenza A and immunization campaigns against diseases preventable through vaccination. Furthermore, peer educators were trained on awareness in the spread of STIs and HIV/AIDS as well as the risk of teenage pregnancy due to unprotected sex and rape of teenage girls and adults. Cholera prevention awareness was equally initiated. Consumers were also sensitized on good food hygiene practices through television and radio programmes.

§2: Civil Society Action to Promote Health

452- Apart from activities carried out by the NGO African Action on AIDS (AAA), other civil society organizations were involved in social health risk coverage.

A: Activities by African Action on Aids

453- In 2010, AAA consolidated and launched its Preventive Health Plan which comprises essential positive behaviour against diseases. With the help of a substantial grant secured by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, AAA and MIFED built 42 appropriate latrines in the North and Centre Regions in the following Self-managed Rural Savings and Loan Funds: Goura, Teate, Nkolngok, Mbangassina, Bitam, Pela, Mengu_Kom, Mvebekon, Abem, Zalom, Ngalla, Nlobole, Ebolakounou, Abemedjock, Koum, Edou, Begni, Manakagna, Leka, Endinguili, Baliaama, Yemessoa II, Talba, Minsoa, Nkouloutou, Zima, Nkolkosse, Ndjor_II, Mengang, Bibe, Kamba, Medjeme, CECA Akga, Eboman, Nomayos, Ngondimbele, Fang Biloun, Kane, Ate, Nsan, Essaboutou, Mimbang. This is an example of a dynamic partnership between the State and civil society organizations in the health sector, allowing Government to achieve its 2020 objectives of 1,200 000 appropriate latrines in rural areas.

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B: Social Health Risk Coverage

454- The rate of social health risk coverage could be analysed through the number of mutual health associations per health district as well as accession rate.

1) Mutual Health Associations per Health District

455- There are 158 mutual health associations in Cameroon distributed in 70 of the 178 existing health districts, representing 39.3 per cent. Some districts have more than one mutual health association. The North West and the West Regions have high percentages of districts with at least one mutual health association standing at 14 and 10 per cents respectively. The Adamawa Region has a contrasting situation where only the Ngaoundere Rural District has mutual health associations (14 in all with one union of mutual health associations).

2) Accession Rate

456- Approximately 5 per cent of the population is covered by a health insurance system. Specific data is not available on the accession of vulnerable persons (women, children, handicap persons and the elderly) to mutual health associations because accession is generally done by family heads. However, on average, about 39.2 percent of women accede to these associations. The highest rates of women's accession are in the Centre, South and West Regions (50 per cent) with the lowest in the North (2.82 per cent) and the Adamawa (13.95 per cent).

457- From what precedes, it is evident that the Government of Cameroon, supported by development partners and some NGOs, continues to promote and protect the right to health. However, much is still to be done to guarantee every Cameroonian the best physical and mental health.

Chapter 4

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING



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458- Indicators to assess the right to an adequate standard of living are appraised through Government effort to guarantee the right to adequate feeding, access to water and energy and the right to adequate housing.

SECTION 1: RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FEEDING

459- The right to adequate feeding is assessed by food availability and accessibility.

§1- Guarantee of food availability

460- Food availability should be both quantitative and qualitative.

A: Available Quantity of Food

461- To guarantee food availability, it was decided that the Growth and Economic Strategy Paper (GESP) made proposals for the modernization of the production apparatus in order to allow for agricultural, animal, fisheries and forestry production development.

1) Agricultural production development

462- Three thrusts guide agricultural sector development. They are: redynamization of the rice sector, development of maize and cassava cultivation as well as intensive agricultural development of promising sectors (banana, plantain, sugar, sorghum, oil palm, cocoa, coffee and cotton).

463- It should be noted that increased local production of cereals and tubers should be an alternative to the consumption of imported rice.

464- In the 2010 budget allocation, large agricultural sectors received a total of CFA 9.45 billion. CFA 4.74 billion were allocated for industrial crops and CFA 4.71 billion for food crops.

465- Apart from these crops, agricultural extension, financing, private and community operators, development of rural infrastructure (feeder roads), management and development of Bakassi⁷⁶ and Lake Chad, rehabilitation of 10 seed farms and national food security received aid.

⁷⁶ These enclaved zones are considered as priority zones.

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466- Emphasis was also laid on developing sustainable agricultural production. To this end, 1,247 producer groups were supported with 706 receiving funds totalling CFA 1,413,370,000⁷⁷. 106 umbrella organizations were also financed.

467- In the rice sector, nearly 10 tonnes of improved rice seeds were given to 2,500 rice farmers on 30 June 2010 at the headquarters of the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD), Yaounde. In the company of experts, 36 producer groups tested and approved these seeds. 30 tonnes of improved seeds were produced between May 2009 and April 2010⁷⁸.

468- The banana plantain sector in Cameroon produces about 1.3 million tonnes per year. This insufficient production is under study to improve cross production between 150 available species for new varieties resistant to cercospora leaf spot that reduces production.

2) Animal Production

469- Animal production policy is based on improving short-cycle animal husbandry (poultry, piglets, small ruminants and non-conventional breeding), and the setting up of medium and large-sized ranches for cattle.

470- To implement this policy, MINEPIA prepared a master plan, in 2009, for the development of the livestock sector in Cameroon in order to reduce shortages in consumption of food of animal origin. It favoured sector-based approach that is reflected in the implementation of priority programmes, especially in poultry, dairy, pork, cattle and unconventional livestock.

471- The following projects were implemented in 2010:

- The Small Holder Dairy Development Project whose budget for 2009 was CFA 425 million⁷⁹. In 2010, 47 CIGs and a cooperative of about 300 members were beneficiaries. Milk production was estimated at 732 tonnes.
- Pig Industry Development Programme: This programme had a budget of CFA 777 million in 2010⁸⁰. 29,665 farmers benefited and produced 417,000 hogs.

⁷⁷ About 2,157,820 Euros.

⁷⁸ Cameroon Tribune of 1 July 2010

⁷⁹ About 648,429 Euros.

⁸⁰ About 1186300 Euros.

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- Village Poultry Support Development Project:

In 2010, this project had a budget of CFA 266 million⁸¹. 40,000 farmers benefited and produced 10 million birds.

- Non-Conventional Breeding Support Project:

In 2010, the project had a budget of CFA 288 million⁸². 486 CIGs received and produced 1,332 tonnes of meat.

- The Small Ruminants Support Development Project:

This project received a budget of CFA 33 million⁸³ in 2010, produced 7,000 heads of cattle for at least 20,000 tonnes of meat.

- Beekeeping Support Development Project:

In 2010, this project was financed to the tune of CFA 67 million⁸⁴. 165 CIGs, in five regions, that is, about 29,665 farmers benefited and produced about 804 tonnes of honey.

472- Although some of these projects have been executed only for one year, all of them have contributed significantly to improving the supply of food of animal origin. These projects mobilized about CFA 1.431 billion⁸⁵ and at least 72,920 farmers benefited from their support.

Overall output generated by their activities is estimated at, at least 80,502 tonnes of meat and 732 tonnes of milk.

B: Qualitative Availability

473- In order to guarantee consumer products, it was decided that some manufactured products will be stamped notwithstanding measures taken by ANOR.

1) Stamped Manufactured Goods

474- Decree No. 2010/483/PM of 18 March 2010 lays down detailed rules for affixing stamps on some manufactured goods. Article 11 provides that the Ministry in charge of Trade shall verify the authenticity and effectiveness of stamps on products throughout the national territory. Its application is expected to fight against counterfeiting of manufactured products to better maintain consumer health.

⁸¹ About 345,038 Euros.

⁸³ About 50,400 Euros.

⁸⁵ About 2,184,750 Euros.

⁸² About 439,694 Euros.

⁸⁴ About 102,300 Euros.

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2) Measures by ANOR

475- Measures by ANOR comprised drawing up norms and organizing quality control and conformity certification of import and export products. Therefore, it could be noted that new norms were established for the agro-food, fruit and vegetable sectors. More so, norms for wheaten flour and refined vegetable oils were reviewed in order to enrich them with vitamins.⁸⁶

§2: Access to foodstuff

476- Measures taken were directed essentially towards controlling the distribution channel. It involved both enhancing the institutional framework by the setting-up of the National Consumer Products Observatory and facilitating access to common consumer products, even though some food stuffs were still in short supply.

A: Setting-up of the National Consumer Products Observatory

477- Decree No. 2010/1743/PM of 9 June 2010 sets-up the National Consumer Products Observatory which is an organ in charge of controlling and helping in decision making as part of the regular strategy to supply consumer products to the domestic market⁸⁷. Its duties include⁸⁸:

- proposing a list of consumer products, based on the needs and consumption patterns of people at national and regional levels;
- collecting and exploiting information about producing, exploiting, importing, distributing and marketing consumer products;
- examining and advising on all matters relating to the constitution of buffer stocks of consumer products;
- drawing up an inventory of supplies on the periodic market, and proposing to Government, measures to prevent shortages; and
- developing a plan for organizing unstructured sectors.

478- Two decisions signed by the Minister of Trade on 21 September 2010 render the Observatory operational. They are Decision No. 61/MINCOMMERCE/CAB of 21 September 2010 and Decision No. 62/MINCOMMERCE/CAB of 21 September 2010. The first confirms the

⁸⁶ ANOR established 67 new norms in the agro-food sectors, construction and electrical materials, fruit and vegetables. See CT of 28 June 2011, p.9.

⁸⁷ Article 2 of Decree No. 2010/1743/PM of 19 June 2010 above.

⁸⁸ See Article 3 of the above-mentioned Decree for the Observatory's duties.

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composition of the National Consumer Products Observatory and the second appoints members of its Technical Secretariat as provided for by Articles 5, 6, and 7 of the decree to set it up. The Secretariat shall among others be responsible for⁸⁹ :

- preparing cyclical notes on consumer products to be submitted to members of the Observatory; and
- centralizing information relating to producing, exploiting, importing, distributing and marketing of consumer products.

479- Before setting up and implementing the Observatory, measures to facilitate access to staple convenience goods had been implemented.

B: Access to Essential Commodities

480- Officials of the Ministry of Commerce organized, as in previous years, a large-scale promotional sale of essential commodities. This operation is conducted through a partnership with some companies, merchants and traders identified in some cities, to provide households, basic needs, like oil, sugar, rice, beef, poultry, fish and other foodstuffs at the lowest price.

481- This access is facilitated by the increasing number of promotional shops and boutiques and by the continued organization of the promotional sales caravans.

482- Shops selling promotional products were opened in all divisional chief towns in the country, thereby causing a substantial increase in their number in some regional chief towns. The promotional shops and boutiques in the city of Douala rose from 51 in 2009 to 96 in 2010, giving a rate of more than 88.23 per cent. 20 new promotional sales stores were opened in Yaounde. 4 new stores have sprung up in Ebolowa.

483- The operation of mobile promotional caravans was generalized and lasted throughout 2010. Collection points for food products around the major cities were increased. These efforts were however mitigated by continued food shortages.

C: Continued Food Shortage

484- Many food and staple convenience goods were in short supply in 2010. In addition to mackerel and sugar, the shortages of cooking gas, oil, rice, palm oil, salad oil, etc. were reported.

⁸⁹ See decree setting it up above.

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485- Cameroon that does not produce mackerel imports 130,000 tonnes annually. The removal of customs duties did not prevent the price of this fish in the local market to be influenced by the current international prices.

486- Since domestic production was insufficient, Government authorized operators in the sector to import 25,000 tonnes of sugar. India, the world's largest producer of sugar had weather problems that caused a shortage of six million tonnes of supplies to the international market. This deficit led to higher prices on the global market.

487- Domestic production is often faced with the inability to meet demand. Because the economy is liberal, traders happily take full advantage of these market conditions. Specific operations to supply and regulate the markets by maintaining relatively stable prices of basic commodities are not reassuring.

SECTION II: RIGHT TO WATER AND ENERGY

§1: Increased Water Supply

488- In 2010, Government strengthened the legal and institutional framework for urban supply of drinking water, particularly in Yaounde, and continued the rehabilitation of existing networks.

A: Legal and Institutional Framework

489- In 2010 major texts were signed in the water sector:

- Decree No. 2010/3720/PM of 27 December 2010 to approve the regulation of leased services for the distribution of drinking water in urban and peri-urban centres of Cameroon. This text that governs the relationships between the supplier "Cameroonaise des Eaux" and consumers clearly specifies the rights and obligations of each party as well as sanctions in case of violation. Besides, it provides for the putting in place of a regulatory body of the water sector;
- Order No. 162/CAB/PM of 1 November 2010 set up, organized and laid down the functioning of the Inter-ministerial Steering

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Committee⁹⁰ for Drinking Water Supply to the City of Yaounde from the Sanaga River. Article 2 of this instrument provides that the Committee shall control, coordinate and monitor the project; and

- The collective national convention by companies in the drinking water and liquid hygiene sector adopted on 28 January 2011 that aims at fixing equal salaries for employees in the drinking water and liquid hygiene sector.

B: Rehabilitation and Extension of Water Supply Networks

490- These works represent the implementation of the programme to "rehabilitate and extend water supply in Yaounde, Douala and several cities and towns across the country," announced by the President of the Republic in his message to the Nation on 31 December 2009. It seeks to reduce the considerable deficit of water supply, especially in the cities of Douala and Yaounde. Douala needs 280,000 m³ of water per day, but receives only 105,000 m³, representing a deficit of 175,000 m³. Yaounde should consume 150,000 m³ of water daily but it receives only 97,000 m³, implying a deficit of 53,000 m³.

491- The main projects started in 2010 comprise:

- inauguration on 25/6/2010 of a drinking water treatment centre in Ayato, a few kilometres from Douala. It was built by the Chinese company CGC Overseas Construction Group (CGCOC) at a cost of CFA18 billion. It was financed with a loan of CFA 11 billion from the People's Republic of China, through Eximbank with the State and Camwater contributing CFA 7 billion. This has increased the production capacity of water to Douala from 105,000 to 180,000 m³ per day, an increase of 75 per cent compared to the initial production;

⁹⁰The Committee is especially in charge of:

- conducting negotiations with China for the signing of service contract for the project;
- coordinating and monitoring of all operations relating to education, construction and commissioning of the project works and equipment;
- complying with technical and environmental guidance, in accordance with national and international security, environmental and social management standards and practices, including the environmental and social management plan of the project;
- preparing negotiations for mobilizing necessary financing to complete the project in conjunction with the Chinese partner China National Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation (CMEC); and
- controlling all project components in order to meet envisaged time, cost and performance objectives.

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- constructing a plant with a capacity of 50,000 m³/d on the Mefou to increase the production of water in Yaounde to 1 50,000 m³/day;
- rehabilitating treatment plants in the cities of Bertoua, Edea and Ngaoundere;
- rehabilitating, expanding and increasing the network in 18 centres: Akono, Bafang-Banka, Bafia, Bana, Bangangté, Bangou, Banso, Penka Michel, Ebolowa, Foumban, Kumba, Kousseri, LoumMamfe, Manjo, Mbanga, Ngoumou, Nkongsamba and Sangmélima;
- rehabilitating, reinforcing and extending drinking water systems of 52 centres. First phase: Douala, Bogo, Maroua, Mbankomo, Jiniken-jem-Oku. These projects are recorded in the investment programme adopted by Camwater aimed at increasing the national coverage rate from the current 35 per cent to more than 60 per cent by 2015.

492- Urgent projects led to the:

- construction of 10 reservoirs with a capacity of 6m³ of water in each of the 10 (ten) sites in Yaounde (Carriere, Ucac, Mimboman, Eman, Nkolbisson, Messa Me Ndongo, Ahala, Simbock, Yomabang and Rond-point Damas neighbourhoods).
- construction of 34 boreholes with manual pumps in Yaounde; and
- buying of 4 water tank trucks for the supply of reservoirs with drinking water.

493- Many infrastructure projects are implemented to increase the production capacity of water and electricity.

§2: Increased Energy Supply

494- Growth in energy production takes into account the construction of the Memve'ele, LomPangar, Nachtigal dams and the Kribi power plant.

- It is envisaged that the Lom Pangar reservoir Dam will have a capacity of 6 billion m³. Its aim, among others, is to regulate the flow of the Sangha River and increase the production capacity of Songloulou and Edea to 170 MW. Work on the development of the site has started. Finalizing the text on the classification of the site into the artificial public domain of the State, compensation and eviction are in progress.
- The aim of the Natchigal Project is to make possible the expansion of the aluminum plant at Edeato increase its production capacity from 90,000 tonnes to 300,000 tonnes.

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- MekinProject: This project is the subject of Decree No. 2010/328 of 18 October 2010 that sets up the Mekin Hydroelectric Development Corporation (HYDRO Mekin) company with public capital and with the State as sole shareholder. Its duty is to design, finance, build and operate the Mekin Plant with an installed capacity of 15 MW and other development projects in the Dja Basin, by installing equipment and buying movable and immovable property necessary for their operation. Access works to the site have been launched.

- The Kribi gas power plant project with a capacity of 286 MW is intended to provide a transmission line of 225 KV over 100 km for the transportation of energy from Kribi to Edea. Compensation and resettlement were completed. Civil engineering works on the site and the construction of transmission lines began in March 2010.

495- The energy situation in Cameroon is particularly difficult. To cope, Government has set up an Emergency Thermal Programme with project management entrusted to Electricity Development Corporation (EDC). This programme involves providing additional energy and the construction⁹¹ of 4 thermal plants in Yaounde 60 MW, Bamenda 20 MW, Mbalmayo 10 MW and Ebolowa 10 MW. The ETP would therefore satisfy the minimum flow in 2011.

496- Cameroon has an installed production capacity of 1,017MW, representing 720MW of hydroelectric capacity and 297 MW of thermal capacity. Supply is insufficient for the growing demand. The access rate to electricity in Cameroon is about 30 per cent in urban areas and below 10 per cent in rural areas.

497- Constructing the Memve'e Dam is an early solution to the energy deficit. The aim of this project, with a capacity of 15 MW, is to double energy production in Cameroon in 2015. It is financed by the Chinese bank, Eximbank, and the Cameroon counterpart for CFA 25 billion⁹². Eventually, energy produced by that dam will cover the Dja and Lobo Division and the Nyong and Mfoumou in part, including Endom and Akonolinga, the Nyong and So'o and the Ocean Divisions as part of an interconnected network system.

⁹¹ Related service contracts have been signed and at this stage, co-contractors of the State are very busy in carrying out these works whose delivery and commissioning is scheduled for late September 2011.

⁹² About 38,167,938 Euros.

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498- Through the Electrical Transmission and Distribution Strengthening and Extension Project, rural electrification rate is expected to increase. The materialization of this project worth CFA 42 billion⁹³, envisaged the construction of 100 km of 90 KVA line between Mbalmayo and Ebolowa and a KVA 90/30 high-voltage/medium voltage in Ebolowa as well as the construction of 1,500 km of 30 KV medium voltage and 900 km of low voltage lines. This project jointly financed by the Government of Cameroon, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will also result in the installation of 870 50 KVA and 25 KVA stations and 1,100 prepaid home lighting metres. Finally, 332,000 connections have been done.

499- The Rural Electrification Agency pursues a strategy of electrifying communities on a pilot basis and implementing electrification programmes on external funding. As regards temporary electrification on a pilot basis, nearly 200 villages have been electrified.

500- Several rural electrification programmes financed by international donors have continued including the electrification programme of:

- 26 localities along the dorsal side of Cameroon financed by the Kingdom of Spain;
- more than 100 communities in the RUMPI in the South West Region financed by the European Development Fund;
- 33 towns in 4 Regions (Centre, South, North, Northwest) with funding from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB); and
- rural electrification programme in the Sector Development Project financed by the World Bank.

501- In addition, the Rural Electrification Agency has signed a partnership agreement with FEICOM to track rural electrification projects financed by this organization.

502- AER ensured quality control of service and realization of investments in the AES-SONEL concession by carrying out control missions in all regions of the country to verify that investments envisaged in the business plan of AES-SONEL to improve on service quality were done under good conditions. AER opened up the sector to competition. It contributed in settling disputes relating to overbilling, illegal electricity interruption, fraud on electrical power, delay in installing metres, non refund of collateral at the end of the

⁹³ About 64,122,137 Euros.

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contract, and compensation for damages caused on equipment due to unstable tension.

503- Increasing water supply and energy is mitigated by continuing water shortages and power cuts.

§3: Persistent Water Shortages and Power Outages

504- Water shortage is the daily lot of citizens in major cities.

505- In rural areas, water supply is even more difficult. Water shortages in large cities are due to the lack of production over demand, the obsolescence and inadequacy of the extension of the network, population growth and uncontrolled urbanization.

506- Problems faced by big cities are replicable in communities where CAMWATER, in charge of production, and the “Cameroonaise des Eaux” in charge of selling water are present.

507- To deal with this crisis that became acute in 2010, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources took emergency measures to contain water shortages particularly in (the capital of Cameroon) Yaounde. An inter-ministerial emergency programme comprising three phases was implemented.

508- The first phase concerned the Nyong where the level of the river has fallen at the pumping station at Akomnyada, Mbalmayo. The construction of a dam to increase the water load was considered.

509- The second phase took into account neighbourhoods that are not properly supplied by the existing distribution network. In these neighbourhoods CDE was requested to install water tanks. These tanks were placed on pedestals and worked with taps like fountains. The company bought two tankers to load these tanks from where people were supplied. Before this, fire brigade and City Council lent a hand to CDE.

510- The third phase focused on constructing 34 boreholes in the outskirts of Yaounde by GSC-Cam and Geofor. Each of these companies had to build 17 boreholes. Exploring sites for the installation of 20 additional boreholes continued.

511- Wealthy Cameroonians have alternatives such as drilling for water or solar energy to light up homes.

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SECTION III: RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

512- Legal security of tenure is one of the first criteria for assessing the right to adequate housing. The other features such as availability, liveability and accessibility make it possible to assess the quantity and quality offered. In 2010, major changes were made in terms of legal security of tenure but the supply especially of public housing did not improve significantly.

§1: Changes in Legal Security of Tenure

513- Both the normative framework and statistics on land ownership have changed considerably. Moreover, social aspects were taken into account in urban renovation and restructuring.

A: Normative Framework

514- Law No. 2010/22 of 21 December 2010 on joint ownership of property was adopted⁹⁴ within the framework of legislative reform to boost housing development. Mention can also be made of Order No.1/E/2/MINDUH of 20 January 2010 to lay down rules for the presentation of the general specifications of property development.

515- The law aims at regulating ownership of built or non built property belonging to several people, divided into lots each comprising individual and shared areas. It also applies to housing complexes and residences consisting of contiguous or separate dwellings, with common areas owned in joint ownership.

516- The law regulates the structure and the legal consequences of joint ownership, states its organization and administration, decides on changes, determines and organizes the settlement of disputes and sets criminal penalties.

B: Statistics on Land Ownership

517- In 2010, 9,897 land titles were issued including 645 to women.⁹⁵ This is progress compared to 2009 where 8,411 land titles were issued including 595 to women. 143,308 land titles were available in 2010⁹⁶.

⁹⁴ Decree No. 2011/113/PM of 11 May 2011 was signed to lay down the conditions for the application of this Law

⁹⁵ Statistics do not include women whose names appear on land certificates for joint property or those whose marital regime is joint property and who are entitled to land certificates of their spouses.

⁹⁶ 125,000 land certificates had been issued as of 2008.

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C: Social Aspects of Urban Renovation and Restructuring

518- Social aspects were included in the conduct of urban renewal and restructuring operations carried out by some regional and local authorities. Hence, in developing the driveway to the land at Olembe on which part of government's programme for the construction of low cost houses was to be implemented, 50 families received CFA 197 million⁹⁷ as compensation for the expropriation and destruction of their property.

519- More so, victims living in the sites where the City Council, Douala executed works and whose rights to housing⁹⁸ were affected were compensated. This is the case of the pilot GTZ/ CUD Water and Sanitation Project where the sum of CFA 3,250,000 million was disbursed to affected populations of Mbandaka (6 cases) and Brazzaville (1 case).

§2: Housing Supply

520- The public and private sectors played a role in housing supply in 2010.

A- Public Supply

521- Housing schemes were launched in 2009 as part of public supply, directed both by the State, State-owned companies and local and regional authorities. This is the special construction emergency programme of 10,000 low cost houses and 50,000 plots throughout the country by 2013. This also involved the Bonatoumbe concerted development project between SAD/CUD and the Bonatoumbe community. Some of these programmes are designed to produce low cost houses that are liveable and affordable. The progress of these programmes in 2010 reveals no delivery of housing units since work on different sites, Olembe⁹⁹ in Yaounde, Mbanga-Bakoko¹⁰⁰ and Bonatoumbe¹⁰¹ in Douala, is still underway¹⁰².

⁹⁷ About 300,328 Euros. See Order No. 1486 of 5 October 2010 by the Senior Divisional Officer of Mfoundi Division to set up a Divisional Commission to compensate victims of this operation.

⁹⁸ Other operations that did not affect the right to housing were compensated. This is the case of the rehabilitation of the Avenue Roger Milla. CFA 13,550,000 was paid as compensation to the population for the exhumation and reburial of corpses from the Ndogbati Cemetery.

⁹⁹ MAETUR has developed 57 parcels of land with a surface area of 9ha for the first phase on this site.

¹⁰⁰ Construction at this site was launched on 5 February 2010 by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing. MAETUR has developed 100 parcels of land with a surface area of 30ha for phases 1 and 2 of this project.

¹⁰¹ External works, electrification and parcelling were done in 2010.

¹⁰² The first houses under this emergency programme will be delivered in 2011. The first phase of this programme concerns 2,475 houses including 1,300 in Yaounde and 1,175 in Douala. In 2010, 8 of the 24 successful bidding companies in Douala had an execution rate of 25 per cent and the others 5 per cent.

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B: Private Supply

522- Although it is difficult to assess private housing supply, some initiatives like The “*Cité des Cadres*” Project should be mentioned. This is a 770 housing project executed in Yaounde by the “*Société de promotion immobilière*”. In 2010, it offered 210 houses to buyers¹⁰³.

523- Besides “*The Cité des Cadres*”, the company plans to execute other projects in Yaounde in its 2010-2013 triennial plan. They are: the “*Cité de Sappelli*” which is a 3,000 low cost housing project at Nkongoa, the “*Citédu Baobab*” at the Febe Village neighbourhood, for the construction of 1,200 high rise houses and the “*Clos pavillonnaire Saint-Victor*” for the construction of 1,800 houses at the Ekoumdoum neighbourhood.

524- The construction of 100 houses at Nkongoa, a neighbourhood on the road to Mfou, by the Authentic Developers Company¹⁰⁴ is another significant initiative.

¹⁰³ On 6 February 2010, Cameroon’s Minister of Commerce, accompanied by his Tunisian counterpart, visited this project at the Ahala neighbourhood. They expressed their satisfaction with progress of work. See CT of 12 February 2010.

¹⁰⁴ Source: MINDUH.

Chapter 5

RIGHT TO WORK AND SOCIAL SECURITY



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525- The importance of valuing human resources in the development process was taken into account in the Growth and Employment Strategy by including the right to work and social security as a pillar of this strategy and by defining priority actions. Thus, in 2010, measures were taken to guarantee the right to work and social security.

SECTION I: RIGHT TO WORK

526- General Comment No. 18 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, defines the right to work as access to decent work and the right to just and favourable working conditions.

§1: Access to Decent Work

527- Employment strategy is based on the following three main thrusts: increasing job offer, meeting labour demand and making the labour market more efficient.

A: Increasing Job Offer

528- The laying down of a general framework for generating and streamlining programmes to promote employment through the setting up of a National Employment Council did not materialize in 2010. However, structural measures were taken. These measures should be assessed or expected to produce results in the fight against unemployment by creating jobs.

1) Structural Measures

529- Structural measures comprise:

- Drawing up of the flow chart for the Labour Deployment Intensive Approach (HIMO Approach) in major projects and its extension plan for RLAs. A Monitoring Committee of this approach was also set up in June 2010;
- Organizing a forum with the Cameroon Diaspora in May 2010 in Bonn, Germany in partnership with the DAVOC Association. In addition to identifying skills through an online electronic directory, participants discussed the establishment of an Investment Fund for the benefit of

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the Diaspora in order to encourage their participation in developing Cameroon. Employment benefits are expected;

- Organizing, on 27 July 2010, with ILO support, the appropriation forum by Cameroon of the Global Employment Pact. This Forum laid the groundwork for a National Employment Pact to define the role and commitments of stakeholders of the national community in promoting employment;
- Setting-up of an Inter-ministerial Discussion Unit on support to ILO's Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises for economic recovery and employment;
- Signing of Decree No. 2010/62 of 5 March 2010 to organize the Ministry of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts, which provides for a Unit in charge of Informal Activities and Migration that is responsible for the migration of the informal sector to the formal sector; and
- Participating in the work of the Technical Unit and the Steering Committee of the National Employment Fund Audit (NEF). The aim of this performance audit is to assess the efficiency of NEF's operational activities.

2) Creating Jobs

530- Cameroon does not yet have enough reliable tools to indicate, at some point, the actual or very likely unemployment rate or a complete picture of the job creation situation. However, trends in creating jobs can be highlighted.

531- In 2010, employment market indicators revealed an increase in informal employment and unemployment¹⁰⁵, due to the global economic crisis, with wide disparities between men and women, with women finding more employment in the informal sector¹⁰⁶. This low employment rate strongly correlates with low investment in human resources that do not always meet the needs of production and economic competitiveness, insofar as vocational training does not always receive adequate means that suit the needs of a competitive economy.

532- The following jobs were created in 2010:

¹⁰⁵ According to ILO, unemployment intensified reaching 11.9 per cent in 2009 as against 8.2 per cent in 2007, while underemployment, that remains extensive, was about 75.8 per cent of total employment. Similarly, the third household survey indicates that unemployment is very high in urban areas like Douala (20 per cent) and Yaounde (2.1 per cent).

¹⁰⁶ It was 95.5 per cent in 2009.

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Table 1: Created jobs

TYPES OF JOBS CREATED	SECTORS / STRUCTURES				TOTAL
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	NEF	PIAASI	
Employees	7461	7650	25 835		40 946
Self-employed			2 487	1225	3712
Indirect employment				3375	3375
TOTAL	7461	7650	28322	4600	48 033

Source: MINEFOP

533- With respect to creating paid jobs, nearly 7,461 contract part-time general education teachers signed their contracts, approved placement services placed 7,650 job seekers while NEF placed 28,322.

534- Regarding self-employment, NEF supported 226 young project developers. It also supported 1,206 people composed of 724 men and 842 women as part of the Rural Employment Development Support Programme (PADER). PIAASI financed 1,225 projects which are expected to create 3,375 indirect jobs.

535- In summary, at least 47,933 jobs were created in 2010. To these should be added the 3,314 employed people mentioned above¹⁰⁷ recruited by the Public Service through competitive examination. 10 per cent of this number was reserved for the vulnerable especially people with disabilities¹⁰⁸ The outcome of activities of youth insertion programmes should be taken into consideration as well. 70 youths as against 53 in 2007 and 15 in 2008 were employed within the context of PAJER-U AND PIFMAS.

536- Moreover, beyond job creation, support activities by job seekers and project owners should be taken into account.

537- In this regard, NEF hosted and directed 24,839 people and carried out 31,698 employment surveys in companies in 2010. It has trained 2,163 job seekers and financed 1,432 micro-projects. This funding caters for the creation of independent employment some of which generate indirect employment.

538- Apart from providing funding worth CFA 800 million in 2010, PIAASI markedly improved recovery of micro-credits whose repayments are due

¹⁰⁷ See chapter on Right to Participate in the Management of Public Affairs above.

¹⁰⁸ The number of Public Service employees rose by 1.5 per cent in six months, representing 199,158 employees in June 2010 against 196,126 in January 2010. See Report on the situation and economic, social and financial prospects of the nation in 2010, Ministry of Finance, January 2011 p.10.

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after 11 months of deferment. Thus, at the end of 2010, PIAASI recovered more than CFA 360 million. To further boost this activity, some sixty bikes were bought for officials and staff responsible for the programme.

B: Meeting Labour Demand

539- As part of the implementation of its development programme for the provision of vocational training to increase workforce job readiness by appropriate vocational training that requires the involvement and accountability of experts, MINEFOP obtained the following results in 2010:

- signing of a cooperation agreement on 20 October 2010 between MINEFOP and the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF); and
- organizing a meeting for exchange and consultation with over 35 business establishments in the city of Douala to promote alternate training and employment of nationals.

540- Also within the framework of the partnership to optimize the effectiveness of the vocational training system, the following measures were taken in 2010:

- putting in place of two academic, university and vocational training centres in Yaounde and Douala, through the Swiss Cooperation, the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Geneva. This project began with the rehabilitation of the building to house the Yaounde Centre;
- signing on 29 November 2010 in Seoul, of a loan agreement (amounting to) of CFA17 billion with South Korea, for the implementation of the construction and equipment of three (3) excellence training centres in Douala, Limbe and Sangmelima. A project management firm has been selected. Work will start in March 2011 and may be completed by early 2012;
- signing of an agreement with CEGEP de Trois-Rivieres du Canada for the Rehabilitation of the Intensive Public Vocational Training Centre, Pitoa;
- participation of MINEFOP in deliberations of the Cameroon - Gabon and Cameroon - Central African Republic Joint Commissions on labour migration and vocational training;
- initial drawing up of a classification of trades in the construction, infrastructure and hotel sectors and about thirty guides; and
- developing a draft framework law on education and guidance to be merged with a similar MINESEC project in an instrument to govern vocational training and technical and vocational education.

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541- On the whole, the rehabilitation of SAR/SM and equipment of public vocational training centres have continued but with increasingly reduced means.

542- 25 skills training courses were identified and 15 guides actually developed and implemented with 9 for ICT and 6 for manual jobs and manufacturing.

543- 783 training grants were awarded in 65 specialties for 96 approved public and private centres to support private sectors and learners in order to promote access to vocational training, due to high tuition costs.

544- As part of remediating activities of private vocational training centres and institutes, pre-approval inspections were carried out on the field, acts relating to approved facilities published and developers educated on the regulations in force. 478 private vocational training centres were involved. Consequently, 379 private vocational training centres training around 26,000 young people were approved in 2010.

545- On 23 November 2010, MINEFOP published a list of approved institutes and vocational training centres. Following this publication, the Department of Training and Vocational Guidance constituted an updatable database presenting vocational training not only in institutes and centres but also in the Rural, Craft and Homecare Sections.

546- It is estimated that approved public and private vocational training centres under the supervision of MINEFOB offer about 223 courses with 70 per cent in French and only 17 per cent in English, and 13 per cent in both English and French.

547- The tertiary sector takes the lead in terms of the trainings identified above. It provides 23 per cent of training in English and 48 per cent in French. The primary sector has a weak supply of 3 per cent.

548- It should be noted that in 2010 continued training of workers remained a weak link in the vocational training system in Cameroon. Data provided by organizations such as NEF mostly involved young graduates for whom training is required for insertion.

C: Improving Labour Market Efficiency

549- Although it worked without means, the National Employment and Vocational Training Observatory, whose duties include improving transparency in the labour market, received technical support that enabled it to:

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- constitute a computerized database on specific indicators of Cameroon's labour market, with support from the Employment Promotion and Poverty Reduction Support Project (APERP) lodged in the ILO;
- exchange experiences with the Education, Vocational Training and Employment Observatory of Chad; and
- build the capacity of heads of regional offices, divisional focal points and businesses.

550- ONEFOP currently has 10 regional head offices, 58 divisional focal points and more than 400 focal points installed in businesses, in accordance with the guidelines of the 2010 MINEFOP roadmap. The process of identifying focal points in companies continues.

551- For its part, NEF continued to expand its territorial network with the opening of the Regional Agency of Bamenda. It now has 9 regional offices (Yaounde, Douala, Maroua, Bafoussam, Bertoua, Ebolowa, Limbe, Ngaoundere and Bamenda) and a local office (Bassa – Douala). In October 2010, it organized, with the support of the ILO/APERP Project, a workshop for the setting up of an Information and Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion Centre in Mbalmayo.

552- In addition, a national expertise card-index was developed with the support of GIP International, consortium acting on behalf of the member countries of the European Union through the Partnership Project for the Management of Labour Migration.

553- Furthermore, the card-index of private placement agencies and workers of foreign nationality has been updated. It shows that 84 temporary employment agencies, 18 offices and private employment offices with a valid license¹⁰⁹, as well as 2,949 foreign workers legally carried out their professional activities in Cameroon in 2010.

554- In the same vein, a Recruitment Monitoring Committee for Intensive Manpower Major Projects was set up in January 2010 in order to provide a unifying framework for measures to be taken to upgrade nationals for counselling or insertion in the fields, trades and skills required by partners who own development projects. Activities within this framework led to the drawing up of a directory of major projects as well as skill requirements.

¹⁰⁹ 43 private placement offices were approved in 2010 while 6 regional offices were set up.

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555- The Table below provides estimates for each development project and its employment potential.

Table 2: Statistics on development projects

No.	TYPE OF PROJECT	EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL
1	Hydroelectric Dams	45000
2	Gas Plants	1100
3	Thermal Plants	280
4	Industrial Projects	7146
5	Mining Projects	47000
6	Port Projects	26000
	TOTAL	126526

§2: Right to Fair and Favourable Working Conditions

556- The right to good working conditions was guaranteed through improving the working environment, facilitating professional advocacy and employment protection.

A: Improving Working Environment

557- The National Labour Observatory (NLO) was set up for greater control of data in order to adjust policies in this sector. More so, social dialogue was continued as well as measures to guarantee the right to health and industrial safety.

1) Setting Up of NLO

558- Following a resolution of the National Labour Consultative Commission adopted on 16 September 2009 at its 13th Session, the NLO was set up by Decree No. 159/CAB/PM of 11 October 2010 by the Prime Minister. This institution aims at producing actual figures on health and industrial safety, social security, social dialogue, social climate and labour relations.

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559- At the organic level, the NLO has a Tripartite Steering Committee responsible for defining its major thrusts and a Permanent Secretariat consisting of four departments namely: Accidents and Occupational Diseases, Social Security, Social Climate Monitoring and General Affairs. The NLO also has internal and regional services.

560- Pioneer officials of the institution were appointed by Decisions No. 174 / D / MINTSS / CAB of 5 November 2010 and No. 175/D/MINTSS/CAB of 5 November 2010.

2) Continuation of Social Dialogue

561- In 2010, social dialogue was characterized, as in the previous year, by prevention through negotiation and revision of collective agreements and by seeking solutions through the consolidation of the social climate in companies.

a) Negotiation or Revision of Collective Agreements

562- In 2010, several national collective and company agreements were negotiated and revised. This is the case of the Agreement by Orange Cameroon, the National Collective Agreement of Ports Authorities, the Maritime Navigation Collective Agreement, Petroleum Products Storage and Distribution Collective Agreement, the National Insurance Collective Agreement and the National Maritime Transport, Freight and Transport Auxiliary Collective Agreement.

b) Consolidation of Social Climate

563- In 2010, the social climate was consolidated through the setting-up by MINTSS and social partners of tripartite ad hoc committees in companies to address workers problems. They are the:

- Ad Hoc Committee to review the Memorandum of Understanding on the social aspects of
the Concession Agreement of the National Railway Corporation of Cameroon.

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- Ad Hoc Committee to consolidate the social climate at the National Social Insurance Fund; and
- Ad Hoc Committee to consolidate the social climate at the Cameroon Industrial Shipyard Company (CNIC) and to examine the merger of the Industrial Union of Cameroon with the CNIC.

3) Health and Industrial Safety Guarantee

564- In 2010, MINTSS controlled 158 enterprises in the East, Centre and Littoral Regions in order to assess the enforcement of health and industrial safety. It discovered that 50 companies do not have an Occupational Health and Industrial Safety Committee. This complicates health and safety management in those companies. The administration sent them a formal request to comply with regulations.

565- However, there is still a real concern for regulatory compliance. Out of 158 companies controlled, 100 have complied with the standards except for the companies mentioned above while 8 other companies have not. There were 20 recurrences of occupational diseases most of which were redefined and considered as occupational diseases by Order No. 49/MINTSS/CAB of 6 October 2009 to establish the list of compensable occupational diseases.

B: Facilitating Professional Advocacy

566- Facilitating the advocacy of professional interests was done through the registration of new unions and the protection of employee representatives.

1) Registration of New Unions

567-In 2010, 24 unions and federations were registered as shown in the Table below.

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Table 3: List of unions registered in 2010

	Region	Name	Sector of Activity	Chairperson	Registration No.	Registration Date	Address
1	Littoral	Syndicat National des croupiers Mannequins et Hôtesse du Cameroun (SYNCHOMACAM)	Clothing industry	Pahmi Zachée Garringo	SN/I/88	28/02/2010	B.P.: 15371 Douala Tel. : 99 99 67 81
2		Syndicat des Manutentionnaires du Port de Douala (SMPD)	Transport Auxiliaries	Desu Désiré Auguste	SDI/88	09/04/2010	Douala
3		Syndicat National Patronal d'Importateurs d'Alcool et de Spiritueux (GIMAS)	Commerce	Njia Ernest	E4/172	24/06/2010	Douala
4		Syndicat Inter Régional des Travailleurs d'Assainissement, Propreté et Activités Connexes du Cameroun (SYNAPACC)	Hygiene	Nguekam Tachom Gérard Vérité	SN/I/89	29/06/2010	Douala
05	Centre	Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs de la Zone Portuaire (SDTZP)	Maritime Transport	Tondam Jean Pierre	SID/90	29/06/2010	B.P. : 11922 Douala
6		Syndicat des Travailleurs d'exploitation et de Transformation du Bois du Wouri (STETRABOW)	Processing Industry	Mbongue le Jano	SID/96	28/09/2010	Douala
7		Syndicat Départemental de l'Enseignement Privé du Nyong et Kelle (SYNDEPNK)	Private Education	Simb Simb	SID/87	09/04/2010	Eséka
8		Fédération des Organisations Syndicales Autonomes des Transports (FOSAT)	Transport	Eloundou Zacharie	FED/11	28/09/1010	B.P.: 15199 Yaounde
9	Centre	Syndicat National des Transporteurs par Taxis, Cars et Camions du Cameroun (SYNRAACAM)	Transport	Tsaki Bertrand Désiré	SN/I/90	24/06/2010	B.P. : 15851 Yaounde
10		Confédération Camerounaise du Travail (CCT)	Workers Central Labour Body	Ekoan Antoinette	CCT/CE /7	28/09/2010	B.P.: 5385 Yaounde

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11		Syndicat National des personnels des Etablissements et/ou Entreprises du Secteur de la santé (CAP/SANTE)	Health	Nga Onana Sylvain	SN/I/91	15/11/2010	B.P.: 4362 Yaounde
12		Confédération des Travailleurs Unis du Cameroun (CTUC)	Central Labour Body	Essindi Minkoulo u D.	CTUC/C E/8	07/12/2010	B.P.: 15586 Yaounde
13		Syndicat National des Travailleurs de la Communication et des Médias du Cameroun (SYNARACOME)	Communication	Thomas Mbiakou	SN/I/93	07/12/2010	B.P.: 4485 Yaounde Tel.: 77 98 25 06
14	East North	Syndicat National des Travailleurs Ferroviaires (SYNTRAF)	Railway Transport	Tabé Roland	SN/I/87	29/06/2010	B.P.: 80 Belabo
15		Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs des Industries Chimiques et activités Connexes du Mayo Louti (SYNDRICACOM)	Processing Industry	Congue	SID/93	14/07/2010	B.P.: 27 Figuil
16	North West	Presbyterian Education Authority Teachers Trade Union (PEAU)	Private Education	Afu Stephens K.	N/86	24/02/2010	B.P.: 5271 Bamenda
17		Statutes of the Boyo Health Workers' Trade Union (BOHEWOU/CCFU)	Private Health Sector	Wainbah Mary Assumpta Njang	SID/91	14/07/2010	Fundong
18		Statutes of Boyo Bayamsellam's Trade Union (BOBUSEBU)	Commerce	Theodosia Kuokuo Mbang	SID/92	14/07/2010	Fundong
19		Boyo Council Workers' Trade Union (BOCOWU)	Regional and Local Authorities	Abé Hyacinth Tala	SID/95	28/09/2010	B.P.: 5011 Bamenda
20	South West	Statutes of the Meme Council Workers' Trade Union (MECOWU)	Regional and Local Authorities	Ajuo Anchang Leo	SID/94	14/07/2010	Kumba
21		Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs des Communes de Kupe-Manenguba (KUMUCOWU)	Regional and Local Authorities	Mesape Sampson Njume	SID/101	15/11/2010	Bangem
22		Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs des Forestiers de Kupe-Manenguba (KUMUFOWU)	Regional and Local Authorities	Soundog Thomas	SID/98	15/11/2010	Bangem
23		Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs des Routiers de la Meme (MEDIHIWU)	Transports	Nkwo Noah	SID/100	15/11/2010	Kumba III
24		Syndicat Départemental des Travailleurs des Forestiers de la Meme	Agriculture, Forestry and Wildlife	Ngazo'oh Ambomo Alain Simplicie	SID/99	15/11/2010	Mabanda

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2) Protection of Employee Representatives

568- The most important measure to protect the staff representative is that his dismissal is subject to approval by the Labour Inspector. In 2010, of about 71 applications for dismissal made by employers, 66 were rejected for lack of evidence. Two dismissals were authorized for loss in confidence and assault on the employer.

C: Employment Protection

569- Protection of employment was materialized through dispute resolution and forced child labour control. Only the settlement of disputes shall be treated under this heading since the second aspect is discussed in the chapter on children's rights. Applications processed by labour inspections will be discussed as well as the trend of dismissal procedures in certain courts.

1) Disputes in Labour Inspectorates

570- Of the 3,750 applications deposited at Labour Inspectorates, 3,620 resulted in full conciliation, only 122 ended in non-conciliation. 3,742 applications were individual applications while 8 others were collective disputes resolved by ad hoc committees.

2) Judicial Trends in Wrongful Termination

571- The following statistics reveal dismissal trends in some courts in the country.

Table 4: Data on Dismissal Procedures

Number of Enlisted Cases			Number of Cases Heard and Determined					
			CFI		HC		CA	
			In favour of the employee	In favour of the employer	In favour of the employee	In favour of the employer	In favour of the employee	In favour of the employer
CFI	HC	CA						
1709 ¹¹⁰	673 ¹¹¹	1131 ¹¹²	391	136	156	165	121	38

¹¹⁰ Data on 23 CFI distributed as follows: 1 in the Adamawa, 9 in the Centre, 3 in the East, 1 in the Far North, 6 in the Littoral, 1 in the West and 2 in the South.

¹¹¹ Data on 21 HC distributed as follows: 2 in the Adamawa, 6 in the Centre, 1 in the East, 2 in the South, 4 in the Far North, 4 in the Littoral, 1 in the North and 1 in the West.

¹¹² Data on the following 7 CA: South, West, Littoral, East, Far North, North, South.

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SECTION II: RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

572- Pending the outcome of social security reform, measures taken in 2010 to guarantee the right to social security involved collective health risk coverage and payment of benefits.

§1: Collective Health Risk Coverage

573- One of the most important measures in this regard was the signing between the State represented by MINTSS and the Health, Fire, Miscellaneous and Social Insurance Company, (SAMIRIS), of a partnership agreement on the SANTEPHONE Project, on 30 September 2010. The purpose of this partnership is to cover hospitalization through the SANTEPHONE System. This is health insurance that covers hospitalization expenses of its members with the NSIF as the main administrative and financial manager. The project intended to cover all social strata will be effective when talks with partners are completed. Although it is involved in developing this new health-insurance product, NSIF has continued to perform its traditional tasks.

§2: Conventional Tasks of NSIF

574- Emphasis will be laid on the registration of new contributors and the payment of social contributions.

A: Registration of New Contributors

575- In 2010, NSIF registered 24,265 new contributors. This number rose from 500,565 insured in December 2009 to 524,840 in December 2010

B: Payment of Social Contributions

576- The actual payment of social contributions is conditioned by the collection of social contributions.

1) Conditions for Social Contributions

577- Employers are obliged to pay social security contributions which showed a relative increase in 2010. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in sanctions whose challenge is likely to provoke disputes.

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a) Collecting Social Contributions

578- In 2010, the amount of social contributions collected amounted to CFA 89,300,000,000. The increase is noticeable compared to previous years in which recoveries stood at CFA 64,833,989,671 in 2007, CFA 72,362,474,787 in 2008 and CFA 76,633,084,364 in 2009.

b) Sanctions

579- Sanctions to employers for breach of their social security obligations consist of a surcharge and penalties for delay. Of the 26,739 employers registered in NSIF employers' card-index, about 7,598 have a total debt of CFA 41,406,251,413. Related debt securities were sent in 2009 to the tax authorities for forceful recovery. Some defaulters have paid a deposit of CFA 4,864,107,377, with the outstanding debt amounting to CFA 35,194,447,214¹¹³.

c) Dispute over Collecting Social Contributions

580- In 2010, employers lodged 99 petitions challenging social security contribution adjustments to the Appeals Committee. The Committee delivered judgments in 87 cases, made 15 awards against NSIF and 72 in its favour. Of the 72 awards, 17 unsatisfied employers appealed to the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court the judgment of which is pending. Forceful recovery was revived against employers who did not appeal.

2) Payment of Social Contributions

581- Payment status and related litigation will be handled under this head.

a) Payment of Social Contributions

582- NSIF paid out social security benefits worth CFA 63,931,797,249 broken down as follows:

¹¹³ It is difficult to recover social contributions because some of them have been outstanding since 1977 when NSIF was set up. Besides, because of the huge amount of some unpaid contributions, a very severe recovery policy may jeopardize the activities of the companies concerned. Some of them who show good faith are granted payment facilities such as periods of grace and scheduled payment agreements. Social sector Companies like health and education are privileged.

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Table 5: Payment of social contributions

SERVICES COVERED	AMOUNT
Family Allowance	CFA 7,066,108,641
Occupational Hazards	CFA 3,174,084,367
Old Age, Invalidity, Death Pensions	CFA 49,946,514,524
Health and Welfare Activities	CFA 1,516,000,000
Health Care Institutions	CFA 5,400,000,000

Source: NSIF 2010 Progress Report

b) Disputes over Social Benefits

583- In 2010, contributors submitted 136 petitions to the Appeals Committee contesting the rejection by NSIF of their claims for benefits. The Committee decided that 105 petitions were inadmissible, 103 of which were time-barred and 2 rejected for lack of jurisdiction.

584- On the merits, and in terms of accident at work, 15 applications were granted and 4 rejected because of the non-establishment of the professional nature of the accident. Regarding occupational diseases, it rejected 2 applications for support on the ground that the diseases mentioned were not on the list of occupational diseases and adjourned four files for additional information.



Chapter 6

RIGHT TO CULTURE



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585- In 2010, the promotion and protection of the right to culture concerned enhancing access to culture and protecting the interests of artists. For this reason, particular emphasis was placed on the promotion of cultural heritage and the improvement of the living conditions of artists.

SECTION I: PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

586- The promotion of cultural heritage focused on enhancing the national cultural heritage, protecting the rights of indigenous people over genetic resources and traditional knowledge and supporting municipalities in promoting books.

§1: Enhancement of National Cultural Heritage

587- As part of the implementation of the 1972 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, steps were taken to register the Lobe Falls as a World Cultural Heritage. So, a management plan was developed with the participation of local populations. Cameroon therefore participated in the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee held from 25 July to 3 August 2010 in Brasilia, Brazil.

§2: Protection of the Rights of Indigenous People

588- Cameroon attended the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge in May 2010. There is a debate on the legal form of the instrument envisaged.

589- Pharmaceutical companies, the European Union Group and the North American Group of countries favour a non-binding recommendation while others opt for the adoption of a treaty.

590- Cameroon, in accordance with the African Group in the Committee, voted for the adoption of the Treaty. This would force patent offices, laboratories and major pharmaceutical companies to indicate the origin of genetic resources used and share the benefits from exploitation with people who own resources and traditional knowledge.

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§3: Support of Municipalities in Book Promotion

591- In order to promote books, the Ministry of Culture provided technical support to municipalities by supplying books and expertise in setting up libraries. The following communities benefited from this support: Kiki (Centre), Baku (West), Ndikinimeki (Centre), NkolMefou 1 (Centre), and Mvagan Elat (South), the Francis BEBEY Cultural Centre, Batibo Community Library (North West).

592- Services at public libraries, particularly the central public library, are almost free. Entry conditions to this library include:

- free for children under the age of 9;
- CFA 2,000 yearly for pupils and students; and
- CFA 3,000 yearly for others.

SECTION II: IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS OF ARTISTS

593- Measures taken to improve the living conditions of artists relate to drawing up their statutes and increasing their revenue.

§1: Statutes of Artists

594- The aim of the statutes for artists is to identify artists, determine their rights and obligations with respect to health, education, and social security. The working document was finalized and will be discussed within the framework of consultations with professional associations of artists and relevant ministries. Pending the outcome of this process and to ensure the management of health care for artists, CFA 15,000,000 was disbursed by the Ministry of Culture as insurance policy covering hospitalization and surgery for artists. In addition, an infirmary was built and is open to artists and their families.

§2: Increasing the income of Artists

595- The income of artists was increased by securing copyright fees and related rights and adopting a new approach to fight against piracy.

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A: Securing Copyright Fees and Related Rights

596- After observing considerable loss of funds from copyright fees and related rights, the Ministry of Culture took steps to secure these fees. Thus, the minister signed Decision No. 4/MINCULT/CAB of 7 September 2010 to ensure that copyright fees are paid into the special deposit account opened at the Société Générale de Banque (SGBC). This measure seeks to centralize funds and to avoid possible diversions.

597- To raise awareness among major users of the need to pay royalty fees and in order to improve the royalty fee base, the Ministry of Culture continued negotiations with the Customs Department, public and private radio and televisions as well as cable operators.

Focus was on major users that are the largest contributors to the special deposit account.

598- The implementation of negotiations with Brasseries du Cameroun (SABC) culminated in the payment in June 2010 of CFA 175,000,000 as fees owed by licensed beverage rooms.

B: New Approach to the Fight against Piracy

599- The persistence of piracy is, among others, due to the fact that original works are not always available, or, are priced beyond the purchasing power of middle-income citizens (currently CFA 2,500). To address the poor consumption of artistic works, a project to set up a production facility of musical works was initiated.

600- The aim of this unit is to reduce the cost of production of musical works, make them available in large numbers and offer them at a price more consistent with the purchasing power of Cameroonians. Negotiations are underway with the Ministry of Finance to allocate a budget for this project.



Chapter

7

RIGHT TO HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



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601- Protection of the environment, ecosystem, biodiversity and sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources is provided mainly by MINEP and MIN-FOF. These two ministries are responsible for coordinating and monitoring interventions by regional or international cooperation bodies in environmental matters, defining measures for sound management of natural resources in conjunction with ministries and specialized agencies concerned. The strategies implemented by these ministries are often reinforced in the field by actions in collaboration with development partners, NGOs and even individuals. These actions do more to protect the urban environment. To get people to understand the need to protect the environment, awareness campaigns were conducted throughout the country. Repressive measures were also taken against people who violated forestry and environmental law

SECTION I: PROTECTION OF THE ECOSYSTEM AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT

602- Plant protection was a major activity with respect to protecting the ecosystem. These measures were supplemented by activities to protect urban environment.

§1: Plant Protection

603- Plant protection measures were focused on sustainable forest management and continuous reforestation campaigns.

A: Sustainable Forest Management

604- Sustainable forest management was carried out by implementing sustainable management plans, use of the internal traceability system and free accession by logging companies to the certification process. On 6 October 2010, Cameroon and the European Union signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with a view to controlling illegal exploitation and to ensure better traceability of timber of which the initial authorizations will be issued in 2013¹¹⁴.

¹¹⁴ It should be noted that 14 million ha are permanent forests and 107 ha are being developed

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B: Continued Tree-planting Campaign

605- The tree-planting campaign was carried out in 2010 under the auspices of both the Minister of Environment and Nature Protection¹¹⁵ and the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife with the participation of other ministries, civil society organizations and the populations. In the northern part of the country, it was geared toward desertification while in the southern part it concerned deforestation.

606- In the northern part, seven sites covering 3,500 hectares requiring improvement of vegetation cover and biodiversity conservation were identified. They include: Bipaing (500 ha) and Berkede (500 ha) in the Mayo-Kani Division, Adjir-Mora (500 ha) in the Mayo Sava Division, DJIDEL-Bogo (500 ha) in the Diamaré Division, Goulfey (300 ha) and Darak (700 ha) in the Logone and Chari Division, Ouro-Daban (500 ha) in the Mayo-Danay Division.

607- The people of these localities were urged to take ownership of the Operation Green Sahel that aims at combating land degradation by protecting and regenerating natural resources for sustainable development.

608- As part of the fight against deforestation, the Minister of Secondary Education conducted a tree-planting campaign called "one student, one tree" in schools in the northern regions of the country. This campaign involved educating officials, teachers and students on the fight against deforestation. It was conducted in partnership with the NGO World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF).

609- In the southern part of the country, the campaign against deforestation in schools was intensified by involving the NGO Enviro-Protect and Living Earth Foundation, which has made available to certain schools, particularly in the Lekie Division, booklets on the control of biodiversity degradation, protection of roads in the CEMAC Zone and the introduction of environmental education in schools.

¹¹⁵ Tree planting campaigns, as in previous years, englobed several activities in the country. It was launched on 5 June 2010 by the Minister of the Environment and Nature Protection, in the presence of the Governor of the Far North Region, during the celebration of the 19th World Day to Combat Desertification in the Logone and Chari Division. It continued with operations "Green Sahel" and "Green Cities", by training youths in nature clubs in secondary schools and universities.

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610- The Table below shows the number of trees planted and landscaped areas during reforestation in 2010.

Table 1: Tree planting and landscaped areas

MINEP OPERATIONS		MINFOF OPERATIONS		
INTERNATIONAL DAYS FOR BIOLOGICAL BIODIVERSITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT	OPERATION GREEN TOWNS AND OTHERS			REGIONS
11,535 trees planted	1,855 trees planted	90.56 ha; 36,225 trees		Far North
1,900 trees planted		28.26 ha; 11,302 trees		North
		108.53 ha; 43,410 trees		North-west
1,400 trees planted	1 open space set up 4,432 trees planted	121.34 ha; 48,535 trees		Adamawa
2,279 trees planted	1 open space set up			Centre
1,059 trees planted				South-West
910 trees planted	1300 m ² ; 1,500 trees planted; 3 open spaces set up	26.50 ha; 10,600 trees		Littoral
526 trees planted		56.61 ha; 22,642 trees		East
14,250 trees planted		15 ha; 6,046		West
1,205 trees planted	1 open space set up 393 trees planted	132.04 ha; 52,815 trees		South

Source: Progress Report MINEP MINFOF 2010

§2: Protection of Urban Environment

611- Environmental inspections, hygiene and sanitation campaigns and flood control were continued and intensified contributing to protecting and improving the living environment of the populations.

A: Intensifying Environmental Inspections

612- Environmental inspections enabled officials of the competent services to cause the heads of the services inspected to implement environmental regulations on the use, movement and importation of ozone

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depleting substances. These regulations include the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol, the Common Regulation on Control of Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in the CEMAC, the Framework Law on the Management of the Environment and its implementing instruments.

613- In the Littoral Region, emphasis was placed on waste control. Surveillance teams put in place to control the movement of waste found:

- 5385.58 m3 of waste oil collected for recycling by the six facilities in charge of treating oil waste in the city of Douala;
- 399.03 m3 of kitchen waste discharged from ships;
- two 20-foot containers with broken glass imported by Société Camerounaise des Verres (SOCAVER) from Malabo, used as raw materials for the manufacture of glass;
- 9,956.215 kg of chemicals and ODS landed and checked at Container Terminal A; and
- 22,210 pieces of equipment using Freon were monitored at the Car Park and at the container terminal.

614- Environmental inspections are carried out indiscriminately by Regional (BRIE) or National Environmental Inspection Brigades (BNIE), as appropriate. They have sometimes been followed by fines imposed on the facility controlled as well as recommendations for the restoration of sites with a view to better protect the environment.

615- The Table below shows the situation of some inspections and checks carried out in 2010.

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Table 2: Results of programmed inspections and controls

Number of programmed facilities	Facilities visited	Number of Environmental Inspection Reports Drawn Up (EIR)	Number of Reports on Violations Drawn Up (RV)	Notification of proposed fine
200 by NB	200	195	65	183,500,000
420 by RB	252	252	35	137,500,000
620	452	447	100	321,000,000

Source: Progress Report MINEP 2010

616- Since waste is harmful, recommendations were made to the facilities producing them to request for clearances and clear traceability of such wastes from collection facilities that dispose or recycle them.

617- It was further observed that scrap waste, glass debris and used batteries are constantly circulating in the Littoral Region.

618- The setting up of a system to manage such waste and the drawing up of instruments on the subject should be considered.

B: Hygiene and Sanitation Campaigns and Flood Control

619- Hygiene and sanitation campaigns continued throughout the country. In some areas, emphasis was placed on flood control.

1) Hygiene and Sanitation Campaigns

620- As part of urban sanitation, the Ministry of the Environment and regional and local authorities entered into partnerships in all regions of the country. In 2010, these services prepared and circulated a questionnaire to a sample of 14 pilot municipalities (populations between 50,000 and 100,000 inhabitants) that do not receive HYSACAM services to understand and analyze the management of household, plastic, industrial and hospital waste.

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621- In large cities, cooperation between the city council and NGOs was strengthened. Mention can be made of the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Douala City Council and the NGO Environmental Concerns (ENCO) for the construction of a solid industrial waste storage with the support of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MINDUH) and the signing of an agreement CUD/CA Foscaari University (Italy) and the European Union to support recycler artisans through the project Innovative Service in Difficult Environment for Recycler Artisan (ISDERA).

622- Urban sanitation continued in communities where HYSACAM collects and treats garbage, sweeps streets, squares and markets. The Douala City Council strengthened its cooperation with that company by signing a memorandum of understanding for the implementation with other partners, of a project on the Clean Development Mechanism for the reduction of methane emitted to the atmosphere from the dump at PK 10 in Douala. In addition, the partnership mentioned above was established between HYSACAM and Vitol SA company through the signing of an agreement.

623- The hygiene and sanitation campaign also resulted in the institution of the operation clean city in which people use one morning a week to clean some areas, villages, schools or markets.

624- The City Council, Douala exploited this campaign to institute Citizens Cleanliness Days in the neighbourhoods, markets and schools. These days end in December with a competition for the cleanest neighbourhood and healthiest market. This programme was supported on an ad hoc basis by the project "Youth - Occupation" in 2010 which deployed on the streets of the city of Douala, 3,200 youths made up of 1,000 students and 2,200 unemployed non students. They were distributed in weeding, painting, cleaning, display, awareness and surveillance workshops.

625- The occurrence of cholera in 2010 contributed to increased safety campaigns in several localities.

2) Flood Control

626- In 2010, Government continued efforts to control floods that in previous years caused untold inconvenience of forced relocation and even death.

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627- In Douala, successive programmes to clean and rehabilitate gutters greatly reduced the affected areas. In 2010, the Douala City Council cleaned the following drains:

- Lot 1: Besseke to Bonanjo;
- Lot 5: Longmayangui with the voluntary release of right-of-way by the people;
- Lot 6: Kondi and Ngangué; and
- Lot 7: Bonaberi (Sodiko, Bonamaoumbe, Ndobu, Grand Hangar, Bilingue).

628- Other envisaged lots have not been cleaned because of pending administrative formalities and settlement of land disputes.

629- In Yaounde, although resizing of the Mfoundi is ongoing, its banks have continued to overflow due to heavy rains.

630- In Maroua, the fight against floods is led by the Senior Divisional Officer of the Diamaré Division who, every last Thursday of the month, encourages people to clean gutters to allow the flow of runoffs.

631- Despite these efforts, the danger of flooding persists in many parts of the country. The direct or indirect responsibility of human action is at issue.

632- Garbage that clogs water discharges, building in high-risk flood areas, non compliance with planning rules and dumping garbage in gutters thereby blocking runoffs, are factors that contribute to worsen flooding in cities.

633- Government attention has also focused on measures of awareness, conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

SECTION II: AWARENESS, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

§1: Awareness Measures and Public Information

634- In 2010, several awareness-raising and information measures were continued in the ten regions of the country. These awareness tours that used various media and methods were geared towards many varied targets.

During these tours, several topics were discussed including: the role of the tree, risks and natural disasters in coastal areas, forestry exploitation and environmental impacts, waste management in urban areas, the challenge

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of climate change in forest areas (mitigation strategies and adaptation), the impacts of production systems on the environment in the forest zone, the process of conducting audits and environmental impact studies, climate change (causes, manifestations, consequences and control measures) and the fight against desertification. The Table below shows measures taken in the ten regions.

Table 3: Summary of awareness measures in regions

Region	Medium and Awareness Method	Targets
ADAMAWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio Broadcasts; - Round-Tables ; - Meetings at traditional chiefdoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public; - Traditional Chiefdoms; - Regional and Local Authorities; managers of businesses, garages; - Creating awareness among farmers;
CENTRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presenting theatres and public entertainment in the evenings; - Community radio broadcasts; - Distribution of documents supplied by the NGOs <i>Enviro Protect</i> and <i>Living Earth Foundation</i> ; - Supporting NGOs on awareness; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public; - Garage owners; - Fuel vendors; - Radio broadcasts in the Nyong and So'o, Nyong and Mfoumou, and Nyong and Kell ; - Participation of local stakeholders of Mefou and Afamba on the importance of pollinizers in biodiversity conservation;
EAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness tours ; - Designing leaflets and posters; - Meetings with traditional chiefs and municipalities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educating 40 female bush meat sellers in Boumba and Ngoko;
FAR NORTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio broadcasts; - Informing households; - Distribution of posters; - Organizing meetings in traditional chiefdoms on bush fires; - Organizing meetings with regional and local authorities; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of 242 women in workshops at Mora, Kaïlô and Yagoua ; - Women's Associations; - Participation of students, owners of cabaret, owners of bilbil¹¹⁴ beanery, firewood exploiters; - Creating awareness of mayors of localities on collecting and recycling plastic waste; - Participation of more than 1,000 women in Mora ; - Training of 250 youths from the Catholic Church Maroua and Mokolo ;

¹¹⁴ Bilbil: Maize or millet home-made beer

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LITTORAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness tours on the field; - NGO awareness support; - Mobilization of neighbourhoods; - Educative talks; - Organisation of lecture forums; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of farmers, fishermen; - Educating palm oil producers at Pouma and Edea ; - Participation of 2,000 association members in WED on 5 June 2010 in Douala ; - Participation of the CUD ;
NORTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribution of environmental protection laws; - Radio broadcasts; - Consultation meetings with NGOs; - Monitoring the CAD-PADU and Horizon Info associations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner ministries; - Meetings organized in the Faro Division.
NORTH WEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio broadcasts; - Preparing and distributing leaflets on climatic warming and eco behaviour promotion; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public : biodiversity and development ; - Participation high schools and colleges; - Participation of business ;
WEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio broadcasts; - Interviews over radio stations; - Organization of round tables; - Awareness campaigns; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public; - Participation of businesses;
SOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of awareness campaigns on the field; - Organisation of peaceful march; - Organisation of radio debates; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of regional and local authorities; - Meetings with medical authorities on biomedical waste management in the Mvila and Ntem; - Educating the populations on the Kribi deep seaport construction project; - March by 200 people in Ebolowa; 400 in Kribi; 100 in Sangmelima and 100 in Ambam;
SOUTH WEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educative talks; - Awareness tours on the field; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairers of construction machines and other objects

Source: MINEP 2010 Progress Report

635- At the end of the tours, it was discovered that some populations were unaware of environmental problems and challenges.

636- Besides awareness, officials took other measures on sustainable biodiversity management.

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§2: Sustainable Biodiversity Management

637- Sustainable biodiversity management led to the identification of ecologically fragile degraded sites, preparation of a regional directory of risky quarries and flood areas and the assessment of the state of degradation of these risky sites.

638- In 2010, inventories were made especially in the Centre, East, West, North West and Far North Regions. In the Far North Region, the following sites were identified in the Mayo Sawa Division:

- Kolofata: Lélédé (100 km²), Gangaw (3 km²), Zézindélé (3 km²) and Blabine (4 km²);
- Mora: Moundou (10 km²), AissaArde (4 km²) and Kourgui (4 km²); and
- Tokombéré: Makalingai (5 km²).

SECTION III: MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTES

639- The management of environmental disputes took place through the application of administrative measures leading to the recovery of fines and the commencement of proceedings before courts.

§1: Administrative Measures to Recover Fines

640- Some of these measures are given in Tables 4 and 5 below.

Table 4: Summary of fines

Total number of proposed notification of fines	Total number of notification of fines	Total amount of fine notified (in CFA)	Number of services that paid	Total amount of fines recovered in 2010
102	37	130,000,000	17	53,000,000
Service or facility	Location	Offence	Amount of Fine in CFA	
COTCO	Douala	Oil spill in the sea	10,000,000	
COTCO	Kribi	Oil spill in the sea	50,000,000	
Total: CFA 60,000,000 (Sixty Million)				
Number of facilities with outstanding payments	Total value of notification of fine (in CFA)	Amount recovered (in CFA)	Percentage (%)	
35	156,700,000	27,200 000	11	

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§2: Disputes

641-Inspections resulted in many environmental disputes in 2010. The Table below shows some of these disputes.

Table 5: Summary of disputes

Offences	A c c u s e d C o m p a n i e s
SOCIETE AFRICA FOOD , Douala	- PPCI prepared and notification of fine for environmental degradation, emission of offensive odours after dumping damaged products in the wild
SOCIETE MARGACAM SARL, Douala	- PPCI prepared for land pollution by oil spill on land and failure to produce an environmental audit of its activities
SOCIETE HARJAAP, Douala	- PPCI served on offender for constructing a metal processing plant (smelting plant) without environmental impact assessment
SOCIETE CIVILE IMMOBILIRE (SIC) MEUGANG, Douala	- PPCI served on offender for constructing a hotel with 232 rooms without environmental impact assessment
SOCIETE HÔTELIERE DJEUGA PALACE Douala	- PPCI prepared and served on, for constructing a big hotel without environmental impact assessment
NAVIRE MV ALEXANDER EXPRESS	- PPCI served on offender, file sent to MINEP for water pollution at the lower following an incident leading to oil spill on the water
SOCIETE LES LABORATOIRES BIOPHARMA, Douala	- PPCI served on offender for air quality alteration and soil degradation by burning cosmetic wastes (damaged products) in the open.
SOCIETE ALUMINIUM DU CAMEROUN (ALUCAM)	PPCI served on offender for polluting the Wouri with flax beater, alumina and coke wastes
SOCIETE DE PRODUCTION DU SAVON DU CAMEROUN (PROSACAM), Douala	- PPCI served on offender, for polluting the environment by pumping unprocessed waste water in the wild and failure to produce an audit of its environmental activities
SOCIETE CAM TRADE BUREAU (CTB), Douala	- PPCI served on offender for constructing a metal workshop without environmental impact assessment
SOYA BEANS PROCESSING INDUSTRY OF CAMEROON	- PPCI served on offender for land pollution by spilling palm oil on land and disturbing the quiet enjoyment of the neighbourhood
OILIBYA STATION BONABERI	- PPCI served on offender for failure to produce an environmental audit of its activities
OILIBYA STATION CANTON BELL KOUMASSI	PPCI served on offender for failure to produce an environmental audit of its activities
SOTRADHY STATION SOUZA CIMENCAM	PPCI served on offender for failure to produce an environmental audit of its activities
	- PPCI served on offender as well as notification of CFA 5,000,000 fine for air quality alteration and degradation of

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	the Wouri by emitting clinker particles in the atmosphere at the company's unloading dock
ORANGE CAMEROUN	- PPCI served on offender and file sent to MINEP for air quality alteration and soil degradation by burning industrial wastes in the open
MOBILE TELEPHONE NETWORK CAMEROUN (MTN)	- PPCI served on offender as well as notification of CFA 3,000,000 fine pour for failure to produce an environmental audit of its activities
COMPAGNIE DE COMMERCE (COMCO)	- PPCI served on offender as well as notification of CFA 2,500,000 fine for polluting the environment (soil and water resources) by dumping dangerous wastes, used oil, contaminated petroleum wastes and used oil filters in the wild
SOCIETE D'ETUDE DE REALISATION ET DE MAINTENANCE (SERMI)	- PPCI served on offender for installing and operating a tanker truck and carriage works plant without an environmental conformity certificate consequent on EIA
SOCIETE BOCOM PETROLEUM	- PPCI served on offender for implementing a project for stocking and selling oil (filling station) without environmental impact assessment
CAPITAINE DE NAVIRE ZAGREB SKERLJ IVO S/C BOLLORE AFRICA LOGISTICS	- PPCI served on offender as well as fine of CFA 25,000,000- for polluting the Wouri with oil spill from the ship MV SWIFT - SPLIT
SOCIETE CAMI AUTO	- PPCI served on offender as well as payment of CFA 1,000,000 fine served on offender for polluting the environment (soil and water resources) by spilling engine oil in the wild
SODETRANCAM	- PPCI prepared in Mungo Division, served by the DRLT on the offender and the file sent to MINEP pour for polluting the environment (soil and water resources) for accidental oil spill in the wild
SOCIETE CORLAY STATION SERVICE MRS II EDEA	- PPCI served on offender for failure to produce an environmental audit for its filling station
COTCO	Dumping of hydrocarbons in the sea

642- Endeavours by authorities responsible for environmental protection are evident, despite persistent human factors that contribute to environmental degradation. Awareness campaigns need to be intensified so that the people will appropriate the culture of nature protection and biodiversity conservation.

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CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

643- The first year of implementation of GESP is promising based on the results achieved in guaranteeing economic, social and cultural rights.

644- Indeed, in 2010, 450 new businesses were set up through the implementation of the Investment Charter with the setting up of one-stop and pilot centres for the opening of businesses. The easing of fiscal policy also enhanced the guarantee of taxpayers' rights. A new strategy against corruption based on more practical approaches may be more effective. In addition, many administrative and judicial sanctions reflect Government's commitment to relentlessly pursue the fight for a prosperous Cameroon with honest men.

645- Changes in the right to education have been most evident in school enrolment with a remarkable rise in all areas of education. The mentoring of this flow of young school and university students has been strengthened through the recruitment of new teachers. The quality of teaching has also been improved with efforts at streamlining the various cycles for better adaptation of students who pass from one cycle of study to another. Also, in order to adapt training to labour market needs, programmes of study with potential for medium-term jobs have been developed and validated. The increase in the nurse/inhabitant ratio will enable better management of health care. On the contrary, the doctor/inhabitant ratio remains low. The fluidity of the drug distribution system has provided the poor greater access to generic drugs supply centres. In the struggle against HIV, the setting up of new management units led to the increase in the number of people on free treatment. Reproductive health has been improved with better prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula and reduction of maternal and infant mortality. Efforts to ensure Cameroonians adequate standard of living were undermined by the continuing shortages of food and water and power shed. Efforts to promote adequate housing have not yet produced results just as much still has to be done to reduce unemployment and educate the public on environmental and biodiversity protection.



PART THREE

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



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INTRODUCTION OF PART THREE

646- Government shows constant concern for the development of all social strata. It therefore took positive measures in 2010 to provide better training. Also, measures were taken to return street children to their families and provide a better framework for the development of orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC). The Law of 13 April 2010 established a specific policy framework to protect and promote people with disabilities and several actions were carried out to achieve their vocational integration and encourage them to participate in public life and politics. The elderly were not neglected while the capacity of indigenous people was built. Government strengthened measures relating to women's rights including the principle of equality and non discrimination in all areas of life, protection against gender-based violence and protection of marriage-related rights.

647- The quality of the treatment of detainees including accommodation, discipline, control, health coverage, feeding, education, recreational and socio-cultural activities as well as social mentoring are reviewed in this part that is divided into the following three chapters:

- Chapter 1: Detention Conditions;
- Chapter 2: Promotion and Protection of Vulnerable Groups; and
- Chapter 3: Promotion and Protection of Women's Right.



Chapter 1

DETENTION CONDITIONS



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648-The quality of the treatment of detainees is the relevant criterion for assessing detention conditions. Overall, the effort initiated by the State since the implementation of the modernization plan of Penitentiary Administration continued into 2010, particularly as regards the management and treatment of detainees.

649-In view of the indicators-based approach, this chapter¹¹⁷ will focus on information on prison statistics and accommodation, health coverage, feeding of detainees, recreational and socio-cultural activities and social mentoring as well as prison control and visits.

SECTION I: PRISON STATISTICS AND ACCOMMODATION

650- While it is important to have statistics to assess the occupancy rate of cells, it is also necessary to have disaggregated statistics taking into account the gender aspect, separating men and women and defendants from convicts. The Tables below show the changes in the accommodation capacity of prisons between 2009 and 2010, prisons with and without quarters for women and minors and the distribution of prison population as at 31 December 2010.

§1: Changes in the accommodation capacity of prisons between January 2009 and December 2010

651-The situation per region is as follows:

Table 1: Adamawa

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Ngaoundéré	30	600	300
2	Banyo	70	70	00
3	Meiganga	80	200	120
4	Tignère	120	120	00
5	Tibati	50	80	30
Total		620	1070	450

¹¹⁷ No sanction was taken against civil servants of the Penitentiary Administration for violating human rights.

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Table 2: Centre

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Yaounde	1000	1000	00
2	Akonolinga	200	300	100
3	Bafia	250	350	100
4	Eseka	200	200	00
5	Mbalmayo	120	200	80
6	Mfou	300	300	00
7	Monastir	150	150	00
8	Nanga-Eboko	150	150	00
9	Ndikinimeki	50	100	50
10	PP Yaounde	250	250	00
11	Sa'a	100	100	00
12	Yoko	700	700	00
Total		3470	3800	330

Table 3: East

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Bertoua	87	250	163
2	Batouri	150	150	00
3	Doum	50	50	00
4	Lomie	150	150	00
5	Messamena	125	125	00
6	Moloundou	50	50	00
7	Yokadouma	400	400	00
8	Abong-Mbang	200	200	00
9	Betare-Oya	80	100	20
Total		1292	1475	183

Table 4: Far North

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Maroua	350	400	50
2	Kaele	150	150	00
3	Kousseri	200	200	00
4	Mokolo	200	200	00
5	Mora	150	250	100
6	Yagoua	200	250	50
7	Makary	150	200	50
8	Meri	120	120	00
9	Moulvoudaye	300	300	00
10	Doukoula	70	100	30
Total		1890	2170	280

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Table 5: Littoral

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Douala	800	800	00
2	Nkongsamba	68	200	32
3	Edea	100	150	50
4	Yabassi	150	150	00
5	Mbanga	150	150	00
6	Ngambe	100	100	00
7	Total	1368	1550	182

Table 6: North

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Garoua	500	500	00
2	Guider	150	150	00
3	Poli	50	50	00
4	Tchollire I	50	50	00
5	Tchollire II	400	400	00
	Total	1150	1150	00

Table 7: North West

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Bamenda	500	500	00
2	Mbengwi	200	200	00
3	Wum	350	350	00
4	Nkambe	150	150	00
5	Ndop	150	150	00
6	Kumbo	200	200	00
7	Fundong	Non functional	100	00
	Total	1550	1650	100

Table 8: West

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Bafoussam	600	600	00
2	Mbouda	150	250	100
3	Mantoum	500	500	00
4	Foumban	250	250	00
5	Dschang	120	120	00
6	Bangangte	150	150	00
7	Bafang	300	300	00
8	Foumbot	150	150	00
9	Bazou	50	100	50
	Total	2270	2420	150

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Table 9: South

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Ebolowa	200	250	50
2	Kribi	120	150	30
3	Sangmelima	100	200	100
4	Ambam	100	100	00
5	Djoum	100	100	00
Total		620	800	180

Table 10: South West

No.	Prison	Accommodation Capacity January 2009	Accommodation Capacity December 2010	Difference
1	Buea	200	200	00
2	Kumba	500	500	00
3	Mamfe	130	130	00
4	Bavenga	80	80	00
5	Bangem	Non functional	Non functional	00
6	Buea-Upper farm	10	100	00
7	Mundemba	Non functional	Non functional	00
Total		920	1010	90

Source: MINJUSTICE

Total Accommodation capacity 2008 : 14,965

Total Accommodation capacity 2010 : 16,995

Difference : 2030

652- Through rehabilitation and development works undertaken in 2010, the capacity of several prisons has increased. The number of places available in 74 functional prisons increased to 16, 995 as against 14,965 in 2008, representing 2,030 additional places.

653- The following facilities were provided to prisons:

- two trucks for the Main Prisons of Nkongsamba and Mora;
- installation of biogas system in 8 central prisons;
- bedding and kitchen equipment for the new prisons of Ntui and Ngoumou and the 10 central prisons;
- purchase and installation of crushing mills in 26 prisons; and
- completion of drilling in 11 main prisons and 10 central prisons and connecting 2 prisons (Kumba and Tchollire I) to Camwater's network.

§2: Prisons with or without quarters for women or minors

654- The situation can be examined depending on whether it concerns central prisons, main prisons or secondary prisons¹¹⁸.

¹¹⁸ A central prison is found in the regional headquarters, a main prison in a divisional headquarters and a secondary prison in a sub-divisional headquarters.

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Table 11: Central Prisons

No.	Prisons	Women's Area	Minors' Area	Remarks
1	Yaounde	+	+	
2	Bertoua	+	+	
3	Maroua	+	+	
4	Ngaoundere	+	+	
5	Garoua	+	+	
6	Bamenda	+	+	
7	Ebolowa	+	+	
8	Buea	+	+	
9	Douala	+	+	
10	Bafoussam	+	+	

Table 12: Main Prisons

No.	Prisons	Women's Area	Minors' Area	Remarks
1	Akonolinga	+	+	
2	Bafia	+	+	
3	Eseka	+	+	
4	Mbalmayo	+	+	
5	Mfou	+	-	Minors' Quarter
6	Sa'a	+	+	
7	Monatele	+	-	
8	Nanga -Eboko	+	+	
9	Yoko	/	/	Male Convicts
10	Yaounde	+	+	
11	Abong Mbang	+	+	
12	Batouri	+	+	
13	Yokadouma	+	+	
14	Kaele	+	+	
15	Mokolo	+	-	Minors' Quarter
16	Mora	+	-	
17	Kousseri	+	+	
18	Yagoua	+	-	Minors' Quarter
19	Banyo	+	+	
20	Meiganga	+	+	
21	Tignere	-	-	Minors' Quarter
22	Tibati	-	-	Minors' Quarter
23	Guider	+	+	

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No.	Prisons	Women's Area	Minors' Area	Remarks
24	Tchollire II	/	/	Transferred convicts
25	Tchollire I	+	+	
26	Poli	-	-	
27	Mbengwi	+	-	Minors' Quarter
28	Wum	+	-	Minors' Quarter
29	Ndop	+	-	Minors' Quarter
30	Nkamb_	-	-	
31	Fundong	+	+	
32	Kumbo	+	-	
33	Kribi	+	+	
34	Sangm_lima	+	+	
35	Ambam	+	-	Minors' Quarter
36	Mamfe	+	-	Minors' Quarter
37	Kumba	+	+	
38	Nkongsamba	+	+	
39	Edea	+	-	Minors' Quarter
40	Yabassi	+	-	Minors' Quarter
41	Mbanga	+	-	Minors' Quarter
42	Bangangte	+	+	
43	Foumban	+	+	
44	Mantoum	/	/	Transferred Convicts
45	Dschang	+	+	
46	Mbouda	+	+	
47	Bafang	+	-	Minors' Quarter

Table 13: Secondary Prisons

1	Bazou	/	/	
2	Foumbot	+	+	
3	Ndikinimeki	/	/	
4	Doume	/	/	
5	Ngambe	/	/	
6	Bavenga	/	/	
7	Buea Upper Farm's	/	/	
8	Djoum	/	/	
9	Meri	/	/	
10	Doukoula	/	/	
11	Makary	/	/	
12	Moloundou	+	-	
13	Lomie	/	/	
14	Messamena	/	/	
15	Betare -Oya	/	/	
16	Moulvoudaye	/	/	

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Key

- + Prisons with an area for both women and minors;
- Prisons with no area for women or minors;
- / Prisons with no areas for women or minors.

Summary

- Prisons with areas for women: 51
- Prisons with areas for minors: 36
- Prisons with ward for minors: 15

655- These Tables show the types of prisons and Government's commitment to respect a cardinal principle of penitentiary law namely the classification of prisons according to their purpose and the classification of offenders according to their characteristics. This last aspect is evident in relation to the overall distribution of the prison population.

§3: Distribution of prison population as at 31 December 2010

656- The distribution will be presented by region as well as by death penalty.

A-Regional Distribution

657- The situation per region is as follows:

Table 14: Adamawa

No.	PRISON	ACCOMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupation Rate (%)
1	NGAOUNDERE	600	598	144	742	123%
2	BANYO	70	51	114	165	236%
3	MEIGANGA	200	60	75	135	68%
4	TIGNERE	120	42	33	75	63%
5	TIBATI	80	83	51	134	168%
	TOTAL	1070	834	417	1251	117%

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Table No. 15 : Centre

N°	Prisons	Accommodation Capacity	Suspects	Convicts	Total
1	Yaoundé	1000	2830	1007	3837
2	Akonolinga	300	176	77	253
3	Bafia	350	198	142	340
4	Eséka	200	89	132	221
5	Mbalmayo	200	244	161	405
6	Mfou	300	232	50	282
7	Monatéle	150	238	137	375
8	Nanga-Eboko	150	158	89	247
9	Ndikinimeki	100	0	119	119
10	Prison Pple	250	0	150	150
11	Sa'a	100	97	132	229
12	Yoko	700	0	34	3837
TOTAL		3800	4262	2230	253

Table 16: East

No.	PRISON	ACCOMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupation Rat
1	BERTOUA	250	316	148	464	186%
2	ABONG-MBANG	200	106	89	195	97%
3	BATOURI	150	110	55	165	110%
4	YOKADOUMA	400	109	79	188	47%
5	BETARE-OYA	100	0	25	25	25%
6	DOUME	50	0	24	24	48%
7	LOMIE	150	0	14	14	9%
8	MESSAMENA	125	0	32	32	26%
9	MOLOUNDOU	50	0	25	25	50%
	TOTAL	1475	641	491	1132	77%

Table 17: Far-North

No.	PRISON	ACCOMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupation Rate (%)
1	MAROUA	400	368	473	841	210%
2	KAELE	150	126	198	324	216%
3	KOUSSERI	200	239	150	389	195%
4	MOKOLO	200	294	193	487	243%
5	MORA	250	165	139	304	121%
6	YAGOUA	250	228	247	475	190%
7	MAKARY	200	0	83	83	42%
8	MERI	120	0	64	64	53%
9	MOULVOUDAYE	300	0	15	15	5%
10	DOUKOULA	100	0	46	46	46%
	TOTAL	2170	1420	1608	3028	140%

Table 18: Littoral

No.	PRISONS	ACCOMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupat Rate (%)
1	DOUALA	800	2020	542	2562	320%
2	NKONGSAMBA	200	366	99	465	232%
3	EDEA	150	233	70	303	202%
4	YABASSI	150	80	19	99	66%
5	MBANGA	150	157	132	289	193%
6	NGAMBE	100	0	21	21	21%
	TOTAL	1550	2856	883	3739	241%

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Table 19: North

No.	PRISONS	ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupation Rate (%)
1	Garoua	500	500	981	1481	296%
2	Guider	150	366157	99229	386	257%
3	Poli	50	23339	7038	77	154%
4	Tcholire I	50	85	100	185	370%
5	Tcholire II	400	0	112	112	28%
	TOTAL	1150	781	2241	2241	195%

Table 20: North West

No.	PRISONS	ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupation Rate (%)
1	BAMENDA	500	195	177	372	74%
2	MBENGWI	200	43	31	74	37%
3	WUM	350	59	35	94	27%
4	NKAMBE	150	98	63	161	107%
5	NDOP	150	62	52	114	76%
6	KUMBO	200	54	77	131	66%
7	FUNDONG	100	0	50	50	50%

Table 21: West

No.	PRISONS	ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupation Rate (%)
1	BAFOUSSAM	600	717	284	1001	167%
2	MBOUDA	250	263	126	389	156%
3	MANTOUM	500	12	92	102	20%
4	FOUMBAN	250	130	72	202	89%
5	DSCHANG	120	188	120	308	257%
6	BANGANGTE	150	58	71	129	86%
7	BAFANG	300	137	69	206	69%
8	FOUMBOT	150	92	60	152	101%
9	BAZOU	100	0	33	33	33%
	TOTAL	2420	1597	927	2522	104%

Table 22: South

No.	PRISON	ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupation Rate (%)
1	EBOLOWA	250	127	224	351	140%
2	KRIBI	150	197	131	328	219%
3	SANGMELIMA	200	156	74	230	115%
4	AMBAM	100	119	95	214	214%
5	DJOUM	100	21	22	43	43%
	TOTAL	800	620	546	1166	146%

Table 23: South West

No.	PRISON	ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL	Occupation Rate (%)
1	BUEA	200	393	114	504	252%
2	KUMBA	500	299	277	576	115%
3	MAMFE	130	30	49	79	61%
4	BAVENGA	80	0	12	12	15%
5	BANGEM	100	0	0	0	%
6	BUEA-UPPER-FARM	100	0	28	28	28%
	TOTAL	1110	722	480	1199	108%

Source: MINJUSTICE (DAPEN)

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658- Summary data on the prison is as follows:

Table 24 : General Prison Statistics

CATEGORIES	CENTRAL PRISONS	MAIN PRISONS	SECONDARY PRISONS	GENERAL TOTAL
SUSPECTS	8064	6067	113	14244
CONVICTS	4094	4775	653	9522
TOTAL	12158	10842	766	23766
ACCOMODATION CAPACITY	5100	9870	21025	17095

Source: MINJUSTICE (DAPEN)

659- As at 31 December 2010, there were 23,766 prisoners supervised by 2,782 personnel of all ranks giving a monitoring ratio of 1 staff for 9 inmates, meanwhile the objective is to achieve a ratio of 1 staff for 5 detainees. Based on these statistics, overcrowding is much more pronounced in large cities, particularly in Yaounde, Douala, Garoua, Maroua, Bafoussam and Nkongsamba because of the growing crime wave, while most secondary prisons are under occupied.

660- The specific situation of women is as follows:

Table 25: Female Detainees

REGION	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL
ADAMAWA	6	1	7
CENTRE	156	38	194
EAST	12	3	15
FAR-NORTH	31	22	53
LITTORAL	74	24	98
NORTH	10	8	18
NORTH WEST	20	4	24
WEST	30	21	51
SOUTH	18	10	28
SOUTH-WEST	8	1	9
TOTAL	357	131	488

Source: MINJUSTICE (DAPEN)

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661- Although the specificity and the vulnerability of female inmates which requires a strict separation of men and women in prison is now a reality, it should be noted that this Table highlights the need for judicial authorities to take measures to reduce the number of female inmates. The same remark applies to juvenile offenders.

662- Concerning gender, of the 74 functional prisons, 51 have women areas and wards for minors. The protection of vulnerable groups in prisons is a major concern for Government. It is important to note that only prisons in the localities with courts can accommodate women and minors.

663- The specific situation of women is summarized as follows:

Table 26 : Summary of situation of women

REGION	SUSPECTS	CONVICTS	TOTAL
ADAMAWA	44	1	45
CENTRE	259	32	293
EAST	37	0	37
FAR NORTH	105	20	125
LITTORAL	67	9	76
NORTH	45	6	51
NORTH WEST	9	2	11
WEST	117	21	138
SOUTH	33	0	33
SOUTH WEST	39	8	47
TOTAL	496	91	809

Source: MINJUSTICE(DAPEN)

664- Statistics on death penalty in prisons in Cameroon as at 31 December 2010

Table 27: Death Penalty

Regions	Male	Female	Minors	Total
ADAMAWA	1	0	0	1
CENTRE	28	0	0	28
EAST	1	0	0	1
FAR-NORTH	3	0	0	3
LITTORAL	14	0	0	14
NORTH	3	0	0	3
NORTH WEST	0	0	0	0
WEST	43	0	0	43
SOUTH	7	0	0	7
SOUTH-WEST	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	102	0	0	102

Source: MINJUSTICE (DAPEN)

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665- Convictions in 2010 were as follows:

- Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal, East Region : 4;
- Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal, South Region : 3;
- Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal, South West Region : 1; and
- Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal, Centre Region : 1.

SECTION II: HEALTH COVERAGE

666- All central prisons were equipped with medical equipment (health care unit and laboratory equipment) and medical consumables, in addition to the traditional line for buying drugs for inmates available in each prison. The construction of three new health care units in prisons in Bamenda, Ebolowa and Bertoua increased appropriate infrastructure for inmates.

667- As part of the fight against cholera, the 10 central prisons received lots of drugs as a precaution. Vaccination campaigns against meningitis and tetanus were also conducted in prisons. Malaria, fungal skin infections, HIV and tuberculosis are the most common diseases in prisons. The prevalence rate of HIV / AIDS is 5.5 per cent.

668- Prison workforce in 2010 is as follows:

Table 28: Health Staff

Technical Staff	Workforce		
	Men	Women	Total
Doctors	14	4	18
Registered Nurses	6	1	07
Nurse's Aids	40	33	73
Health Technical Officers	8	3	11
Laboratory Nurse's Aids	00	2	02
Total	68	43	111

Source: MINJUSTICE (DAPEN)

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669- To improve health provision in prisons, specific training was organized for medical staff in prisons. Thus, 20 State-certified nurses, 30 nurse's aids and health technical officers were trained. This initiative added 70 new professionals to prison medical staff. In the same vein, CFA 86,000,000 out of the health budget of CFA 1 111,926,000 is used to run prisons. These measures have resulted in a decrease in disease prevalence in relation to morbidity.

SECTION III: FEEDING

670- Appropriations for the feeding of detainees were kept at their 2009 level. In order to improve the feeding of prisoners, farms were opened in Garoua, Buea, Ebolowa and Bertoua. Besides, poultry farms were opened in Yaounde, Ngaoundere, Bamenda, Buea and Bafoussam, and a pig farm in Maroua.

SECTION IV: SOCIO-CULTURAL, LEISURE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

671- These activities including sports, recreation, literacy, training in small business and preparation for official examinations continue permanently in all the prisons with the support of various partners. On this score, inmates obtained the following results at the 2010 official examinations:

- <i>Certificat d'études primaires (CEP)</i>	: 12 passed
- <i>Brevet d'études du premier cycle (BEPC)</i>	: 8 passed
- <i>Probatoire</i>	: 2 passed
- <i>Baccalaureate</i>	: 2 passed

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SECTION V: MONITORING AND VISITING PRISONS

672- In addition to control by State Counsel and the General Inspectorate of Penitentiary Administration, the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF) visited some prisons in 2010, including Douala, Garoua and Yaounde. Similarly an Amnesty International delegation visited the Central Prisons of Douala and Yaounde¹¹⁹.

673- To conclude, significant efforts were made to improve prison conditions in Cameroon in 2010. The reduction of the budget allocated for this purpose will certainly have an impact on the momentum of the past five years.

¹¹⁹ See Preface.

Chapter 2

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS ¹²⁰

¹²⁰ See footnote 147 of 2009 Report for the definition of vulnerable groups.



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674- As in previous years, Government continued to promote and protect vulnerable groups comprising children with disabilities, persons with disabilities, the elderly and indigenous populations.

SUB-CHAPTER I: PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

675- In 2010, Government continued to take measures to promote and protect the rights of children¹²¹.

SECTION I: MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

676- The following measures were taken to protect the rights of children: consolidating the legal and institutional framework, continuing with care for orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) and HIV/AIDS control, constructing, installing, maintaining and equipping facilities, attending international meetings on the rights of children, collaborating with partners and sponsoring OVCs. The 12th Session of Children's Parliament held on 16 June 2010¹²² constituted part of these initiatives.

§1: Consolidating the legal and institutional framework

677- By Prime Ministerial Decree No. 163/CAB/PM of 2 November 2010, an Inter-ministerial Committee to monitor, prevent and control trafficking in persons was set up under the authority of the Prime Minister, Head of Government to coordinates activities to prevent and control trafficking in persons. It is in charge of:

- ensuring that administrative services apply the policy to control trafficking in persons;
- initiating and supervising training;
- ensuring the internalization of international instruments to which Cameroon is party and relating to trafficking in persons; and
- undertaking any reflection on this subject.

¹²¹ A child is defined as a person of less than eighteen (18) years except the applicable law states that majority is attained earlier. (Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

¹²² The 2010 Edition was peculiar because of the selection criteria for junior parliamentarians that included children with disabilities, children from indigenous populations and those from other sociological components in order to take into account the sociological diversity of Cameroon.

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§2: Intensifying care for orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) and HIV/AIDS control

678- Government carried out the following activities to improve care of OVC and HIV/AIDS control:

- providing 8,000 OVC education, food, health care , psycho- social aid and establishing birth certificates in 8 Regions covered by the Project "Children and HIV/AIDS" set up in partnership with UNICEF; and
- validating the National Strategic Plan for the Protection of OVC infected with HIV/AIDS from 2011 - 2015. The plan whose objective is to make sure that at least 55 per cent of OVC enjoy their basic rights, aims at caring for them and their families, building the capacities of stakeholders (town halls, civil society organizations, religious groups, traditional authorities and families), promoting solidarity with OVC, mobilizing resources and partners, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the project.

679- It should be noted that according to the National AIDS Control Committee (CNLS), 304,000 Cameroon children are orphaned by the pandemic and only 25 per cent receive care¹²³.

§3: Constructing, installing, maintaining and equipping facilities

680- During the 2010 financial year, 17 building projects were retained for a total amount of CFA 589,500,000¹²⁴. Appropriations worth CFA 509,500,000¹²⁵ were allocated to external services for the construction of 12 facilities, including 1 regional delegation, 2 divisional delegations, 2 specialized institutions and 7 social centres. It is worth mentioning that 5 facilities, including 4 social centres and 1 specialized institution received financing worth CFA 80,000,000¹²⁶ to complete construction works.

681- As regards rehabilitation and maintenance, CFA 293,500,000¹²⁷ was devoted to rehabilitating decentralized facilities namely: 4 specialized institutions, 3 regional delegations, 9 sub-divisional delegations and 6 social centres. In the same vein, CFA 40,000,000¹²⁸ was allocated respectively to the Reception Centre for Minors, Bertoua (CFA 15,000,000¹²⁹), the Cameroon Institute for the Child, Betamba (CFA 15,000,000¹³⁰) and the Social Centre, Bamenda (CFA 10,000,000¹³¹).

682- Besides, CFA 274,600,000¹³² was used to equip facilities in order to modernize reception centres for users.

¹²³ CT of 4 December 2010.

¹²⁴ About 898,628 Euros.

¹²⁵ About 776,677 Euros.

¹²⁶ About 121,951 Euros.

¹²⁷ About 447,409 Euros.

¹²⁸ About 60,977 Euros.

¹²⁹ About 22,866 Euros.

¹³⁰ About 22,866 Euros.

¹³¹ About 15,244 Euros.

¹³² About 418,598 Euros

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§4: Attendance at international meetings on the rights of children

683- In 2010, within the framework of the promotion of the rights of children, Government attended the following meetings:

- June 2010 Djamena, Chad: forum on the fight against the involvement of children in armed conflicts and armed bands;
- June 2010 Brasilia, Brazil: International Conference on the Education of Children and Teenagers on Environmental Protection under the theme *"Let us Take Care of the Planet"*. 10 members of the Children's Parliament alongside youths from the other four continents took active part in the Conference which led to the drawing up of *"The Charter of Responsibilities on Let Us Take Care of the Planet"*.

§5: Continuous collaboration with partners

684- As part of MINAS-UNICEF collaboration, the new phase of cooperation on the protection of children produced the following results:

- drawing up of a guide on supporting children in distress;
- training of social welfare workers to use tools on the control of child trafficking and exploitation in the West, Centre, North, North West, South West and the Littoral Regions; and
- capacity building of welfare workers in their roles as assessors and probation officers in courts.

685- It should be noted that the aim of the campaign against trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs, in the Far-North, Adamawa, South, East and North Regions, from 2 - 22 December 2010, was to further control these abuses which degrade the personality and the best interest of children.

686- Similarly, the Minister of Social Affairs and the Delegate General for National Security signed a memorandum of understanding with the aim particularly of ensuring the safety of children in distress and the access of marginal populations to citizenship.

687- To mark the celebration of the 21st International Day of the Child under the theme *"Dignity, Development and Dialogue"*, PLAN Cameroon, a community development organization focused on the participation of children and the young, commemorated the day in collaboration with 220 children and young persons. They came from the Centre, North and North

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West Regions within the framework of the Project for the Capacity Building of the Young through Technology, Art and the Media (YETAM).

688- The above event was an occasion for the young people of Cameroon to showcase their creativity in new technologies, art and the media in order to educate opinion leaders on the need to respect and protect the rights of children in Cameroon¹³³.

§6: Sponsorship of orphans and vulnerable children

689- In 2010, the following actions were taken to reinforce sponsorship of the OVC of Cameroon:

- preparing the draft enforcement instrument on the sponsorship of the OVC of Cameroon;
- building an OVC database; and
- developing a Strategic Plan for the Care of OVC, which is a policy document underlining the framework, directives, strategies and the priority areas of support to OVC. It is also an important tool for educating public, private, national and international partners.

SECTION II: MEASURES TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

690- Administrative and legal measures were taken to protect children.

§1: Administrative protection

691- Administrative protection was provided by fighting against child labour, campaigning against the stigmatization of OVC and fighting against the phenomenon of street children.

A: Fight against Child Labour

692- Many actions were carried out under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security within the framework of the prevention or the rehabilitation of children victims of illegal work, including:

¹³³ CT of 3 December 2010.

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- withdrawal in January 2010, of almost one thousand five hundred (1,500) children from cocoa farms and plantations in the North West and the Centre Regions; and
- distribution, on 3 and 6 February 2010, of kits made up of sewing machines, helmets for hairdressing salons and motor mechanics equipment (welding sets) to street children and children withdrawn from plantations.

693- Furthermore, the Network to curb Child Trafficking and Exploitation (RENALTTE)¹³⁴ was set up on 17 September 2010 with the following objectives:

- prevention by organizing public awareness campaigns for partners (denominational communities, trade unions of civil society employers and employees);
- identification and withdrawal of children from exploitation chains; and
- repression of the scourge.

B: Campaign against Stigmatizing OVC

694- Within the framework of celebrations to mark the 20th edition of the Day of the African child, public awareness campaigns against stigmatizing OVC were carried out by the 10 regional delegates of social affairs of the country.

C: Fight against the Phenomenon of Street Children (SC)

695: In 2010, continuation of the implementation of the project for the fight against the phenomenon of SC produced the following results:

1. Identifying and caring for SC in 2010

- 172 SC were identified and a file opened for them in Yaounde as follows:
 - 115 SC of less than 18 years; and
 - 57 SC of more than 18 years (ineligible for the project);
- Among the SC who were less than 18 years:
 - 5 were returned directly to their families after psychosocial support

¹³⁴ RENALTTE is a body made up of the Administration (Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Social Affairs, General Delegation of National Security, National Gendarmerie) social partners (Trade Unions), civil society (NGOs, associations, traditional heads, religious leaders).

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at the request of their parents; and

- 81 were sent to institutions among which 65 to ICE, Betamba and 16 to Borstal Institute, Buea.

2. School support for children returned to their families

- 82 former SC returned to their families and reintegrated in the traditional school system received school support on 2 September 2010, following good performances namely:

- 5 pupils passed the First School Leaving Certificate examination;
- 1 student passed the Probatoire Spanish A4 examination; and
- 1 student passed the Baccalaureat D examination with the grade "fairly good" at the 2010 examinations.

§2: Legal protection

696- Three training courses on juvenile justice were organized in the Far North, North West and the West Regions to build the capacities of social workers in their role as assessors and probation officers, with the support of UNICEF.

697- The three workshops, initiated by the Ministry of Justice and financed by the 2008-2011 Cameroon-UNICEF Cooperation Programme, took place in Maroua from 6 - 8 July 2010, Sangmelima 1 - 3, June 2010 and Mbalmayo from 25 - 27 May 2010.

698- The workshops comprised talks, exchanges, practical cases and recommendations.

699- On the whole, 23 papers were presented including 7 for the 1st workshop and 8 each for the last two. The papers covered national legal instruments on the protection of the child and on the history and aims of the United Nations Convention Relating to the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and the Wellbeing of the Child. They also dwelt on the problems of juvenile delinquency and the moral or material danger of the child in Cameroon, the role of the assessor at the trial phase, the explanation of probation and the technical instruments to be used by assessors and probation officers.

700- The exchanges related to appropriating technical terms and understanding situations in practical cases.

701- At the end of deliberations, 18 recommendations were made. They

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can be grouped based on the concerns below:

- speed up the signing of the instrument on allowances and fees owed assessors and probation officers;
- multiply training workshops for assessors and probation officers to enable them to play their role properly;
- work out specifications for probation officers;
- provide probation officers and assessors with adequate working environment and logistics; and
- expressly institute the signing of court decisions by assessors since they give their opinion on punishments and measures.

702- The Table below indicates proceedings and sanctions taken on offences against children.

Table 1: Proceedings and convictions

COURT OF APPEAL	COURT	TYPE AND NUMBER OF OFFENCES	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	REMARKS
FAR NORTH	Kousseri (CFI/HC)	-Violence on a minor	2	-Matters pending before the court
	Mokolo (CFI/HC)	- Kidnapping -assault on a minor (AM)	6	-The accused was convicted -3 of the 5 cases on assault of minor ended in convictions.
	Mora (CFI/HC)	-violence on minor - Kidnapping: 2 - AM: 16	20	-In the cases of violence on minor, the accused were acquitted -In the cases of kidnapping, one person was convicted and one acquitted -In the cases of AM, 8 persons were convicted
	Kaélé (CFI/HC)	-violence on minor - AM: 10	11	-The accused was acquitted on charges for violence on minor -Cases of AM 4 people were convicted.
	Yagoua (CFI)	-Kidnapping: 2	2	-Pending matters
NORTH	Garoua (CFI/HC)	-Kidnapping: 7 - AM: 17	24	- 7 people were convicted for kidnapping. - 6 people were convicted for AM.
	Guider (CFI/HC)	-Kidnapping: 3 - AM: 5	8	-1 person was convicted for kidnapping while 2 matters were adjourned - 3 people were convicted for

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	Guider (CFI/HC)	-Kidnapping: 3 - AM: 5	8	-1 person was convicted for kidnapping while 2 matters were adjourned - 3 people were convicted for A M.
	Tcholliré (CFI/HC)	Kidnapping: 1 - AM:10	11	-The accused was convicted for kidnapping a minor - 7 persons were convicted and 3 acquitted for indecency on a minor.
	Poli (CFI/HC)	- AM:1	1	-Matter adjourned
NORTH WEST	Bamenda (CFI /HC)	- AM: 3 AM: and sexual relations: 8 AM and rape: 1	12	All 12 cases are pending before the Examining Magistrate.
	Batibo (CFI)	-Corruption of youth: 4 - AM: and sexual relations	5	-All the 5 cases are pending before the Examining Marriage.
	Fundong (CFI/HC)	-AM and sexual relations: 1 -Child trafficking : 1	2	-AM and sexual relations are pending. - the case of child trafficking is pending before the Examining Magistrate.
	Kumbo (CFI/HC)	-Child labour: 1 - AM and rape: 4 - AM : 1	6	-One matter on AM and rape and the matter on AM are pending. -the other cases on AM and rape are pending before the Examining Magistrate
	Mbengwi (CFI/HC)	- AM and corruption of youth: 4 - AM and rape: 1	5	-2 cases on AM and corruption of youth are pending before the court. -the other cases are pending before the Examining Magistrate
	Nkambe (CFI/HC)	AM and rape - 1	1	-the accused was acquitted.

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	Guider (CFI/HC)	-Kidnapping: 3 - AM: 5	8	-1 person was convicted for kidnapping while 2 matters were adjourned - 3 people were convicted for A M.
	Tcholliré (CFI/HC)	Kidnapping: 1 - AM:10	11	-The accused was convicted for kidnapping a minor - 7 persons were convicted and 3 acquitted for indecency on a minor.
	Poli (CFI/HC)	- AM:1	1	-Matter adjourned

Source: MINJUSTICE

EAST	Bertoua (CFI/HC)	-Kidnapping: 2 - AM : 16	18	-cases of kidnapping are pending before the court. -there were 8 convictions on AM and 3 acquittals.
	Yokadouma (CFI/HC)	-Kidnapping: 2 - AM: 10	12	-there was 1 conviction on kidnapping and 1 acquittal . -there were 9 convictions on AM and 1 acquittal.
	Abong- Mbang (CFI/HC)	- Kidnapping : 1 - AM: 8	9	- the case on kidnapping is pending before the court. - cases on AM are pending before the court.
	Batouri (CFI/HC)	- Violence on minor: 2 - Kidnapping: 2 - AM: 12	16	-both cases on violence on minor are pending before the court. - both cases on kidnapping are pending before the court . - there were 5 convictions and 1 acquittal on AM .
WEST	Bafoussam (CFI/HC)	- Violence on minor: 7 - Kidnapping: 12 - AM : 22	41	- cases on violence on minor are pending before the court. -there were 2 convictions and 10 acquittals for kidnapping. -there were 12 convictions and 10 acquittals for AM .

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	Mbouda (CFI/HC)	- Kidnapping: 4 - AM : 14	18	-there were 4 convictions for kidnapping. -there were 9 convictions and 3 acquittals for AM . 3 cases are pending before the courts.
	Foumban (CFI/HC)	-Violence on minor: 1 -Kidnapping: 3 - AM: 9	13	-the case on violence on a minor is pending before the court. -there were 3 convictions and 3 acquittals for kidnapping. -there were 3 convictions for AM and 6 pending matters before the court.
	Dschang (CFI/HC)	- Kidnapping : 2 - AM: 12	14	-matters pending before the courts. - AM pending before the court.
SOUTH	Ebolowa (CFI/HC)	- Kidnapping: 5 - AM: 18	23	- pour les cas d'enlèvement, 3 ont débouché sur des sont pendants devant le tribunal. -all cases on AM and rape resulted in convictions.
	Ambam (CFI/HC)	- Violence on a minor: 1 -Kidnapping: 4 - AM: 7	12	-the case of violence on a minor resulted in a conviction. -2 cases of kidnapping resulted in convictions and 2 in acquittals -3 cases of AM resulted in convictions and 4 are pending before the court.

Key

AM: Assault on a minor

703- In ensuring the wellbeing of children, Government did not lose sight of persons with disabilities.

SUB-CHAPTER II: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

704- In 2010, the rights of people with disabilities were promoted and protected through activities and the consolidation of the legal and institutional framework.

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SECTION I: CONSOLIDATION OF THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

705- In 2010, the reinforcement of the fight against social exclusion through promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities led to the promulgation of Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 on the protection and promotion of people with handicaps. This Law repeals Law No. 83/13 of 21 July 1983 relating to the protection of people with disabilities and its enforcement instrument No. 90/1516 of 26 November 1990.

706- This law aims to:

- prevent disabilities;
- readjust socio-economic and psychological integration of persons with disabilities;
- promote national solidarity in favour of persons with disabilities; and
- take criminal sanctions against unscrupulous individuals who fraudulently take the status of people with disabilities in order to receive corresponding advantages.

707- The Law mentioned above brought the following major innovations:

- introduction of criminal provisions;
- taking of specific measures (material and financial needs as well as teaching support) by Government to guarantee persons with disabilities access to education and vocational training;
- State contribution to educational and initial vocational training expenses for pupils and students who are poor and with disabilities.
- total or partial exemption from the payment of school and university fees and the granting of scholarships;

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- the above coverage also includes children whose parents suffer from disabilities;
- persons with disabilities should, where necessary, and on the proposal of the Minister in charge of Social Affairs, be exempted from taxes and customs duties; and
- Government encouragement of persons with disabilities by including them in political and social organs.

708- In order to apply the Law of 2010, a workshop to improve and consolidate the preliminary draft enforcement instruments was held in Mbalmayo from 8 - 12 November 2010. The draft instruments were validated within the framework of the 5th session of the National Committee for the Readjustment and Socio-economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities (CONRHA) from 26 - 27 November 2010 in Yaounde. The five draft instruments included three decrees relating to monitoring centres for persons with disabilities and two orders laying down conditions for the free issue of medical certificates and the national disability card.

709- The following measures can also be mentioned:

- promoting the socio-professional insertion of persons with disabilities by reinforcing and modernizing the technical support centre as well as training and initiation workshops on promising sectors of the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger National Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities, at the cost of CFA 283,000,000¹³⁵. CFA 118,500,000¹³⁶ was used to buy specific equipment for this centre and 2 other monitoring centres for persons with disabilities;
- continuing the construction of the Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities of Maroua (CRPH) with the support of the Italian co-operation, following the partnership agreement signed on 20 July 2004 between the Government of the Republic of Cameroon and the Italian Association for Spastic Assistance (AIAS Afragola). It should be noted that work visits took place in Italy from 28 February - 6 March 2010 within the framework of the project evaluated at about CFA 900,000,000¹³⁷.

¹³⁵ About 431,420 Euros.

¹³⁶ About 180,640 Euros.

¹³⁷ About 1,371,953 Euros.

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710- Notwithstanding the innovations by the new law, much remains to be done insofar as freedom of expression, communication, and access to information by persons with disabilities, are far from being a reality.

711- A survey undertaken by the Association of Young Persons with Disabilities of Cameroon (ANAJEHCAM), on the rate of participation in elections by region on a sample of 5,000 persons with disabilities¹³⁸, reveals that this category, for various reasons, notably mobility, ignorance and disaffection, take little part in the electoral process, since the reinstitution of multi-party system in Cameroon as shown in the Table below.

Table 2: Participation of persons with disabilities in elections

	PARTICIPATED IN AN ELECTION		
	YES	NO	TOTAL
ADAMAWA	52.3	47.7	100
CENTRE	16.8	83	100
EAST	43.8	56.3	100
FAR-NORTH	58	42	100
LITTORAL	34.5	65.5	100
NORTH	29.0	71	100
NORTH WEST	16,7	83.3	100
WEST	24	76	100
SOUTH	8.1	91.9	100
SOUTH-WEST	36.1	63.9	100
TOTAL	32.2	67.8	100

SOURCE: ANAJEHCAM

SECTION II: PROMOTION ACTIONS

712- The following activities were carried out within the framework of the socio-professional reintegration of persons with disabilities, support for schooling, training and the socio-economic integration and reintegration of people with disabilities,:

- ongoing popularization of the monograph on trades accessible to persons with disabilities. The aim of this document is to educate all social actors, employers, economic operators, research and professional placement facilities to respect the dignity of people with disabilities on equal basis with other people;

¹³⁸ Contribution by the National Association of Associations and Institutions for Persons with disabilities of Cameroon (UNAPHAC).

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- continuing education with a view to appropriating the standards contained in the Practical Guide on the accessibility of people with disabilities to public facilities and public buildings. This Guide is in line with the statutory and regulatory provisions of Circular No.3/CAB/PM of 18 April 2008 on compliance with rules governing the award, execution and control of public contracts by which the Prime Minister, Head of Government, instructed deputy project owners to ensure that, construction projects of public buildings and roads should technically integrate "the disability approach" to take into account the specific concerns related to the accessibility of people with disabilities. The electronic version of this Guide was distributed to all Ministers most of whom reacted favourably¹³⁹.
- supporting the organization of the 4th Cameroon Days of Autism in Yaounde from 30 March - 2 April 2010 under the distinguished patronage of the First Lady, Mrs Chantal BIYA, within the framework of the 3rd World Day of Autism under the theme "For Better Care of the Child with Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorder";
- preparing awareness materials (leaflets) on the language of the white cane;
- organizing the 19th edition of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2010 under the theme "Keeping the Promise: Mainstreaming Disability in the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and Beyond." The activities selected included social and educational exchanges, sports, communication for behaviour and opinion change, validation of the report of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities, organization of the CONRHA meeting, organization of an awareness day on the theme "Let us Love and Take Out Our Children with Disabilities" and also the white cane and the national disability map and the organization of a trade fair and a sub-regional training and advocacy seminar on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in partnership with the United Nations Centre on Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, UNICEF and Sight Savers International.

¹³⁹ It is available on the Website www.armp.cm

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713- Partnership with other ministries was achieved through:

- advocacy with the Ministry of Basic Education that led to the recruitment of one hundred fifteen (115) teachers with disabilities who are holders of CAPIEMP or the Teacher's Grade One Certificate during the 2010 and 2011 financial years, as part of the signing of contracts by teachers of general education at MINFOPRA;
- setting up of a card-index of competent persons with disabilities;
- training of 28 persons with disabilities in office automation and the internet at IAI-Cameroon, giving a total of 200 persons with disabilities trained in the use of computers and ICT skills since 2006;
- completion and submission of the draft National Policy Document for the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities to the Prime Minister;
- training with ILO support of 20 persons with disabilities in incorporation and business management in Douala;
- providing twenty four (24) scholarships for vocational training and learning to vulnerable persons with disabilities by MINEFOP for the 2010/2011 training year;
- implementing the provisions of joint circular letters MINAS -MINESEC and MINAS MINESUP to facilitate access to education for children with disabilities and those born of needy parents with disabilities, including free admission into public secondary education institutions, multifaceted aid in State Universities and measures for their equitable participation in official examinations; and
- diversifying the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities by signing a partnership agreement with the Mission for the Promotion of Local Materials (MIPROMALO) for the training of youths with disabilities in the manufacture of adapted building materials.

714- As in previous years, Government also focused on improving the rights of the elderly.

SUBCHAPTER III: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE ELDERLY

715- In 2010, Government continued to promote and protect the rights of the 1,077,000 elderly people in the country, referred to by the President of the Republic as "the Nation's memory".

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SECTION I: PROMOTION MEASURES

716- The following measures were taken to promote the rights of the elderly:

- opening of the University for Senior Citizens by organizing thematic meetings between generations in the ten regions.
- organizing the 20th edition of the International Day of Older Persons (JIPA) on 1 October 2010 with, inter alia, organization of inter-generational thematic meetings and multi-sector discussions on the implementation of the concept of "Renaissance Village";
- preparing a draft guide for healthy and active aging;
- launching a national competition for the publication of the "Great Encyclopaedia" of the past and the future in order to capture, capitalize and build on the experience, expertise and know-how of the elderly;
- giving a token of appreciation to people aged over 100 years as part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversaries of the independence and reunification of Cameroon through multifaceted assistance on the basis of available report on the elderly and centenarians (100 years and above); and
- granting special financial assistance of nearly CFA 2,000,000¹⁴⁰ to 35 elderly persons.

SECTION II: PROTECTION MEASURES

717- The following social policy measures were taken to protect and manage the elderly:

- organization of a workshop to improve and validate the draft National Policy Document for the protection and promotion of the elderly from 28 - 30 June 2010 in Kribi, with logistical support from the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development; and
- ongoing drawing up of the National Strategy for Assistance to Vulnerable Older People, as prescribed by the Prime Minister, Head of Government in MINAS's road map for the current financial year.

718- To continue the fight against social exclusion and to strengthen the socio-economic integration of social groups, the promotion and protection of the rights of the marginalized also featured prominently.

¹⁴⁰ About 3049 Euros.

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SUBCHAPTER IV: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE¹⁴¹

719- In 2010, Government also took steps to promote and protect the rights of the marginalized.

SECTION I: PROMOTION

720- Measures to promote the rights of the marginalized to which promotional activities by the civil society should be added comprise the implementation of the Project for Environmental and Social Capacity Building (PRECESSE), cooperation with development partners and the celebration of the third edition of the International Day of Indigenous People.

§1: Environmental and Social Capacity Building Project (PRECESSE)

721- Based on the concerns of vulnerable shoreline residents, the following actions were undertaken within the context of implementing PRECESSE for the management of the social impacts of major infrastructure projects of the energy sector:

- sending three exploratory missions in the South and Littoral Regions to assess the degree of involvement and consideration of the needs of local communities in implementing major projects;
- providing socio-economic support (agricultural tools, seeds and equipment);
- conducting a situational diagnostic study to determine the issue of rights, and to identify the priority needs of vulnerable indigenous populations affected by major development projects; and
- providing vehicles (six 4x4 vehicles) for implementing, monitoring and evaluating outreach activities at the various sites of vulnerable indigenous populations.

§2: Cooperation with development partners

722- As part of cooperation with partners, the following results were recorded:

- implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between MINAS and MINFOF by executing the Indigenous Pygmies Development

¹⁴¹ In General Comment No.14 on the right to health which is the most important for the Committee on ESCR, vulnerable or marginalized groups include ethnic minorities and indigenous people, women, adolescents, the elderly, persons with disabilities and HIV/AIDS victims.

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Plan within the context of the Forest/Environment Sector Development Programme (PLP/PSFE). Its main objective is to take into account the socio-economic needs of the Pygmies under the implementation of the forestry policy, for a global sum of CFA 148 million ;¹⁴²

- material, financial and logistic support to pygmies in the Djoum, Bipindi and Lolodorf Subdivisions in the South, and Ngambe Tikar and Yoko in the Centre Regions;
- recruiting exceptionally, 4 Baka pygmies, holders of the BEPC, at the Forestry School, Mbalmayo, with the joint support of MINAS/MIN-FOF, under (PLP/PSFE); and
- participating from 6 - 17 September 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland, in the training programme of the Summer University of Human Rights, the main objective of which was to enable learners to acquire, consolidate and understand international instruments relating to the promotion and protection of human rights.

§3: Celebration of the 3rd edition of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples

723- To improve the living conditions of Pygmies who have huge potentials, the Minister of Social Affairs visited a number of these populations during celebrations of the 3rd edition of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples on 9 August 2010 under the theme "Socio-economic Inclusion of Vulnerable Indigenous Populations: Opportunities and Challenges."

724- In collaboration with the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, the Minister of Social Affairs, during the visit, gave Pygmies agricultural equipment and inputs as part of PLP/PSFE. They were also provided packets of school supplies, basic food and direct financial assistance. Groups and associations of the elderly also received money in cash.

725- The Minister of Social Affairs was accompanied by some officials of the General Delegation for National Security, Yaounde who launched an identification process to issue national identity cards to target populations.

¹⁴² About 225,610 Euros.

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§4: Civil Society Contribution

726- MBOSCUDA carried out the following significant promotional activities:

- in collaboration with Plan International Cameroon and with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 109 Mbororo students in secondary and vocational education, including 55 girls and 54 boys were awarded scholarships; and
- the organization Village Aid (VA), based in Britain, which signed a long-term partnership with MBOSCUDA, provided financial and technical support for the capacity building of MBOSCUDA. It supported a project to fight against adult illiteracy and set up an interest-free loan scheme for women to ensure their financial independence.

SECTION II: PROTECTION

727- In order to protect the rights of marginalized populations, in addition to 16 cases of human rights violation reported by branches to the Regional Branch of MBOSCUDA, North West Region for legal advice, many actions were initiated and/or continued with respect to national solidarity and the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

§1: National Solidarity

728- As part of national solidarity, the following actions were taken:

- finalizing the National Solidarity Fund project. In this respect monitoring the file in search of funding sources and strategies for mobilizing partners/donors continued;
- ongoing preparation of a draft policy document on national solidarity;
- launching in some areas of a vaccination campaign and administration of vitamin A supplements to children and pregnant women; and
- completing a monograph on the situation of Pygmies.

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§2: Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion

729- The following measures were taken to reduce poverty and social exclusion:

- transferring allocation of aid and relief to the poor and needy to municipalities by signing and extending specifications, pursuant to the provisions of Decree No. 2010/243/PM of 26 February 2010 to lay down the terms and conditions of exercising the powers conferred to municipalities by the State; and
- providing, pursuant to the provisions relating to decentralization, multifaceted support to vulnerable people, as part of social solidarity as well as aid in the form of equipment, technical, economic and financial support, to ensure effective social inclusion and their contribution to the development of Cameroon, for a total cost of CFA 216 million¹⁴³; and
- implementing the project "*Effectiveness and Efficiency for Cameroonians Living below the Poverty Line*" funded by the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Fund (HIPC) for a total of CFA 305 million francs¹⁴⁴.

730- To better guarantee the rights of vulnerable groups, Government is expected to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

¹⁴³ About 329,268 Euros.

¹⁴⁴ About 464,939 Euros

Chapter 3

PROMOTION AND PRO- TECTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS



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731- The main components of women's rights, namely equality and non-discrimination, protection of women against violence and marital rights will be discussed in this chapter. Information on other characteristics such as access to health care, especially reproductive health, economic, social and cultural rights and protection of specific groups of women will be discussed in the chapters dealing with the right to health and adequate standard of living.

SECTION 1: PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND NON DISCRIMINATION

732- The principle of equality, and its corollary non discrimination enshrined in the CEDAW, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) and the Constitution of Cameroon, is implemented by an internal normative and institutional framework. The legal framework evolved in 2010 with the enactment of Law No. 2010/2 of 13 April 2010 to protect and promote persons with disabilities that covers the rights of women with disabilities.

733- In the area of policies and programmes on discrimination against women, a breakthrough was observed with the validation of the National Gender Policy (NGP) document in December 2010 that is being adopted.

734- The outline of the NGP will be stated and some results of different measures taken presented.

§1: National Gender Policy

735- The purpose and key strategic guidelines of NGP were defined after analyzing gender promotion in Cameroon. The institutional framework and implementation mechanisms were set out.

736- The vision of the NGP pegged to the general vision of Cameroon by the year 2035 is to make Cameroon an emerging country, built on the principles of good governance, where women and men enjoy equal rights and participate equitably towards development.

737- Because the purpose of NGP is to ensure equality and equity between men and women in all spheres of national life, the main strategic guidelines were defined in accordance with the GESP which include:

- promoting equitable access of girls and boys, women and men to education, training and information;

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- improving women's access to health services, particularly reproductive health;
- promoting equal opportunities for men and women in economy and employment;
- promoting a socio-cultural environment conducive to the respect for women's rights;
- strengthening the participation and representation of women in public life and decision-making; and
- strengthening the institutional framework for gender promotion.

738- These six strategic thrusts have been broken down into matrices of action with specific objectives by sector corresponding to operational strategies.

739- Measures taken by Government have produced results in several areas.

§2: Results Recorded

740- Progress was made in various fields. But at this level, only those aspects that seem to be the foundation for effective action to promote equality and non discrimination will be discussed. They are the awareness of gender-approach tools, participation of women in political and public life, access to education and employment and access to justice.

A: Training in Gender Approach

741- Gender is usually mistaken for the woman. Therefore, attempts were made to teach stakeholders the concept of gender which is a socio-cultural variable referring to the social relations between men and women and focusing on the differences between men and women in society and their relationships¹⁴⁵.

742- On a more operational level, the capacity of gender focal points of government and private services and officials in charge of strategic budget planning was built on the definition of the gender analysis and GRB concept.

743- Since CEDAW constitutes the Charter of Rights of Women and Gender Equality, the training of Judicial and Legal Officers in implementing the Convention that began in 2009 continued in 2010 through a seminar held

¹⁴⁵ It is for this reason that a Masters course in Gender and Development Studies was introduced at the University of Yaounde I in May 2011

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from 18 - 20 January 2010 in Garoua for judges of Courts of Appeal for the Adamawa, Far North and the North Regions.

B: Women in Politics and Decision-making

744- Gender analysis shows that although women constitute the majority of Cameroon population (50.6 per cent for a population estimated at 19.4 million as at 1 January 2010)¹⁴⁶, they are most affected by inequality and discrimination. The position of women in politics and decision-making is therefore of paramount importance in the implementation of gender policy.

1) Women in Politics

745- Based on the legislative and municipal mandates until 2012, women represent:

- at the National Assembly, 13.9 per cent of substantive members, 21.1 per cent of alternate members and 30.4 per cent of Bureau Members; and
- in councils, 15.5 per cent of municipal councillors, 6.7 per cent of mayors and 20 per cent of deputy mayors.

746- This is a slight step forward from the previous legislative and municipal elections¹⁴⁷.

747- Indeed, 11.1 per cent of Parliamentarians for the 2002-2007 Legislative Period were female substantive members, 13 per cent were municipal councillors, 3 per cent, mayors, and 12.7 per cent, deputy mayors.

748- It should be noted that progress in Parliament has been uneven because during the period 1988 to 1996 female parliamentarians represented 14.4 per cent and dropped to 5.5 per cent its lowest level during the 1997 to 2002 period.

¹⁴⁶ Results of the 3rd general population census for the period 1987 to 2005 made public on 14 April 2010.

¹⁴⁷ See chapter on Right to participate in the Management of Public Affairs for more details.

Table 1: Progress in the number of female parliamentarians since 1973

Legislative period	1973-1978	1978-1983	1983-1988	1988 - 1992	1992 - 1997	1997 -2002	2002 -2007	2007-2012
Number of women	7	12	17	26	23	10	20	25
% of female parliamentarians	5.8	10	14.2	14.4	12.8	5.6	11.1	13.9
Total	120	120	120	180	180	180	180	180

Source: MINATD

749- The representation of women in municipal councils and bureaux was progressive, rising from zero in 1982 to 23 mayors 13 years later while the number of female municipal councillors rose from 6.6 per cent to 15.5 per cent during the same period as shown in the Table below.

Table 2: Changes in the participation of women in the management of municipalities from 1982 to 2010

Municipales	Total Councillors	Number of women	% Women	Number Female Mayors
1982	5 107	336	6,6	0
1987	5 345	446	8,3	1
1996	9 932	1 061	10,7	2
2002 - 2007	9 963	1 302	13,1	10
2007 - 2012	10632	1651	15,5	23

Source: MINATD

2) Women and Decision-making

750- The analysis will focus on decision-making positions in public administration and the Judiciary. Given that a key decision-making post is being a member of government, the following Table illustrates the participation of women in government over a period of 10 years.

Table 3: Female ministers from 2001 to 2010

Year Position	2001/2002			2004/2005			2007/2009			2009/2010		
	Total	Women	% Women	Total	Women	% Women	Total	Women	% Women	Total	Women	% Women
Prime Minister	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Vice Prime Minister												
Minister	//	//	//	//	//	//	2	0	0	2	0	0
Minister of State	7	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0
Minister	22	2	9.1	32	4	12.5	31	5	16.1	31	5	16.1
Minister Delegate ¹⁴⁸	3	0	0	10	0	0	8	0	0	9	1	11.1
Secretary of State	12	1	8.3	10	2	20	6	1	16.7	6	1	16.6
Total	45	3	6.7	58	6	10.3	51	6	11.8	52	7	13.5

Source: Prime Minister, CT No. 8242/4441 of 9/12/2004, CT No. 8930/5129 of 10/09/2007, CT No. 9381/5582

¹⁴⁸ Ministers in charge of missions are considered as ministers delegate

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751- To analyse the level of gender-based approach, the Table below gives the percentage representation of women and men in decision-making positions.

Table 4: Men and women in decision-making positions

SECTOR	WORK STATION	% MEN	% WOMEN	TOTAL	SOURCE	Year
Public Service	Positions occupied	74.9	25.1	100	MINFOPRA MINPROFF/Survey on Participation of Women in Cameroon's Public Life	2008 2010
	Prime Minister	100	0	100	INS, TBS 3	2009
	Vice Prime Minister	100	0	100		
	Ministers of State	100	0	100		
	Ministers	83.9	16.1	100		
	Ministers Delegate	89.9	11.1	100		
	Secretaries of State	83.4	16.6	100	MINFOPRA	2008
	Secretaries General of Ministries	83.3	16.7	100		
	Directors of Public Enterprises	95.3	4.3	100		
	Directors	84.2	15.8	100		
	Sub-directors	78.8	21.8	100		
	Service Heads	72.2	27.8	100		
	Bureau Heads	65.1	34.9	100		
Territorial command	Governors	100	0	100	INS, TBS 3	2009
	Senior Divisional Officers	100	0	100		
	Divisional Officers	98.9	1.1	100		
Officials of State Universities	District Heads	100	0	100		
	Rectors	100	0	100	MINFOPRA	2008
	Vice-rectors	85.7	14.3	100	INS, TBS 3	2009
	Professors	94.1	5.9	100		
	Associate Professors	92.3	7.7	100		
	Assistant Lecturers	81	19	100		
	Teaching Corps	83.8	16.2	100	Ministry of Justice (Higher Judicial Council Meeting 8 July 2010)	2010
	Judicial and Legal Officers	75.6	24.4	100		
Judicial Administration	Presidents of High Courts and Courts of First Instance	85.3	14.7	100		
	Presidents of Courts of Appeal	90	10	100		
	Procureurs General	90	10	100		
	State Counsel	97.1	2.9	100		
	Judge of the Supreme Court	88.2	11.8	100		
	Advocate General at the Supreme Court	100	0	100		
	Court Registrars	68.8	31.2	100	Ministry of Justice	2010
	Sheriff-Bailiffs	76.3	23.7	100		
	Notaries Public	42.4	57.6	100		
	Advocates	56.2	43.8	100		
	Prison Superintendents	97.2	2.8	100		

Source: NGP document

752- An analysis of this Table shows that women are underrepresented or not represented in positions of conception, management and decision-making in the targeted sectors. Their number is slightly higher in preparatory and executor positions, including sub-directors, service heads, bureau heads, and employees awaiting appointments. They are found in many liberal professions and are the majority in the profession of Notary Public.

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C: Access to Education and Employment

753- The purpose of education and training is to have a decent job. Hence, the strong link between these rights in the promotion of gender equality.

1) Education and Vocational Training

754- The Table below shows the proportion of women and men in various stages of available education and training.

Table 5: Men and women in the teaching field

CHARACTERISTICS	INDICATORS	%		TOTAL	SOURCES	Base Year
		M	F			
POPULATION STRUCTURE						
Structure by Sex	Total Population	49.4	50.6	100	BUCREP/ RGPH 3	2010
EDUCATION AND TRAINING						
Literacy	Literacy Rate (15 years +)	78.9	62.9	70.6	INS/ECAM 3	2007
Primary Education	Gross Intake Rate	131	117	126	MINEDUB/ School Map	2010
	Gross Schooling Rate (6-14 years)	117	104	110.5		
	Net Schooling Rate	92	83	87		
	Primary school completion Rate	77.2	67.7	72.5		
	Percentage of children of secondary school age still attending primary school	40	31	35.4	INS/MICS	2006
	Cross-cutting Retention Rate in primary school	58.9	57.8	57.8	MINEDUB/ School Map	2010
Secondary Education	Transition Rate from Primary to Secondary School	53	58		MINESEC/ Education Strategy Document	2010
	General Education Schooling Rate	53.57	46.43	100		
	Technical Education Schooling Rate	56.3	43.7	100		
	First Cycle Completion Rate	76.2	77.4			
	Transition Rate between 1 st and 2 nd cycles	62	54			
	2 nd cycle Retention Rate	16	54.6			
Higher Education	Higher Education Students	55.7	44.3	100	MINESUP/ Higher Education Statistical Yearbook	2010
	State Universities	57.92	42.08	100		
	Higher Education Private Institutions	48.6	51.4	100		
Vocational Training						
	SAR/SM Students	61.04	38.96	100	2009 Vocational Training Report	2009
	Students in Intensive Public Vocational Training Centres	63.57	36.42	100	-/-	
	Students in Intensive Private Vocational Training Centres	46.10	53.90	100	-/-	
	Total	54.6	45.4	100		
Dropout Rate	10.6	14		Vocational Training Strategies		

Source: NGP document

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755- It appears from these statistics that compared to 2008 data, the enrolment rate of girls is increasing at primary and secondary education. It is slightly lower in higher education, particularly in State universities where it dropped from 43.2 per cent in 2008/2009 to 42.08 per cent in 2010/2011. In contrast, there are more girls in private institutions of higher education where they represent 51.4 per cent of students.

2) Access to employment

756- a) The following Table shows the proportion of women and men in different sectors, unemployment and underemployment rates.

Table 6: Women and men in sectors of activities

Characteristics	Indicators	% M	% F	Total	Source	Base Year
Activity	ILO Activity Rate (15-64 years)	86.2	79.5	82.8	INS/ECAM 3	2007
	Extended Activity Rate	87.3	82.4	84.7		
Unemployment	Extended Unemployment Rate (15-64 years)	3.8	7.0	5.4		
Under employed	Total Under employment Rate (15-64 years)	60.2	78.8	69.6		
Occupation	Occupation Rate	96.2	93.0	94.6		
Distribution of Active Employed or Unemployed People	Active Employed People	61.3	44.5	52.6 per cent		
	Active Unemployed People with Work Experience	3.8	2.2	3 per cent		
	Active unemployed People seeking employment	6.5	5.6	6.1 per cent		
	Pupils and Students	19.3	16.4	17.8 per cent		
	Annuitants without Economic Activity	0.5	0.7	0.6 per cent		
	Other Inactive People without Economic Activity	7.3	7.6	7.4 per cent		
	Housewives		11.8			
	Distribution of Active People in the Formal Sector	11.9	4.1	8 per cent		
Sectors	Distribution of Active People in the Informal Agriculture Sector	58.6	68.6	63.5 per cent		
	Distribution of Active People in the informal Non agriculture Sector	29.6	27.3	28.5 per cent		
	Primary	59.4	69.1	64.2 per cent		
Branch of Activities	Industry	10	8.4	9.2 per cent		
	Commerce	9.3	10.3	9.7 per cent		
	Services	21.4	12.3	16.9 per cent		
	Executive/Public Sector Employer	2.6	1.1	1.8 per cent		
Socio-economic Groups	Other Public Sector Employee	2.8	1.2	2 per cent		
	Executive/Formal Private Sector Employer	1.6	0.7	1.2 per cent		
	Other Private Sector Employee	4.9	1.1	3 per cent		
	Farm Operator	30	28.6	29.3 per cent		
	Informal Dependent Agriculture	28.6	40	34.2 per cent		
	Informal Agriculture Employer	1	0.4	0.7 per cent		
	Self-employed in non Agriculture Sector	16.1	18	17 per cent		
	Employee non agriculture Informal Sector	12.5	8.9	10.7 per cent		

Source: NGP document

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757- In addition to statistics on the representation of women in decision-making positions, it follows from this Table that women are least represented in executive positions in both the public and private formal and industrial sectors. Thus, they represent only 4.1 per cent of total employment in the formal sector as against 11.9 per cent for men. More women are found in the informal sector in general and in the informal agricultural sector especially. They are also found in large numbers in primary activities and trade¹⁴⁹.

758(b)- The following Table shows the percentage distribution of employed female workforce, by employment status, industry and level of education.

Table 7: Distribution of Women by Sector of Activity

Indicators	No level	Primary	Secondary 1 st cycle	Secondary 2 nd cycle	Higher Education	Total
Employment Status						
Permanent employee	0.4	2.5	14.4	48.5	78.4	8.2
Temporary employee	1.2	3.5	8.9	14.5	9.9	4.1
Employer	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8
Independ Self-employed	62.2	7.5	6.4	32.1	10	63.6
Household worker	36.0	18.1	10.7	3.4	0.9	23.4
Paid apprentice	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Unpaid apprentice	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.3
Total number of women	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sector						
Sector of activity						
Agriculture, sylviculture, hunting, fishing	93.5	74.9	39.3	12.9	4.9	74.3
Extractive Industries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0
Manufacturing	0.9	5.9	13.6	11.2	6.1	4.9
Production/Distribution/Water/Electricity	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.7	0.1
Construction	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.2
Trade/Maintenance	4.4	1.3	25.9	27.6	12.4	11.6
Hotel and catering	0.3	1.2	3	4.2	8.2	0.7
Transport and Communications	0.1	0.4	1.7	4.4	8.2	0.7
Finance	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.5	7.2	0.3
Real estate/Lease	0.0	0.1	1.2	5.1	9.3	0.6
Public Administration/ Defence and Other Services	0.6	4.4	14.6	30.6	64.1	6.1
Total W Total number of women	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: 3rd General Census (RGPH, 2005 –BUCREP)

759- It is noted that under employment status, the number of permanent female employees increases with higher education level and they represent 8.2 per cent. In contrast, the less educated they are, the more they are self-employed and they account for 63.6 per cent of this sector.

760- In other sectors of activity, there are 93.5 per cent uneducated women in agriculture and forestry including women of all educational levels and they represent 74.3 per cent. They are also involved, all levels of education combined, in manufacturing, commerce and catering.

761- It should be noted that the majority of employed women did higher education studies and the largest number of independent employees stopped studies in primary or the first cycle of secondary school.

762- Finally, 6.1 per cent of women are employed in public administration and similar services and most of them studied at the higher education level or have completed at least upper secondary education.

¹⁴⁹ These statistics are produced by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) after five years which explains the inclusion of 2007 and sometimes 2005 data.

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D: Access to Justice

763- As stated in the previous report¹⁵⁰, the right to justice is guaranteed by the Constitution to all Cameroonians irrespective of gender. The legal framework for improving access to justice established in 2009 through the adoption of Law No. 2009/4 of 14 April 2009 on legal aid allows women to increasingly sue because they fall in most categories of persons who can seek and obtain legal aid. Indeed, they are found in large numbers among the poor, people who pay lump sum tax, spouses in charge of minor children in divorce proceedings without income.

764- Thus, from the applications received and reviewed by the commission in 2010, 141 women as against 133 men received legal aid at all courts.

SECTION II: PROTECTING WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE

765- The protection of women against violence focuses on the fight against all forms of gender-based violence. This is violence suffered by the woman because she is female, thus constituting manifestations of discrimination.

766- Structurally, the normative framework is composed of international, regional and national legal instruments. At the national level the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Civil Code and Civil Procedure Code can be mentioned. It should be noted that judicial reform is underway to harmonize international and domestic laws. The cross-cutting institutional framework consists essentially of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family and the Ministry of Justice.

767- The control of violence against women is preventive and punitive. It supports and rehabilitates victims of violence.

§1: Prevention of Violence against Women

768- Seminars, workshops, information and awareness campaigns are organized on the prevention of violence against women. Thus, the national campaign against rape and incest launched in 2009 continued in 2010. The training of Judicial and Legal Officers in the implementation of CEDAW has recorded the first results with increasing cases where the Convention has been referred to and even applied in court.

769- For example:

Judgment No.22/CIV/TGI of 8 November 2010 by the High Court of Menoua; Dchang. In this case, Jeannette Kana Gniejoungo brought her husband before this court to cancel his sale of a building that was part of their joint property and inhabited by her and their children. To justify her claim, she cited Article 16 (h) (1) of CEDAW, which guarantees "the same rights

¹⁵⁰ See 2009 Report pp. 54 and 55

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for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.” The defendant in turn referred to the provisions of Section 1421 of the Civil Code which provides that, the husband alone shall administer the joint assets of the spouses. He may sell, alienate and mortgage them without the help of the woman. The court did not grant the prayer of the plaintiff on the ground that the property sold was not part of the joint property of the spouses because it was acquired before marriage. The importance of this case lies in the fact that the judge recognized the relevance of the provision of CEDAW cited, although he based his decision on the origin of the property;

-Judgment No. 103/L of 12 November 2010 by the CA, Littoral, Yakwa Séraphine Mbangué appealed against the judgment of the customary court (Tribunal de Première Degré (TPD)) Mbanga that granted the divorce between herself and her husband on the ground, amongst others that, the judgment did not rule on co-ownership between the spouses.

770- The CA quashed the judgment by applying both ordinary law and the provisions of Article 16 paragraph 1§h of CEDAW mentioned above. The husband argued that this was a new application brought before the court that could not succeed because according to the Mbo custom, the woman must tender evidence of her contribution to the buying of the household property. The CA rejected his argument by reminding him that the sharing of joint property was a logical continuation of divorce. Consequently, it ordered for equal sharing of the joint property. The court commissioned a competent Notary Public to implement the order.

771- The popularisation of the Maputo Protocol that focuses on the protection of women against violence was carried out for the benefit of over 7,000 networks and women's groups. A premarital, marriage and family education programme has been developed and implemented in order to ensure timely prevention of dysfunction between couples and families.

772- A specific budget is not set aside to raise awareness on violence against women. Government units in charge of the issue carry out their activities by taking from their overall budget with the support of technical and financial partners.

§2: Repressing Violence against Women

773- Repression is enforced by the courts when cases of violence are reported. The proportion of women victims of violence in 2010 appears on the Table on crime, in Part One: Chapter 2. It shows that sexual assault is physical violence against women from which they suffer the most and that perpetrators are systematically prosecuted and convicted in almost all cases.

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774- Two women died from domestic violence in 2010. Mention can also be made of the case of a Judicial and Legal Officer shot dead by her husband, a police officer on 15 November 2009. A judicial inquiry was opened and an arrest warrant was issued against the fugitive offender. Administratively, he was dismissed from the Civil Service by Decree of the Head of State in 2010.

§3: Supporting and Rehabilitating Victims of Violence

775- Supervision of women who are victims of violence resulted in the:

- setting up of telephone reassurance services, mediation and marriage and family therapy in 50 Subdivisional Delegations of MINPROFF and 78 Centres for Women Empowerment and the Family (WEF). In 2010, these services treated 17,000 cases of domestic violence and the family involving women. 3,668 of these cases were settled out of court;
- setting up and installation of divisional committees to fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) in areas most affected by this phenomenon particularly in Mamfe (Manyu Division) and Kousseri (Logone and Chari Division);
- psychosocial care of young girls who are victims of obstetric fistula following FGM;
- granting of baby clothes to more than 500 girls and women victims of unwanted pregnancies and/or abandoned by their partners; and
- monitoring of 2,678 girls rejected by the school system in the Centres for Women Empowerment and the Family.

SECTION III: WOMEN'S MARITAL RIGHTS

776- Operation of the law in force produced significant results in 2010 in promoting the universal principle of equal rights in marriage and protecting the rights of the woman in marriage through legal action.

§1: Promoting Equal Rights in Marriage

777- This is to ensure that men and women have equal rights and are regarded as partners at the time of contracting a marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution by divorce or death of one of the spouses.

778- Government continued to financially support collective celebration of marriages to encourage legitimate unions and enable the woman to quit the precarious situation of concubinage and enjoy the same rights as men in marriage.

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779- These marriages celebrated by competent Civil Status Registrars in accordance with the regulations in force, legalized the marital situation of 2,868 common-law unions more often with children in disadvantaged social strata.

780- The relevant services of the Public Service paid 244 survivors' pensions and death benefits to surviving spouses who were mostly widows. Moreover, 15 of them received legal aid for following up their cases especially in obtaining Letters of Administration.

§2: Judicial Protection of Women's Marital Rights

781- This protection was evident in the treatment of civil proceedings in connection with the dissolution of marriage as stated below.

Table 8: Protection of womens' rights at the dissolution of marriage

Indicators	Husband Guilty	Wife Guilty	Shared Responsibility	Dissolution of Matrimonial Regime	Alimony to the wife	Husband and guilty	Wife guilty	Shared responsibility	Alimony to wife		H	W	C
TPD	316	264	102	31	103	9	1	1	2	35	849	87	526
High Court (HC)	42	32	35	42	23	7	15	5	15	23	37	11	6
CA	2	5	3	3	4	1	1		3	3	2	2	
SC													

Source: Legal Department of CA: Adamawa, Far North, North, Littoral, South, West, East

782- This Table shows that Cameroonians mostly seise customary courts (TPD) than written law courts (HC) for the settlement of matrimonial and property rights disputes even though the jurisdiction of the former is subject to acceptance by the defendant. This seems to be justified by the reduction of the proceedings and legal costs.

783- However, of 1,047 divorces granted and many succession matters opened, marriages were dissolved only in 39 cases before this type of court although the dissolution of marriage entails the dissolution of the matrimonial regime under which the marriage was contracted. Such a situation is not conducive to former spouses and especially the woman who is usually forced to leave the marital home when there is a conflict.

784- Officials of these courts should be aware of the need to dissolve the matrimonial regime, because each spouse must enjoy their wealth after the divorce and inheritance should only cover the share of assets attributable to spouses after dissolution of the matrimonial regime.

785- Progress has been made in promoting and protecting women's rights and gender equality but much is still to be done particularly with regard to inheritance rights, striking a balance between education, training and access to decent employment for women and the prevention of physical and psychological violence.

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CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

786- The initiative for implementing strategic actions to promote gender equality through a national gender policy document is a major step forward in institutionalizing the gender approach. However, the adoption without delay of this document would translate into action Government's political will to ban inequalities between men and women. Similarly, the repression of violence against women will be more comprehensive and effective by adopting the updated Criminal Code while better support for victims of domestic violence will rehabilitate the physically and mentally impaired. The application of the 2010 Law is a new challenge for Government for the full development of persons with disabilities in addition to the measures already taken to improve their living conditions. Controlling the impact of some development projects on the living environment of indigenous peoples is a major step towards civilization. The expansion and enhancement of facilities for children in distress is commendable.



GENERAL CONCLUSION

787- In analyzing facts, measures and activities that marked human rights news in Cameroon in 2010, the following three findings stand out:

- significant progress;
- constraints that prevented optimal deployment of actions; and
- persistence of many challenges.

788- The main progress made was improving the legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. In this regard, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture should be noted. In addition, changes in the regulatory framework in the field of communication, real estate development or the inclusion of specific concerns of persons with disabilities is significant in this respect. The respect of international standards by the NCHRF is also significant. The United Nations International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs granted the NCHRF "A" Status re-accreditation on this ground.

789- Beyond the legal and institutional framework, policies and programmes were defined and/or implemented to ensure the guarantee of various rights. In this connection, the major thrusts comprised promotion, advocacy, capacity building measures and commemorative celebrations.

790- Protection measures were not neglected. Thus, in the field of civil and political rights, the fight against the impunity of those in charge of law enforcement was confirmed as one of the key action to a better guarantee of the right to life, the right to freedom and security or the right to physical integrity. The Supreme Court did not fail to identify ways to protect the right to fair trial. With regard to political rights, mention can be made of the consolidation of the decentralization process through the transfer of authority to RLA. Efforts to ensure electoral transparency can also be highlighted.

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791- With respect to ESCR, the implementation of GESP, considered as the mainstay of the various policies in the field, started in 2010. During this same year, schooling indicators at all levels of education continued to improve, efforts were made to improve health care, intensify the fight against high prices and ensure a sustainable environmental.

792- Vulnerable groups were not forgotten. The validation of the national gender policy was indicative of the commitment to a more egalitarian society. Social inclusion also justified attention to children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and indigenous peoples.

793- Constraints and challenges included physical constraints relating to inadequate resource allocation or governance issues that did allow the desired results to be achieved. To this end, access to health care and in particular maternal mortality, access to social security, adequate housing, adequate food, water or electricity remain constant challenges. Improving citizen's participation in the management of State affairs and improved access to information on government initiatives are further challenges.

794- Beyond these significant progress and constraints, the biggest challenge remains the appropriation of human rights culture by stakeholders.