

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

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



**REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
IN CAMEROON IN 2024**

Yaounde, November 2025





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Report of the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2024

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Foreword

“My core concern since acceding to the helm of State has always been to improve the living conditions of Cameroonians.

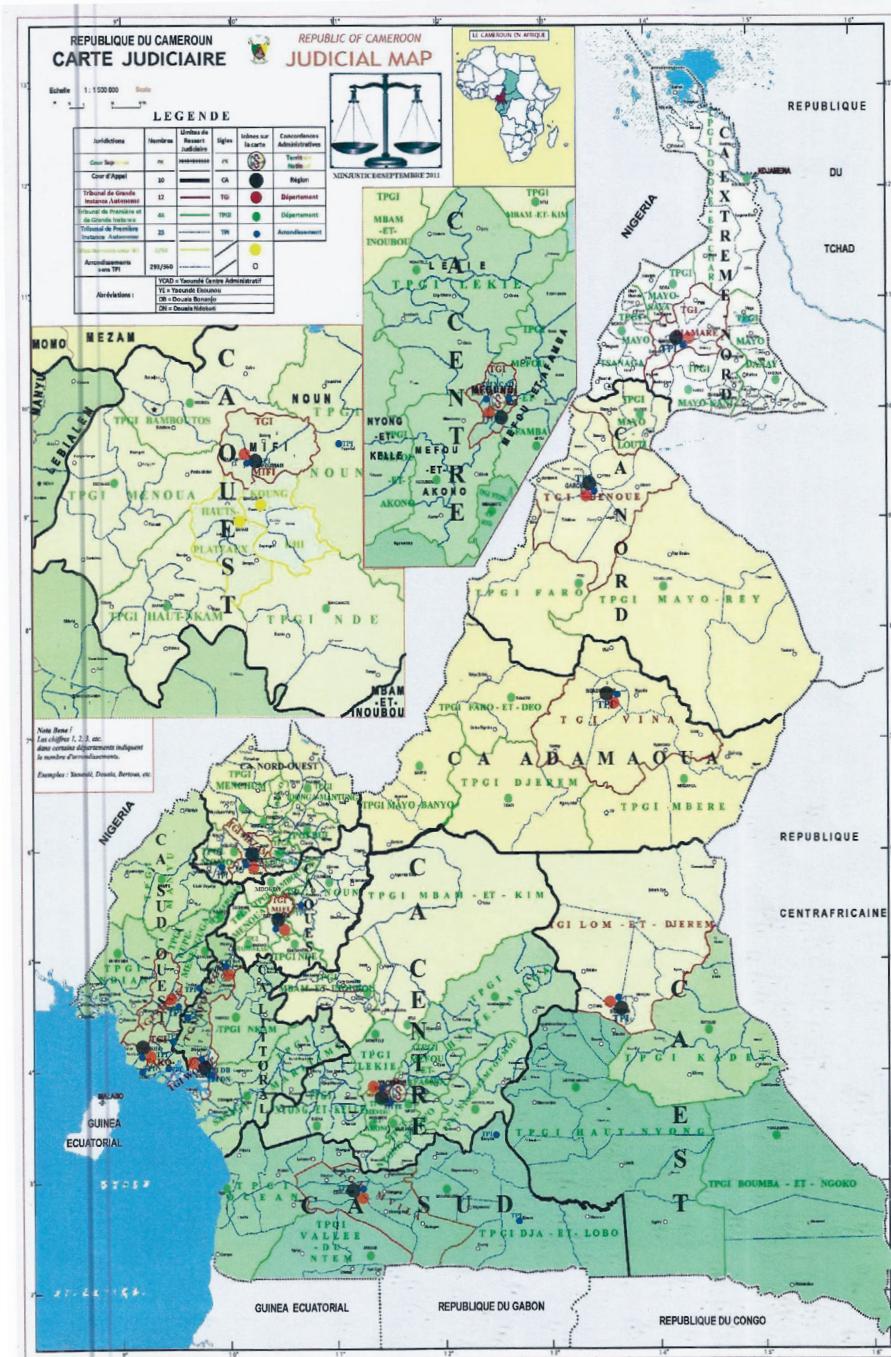
Under my leadership, substantial efforts have been made by public authorities to ensure that our people have satisfactory access to basic social services.”

Head of State’s 2025 New Year
Message to the Nation
Yaounde, 31 December 2024

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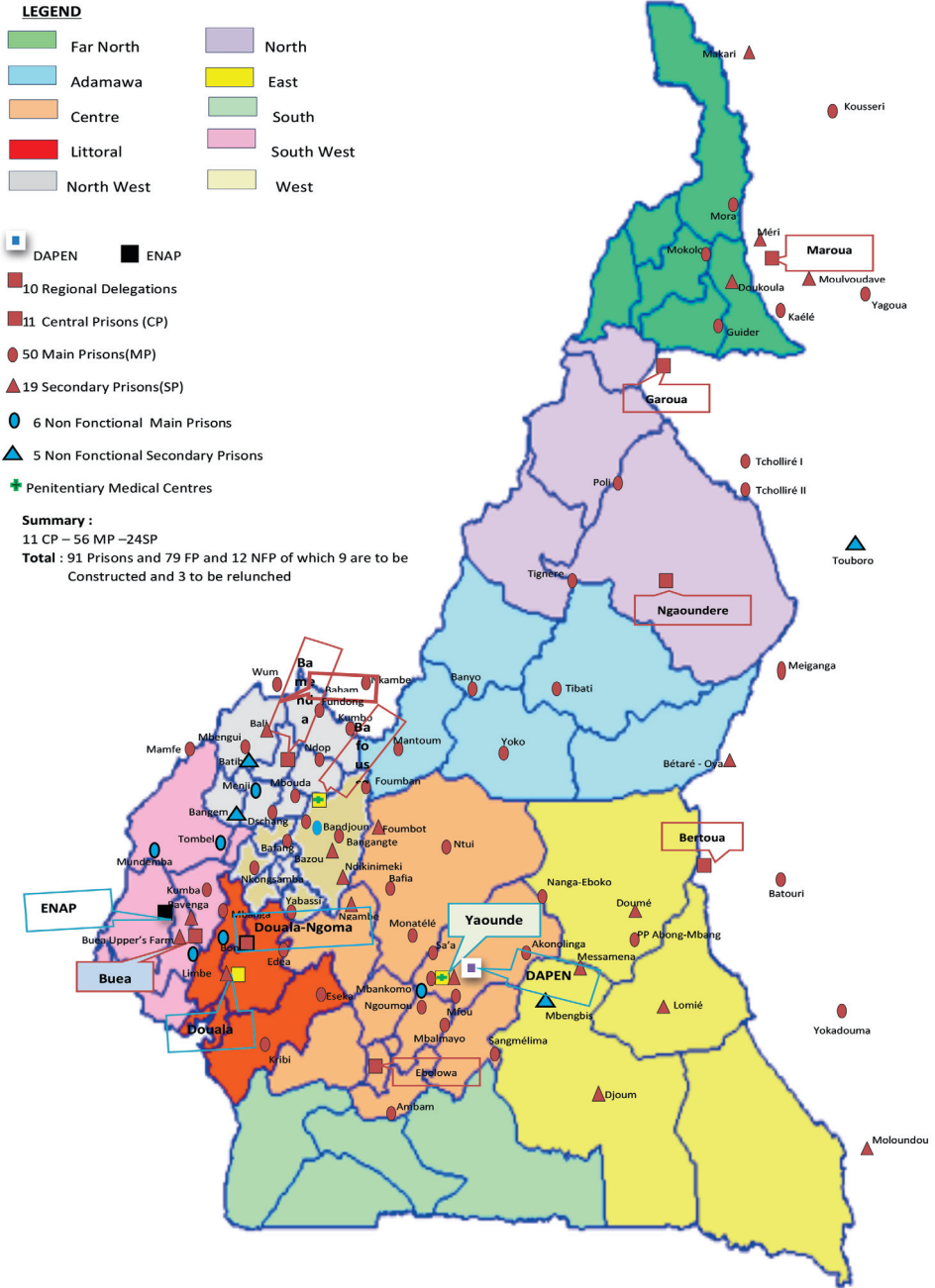
JUDICIAL MAP OF CAMEROON



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PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION MAP OF CAMEROON



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List of acronyms and Abbreviations

APF	: <i>Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie</i>
AAR	: After Action Review
ACAFEJ	: <i>Association Camerounaise des femmes juristes</i>
AfDB	: African Development Bank
AISCCUF	: Association of French-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions
ALVF	: <i>Association de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes</i>
ANOR	: National Standards and Quality Agency
ANRP	: National Radiation Protection Agency
ANTIC	: National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies
APF	: <i>Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie</i>
ARIPO	: African Intellectual Property Organization
ART	: Telecommunications Regulatory Board
ASBY	: Association des Bayam-Selam du Cameroun,
ASGM	: Small-Scale Gold Mining
ASRAN	: <i>Autorité de sûreté Radiologique et de Sécurité Nucléaire</i>
BADEP	: Bakassi Peninsula Development Project
BEPC	: <i>Brevet d'Etudes du Premier Cycle</i>
BIR	: Rapid Intervention Battalion
BNCRF	: National Controls and Fraud Suppression Brigade
BUNEC	: National Civil Status Registration Office
CAF	: Functional Literacy Centres
CAMNAFAW	: Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare
CAP	: <i>Certificats d'Aptitude Professionnelle</i>
CAPIEMP	: <i>Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle d'Instituteurs de l'Enseignement Maternel et Primaire</i>

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CAPIET	: <i>Certificats d’Aptitude Professionnelle Sciences et Technologie du Tertiaire</i>
CAT	: Committee against Torture
CATI	: Case-area Targeted Interventions
CBT	: Cameroon Business Today
CCF	: Cameroon Cancer Foundation
CDENO	: Livestock Development Fund
CEBNF	: Non-formal Basic Education Centres
CEMAC	: Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CENAME	: National Supply Centre for Essential Drugs and Consumables
CENEEMA	: National Centre for Agricultural Machinery Studies and Experiments
CEP	: Certificat d’Etudes Primaires
CFC	: Cameroon Housing Loan Fund
CFCE	: Business Creation Formality Centres
CFI	: Court of First Instance
CFM	: Trade Training Centres
CHRACERH	: Gynecological Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproductive Teaching Hospital
CHRC	: Cameroon Human Rights Commission
CISPAV	: Programmes and Projects Involving Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples
CNPC-C	: National Confederation of Cotton Producers of Cameroon
COC	: Cameroon Oncology Center
COLPES	: Cameroon Online E-Procurement System
CONRHA	: National Committee for the Rehabilitation on Socio-economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities
CPDFC-AR	: Certificate of Possession of Administratively Recognised Customary Land Rights

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CPIMS+	: Child Protection Case Management Information System
CRESPAC	: <i>Chaîne des Restaurateurs pour la Promotion du Patrimoine de la Cuisine Camerounaise</i>
CSO	: Civil Society Organisations
CTA	: Agrifood Technical Centre
DDHCI	: Department of Human Rights and International Co-operation
DGRE	: General Delegation for External Research
DGSN	: General Delegation for National Security
DSF	: Defence and Security Forces
DWCP	: Decent Work Country Programme
ECCAS	: Economic Community of Central African States
EITI	: Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
ELECAM	: Elections Cameroon
ENAM	: National School of Administration and Magistracy
ENAP	: National School of Penitentiary Administration
ENEO	: Energy of Cameroon
EP	: Environmental Permit
EPI	: Expanded Programme on Immunization
ERA	: Emissions Reduction Activities
ETT	: Temporary Employment Agencies
FEICOM	: Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance
FENASSCO	: National Federation of School Sports
FENASU	: National Federation of University Sports
FETRAC	: Cameroon Women Traditional Leaders Federation
FLC	: Functional Literacy Centres
FOTRAC	: Central African Cross-Border Fair
FSLC	: First School Leaving Certificate
GABAC	: Central African Anti-Money Laundering Group
GBIF	: Global Biodiversity Information Facility

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GBV	: Gender-Based Violence
GECAM	: Groupement des Entreprises du Cameroun
GSB	: Gender-Sensitive Budgeting
GSBD	: Gender-sensitive Budget Document
GSO	: Special Operations Group of the National Police
GTTC	: Government Teacher Training Colleges
GTTC	: Government Technical Teacher Training Colleges
GWh	: Gigawatt hours
Ha	: Hectares
HC	: High Court
HND	: Higher National Diploma
HTTC	: Higher Teacher Technical Training College
HYSACAM	: Cameroon Hygiene and Sanitation Company
ICJ	: International Court of Justice
IDPs	: Internally Displaced Persons
IED	: Explosions of improvised explosive devices
IEDA	: International Emergency and Development Aid
IGAPEN	: General Inspectorate of Penitentiary Administration
IGSJ	: General Inspectorate of Judicial Services
ILO	: International Labour Office
IOM	: International Organisation for Migration
IPV2	: Inactivated Polio Vaccine
IRAD	: Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
IRIC	: International Relations Institute of Cameroon
JPO	: Judicial Police Officers
JRS	: Jesuit Refugees Service
JURISAI	: Supreme Audit Institutions with Jurisdictional Functions
LAFTA	: Living Alternative for the Aging
LANAVET	: National Veterinary Laboratory
LINAFI	: Nautical Arts and Fisheries Institute
LPG	: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

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MAETUR	: Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Authority
MBOSCUDA	: Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association
MDR	: Mouvement Démocratique pour la Défense de la République
MINAC	: Ministry of Arts and Culture
MINADER	: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAS	: Ministry of Social Affairs
MINAT	: Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation
MINCOMMERCE	: Ministry of Trade
MINDCAF	: Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure
MINDDEVEL	: Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development
MINDEF	: Ministry of Defence
MINEDUB	: Ministry of Basic Education
MINEPAT	: Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINEPDED	: Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	: Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINESEC	: Ministry of Secondary Education
MINFI	: Ministry of Finance
MINFOF	: Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINFOPRA	: Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform
MINHDU	: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
MINJEC	: Ministry of Youth and Civic Education
MINJUSTICE	: Ministry of Justice
MINPMEESA	: Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
MINPOSTEL	: Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
MINPROFF	: Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family
MINRESI	: Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation

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MINSANTE	: Ministry of Public Health
MINT	: Ministry of Transport
MINTOUL	: Ministry of Tourism and Leisure
MINTSS	: Minister of Labour and Social Security
MNJTF	: Multinational Joint Task Force
MOU	: Memorandum of Understanding
MRI	: Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MT	: Metric Tonnes
MTEF	: Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
NAP	: National Action Plan
NASLA	: National School of Local Administration
NBSAP II	: National Strategy and Plan of Action for Biodiversity
NCC	: National Communication Council
NCDDR	: National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
NDCs	: Nationally Determined Contributions
NEF	: National Employment Fund
NFBEC	: Non-Formal Basic Education Centres
NGOs	: Non-Governmental Organizations
NHPC	: Nachtigal Hydro Power Company
NMPT	: National Mechanism for the Prevention of torture
NPIE	: National Policy Document on Inclusive Education
NPOs	: Non-Profit Organisations
NRC	: Norwegian Refugee Council
NSIF	: National Social Insurance Fund
NTDs	: Neglected Tropical Diseases
OPCAT	: Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
OPP	: Private Employment Agencies
PADDEC	: Patriotes Démocrates pour le Développement du Cameroun
PADFA II	: Development of Agricultural Sectors-Phase II
PAEA-MRU	: Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project

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PAEPYS	: Drinking Water Supply Project for Yaounde and its surroundings
PAREC	: Economic Resilience Support Project
PCRN	: <i>Parti Camerounais pour la Réconciliation Nationale</i>
PDCVEP	: Livestock and Fish Value Chains Development Project
PFS-AIE	: Adaptive Social Safety Nets and Economic Inclusion Project
PHC	: Primary Health Care
PICs	: Public Independent Conciliators
PIISAH	: Integrated Plan for Agricultural and Fishery Import-Substitution
PKI	: Public Key Infrastructure
PMTCT	: Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
PRESYNATS	: Project to Strengthen the National Blood Transfusion System
PROBMIS	: Integrated Budget Management System
PRODEL	: Livestock Development Project
PRODERIP	: Project for the Development of Irrigated and Rainfed Rice
PROLAC	: Project for the Recovery and Development of the Lake Chad Region
PRRTERS	: Upgrading of Electricity Transmission Networks and Sector Reform
PTBA	: Common Fund's Work Plan and Annual Budget
PULCCA	: Emergency Programme for the Fight against Food Crisis
REDD+	: Reducing emissions from deforestation, Forest Degradation and Land Degradation
RGFOSA	: <i>Recensement Général des Formations Sanitaires</i>
RIN	: North Interconnected Network
RLA	: Regional and Local Authorities
ROCA	: Ozone and climate-friendly cooling project in West and Central Africa
SAGO	: Trade Fair for Government Action

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SAIL	: South Atlantic Inter Link
SALIENT	: Saving Lives Entity
SALW	: Small Arms and Light Weapons
SAM	: Severe Acute Malnutrition
SASNIM	: Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Action Week
SCC	: Special Criminal Court
SED	: Secretariat of State for Defense
SEMRY	: Expansion and Modernisation Company
SIAC	: Cameroon Interprofessional Aquaculture Exhibition
SMEs	: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SMT	: Occupational Health Services
SODEPA	: Development and Exploitation of Livestock Production Company
SONACAM	: Cameroon National Musical Art Corporation
SONAMINES	: National Mining Corporation
SPF	: Strategic Performance Frameworks
SPPI	: Sector Public Policy Instruments
SRH	: Sexual and Reproductive Health
SWEDD	: Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Dividend
SWM	: Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme
TLS	: Transport Layer Security
TPD	: Tribunal de Premier Degré
UGW	: Universal Gateway
UHC	: Universal Health Care
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	: United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	: United Nations Children’s Fund
WIPO	: World Intellectual Property Organization
WWF	: World Wide Fund for Nature

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PREFACE

Under the esteemed authority of the President of the Republic, Head of State, His Excellency **Paul BIYA**, the Ministry of Justice continued to monitor Human Rights issues.

The Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2024, prepared through an inclusive and participatory process, highlights measures taken in this monitoring effort, challenges encountered and potential solutions. This is the 20th edition of this Report.

Among measures taken at the initiative of several actors, were the continued enhancement of the institutional, strategic, and regulatory framework including: the adoption of new laws, such as those on civil registration, traditional medicine, local taxation, and on forestry and wildlife; the ratification of treaties, including the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness; the establishment of new entities such as the Interministerial committee for the review of mining titles, permits and licences; and the adoption of new strategic documents, such as the Integrated Agro-Pastoral and Fisheries Import-Substitution Plan for the 2024-2026 period. Furthermore, the State of Cameroon once again emphasized regional and international cooperation by actively participating in sessions of the Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, among others.

Furthermore, it focused more on mobilizing resources to finance water, energy, road, and health infrastructure, among others. In this regard, the drinking water supply project for Yaounde and its surroundings progressed while the Nachtigal dam became operational. Moreover, strengthening health-care services helped prevent and combat diseases, while the supply of education positively impacted official examination results.

Particular attention was also paid to improving prison conditions by increasing the allocated budget, to biodiversity management through the improvement of vegetation cover, to the electoral system with a significant rise in newly registered voters, to safeguard cultural heritage as exemplified by the inscription of the Ngondo on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, and to the quality of governance through the restructuring of the National Investment Corporation. As regards the fight against corruption and the misappropriation of public funds, dedicated courts and administrative bodies remained active.

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Concerned specifically about the rights of women, children and other socially vulnerable persons, the State of Cameroon continued to promote decent work, as well as to guarantee the right to life and to physical and moral integrity, freedom of expression and communication, and the right to a fair trial. One of the highlights as concerns the right to fair trial was the successful organization of the bar exam.

The main challenges continue to be the limited financial resources of the State and the less-than-adequate Human Rights culture. To address these challenges, this report proposes greater efforts to mobilise both national and international resources, as well as enhancing and diversifying awareness-raising and training activities on Human Rights.

Enjoy your reading.

Laurent ESSO

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

GENERAL

INTRODUCTION



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1-The year 2024 was characterised by several significant events which had an impact on promoting and protecting Human Rights in Cameroon. Growing economic challenges justified the holding of the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) on 16 December 2024. This economic situation, coupled with persistent security threats, (now better controlled), continued in some regions. Natural disasters with floods in several regions of the country, particularly the Far North and the landslide which occurred at *La Falaise de Dschang* (Dschang cliff) on 5 November 2024 just like the surge in violence against women, all left families bereaved. The new advocates-in-training who took oath are expected to enhance access to justice. The year ended with the suspension of some associations suspected of financing terrorism and financial delinquency.

2- At the international Level, Cameroon distinguished itself by the influence of its diplomacy marked in particular by the election of **Philemon YANG** as President of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, of **Marie Laure NDONGO** as Vice-President of the African Development Bank, and of **Joséphine Thérèse BEYALA** épouse **ELOUNDOU** as Africa's representative to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the Convention on biological diversity. In September 2024, in New York, the State participated in the Summit of the Future, which aimed at recalling the fundamental objectives of the United Nations Charter and revamp the strength of multilateralism in a world faced with the resurgence of conflicts and finding solutions to emerging global challenges and especially to restore confidence in a bid to create a conducive environment for the full realisation of Agenda 2030. This major event within the United Nations System helped States to take stock of changes registered and chart the course for the future. By the end of 2024, after two consecutive mandates at the Human Rights Council, the State accessed its contribution within this body and also structured its commitment for the years ahead.

3- This contribution was visible not only within the Human Rights Council but also within other mechanisms of the United Nations and the African Union. Participation in sessions of Human Rights bodies was regular, thus, enabling the State to showcase actions undertaken to promote and protect Human Rights.

4- As a result, the update of the normative and institutional framework for

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the promotion and protection of Human Rights was a major undertaking with actions carried out in diverse sectors of national life.

5- At the normative and institutional level, Cameroon acceded to:

- the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness adopted on 28 September 1954 and 30 August 1961, in New York, respectively pursuant to Decree No. 2024/333 of 24 July 2024;
- the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT), adopted in Geneva, Swiss Confederation on 20 December 1996 pursuant to Decree No. 2024/331 of 24 July 2024;
- WIPO copyright treaty, adopted in Geneva, Swiss Confederation on 20 December 1996 pursuant to Decree No. 2024/336 of 24 July 2024.

6- Cameroon equally ratified:

- the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, by the insertion of the agreement of 17 June 2022 on fisheries subsidies in annex 11, pursuant to Decree No. 2024/334 of 24 July 2024.
- the OACPS-EU partnership agreement, signed in Samoa on 15 November 2023 pursuant to Decree No. 2024/332 of 24 July 2024;
- the International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations, adopted in Rome, Italy on 26 October 1961 pursuant to Decree No. 2024/330 of 24 July 2024.
- the Air Transport Agreement between Cameroon and Canada, signed in Yaounde on 1 June 2022, pursuant to Decree No. 2024/329 of 24 July 2024;
- the Bilateral Air Services Agreement between Cameroon and South Africa, signed in Cape Town, South Africa on 14 July 2011 pursuant to Decree No. 2024/335 of 24 July 2024.

7-As regards civil and political rights, the State adopted:

- Law No. 2024/016 and Law No. 2024/017 of 23 December 2024 to organise the Civil Registration System in Cameroon and relating to personal data protection in Cameroon, respectively. The first law specifies, among other things, the procedures for transcription of customary marriages while the second supports technological advancements and

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creates a body in charge of protecting personal data.

- Law No. 2024/15 of 23 December 2024 governing civil protection in Cameroon;
- Law No. 2024/20 of 23 December 2024 on local taxation, to intensify the process of decentralisation;
- Law No. 2024/11 of 24 July 2024 to extend the term of office of members of the National Assembly, regarding participation in the management of public affairs;
- Law No. 2024/1 of 24 July 2024 to regulate archives in Cameroon;

8- Relating to economic, social and cultural rights as well as the right to a healthy environment, the following instruments were adopted: Law No. 2024/18 of 23 December 2024 relating to the organisation and practice of traditional medicine in Cameroon; Law No. 2024/19 of 23 December 2024 to lay down the rules and regulations governing fisheries and aquaculture in Cameroon; Law No. 2024/8 of 24 July 2024 to lay down forestry and wildlife regulations; and Decree No. 2024/599 of 19 November 2024 to change the name of and reorganise the National Radiation Protection Agency (NRPA) into the Radiological Safety and Nuclear Security Authority (ASRAN).

9- These developments are contained in the Report, which maintains its usual structure comprising a preliminary chapter, 3 parts: the one on civil and political rights; another on economic, social and cultural rights and then the last on cross cutting issues and specific rights. The report also includes a general introduction and a general conclusion.



PRELIMINARY CHAPTER

CAMEROON'S COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION MECHANISMS



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10- In 2024, the State continued to cooperate with United Nations and African Union Human Rights protection mechanisms. This cooperation was strengthened notably through Cameroon's regular participation in sessions of the Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the visit to Cameroon of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in August 2024. The visit provided an opportunity for a constructive dialogue, highlighting both progress and challenges.

11- These major events thus underscored the relentless efforts in both contentious and non-contentious cooperation. As part of contentious cooperation, the State essentially replied to various communications before diverse Bodies such as the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

12- As part of non-contentious cooperation, the State received visits from senior officials of institutions and had its commitments assessed through the examination of its reports. The State also responded to 13 requests for contributions received from various mandate holders, including the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

SECTION 1: VISITS BY HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS

13- In 2024, Cameroon received the visit of the Executive Director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Director General of the International Labour Office (ILO), the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

§1: Visit by the Executive Director of the Global Fund

14- From 5 to 7 March 2024, the Executive Director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, **Peter SANDS**, visited Cameroon. He participated in the Ministerial Conference on malaria held on the theme: *"tackling malaria in countries hardest hit by the disease"*. He was received in audience on 6 March 2024 on behalf of the Head of State by the Minister of State, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic.

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§2: Visit by the Director General of ILO

15- Mr **Gilbert HOUNGBO**, Director General of ILO, visited Cameroon from 12 to 15 May 2024. He met with representatives of Government, the *Groupement des Entreprises du Cameroun* -Union of Cameroonian Enterprises (GECAM) and workers, as well as Heads of Agencies of the United Nations system. Several key issues were addressed during the meetings, including child labour, funding social welfare, promoting entrepreneurship among youths and promoting apprenticeship.

16- This visit, within the framework of the promotion of decent work, was concluded by the signing of the Decent Work Country Programme on 14 May 2024 by tripartite constituents.

17- He moderated a conference at the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC) on the theme: *The future of work in the context of the Global Coalition for Social Justice*.

§3: Visit by the Director General of WIPO

18- From 2 to 4 June 2024, the Director General of WIPO, Mr **Daren TANG** visited Cameroon. He took part in the Conference of Directors of Intellectual Property Offices of Member States of the African Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO). He called for offices to evolve from registering intellectual property rights to supporting innovation with capacity-building for innovation-based economies.

19- He participated in a working meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, attended by 6 ministers¹, before holding bilateral meetings with some of the ministers to further discuss issues raised. He suggested that the national intellectual property strategy be reviewed and integrated into the national development plan, in order to bring all sectors together to enable Cameroon make the most of the intellectual property system.

¹ Including the Minister of Arts and Culture, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Minister of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts, the Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation, the Minister of Higher Education, the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development.

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§4: Visit by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

20- From 5 to 7 August 2024, Mr **Volker TÜRK**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, visited Cameroon. He was received by the Prime Minister, Head of Government, and met with members of Government, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC), civil society organizations (CSOs) and political parties, as well as representatives of the United Nations system. Among the issues discussed, were the protection of Human Rights in the fight against terrorism, the 2025 and 2026 elections, the fight against impunity, gender equality with a focus on gender-based violence and women's access to positions of responsibility.

21- The High Commissioner further participated in a conference at the IRIC on the theme: "*Human Rights in the face of contemporary global challenges*". He advocated for Human Rights to be brought into play as a problem-solving tool for more peaceful, sustainable and egalitarian societies.

22- He concluded his visit by inaugurating the new headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, donated by the Government.

23- Following this visit, an evaluation mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, composed of a team of Human Rights specialists, visited the North West and South West Regions from 8 to 20 December 2024 to assess progress made following the recommendations of the previous mission in 2019.

SECTION 2: DEFENSE OF CAMEROON'S REPORT BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

24- In addition to the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the Final Document of the Universal Periodic Review of Cameroon² on 26 March 2024, the Committee against Torture (CAT) examined the country's periodic report under the Convention against torture on 13 and 14 November 2024. Following the review, the Committee issued its Concluding Observations on 21 November 2024. The Committee noted some areas of sat-

² Relevant information was provided in the Report on Human Rights in 2023, §1, 32, 33 and 34.

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isfaction, mainly with regard to the review of the normative, institutional and strategic framework. Areas of concern noted were the subject of recommendations.

§1: Recommendations relating to the Prevention of Torture

25- Recommendations were made on the normative framework and staff training.

A: Recommendations on the Normative Framework

26- The Committee reiterated the recommendation related to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). It urged the State to consider acceding to the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

27- Subsequently, the Committee recommended that the State amend, *inter alia*, the Penal Code, Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism and other laws providing for the death penalty, in order to strictly limit the application of the death penalty to the most serious crimes.

28- The Committee also suggested that the criminalisation of torture in the Penal Code be amended so that penalties are proportionate to the seriousness of the offense, to exclude the application of mitigating circumstances to the crime of torture that would likely reduce the penalty, rendering it disproportionate to the seriousness of the crime, and to exclude the statute of limitations, in order to avoid any risk of impunity.

29- The amendment of the Penal Code should also make it possible to incorporate the principle of command responsibility or superior responsibility for the crime of torture and other ill-treatment. According to the principle, superiors are held criminally responsible for the conduct of their subordinates when they are aware or should have been aware of the acts they have committed, or were likely to commit, and or did not take reasonable preventive measures they ought to, nor referred the case for investigation and prosecution to the competent authorities.

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30- The amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code was mentioned in the sense of setting the limit for police custody at 48 hours renewable once, only in exceptional circumstances duly justified by credible evidence, as well as ensuring that Section 64 of the said Code can never be invoked to order a discontinuance of proceedings when there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture was committed.

31- The Committee also called on the State to review the definition of terrorism by ensuring, especially, that terrorist acts are provided a precise and strict definition, with a clear delimitation of the rights to be protected, and that persons accused of terrorism who are deprived of their liberty, enjoy fundamental legal guarantees against torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary detention. The State was also urged to ensure that counter-terrorism legislation is not used to restrict the rights enshrined in the Convention.

32- According to the Committee, this amendment should also cover the reduction of the maximum period of police custody for terrorist suspects, ensuring that its renewal is limited to duly justify exceptional circumstances and ensuring control by courts of the lawfulness of detention.

33- The adoption of a comprehensive law on violence against women, criminalising domestic violence including marital rape as well as the decriminalisation of abortion were suggested.

B: Recommendations relating to Staff Training

34- Mandatory initial and continuous training of staff on the absolute prohibition of torture was the main recommendation. All State employees are concerned, and in particular members of the defence and security forces, military personnel, judicial staff, penitentiary staff, immigration staff and other persons likely to be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of persons subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment. The awareness of these personnel should be raised on zero tolerance in this matter and on the systematic opening of investigations into allegations of torture, prosecuting and sanctioning as the case may be.

35- Training was also recommended for medical personnel, especially on the detection of cases of torture and ill-treatment, in accordance with the revised Istanbul Protocol.

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36- The effectiveness of such programmes should be assessed by the State in terms of the reduction in the number of cases of torture and ill-treatment, identification of such acts, their registration, opening of investigations and prosecution of perpetrators.

§2: Recommendations relating to Response to Allegations of Torture

37- In the event of allegations of torture, the Committee recommended that the State open investigations, prosecute and convict the perpetrators as appropriate, as well as provide adequate compensation to victims, be they refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, detainees, children or women.

38- The other recommended measure was the immediate suspension throughout the investigation, of suspected civil servants, in particular if there is a risk that they will re-commit the acts of which they are suspected, retaliate against the alleged victim or obstruct the investigation, subject to respect for the principle of presumption of innocence.

39- The Committee also urged the State to establish an effective and independent monitoring mechanism for public bodies involved in the custody of persons arrested, detained or imprisoned in any way as well as an independent, effective, confidential and accessible complaint mechanism in all places of detention, including those of police custody and prisons, and to protect complainants, victims and their family members from any risk of reprisals.

40- The Committee also requested the State to compile and disseminate disaggregated statistical data on complaints filed, investigations opened, persons prosecuted and convicted in cases of torture and ill-treatment, including the cases of the persons nicknamed **Martinez Zogo, Longue Longue and Ramon Cotta**.

§3: Recommendations relating to Specific Categories

41- Concerning refugees and asylum seekers, the Committee recommended appropriate reception procedures, including fair and efficient

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refugee status determination procedures for all asylum seekers and all other persons arriving at Cameroon's borders and in need of international protection, regardless of their legal status and mode of arrival. The State was requested, on the one hand, to put in place effective mechanisms and procedures to identify vulnerable persons, including victims of torture or ill-treatment, among asylum seekers and other persons in need of international protection; and on the other hand, to allow such persons priority access to the refugee status determination procedure and to direct them without delay to appropriate services.

42- The State should ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement by ensuring that, in practice, no person is expelled, returned or extradited to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of being subjected to torture.

43- The recommendation also aimed at improving the living conditions of refugees and asylum seekers in reception centres.

44- Concerning internally displaced persons, the Committee is of the opinion that the State should further improve their living conditions and protection, in particular by combating sexual and gender-based violence against displaced women and girls, as well as establishing long-lasting solutions for displaced persons.

45- Concerning the rights of detainees, the Committee urged the State to improve detention conditions through the increase of resources, the continued implementation of projects for the development of prisons and improved detention conditions and decongest prisons through the use of alternative sentences, as well as the use of pre-trial detention as an exceptional measure for limited periods and in compliance with the law, taking into account the principles of necessity and proportionality.

46- The satisfaction of the basic needs of detainees, including persons with disabilities, was encouraged, in particular with regard to adequate access to drinking water and quality food, access to recreational and cultural activities in places of detention, as well as access to vocational training and education, with a view to promoting the reintegration of detainees into the community.

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47- The need for adequate healthcare for detainees, including mental health, was highlighted, including the urgent need to increase dedicated resources.

48- The attention of the State was drawn to the need to increase the number of trained and qualified penitentiary personnel, including medical personnel, the strengthening of monitoring in prisons and the management of violence among detainees. The strict separation between pre-trial detainees and convicts, then between children and adults in all detention places was also mentioned.

49- Recalling its concern about detention in secret places, and noting the refutation of the existence of such a practice by the State, the Committee nevertheless recommended that national legislation be effectively enforced throughout the country and that all unofficial places of detention be closed immediately and permanently. The State should also order that persons who may be detained in such places be immediately placed under judicial supervision, including terrorist suspects, and ensure that they enjoy all fundamental legal guarantees to prevent and protect them from any acts of torture or ill-treatment.

50- Concerning deaths in detention, the State was invited to collect detailed information on deaths in all places of detention and to inform the Committee on the number of deaths, causes and the outcome of investigations into them. The State was also requested to evaluate and improve strategies to prevent suicide, violence among detainees and self-harm. Furthermore, the State was urged to improve existing programmes to prevent, detect and treat chronic, degenerative and infectious or contagious diseases in prisons.

51- Concerning the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NMPT) and the monitoring of places of detention, the Committee recommended the allocation of sufficient resources and capacity-building of the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture within the CHRC, as well as the possibility of regular, independent and unannounced visits to all civil and military places of detention in the country and of confidential interviews with all detained persons, with the possibility of publishing its reports on visits to places of detention. The Committee advocated for access to places of detention by organisations mandated to visit them, including Non-governmental organizations working in the field of Human Rights.

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52- Concerning the rights of persons detained in psychiatric hospitals, the State was urged: to review the legislation governing involuntary hospitalization, in order to ensure respect for legal guarantees aimed at preventing torture and ill-treatment, including judicial supervision; to end the solitary confinement of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities where this could aggravate their condition; and to ensure that restraint and force are used only as a last resort, in a proportionate and lawful manner, under strict supervision and for the shortest possible period of time. The State was also urged to provide training to medical and non-medical professionals in these institutions on the rights of persons with disabilities, including the right to free and informed consent, and on non-violent and non-coercive methods of intervention; and to ensure that psychiatric hospitals are adequately monitored and that effective guarantees are put in place to prevent ill-treatment of people in these institutions.

53- Concerning justice for children, the Committee recommended the specialisation of courts and proceedings with specialised Judges, the adequate allocation of human, technical and financial resources, the provision of legal aid by qualified and independent lawyers from the beginning to the end of proceedings involving children in conflict with the law, the use of non-judicial measures for children charged with criminal offenses and, where possible, the application of alternative sentences, such as probation or community service, the improvement of their detention conditions, in particular by their strict separation from adults, access to education and health, regular examination of the appropriateness of ending the detention; deployment of dedicated, trained and qualified staff.

54- The Committee believes that children associated with armed forces and armed groups should be promptly disarmed, demobilised, rehabilitated, reintegrated and returned to their families. The State should put in place mechanisms and procedures to detect and put an end to the recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed conflicts in the Far North, North West and South West Regions.

55- Concerning Human Rights Defenders, members of civil society, Journalists and political opponents, the Committee urged the State to protect them from all forms of intimidation, threats, harassment, excessive use of force, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings to which they may be exposed as a result of their activities.

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§4: Recommendations relating to Specific Issues

56- Recommendations relating to specific issues concerned the fight against terrorism, the death penalty, violence against women, violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, reparations, dissemination of the report and recommendations.

A: Fight against Terrorism

57- In addition to legislative changes and the response to allegations of torture, which should be adequate even in this context, recommendations included adequate and regular monitoring of places of detention where persons accused or convicted of terrorism are detained and effective guarantees to prevent torture or ill-treatment of such persons.

B: Death Penalty

58- The Committee considered that the State should formalise the moratorium on the death penalty, and take steps to commute the sentences of persons sentenced to death and to life imprisonment. Moreover, the State should ensure that detention conditions of prisoners on death row do not amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, especially by taking immediate steps to strengthen legal guarantees and ensuring access to free legal aid.

C: Violence against Women

59- The Committee recommended that women and girls, including those who are part of disadvantaged groups, should have access to legal voluntary termination of pregnancy in safe and dignified conditions, without harassment, and without criminal proceedings against them or their medical providers. The Committee also recommended the guarantee of women's access to post-abortion care, regardless of whether the abortion was legal or illegal.

D: Violence based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

60- According to the Committee, the State should decriminalise consensual homosexual relations and protect LGBTQIA+ persons against discrimina-

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tion, harassment, intimidation, threats to physical integrity, arbitrary arrest and detention, violence and hate crimes to which they may be exposed because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

E: Reparations

61- The State was requested to ensure the effectiveness of the right to reparations, including damages, medical or psychosocial rehabilitation and public information on these measures. The State was also requested to provide for the possibility of civil claim for damages, independently of any pending or completed criminal proceedings, including in cases where the perpetrator of the offences is not identified. It should also establish a system for collecting reliable and up-to-date statistical data on the number of victims of torture and ill-treatment who have obtained reparations, including medical or psychosocial rehabilitation and damages, as well as on the forms of the reparations and the results obtained.

F: Dissemination of the Report and Recommendations

62- The State was urged to disseminate the report submitted to the Committee and the Concluding Observations, in appropriate languages, through official websites and through the media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and to inform the Committee of the activities undertaken to that effect.



PART ONE

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS



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INTRODUCTION TO PART ONE

63- Actions carried out by the State to protect civil and political rights included guaranteeing respect for the integrity of the human being, access to fair and equitable courts, provision of information and secured use of new information and communication technologies as well as contribution to development.

64- Capacity building for personnel in charge of implementing the law, activities of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, the fight against road accidents, fires and disasters were all part of preventive activities in the context of protecting the right to physical and moral integrity and the right to liberty. Consequently, violations of these rights were subject to proceedings and compensation for damages, where necessary.

65- Guaranteeing the independence of the Judiciary, respecting procedural rights and deontology strengthened the protection of the right to fair trial.

66- The diversity of the media landscape, regulatory measures together with administrative and judicial vigilance regarding the use of the internet, helped reinforce the protection of users of communication and telecommunication services.

67- Preparations for the upcoming elections and continuation of the process of empowering regional and local authorities and increasing their resources strengthened the right for all to participate in the management of public affairs.

68- The four chapters devoted to this section report on all these activities as follows:

- Right to Physical and Moral Integrity and Right to Liberty;
- Right to Fair Trial;
- Freedom of Expression and Communication;
- Right to participate in the Management of Public Affairs.



CHAPTER

1

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



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69- In the fulfilment of its obligation to ensure that everyone's right to physical and moral integrity and the right to liberty are protected, the State took steps to prevent related violations. Furthermore, violations of the said right were identified and sanctioned.

SECTION 1: PREVENTION OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS TO PHYSICAL, MORAL INTEGRITY AND LIBERTY

70- In addition to training, other measures were taken to preserve physical and moral integrity and liberty.

§1: Preservation of the Right to Physical Integrity

71- Initiatives taken to guarantee the right to physical and moral integrity concerned transport safety, combating torture and trafficking in persons.

A: Transport Safety

72- Transport safety included road safety campaigns and consolidation of transport infrastructure.

1) Road Safety Actions

73- On 1 August 2024, the Minister of Transport carried out the test of video driver assistance operation. It is a system of on-board cameras in intercity transport vehicles with the objective of their biometric control, vehicle tracking by geolocation and control of the exterior and interior of the vehicle. Some, 378 buses were equipped with it.

74- In a bid to enhance the protection of road users, the President of the Republic signed Decree No. 2024/639 of 2 December 2024 to authorise the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development to sign, with China Bank Corporation Ltd Citic, Shenzhen branch, a loan agreement of 50,000,000 Euros, or about CFAF32,800,000,000, for the financing in part of the project to extend the intelligent urban video surveillance system at the national level. This system enables among others, the monitoring of road traffic and acting effectively in the event of an incident.

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75- Furthermore, the staff of the Ministry of Transport, in charge of road safety, conducted 10,920 field raids and 2 road safety campaigns.

2) Consolidation of Transport Infrastructure

76- For the completion of works to address damaged roads or those that may potentially be damaged, the continuation of projects designed in previous years and the implementation of inter-municipal projects, 180 councils benefited from the sum of CFAF18,600,000,000³.

B: Prevention of Torture

77- On 9 January 2024, in Douala, a Conference was held on the theme *Encouraging and supporting the prevention of torture in Cameroon through international law*. its purpose was to raise the awareness of law enforcement staff, civil society and lawyers of the Cameroon Bar Association on the prevention of torture.

78- Furthermore, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC), as part of the prerogatives of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NMPT), conducted 1,085 visits to places of detention.

C: Combating Trafficking in Persons

79- Awareness-raising posters on the fight against trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling were unveiled by the Minister of Social Affairs on 18 March 2024 at the Yaounde International Airport and on 16 July 2024 at the Douala International Airport.

80- In addition, the Ministry of Justice, with the support of the Global South Studies Centre of the University of Cologne, organised on 25 July 2024, a seminar to evaluate the fight against trafficking in persons.

81- Furthermore, from 29 September to 4 October 2024, Cameroon, under the auspices of INTERPOL, participated in the largest operation ever organised against trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. This made it possible to dismantle criminal networks and save victims of trafficking.

³ About 28,355,517.21 Euros.

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§2: Actions to Protect the Right to Liberty

82- Inspections and visits to prisons (see § 774 and 775) and other places of detention, as well as detention measures, were carried out by judicial, administrative and other authorities who participated in guaranteeing the right to liberty.

83- On the whole, the courts granted 2,838 applications for release and ordered 747 releases on their own motion.

§3: Enhancing the Capacities and Numbers of Personnel Responsible for Implementing the Law

84- The State continued to guarantee capacity development and increase in staff numbers.

A: Capacity Development

85- It resulted in the initial and in-service training of staff.

1) Initial Training

86- In the new training programmes for Judicial Police Officers (JPO) of the National Gendarmerie, a module on organised crime was included. This module incorporates specific chapters on trafficking in and smuggling of persons. In addition, the National Gendarmerie introduced into its new programmes the modules on International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, which was taught to 3,000 trainee-gendarmes in the Gendarmerie training centres.

2): In-service Training

87- A workshop bringing together Judicial and Legal Officers, staff of Penitentiary Administration and social workers was organised by the Ministry of Justice from 29 to 30 April 2024 in Yaounde, with the support of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, on guarantees of the right to liberty and security of the person. For more on the training of judicial staff including on Human Rights, see § 142 and 143.

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88- In addition, the Gendarmerie Command Schools and Training Centres trained 2,075 gendarmes, including 1,955 as part of the IHL/IHRL module taught during all the courses organised, and 120 during specific training offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

B: Increase in Staff Strength

89- At the level of the National Police, 50 Superintendents of Police, 95 Assistant Superintendents of Police, 412 Police Inspectors and 2,325 Police Constables were recruited.

The National Gendarmerie, for its part, increased its staff strength by recruiting 3,427 staff, including 87 Officers, 300 Non-commissioned Officers for the General Service option, 40 Non-commissioned Officers for the Health option and 3,000 pupil Gendarmes.

SECTION 2: VIOLATIONS OF ENSHRINED RIGHTS

90- Violations of the rights to physical integrity and liberty, impeded the enjoyment of these rights.

§1: Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity

91- Landslides and rockfalls, road traffic accidents and fires were recorded.

A: Landslides and Rockfalls

92- On 17 July 2024, a landslide in Logbessou caused the death of 3 persons. Furthermore, on 5 November 2024, a double landslide occurred at *la falaise de Dschang* (the Dschang cliff) causing 17 deaths. On 27 September 2024, in the West Region, rockslides occurred in some villages⁴ due to high rainfall.

B: Road Traffic Accidents

93- The Ministry of Transport (MINT) recorded 1,781 traffic accidents with a total of 678 deaths and 1,906 injured persons.

⁴ These villages include Bandoum, Fomopea, Fotchouffeu and Tsaleu in Fokoue Subdivision.

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C: Fire Fighting

94- The National Fire Brigade carried out 5,562 interventions, including 1,381 operations involving fires (24.53%) compared to 1,528 fires for a total of 5,008 interventions in 2023. Recorded fires include that in the Bamenda Main Market on 22 February 2024 and that of a home in Awae in the Mefou and Afamba Division which caused the death of 7 persons on 22 July 2024.

§2: Violations of the Right to Liberty

95- Kidnappings for ransom were reported. (See §. 642)

SECTION 3: RESPONSES TO VIOLATIONS

96- The normative framework for disaster management was consolidated, perpetrators of Human Rights violations sanctioned, as well as law enforcement officers in particular.

§1: Consolidation of the Normative Framework

97- In a bid to address the issue of natural disasters, Law No. 2024/15 of 23 December 2024 governing civil protection was enacted. It defines the operational framework for interventions, coordination and the stakeholders in prevention and in the case of an occurrence of natural disasters and humanitarian crisis.

§2: Sanctions against Vertical Violations

98- Administrative and judicial sanctions were imposed on law enforcement staff. The judge in charge of *habeas corpus* and the Commission for Compensation of Victims of Illegal Detention, depending on the case, received complaints from such victims to put an end to such detention or applications for compensation.

A: Administrative Sanctions

99- As part of the response to Human Rights violations committed by Gen-

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darmes, 4 administrative sanctions and 12 disciplinary measures were imposed.

B: Judicial Sanctions

100- Law enforcement officers who perpetrated Human Rights violations were punished by the courts and reparations granted to victims, as appropriate. As an example, 14 Gendarmes and 25 military officers were prosecuted for Human Rights violations by the Douala Military Tribunal. By Judgment No. 1/CRIM of 30 January 2024, the Court of First Instance Banyo found **M.Z.**, a police officer, guilty of indecency to minor aged 16, convicted and sentenced him to 14 months in prison. By Judgment No. 30/CRIM/24 of 6 March 2024, the Ebolowa Military Tribunal found **F.D.E.E.** guilty of murder, convicted and sentenced him to 10 years in prison and ordered him to pay the civil claimants the sum of CFAF45,000,000⁵.

101- By Judgment No. 83/COR of 2 October 2024, the Ngaoundere Military Tribunal found the soldier **A.M.J.** guilty of over speeding, lack of self-control and unintentional killing, convicted and sentenced him.

C: Habeas Corpus Litigation

102- Victims of illegal detention were able to apply to the judge in charge of *habeas corpus* for immediate release.

103- Thus, by Ruling No. 3/HC of 11 January 2024, the President of the High Court (HC) Boue considered that the non-payment of damages could not constitute a ground for detention. By ordering the release of **A.H.**, following Ruling No. 13/HC of 22 February 2024, he reiterated that the non-renewal of an administrative custody rendered the detention illegal.

D: Activities of the Commission for the Compensation of Victims of Illegal Detention

104- The Commission granted applications for compensation for illegal detention. This was the case in Judgment No. 23/CI of 25 September

⁵ About 68,702.29 Euros.

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2024, in the matter between **SALE ABAI** and the State of Cameroon, where the State was ordered to pay the applicant the sum of CFAF40,000,000⁶. Furthermore, by Judgment No. 22/CI of 25 September 2024, in the matter between **ALHADJI MOHAMED DALA** and the State of Cameroon, the State was ordered to pay the applicant the sum of CFAF50,000,000⁷ as compensation for illegal detention.

105- In all, the Commission delivered 23 decisions in 2024, compared to 13 decisions in 2023.

§2: Sanctions against Horizontal Violations

106- By their decisions, the courts punished violations of the right to physical integrity and liberty perpetrated by ordinary individuals, while MINT, in view of its prerogatives for road safety, also imposed sanctions.

A: Judicial Sanctions

107- The courts handed down 135 convictions for capital murder, 156 for murder, 821 for unintentional killing, 119 for assault occasioning death, 140 for grievous harm, 614 for simple harm, 1,209 for slight harm and 156 for rape among others.

108- By Judgment No. 33/CRIM of 27 March 2024, the HC Benue found **B.M.** guilty of assault occasioning death, convicted and sentenced him to 3 years in prison. The same court, by Judgment No. 69/CRIM of 10 July 2024, convicted and sentenced **A.M.** to death by shooting for capital murder. By Judgment No. 61/MIN of 22 October 2024, the Court of First Instance Ngaoundere convicted and sentenced **T.H.** to 3 years in prison for assault occasioning death and ordered him to pay the civil claimants the sum of CFAF4,400,000⁸. Furthermore, by Judgment No. 1/CRIM, the Faro and Deo High Court found **A.I.** guilty of complicity for illegal arrest and detention, convicted and sentenced him to 20 years in prison. The HC Benue, by Judgment No. 35/CRIM of 27 March 2024, found **A.N.** guilty of aggravated kidnapping of minor, convicted and sentenced him to 5 years in

⁶ About 61,068.70 Euros.

⁷ About 76,335.88 Euros.

⁸ About 6,717.56 Euros.

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prison. By Judgment No. 37/CRIM of 27 March 2024, the same Court convicted and sentenced **M.J.** to 20 years in prison for kidnapping with fraud or violence. On 6 November 2024, by Judgment No. 26/G/TM/GRA, the Garoua Military Tribunal convicted and sentenced **H.Y.** and **D.B.** to 72 months in prison, and **S.M.** to 48 months in prison for aggravated kidnapping and possession of arms and defence ammunition.

B: Sanctions by the Ministry of Transport

109- In a bid to combat recklessness on roads, MINT sanctioned 22 transport companies. On 31 May 2024, for example, MINT suspended, as a precautionary measure, for a period of 10 days, intercity transport services of the company *Men Travel*, following road accidents that caused 2 deaths and 6 injured persons on 25 and 27 May 2024, in Yaounde. The driver's licenses of the drivers involved were withdrawn. Following the traffic accident at the *La falaise de Santchou* (Santchou cliff) on 4 September 2024, which caused 8 deaths and 57 injured persons, the company *Galaxie Voyages* was suspended for 30 days, its vehicles immobilised over the same period, and the driver's license of the driver withdrawn. In addition, it ordered that drivers of the said company take a refresher course on defensive driving and the practice of systematic medical checkups. On 16 October 2024, following the traffic accident that occurred on 9 October 2024, in Kombe causing 15 deaths and 10 injured persons, the third-category transport license of *Tougoudei Establishments* was suspended for 3 months as well as the driver's licenses of the drivers at fault for 6 months and the installation of an optimal safety device in the vehicles operated by *Tougoudei Establishments*, and the refresher course for drivers and their medical check-up was also ordered. Involved once again in an accident at Kombe, *Galaxie Voyages* was required to immobilise all its buses not equipped with seat belts and to install an optimal safety device on all its vehicles.

110- In total, 1,025 driver's licenses were also suspended by MINT for non-compliance with the Highway Code.

111- Financial penalties, including payment of CFAF50,000⁹ were also imposed on those who failed to obtain a road worthiness certificate. This was the content of the press release of the Minister of Transport of 18 July and 4 September 2024.

⁹ About 76.22 Euros.

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112- On the whole, the protection of the right to physical or moral integrity and liberty was achieved through the combined implementation by the State of preventive and repressive measures to make it possible to reduce violations, and to remedy the harm resulting therefrom.

113- However, the management of rockslides and landslides, the fight against kidnapping of persons and road accidents needed to be improved upon.



CHAPTER 2

**RIGHT TO
FAIR TRIAL**



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114- Measures continued to be taken, notably by the courts, the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE) and other State bodies, to ensure the proper administration of justice through guaranteeing specific rights relating to the right to a fair trial. This concerned not only guaranteeing equality before the courts and the efficiency of justice, but also to pursue the reform of military justice.

SECTION 1: GAURANTEEING EQUALITY BEFORE THE COURTS

115- Equal access to the courts and equality of arms before the courts constituted the main pillars of this guarantee.

§1: Equal Access to the Courts

116- In order to ensure inclusive access to the courts, the development of judicial infrastructure, the dissemination of the content of laws and the provision of legal aid continued.

A: Development of Judicial Infrastructure

117- Projects relating to the development of judicial infrastructure were carried out and others were ongoing or planned. In terms of projection, the Division of Studies and Forecast of MINJUSTICE, with a view to continuing to align the judicial and penitentiary maps to the administrative map, identified 10 sites likely to host new courts in the South Region (Azem-Yemfack, Mezesse, Lolodorf, Olamze and Ma'an), West Region (Santchou, Penka-Michel and Magba) and Littoral Region (Ebone and Nkondjock). In the same vein, Government announced technical and architectural studies for the construction of courts in Banyo, Batibo, Akonolinga, Bangem and Dschang.

118- With regard to achievements, construction works for several court (Foumbot, Ambam, Bali, Edéa, Ngambe and Tombel) continued. Respectively from 61.56% and 51.70% in 2023, the completion rates of the court complexes of Yaounde and Douala increased to 64.11% and 56.85% in 2024.

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B: Dissemination of the Contents of Law

119- The dissemination of the contents of law focused on legal knowledge, case law and the normative framework. As in previous years, many legal books, journals and magazines were published by both academics and practitioners¹⁰. This is the case of the magazine *Justicia*, of which 3 issues were published in 4,500 copies by MINJUSTICE. In addition to articles on diverse topics, the magazine published numerous excerpts from judgments delivered by the Special Criminal Court (SCC). MINJUSTICE also published a Bulletin on the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register, a Bulletin on national risk assessment and a Compendium of legal instruments organising judicial institutions in Cameroon from 1959 to 2012.

120- In addition, Cameroonian authorities published, in both official languages (French and English), laws and regulatory acts, notably in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cameroon, in the daily newspaper Cameroon Tribune and on the website of the Presidency of the Republic (www.prc.cm), as well as on the websites of other administrations including the Prime Minister's Office (www.spm.gov.cm). The website of the Presidency of the Republic thus published, among others, the 20 laws adopted by Parliament and more than 600 decrees signed by the Head of State.

C: Granting of Legal Aid

121- Legal aid commissions formed in some courts, granted applications (including applications of women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and prisoners) from people with insufficient resources. The annual approval rate which stood at 66.21% in 2023, dropped to 58.82% in 2024. The table below summarises it.

¹⁰ This is the case of the following books and magazines: *Les conséquences juridiques des réserves aux traités internationaux relatifs aux droits de l'homme* (The legal consequences of reservations to international Human Rights treaties); *Le droit patrimonial de la famille en question* (Family property law in question); *Blanchiment de capitaux et autres criminalités transnationales* (Money laundering and other transnational crimes); *Droit et pratique des sûretés réelles OHADA* (Law and practice of OHADA real securities); *Le contentieux des collectivités décentralisées au Cameroun* (Litigation involving decentralised communities in Cameroon); *Décentralisation et développement local au Cameroun* (Decentralisation and local development in Cameroon,) ; *Le droit saisi par l'histoire et l'anthropologie au Cameroun* (The law seized by history and anthropology in Cameroon).

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Table 1: Granting of Legal Aid in 2024

Court	Number of applications	Number of applications rejected	Number of applications granted		Number of beneficiaries		
			Granted in full	Granted in part	Number of Men	Number of Women	Others (Detainees, refugees, internally displaced persons, indigenous peoples (Pygmies, Mbororos) + persons with disabilities)
CFI	48	13	17	16	18	3	1
HC	169	56	69	25	38	22	17
CA	21	20	11	2	6	2	0

Source: MINJUSTICE

Key: CFI: Court of First Instance; HC: High Court; CA: Court of Appeal; SC: Supreme Court.

122- A look at the legal aid commissions shows that on the form, they took actions through decisions, reports or even rulings. On the merits of cases including appeals, they granted legal aid following two major trends: grant in full or grant in part. As an example, by Reports No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3/AJ/24 of 24 September 2024, in the cases of **K.L.**, **T.T.S.** and **K.C.**, the legal aid commission at the CFI of Bafoussam granted legal aid in full. By Decisions No. 1 and 2, 3 and 4/AJ of 9 January 2024, the commission at the HC of MIFI granted, for a determined ceiling amount, the applications of **T.M.**, **K.E.**, **T.O.B.** and **A.J.F.C.** On appeal, the commission at the West Court of Appeal, by Ruling No. 04/AJ of 27 June 2024 granted in full the application for legal aid by **F.M.**

§2: Equal Arms before the Courts

123- Parties were afforded a level playing field to present their cases, ensuring neither side held an undue advantage or disadvantage over their opponents. This equality was facilitated through the assistance of counsel, the free provision of a court-appointed interpreter and the adversarial principle.

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A: Assistance of Counsel

124- On the whole, at the end of the qualifying examination for Pupil Lawyer internship held in April 2024, some 2,016 candidates passed pursuant to Order No. 207/DPJ/SG/MJ of 21 June 2024 of the Minister of Justice. The Pupil Lawyers concerned were sworn in, including 738 before the HC of Mfoundi on 20 September 2024, 649 before the HC of Wouri on 13 September 2024, and 76 before the HC of Mifi on 17 September 2024. Due, in particular to the inclusion on the Bar Roll of lawyers who were formerly Judicial and Legal Officers and lawyers from foreign bars, the numbers were slightly up as shown the table below.

Table 2: Number of Lawyers and Pupil Lawyers in 2023 and 2024

	2023	2024
Lawyers	3,740	3,759
Men	2,659	2,675
Women	1,081	1,084
Pupil Lawyers		
Men	0	1,226
Women	0	750

Source : Bar Association and MINJUSTICE

125- At the procedural level, the assistance by a lawyer remained mandatory both before the Supreme Court and for the trial of minors in conflict with the law and persons facing the death penalty or life imprisonment. Before the CFI of Bafoussam , lawyers defended minors in conflict with the law free of charge. Apart from these cases, courts, where necessary, assigned lawyers to defend some litigants. An example, is the matter, **The People and M.T.C. vs E.O.J.**, resulting in Judgment No. 11/DJ/COR of 12 December 2024 of the CFI of Edea. The table below shows the exercise of the right to a Lawyer in 2024.

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Table 3: Exercise of the Right to a Lawyer in 2024

Court	Number of suspects (SUS) / Accused persons (AC) / Plaintiffs (PLT) / Applicants (APP) / Respondents (RES) assisted										Number of Lawyers assigned by the court free of charge	Number of Lawyers remunerated by the suspect/accused
	Civil		Labour		Customary Law		misdemeanours		Felonies			
	APP	RES	APP	RES	APP	RES	PLT	SUS	PLT	AC		
CFI	4,446	2,649	814	600	7,337	4,798	17,717	21,533	150	150	215	2,600
HC	1,991	1,771	490	461	50	06	12	18	2,026	3073	400	146
CA	2,288	2,113	373	198	92	21	276	678	166	120	41	3,245

Source : MINJUSTICE

126- The development of the technical capacities of Lawyers continued. Many of them attended refresher courses organised at the initiative of MINJUSTICE (see § 142 and 143), the Bar Association and other entities. Thus, a certification training in OHADA law was organised for Lawyers, from 10 to 12 June 2024, in Douala by *Centre professionnel de médiation et de formation à la médiation, à la négociation et au Droit OHADA* (the Professional Centre for Mediation and Training in Mediation, Negotiation and OHADA Law). Another training seminar on the new OHADA Uniform Act organising Simplified Recovery Procedures and Enforcement Measures was organised on 2 July 2024 in Douala by the Law firm, Ngoulla Fotso & Associés. Furthermore, 138 Lawyers were equipped during a series of training workshops on Human Rights related to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, organised by the NGO JAPSSO in collaboration with MINJUSTICE.

127- For its part, the Department of Judicial Professions of MINJUSTICE recorded 27 complaints (compared to 164 in 2023) against some Lawyers for violation of professional ethics. The complaints were forwarded to the Bar Association and the territorially competent Procureurs General for processing.

B: Free Provision of an Interpreter

128- The courts guaranteed the right to be tried in the language one un-

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derstands best through the free provision of an interpreter. These services were provided by the interpreters assigned to the courts by MINJUSTICE. In courts where there were no such interpreters or for interpretation into the mother tongues, the service was provided by *ad hoc* interpreters on oath. As an illustration, the HC of Mongo appointed an *ad hoc* Interpreter in the matter, The People and beneficiaries of **E.E.S.S vs N.C.** and **E.D**, the subject of Judgment No. 11/COM of 24 January 2024.

C: Adversarial Principle

129- Before the courts, parties had the opportunity to take cognizance of and challenge arguments of fact or law and evidence adduced by opposing parties. Where the parties were not diligent in communicating their arguments and evidence, the courts ordered them to comply.

SECTION 2: ENSURING THE EFFICIENCY OF JUSTICE

130- In addition to subjecting judges to the rule of law, this guarantee was expressed through the right to be tried by an appropriate court, the right to a public trial; the right to be tried within a reasonable time and the right to have one's matter reviewed.

§1: Trial before an Appropriate Court

131- This right took the form of a number of standards including those relating to jurisdiction and impartiality as well as independence.

A: Jurisdiction and Impartiality of Courts

132- With regard to the principle of impartiality, 35 applications for recusal (compared to 55 in 2023) were registered by the Presidents of Court of Appeal. They granted one application and rejected 4. The other applications were being processed.

133- Concerning jurisdiction, judges were careful not to depart from the principles regarding it and any violation gave rise to review by the Courts of Appeal. Thus, to comply with principles of jurisdiction in matters of customary law, the *Tribunal de Premier Degré* (TPD) of Bafoussam, by Judgment No. 772/C of 27 June 2024 upheld the objection to jurisdiction in

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the matter between **F.N.** and **N.R.** By Judgment No. 254/TPD of 11 March 2024 (matter between **A.H.** and **A.H.A.**) and Judgment No. 233/TRAD/2024 (matter between **K.K.L.** and **S.T.L.P.**), the *TPD* of Garoua and the *TPD* of Maroua decided in the same way.

134- In the same vein and by Judgment No. 02/SOC/TPI of 6 August 2024 in the labour matter between the *Société G.S.R.H.C.* and **A.M.**, the Court of First Instance (CFI) Foumban, declared its lack of jurisdiction, since the parties in the employment contract provided for a clause granting jurisdiction to court of another place. Similarly, in civil matters, by Judgment No. 17/CIV of 28 May 2024, the High Court (HC) of Vina, in the matter between **B.N.M.J.** and **K.N.R.**, declared its lack of jurisdiction to rule on the matter because the defendant was domiciled outside its jurisdiction.

135- As regards subject matter jurisdiction, by Judgment No. 207/COR of 29 November 2024, the CFI of Tignere, declared its lack of jurisdiction to hear a felonious case. In the same vein, by Judgment No. 07/SOC of 14 February 2024, the CFI Ngaoundere, declared its lack of jurisdiction to deal with disputes on social security contributions.

B: Independence of the Courts

136- In a bid to guarantee courts' independence from political and de facto powers, particularly with regard to judges and more generally the entire judicial system, measures taken among others included monitoring of professional obligations of judicial staff and consolidation of the means of action of the judicial system.

1) Monitoring the Professional Ethics of Judicial Staff

137- The General Inspectorate of Judicial Services (IGSJ) continued to ensure that judicial staff respect the rules and principles governing their professional activities, with emphasis on probity, the diligent processing of files and the management of deprivation of liberty. In terms of document control, this Inspectorate used the quarterly statistics on judicial activities and remand in custody provided by the heads of Court of Appeal, then analysed and synthesised them in order to allow the Minister of Justice to have a proper view of judicial life.

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138- Regarding on-site inspections, the IGSJ carried out missions to the Court First Instance of Yokadouma and High Court Boumba-and-Ngoko (TPGI) and, the CFI Abong-Mbang and HC Upper-Nyong, the CFI Batouri and HC Kadey, the CFI Bertoua, and the State Counsel's Chambers of the CFI Bertoua and HC Lom-and-Djerem. It also conducted control missions related to the writing and signing of decisions at the East Court of Appeal, The table below provides information on the status of the monitoring of professional obligations.

Table 4: Status of the Monitoring of Professional Obligations of Judicial Staff in 2024 by the IGSJ

	2024
Complaints received and processed	242
Investigations ordered	106
Observation letters	14
Queries	14
Observation requests	80
Files forwarded to the disciplinary Board	1
Disciplinary files pending transmission to Board	21

Source: MINJUSTICE

139- Furthermore, the MINJUSTICE Anti-Corruption Unit held a session on 15 October 2024, and carried out controls on the same day, one at the CFI Yaounde Centre-Administratif and the other at the CFI Yaounde-Ekounou and the Yaounde Secondary Prison.

2) Consolidation of the Means of Action of the Judicial System

140- Beyond the number of judicial staff which remained stable on the whole between 2023 and 2024, the technical capacity of judicial staff was developed and the budget allocated to the justice sector was increased.

141- It is worth noting that pending their integration into the corps of Judicial and Legal Officers, Pupil Judicial and Legal Officers who completed their training at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) were administratively and temporarily deployed to Legal De-

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partments by Service Memo No. 13/DAG/MINJUSTICE of 13 December 2024.

142- Concerning refresher courses, MINJUSTICE, at the behest of its Department of General Affairs, facilitated the training, in Cameroon and abroad, of 283 Judicial and Legal Officers and Court Registrars including 105 women on various topics¹¹.

¹¹ Training session organised by ERSUMA, for Cameroon Judicial and Legal Officers and Court Registrars (5 to 9 February 2024, Yaounde); 2nd meeting of the Committee of the Secretariat of the African Union Initiative for the Harmonisation of Medicines Regulations in Africa (27 February to 2 March 2024, Johannesburg); ICANN79 Community Forum (2 to 7 March 2024 Puerto Rico); Training session on the management of major trials (4 to 8 March 2024, Abidjan); Congress of forensic medicine of the African Society of Forensic Medicine and Cameroon Society of Forensic Medicine (5 to 7 March 2024 Douala); Awareness-raising workshop of Cameroon senior officials on nuclear safety (22 March 2024, Yaounde); Training session on the judicial handling of terrorism cases (25 to 29 March 2024, Abidjan); Training seminar on the fight against illegal exploitation and trafficking of wildlife and forest products (26 to 29 March 2024, Kribi); Global Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade on the theme “Operation THUNDER: how to build strong cases for prosecution from seizures conducted” (22-24 April 2024, Belgium); Training session on the theme “Organised Crime and Judicial Cooperation” (24-26 April 2024, Yaounde); Training for Judicial and Legal Officers and JPOs on Cybercrime and the Prosecution and Trial of Online Perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse organised by the U.S. Embassy (6-10 May 2024, Yaounde); Training workshop for judicial staff on the ILO conventions ratified by Cameroon (27 May 2024, Douala); Training session on *Techniques for combating corruption and economic crime* (10 to 13 June 2024, Yaounde); Seminar on “Settlement of intellectual property litigation before the courts of OAPI member countries” (25 to 27 June 2024, Libreville); Forum of Judicial and Legal Officers and Senior Judicial and Legal Officers (26 to 28 June 2024, Johannesburg); Session of the summer courses of the Hague International Academy (1 July to 1 September 2024, Netherlands); Training on Human Rights (22 July to 2 August 2024, Strasbourg); Training of Judicial and Legal Officers on illegal logging (19 to 23 August 2024, Bertoua); 9th edition of the Seminar on Awareness-raising Judicial and Legal Officers and JPOs of the North Region on cybercrime (21 to 23 August 2024, Garoua); Training on the fight against money laundering (9 to 13 September 2024, Ebolowa); Training session on *Counter-terrorism: deepening skills* (23 to 27 September 2024, Malta); 2nd Forum of the Alliance Francophone des Registres du Commerce (3 to 4 October 2024, Reims); 5th Conference of the African Arbitration Association (9 to 11 October 2024, Douala); Training of Trainers at the *Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature* (11 October to 7 November 2024, Paris); Training seminar on the new OHADA Uniform Act^{???} for English-speaking practitioners (14 to 16 October 2024, Bafoussam); Training on investigations in the fight against corruption (21 to 25 October 2024, Gaborone); Training seminar on the new OHADA Uniform Act^{???} for English-speaking practitioners (23 to 25 October 2024, Douala); 4th Week of the Secretariat for the Harmonisation of Medicines Regulation in Africa activities (28 October to 1 November 2024, Mozambique); 8th Meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Forum (4 to 9 November 2024, Cape Town); Training on *Tracing, identification, seizure and confiscation of criminal assets* (5 to 7 November 2024, Yaounde); International Conference of Refugee Judges (17 to 21 November 2024 in Sharm El Sheikh); Forum of the Academy of Cultural Diplomacy on cultural diplomacy (20 November to 20 December 2024, New York); training on administrative litigation (26 to 28 November 2024, Yaounde); 3rd edition of the Moot competition on gender equality in Africa (30 November to 6 December 2024, Nairobi); Training session on hindering terrorist networks (2 to 6 December 2024, Abidjan).

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143- On specific issues relating to Human Rights, MINJUSTICE through its Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation, with its own funds or with the support of partners¹², trained about a hundred judicial staff on: the improvement of the quality of care for juvenile detainees (in Ebolowa from 10 to 11 June 2024, Garoua from 18 to 19 June 2024 and Bafoussam from 24 to 25 June 2024); the rights of persons with disabilities (in Douala from 29 to 31 January 2024); the response to violence against children in the judicial system (in Yaounde from 30 to 31 July 2024) etc..

144- With regard to financial resources, with the exception of the Constitutional Council the budget of which remained stable, Law No. 2023/19 of 19 December 2023 on the finance law of the Republic of Cameroon for the 2024 financial year, increased resources allocated to MINJUSTICE and the Supreme Court of Cameroon as shown in the table below.

Table 5: Evolution of Resources allocated to the Justice Sector from 2023 to 2024

	2023	2024
Supreme Court	CFAF5,120,000,000 ¹³	CFAF5,427,000,000
Constitutional Council	CFAF3,944,000,000	CFAF3,944,000,000
MINJUSTICE	CFAF66,642,000,000	CFAF69,308,000,000

Source : 2023 and 2024 finance laws

§2: Trial in Public and within a Reasonable Time

145- The right to be tried publicly and within a reasonable time was ensured.

A: Right to be tried within a Reasonable Time

146- The right to be tried within a reasonable time was addressed not only by the IGJS (§ 137 and 138), but also by the courts and at the meeting of

¹² Including UNICEF and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

¹³ CFAF1,000,000 about 1,524.49 Euros.

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Heads of Court of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration held from 24 to 25 October 2024 in Yaounde.

147- In a bid to avoid unnecessary delay of proceedings, the courts rejected dilatory requests. Thus, by Judgment No. 26/CIV/TGI/2024 of 5 June 2024, in the matter concerning **H.K.**, the HC Mifi rejected a dilatory request for the communication of documents as irrelevant. By Judgment No. 12/SOC of 10 September 2024, in the matter between **T.N.P.** and **E.C.**, this same court rejected the dilatory request based on prescription of the offence, then heard and delivered its decision on the matter.

B: Right to a Public Trial

148- The principle remained that of trials in public. In exceptional cases, trials in camera were ordered to take into account requirements on the protection of private life, public order, State security or the protection of minors.

Table 6: Public Hearings in 2024

Court	Number of applications	Number of applications rejected	Number of applications granted		Number of beneficiaries		
			Granted in full	Granted in part	Number of Men	Number of Women	Others (Detainees, refugees, internally displaced persons, indigenous peoples (Pygmies, Mbororos) + persons with disabilities)
CFI	48	13	17	16	18	3	1
HC	169	56	69	25	38	22	17
CA	21	20	11	2	6	2	0

Source : MINJUSTICE

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§ 3: Review of a Matter

149- The table below provides information on the right to have one's matter reviewed.

Table 7: Exercise of the Right to Appeal

Appeal	Number of Appeals Received							Appellants				Number of appeals not processed due failure to pay fees for the reproduction of records of proceedings	Outcome of Appeals							
	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	PM	Parties	Others	TPD	CFI	HC	CA		Number of Appeals declared Inadmissible				Number of judgments reviewed or quashed			
	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	PM	Parties	Others	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	TPD	CFI	HC	CA	
Opposition	211	207	88	40	3	171	123	243	7	0	0	6	12	3	9	0	46	1	2	
Third-party opposition	198	85	48	0	0	43	123	243	0	0	0	8	3	9	0	46	4	1	0	
Appeal	196	1708	467	237	118	1898	139	2	29	10	0	11	5	18	0	46	5	1	4	
Appeal before the Supreme Court	251	3707	1411	6139	680	9797	94	59	82	56	307	00	00	95	475	00	00	0	760	
Review	3	1	11	1063	26	3	893	46	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Source : MINJUSTICE

§4: The Submission of the Judge to the Rule of Law

150- In addition to the rules referred to above, Judges were generally required to comply with legal rules, including those governing the regular composition of the court and the reasoned judgments.

A: The Composition of the Court

151- Appellate courts continued to ensure compliance with the provisions on the composition of the courts. Thus, by Judgment No. 2/ADD/CM of 13 February 2024, the North Court of Appeal, in **The People vs. A.S.**, quashed a judgment in which the composition of the court was different from that contained in the record of proceedings. In the same vein, by Judgment No. 35/SOC of 18 July 2024 in the matter between **N.G.** and **M.K.A.** and Judgment No. 6/SOC of 18 January 2024 in the matter between Collège **E.B.M.** and **K.F.**, the West Court of Appeal quashed judg-

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ments delivered in labour matters, on the grounds that the lower courts concerned had, in violation of Section 133 of the Labour Code, allowed a single judge to hear the matter whereas, there was no proof that summonses were served on assessors but they were absent.

B: Reasoned Judgments

152- Since Presiding Magistrates and Judges are required to render reasoned judgments in fact and in law, any shortcomings were sanctioned. By way of illustration, the West Court of Appeal quashed judgments for: allocating in a labour matter, various sums to Appellants without ruling on submissions regarding the regularity of the dismissal challenged (Judgment No. 4/SOC of 18 January 2024, in the matter between **T.T.N.** and **E.U.F. company**); in the verdict granting the stay of execution without referring to it in the *ratio decidendi* of the judgment (Judgment No. 47/COR of 6 February 2024, in the matter **The People and M.M.** vs. **N.R.** and **F.E.**); failure to separately assess the heads of damages in issue (Judgment No. 230/COR of 23 April 2024, in the matter **The People and A.D.S.** vs **S.D.A.**); and failure to separately pronounce a verdict on each offence and to sentence accused persons eventough they had been found guilty of the offences with which they were charged of (Judgment No. 190/COR of 9 April 2024, in the matter **The People and N.N.C.** vs **M.C.**).

153- In the same connection, the East Court of Appeal (Judgment No. 4/DL of 25 September 2024, in the matter between **A.T.D.** and **L.L.**) quashed a judgment for discrepancy between the part of the judgment on the reasoning which indicated that the matter was heard in default whereas the verdict mentioned that the judgment was delivered after full hearing of the parties. As regards matters from customary courts, the said Court of Appeal quashed a judgment that failed to state the customs of the parties (Judgment No. 4/DL of 25 July 2024, in the matter between **K.H.B.** and **B.A.R.**).

154- Furthermore, there was a growing trend in the use of regional and international Human Rights instruments by the courts in their reasoning (*ratio decidendi*). Thus, in the divorce suit between **M.E.H.** and **T.F.**, subject of Judgment No. 683/TPD/MBA of 1 August 2024, the TPD of Mbanga applied the Maputo Protocol. In the matter between **W.E.C.** and **N.W.E.**, subject of Judgment No. 73/CIV of 12 September 2024, the HC of Mongo

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applied the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In some 30 judgments delivered in the matter of declaration of births to enable the issuance of birth certificates, the CFI of Tignere applied the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

SECTION 3: CONTINUED REFORMS IN THE MILITARY JUSTICE SECTOR

155- In the wake of reforms undertaken in recent years and marked in July 2017 by the enactment of a Code of Military Justice, on 14 November 2024, the Head of State signed Decree No. 2024/555 of 14 November 2024 to lay down rules applicable to the recruitment and discipline of military justice personnel, and Decree No. 2024/554 to lay down the administrative organisation of Military Tribunals

§1: Measures relating to the Recruitment and Discipline of Military Justice Staff

156- Decree No. 2024/555 specifies the recruitment procedures for military justice staff, namely civilian and military Judicial and Legal Officers and Court Registrars, Assessors, military penitentiary staff, as well as non-specialized staff. Concerning civilian and non-specialized staff, the Decree indicates that they are subject to the status of their corps of origin for their career management. Furthermore, the Decree sets up a special disciplinary procedure.

A: Details on Recruitment Procedures

157- With regard to military Judicial and Legal Officers, Decree No. 2024/555 provides that this quality is held by officers of the defence forces who are graduates of ENAM. Upon the authorisation of the Minister of Defence, aspirants and cadets officers at the end of training, may sit for the competitive entrance examination into ENAM. Active officers of the defence forces who have attained incremental position 2 of the rank of Captain are not eligible to sit for the examination. At the end of the training at ENAM, the pupil Judicial and Legal Officers who successfully graduate, are put at the disposal of the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF). Before assuming duty, military Judicial and Legal Officers are sworn in before the Supreme Court of Cameroon.

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158- As for Court Registrars, who also take an oath of office, this Decree states that they are made up of military staff with at least the rank of a junior non-commissioned officer for entry into ENAM or a military grade for the specialised school of MINDEF. With regard to Assessors, the Decree indicates that the active officers of the defence forces (under oath), civil or military Judicial and Legal Officers, are appointed by the President of the Republic. Regarding the military penitentiary staff, this regulatory act mentions that they are made up of military staff or civilian officials who are graduates from the National School of Penitentiary Administration or the specialised school of MINDEF.

B: Establishment of a Special Disciplinary Procedure

159- For Military Judicial and Legal Officers, Decree No. 2024/555 establishes a Permanent Disciplinary Commission, chaired by the Secretary-General of MINDEF and comprising a rapporteur and 5 members. The Decree establishes an adversarial disciplinary procedure that respects the rights of the defence, and determines types of misconduct and the nature of sanctions. For military Court Registrars and military penitentiary staff, in addition to the establishment of a procedure respectful of the adversarial principle and the rights of the defence, it establishes a disciplinary commission chaired by the Director of Military Justice and comprising a rapporteur and 3 members.

§2: Measures relating to the Administrative Organisation of Military Courts

160- Repealing Decree No. 85/520 of 13 April 1985 on the administrative organisation of Military Tribunals, Decree No. 2024/554 fixes the administrative organisation of the Bench and the Legal Department.

A: Organisation and Functioning of the Legal Department

161- Among innovations are, the increase in the number of offices in the Legal Department from 3 to 4 with the establishment of Sentencing Enforcement Monitoring and Judicial Statistics Bureau. This work unit is responsible for the establishment of statistical reports on the activity of the Legal Department and the formalisation of execution documents, the maintenance of registers for the execution of sentences and registers of war-

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rants and imprisonment for default of payment, as well as the follow-up applications for pardon, judicial rehabilitation and release on bail, imprisonment for default of payment and arrest warrants and detention and release orders.

B: Organisation and Functioning of the Bench

162- Decree No. 85/520 had only provided for the organisation and functioning of the Registry, without providing for Divisions. In terms of innovations, Decree No. 2024/554 establishes a Secretariat of the President of the Court responsible for the preparation of hearings, the typing of judgments, the keeping of registers of the President and the performance of routine and specialised duties incumbent on it.

163- This regulatory act also establishes preliminary inquiry offices comprising the Secretariat headed by a Registrar and the chambers of the Examining Magistrate. This chambers comprises, in particular, preliminary inquiry registrars in charge of carrying out all the duties laid down by law and tasks assigned to them by the Examining Magistrate, drawing up monthly statements on statistics and cases under investigation and keeping of the Preliminary Inquiry register and transmission registers.

164- Furthermore, Decree No. 2024/554 provides for a Criminal Division and a correctional (simple offences) and misdemeanours Division in the Registry. Under the responsibility of a Registrar-in-chief whose duties are expanded, they are in charge of the registration of files, the establishment of statistical statements, and the typing and formalising of judgments.

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165- On the whole, the courts and MINJUSTICE, among others, took measures to ensure the right to a fair trial, whether, for example, equal access to the court and equality of arms or the strengthening of the judicial system in budget terms as well as the technical capabilities of its staff. In addition, an examination for pupillage was organised and the military justice registered some reforms. Hearing matters within a reasonable time remained a concern.

CHAPTER 3

**FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION AND
COMMUNICATION**



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166- A set of measures were taken by the State concerning means of access to information, the fight against cybercrime, the supervision of the media sector and the judicial response to violations of freedom of expression and communication

SECTION 1: MEANS OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION

167- The diversity of means of access to information was maintained and access to the Internet was improved. Similarly, public support for private communication continued.

§1: Variety of Information Sources and Improved Access to the Internet

168- There were 760 registered media outlets, including 93 television stations, 129 commercial radio stations, 169 community radio stations and 65 cable distribution operators.

169- The Internet network continued to be expanded by upgrading the capacities (bandwidth) of the Universal Gateway (UGW) licenses of Yaounde and Douala from 30 to 40 Gigabits per second (Gbps); increasing optical fibre capacity and connectivity of the national backbone in order to connect more localities; and upgrading to 100 Gbps on the Kribi/Yaounde and Kribi/ Douala segments.

§2: Institutional Support to the Private Press

170- During the 2024 financial year, the budget allocated amounted to CFAF 140,000,000 ¹⁴ and was distributed among 49 print media outlets and 5 online media outlets, that is, 54 private media outlets.

SECTION 2: COMBATING CYBERCRIME

171- In order to secure access to cyberspace for electronic communications users, security audits and security monitoring continued. Moreover, the capacities of stakeholders were strengthened and users of telecommunications services were sensitised.

¹⁴ About 213,740.45 Euros.

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§1: Security Audits

172- The National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC) carried out 12 missions to audit information systems in ministries, 12 in public companies and institutions, 7 in banking institutions, 3 in microfinance institutions, 5 in mobile telephone operating companies and an Internet service provider.

173- The 39 audit missions carried out enabled to detect 2,486 vulnerabilities which were addressed, compared to 3,462 vulnerabilities in 2023.

§2: Security Monitoring and Securing of Applications

174- It consisted in measures to monitor security and secure applications.

A: Security Monitoring

175- Through this activity, ANTIC deleted 2,150 fake accounts among the 2,810 found on social networks. ANTIC processed 3,044 of the 3,940 complaints relating to cybercrime, that is, 87.23%. This activity also resulted in the discovery of 5,808 vulnerabilities on the websites of public and private institutions, as well as 27 cyber-attacks on the websites of Public Administrations. As a result, 124 alerts and 24 safety bulletins were issued.

176- This resulted in the following types of cybercrimes: 890 cases of fraud, more than 2,000 cases of scamming and phishing, and 312 cyber-attacks. ANTIC received 25,795 requisitions and 371 requests for authentication of digital evidence from judicial authorities and various national security institutions ¹⁵ in search of digital evidence, the identification of cybercriminals and prosecution before the competent courts.

B: Securing Applications

177- To ensure the integrity and confidentiality of communications over the Internet, through the use of the public Key Infrastructure (PKI) system, ANTIC issued 711 electronic certificates, 70 Transport Layer Security (TLS) certificates and secured 5 applications.

¹⁵ MINDEF, Secretariat of State for Defense (SED), DGSN, General Delegation for External Research (DGRE), etc.

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§3: Capacity-building

178- ANTIC organised the following seminars: from 10 to 13 September 2024 in Kribi, a capacity-building seminar for staff of public institutions on social networks communication techniques ; from 4 to 8 November 2024 in Kribi, a capacity-building seminar for staff of 20 DSF units on digital investigation techniques, cyber warfare strategies, and cyber intelligence; and from 21 to 23 August 2024 in Garoua, an awareness-raising seminar for Magistrates and JPO of the North Court of Appeal on cybercrime

§4: Awareness-raising among Users of Telecommunications Services

179- From 18 to 27 June 2024, ANTIC organised a workshop in Yaounde on the establishment of a framework for compliance and enforcement of the Charter on Child Online Protection.

In addition, from 20 to 24 August 2024, in Edea, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL) organised the 8th edition of ICT holiday camps on the theme: *“Artificial Intelligence: opportunities and challenges for patriotic youths”*. This activity, which was held within the framework of an awareness-raising campaign on cyber-security for local authorities and organizations, was attended by 823 youths aged between 10 and 18.

180- MINPOSTEL, ANTIC and the Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART) also sensitised users on the dangers of cybercrime through media coverage, social networks, advertisement, distribution of flyers and carried out poster campaigns.

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

181- This supervision was carried out through regulation by the National Communication Council (NCC) and the Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART).

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§1: Regulation by the National Communication Council

182- The NCC raised awareness among media professionals and sanctioned abuses.

A: Awareness-raising among Media Professionals

183- On 30 April 2024, the NCC held an awareness-raising and consultation session with content creators on social media in Yaounde on the theme: *Measures to regulate social media content to mitigate the effects of disinformation and misinformation*. On 29 August 2024 in Yaounde, and from 3 to 4 September 2024 in Douala, the NCCC also sensitised media professionals on various issues, including the management of debate programmes, the processing of information from social networks and the social responsibility of Journalists.

B: Guaranteeing Compliance with Ethics and Deontology

184- The NCC issued 19 decisions against Journalists and media outlets, including 7 temporary suspension of activities of less than 6 months, a temporary suspension of activities of 6 months and 7 warnings. These decisions were grounded in non-compliance with the rules relating to processing of information and ethics, especially during radio and television debates. In addition, NCC dismissed 4 cases.

§2: Actions by the Telecommunications Regulatory Board

185- ART continued to implement measures to improve the quality of services and protect the users of these services.

A: Continued Actions to improve the Quality of Services

186- In the face of the decreasing quality of services provided by operators, some measures were taken in collaboration with the supervisory authority. During the 18 March 2024 meeting between MINPOSTEL, ART and operators of electronic communication services, ART was tasked with ensuring the implementation of recommendations relating to the stabilisation of telephone and Internet networks. These included the urgent increase

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in the Internet capacity of the South Atlantic Inter Link (SAIL) cable from 70 gigabytes/s to 170 gigabytes/s, the diversification of international access channels with satellite redundancy channels, infrastructure pooling, increasing the backups of local cache by operators in order to safeguard the maximum amount of information locally, and carrying out independent audit of operators' networks. Following the recommendations of a meeting held on 11 October 2024 in Yaounde with the same stakeholders, ART strengthened its system of control of the operators' specifications, through the implementation of automated evaluation tools.

B: Safeguarding Consumers' Rights

187- As part of protecting users' rights, ART (Directorate General and Regional Delegations of Douala, Yaounde and Garoua) received a total of 63 written complaints from subscribers against the telephone operators *Orange Cameroon*, *MTN Cameroon*, *Viettel Cameroon* and *CAMTEL*. ART carried out numerous compliance checks, including a national control of service quality coverage and use of the radio frequency spectrum. As a result, ART sent 274 formal notices to operators and companies of the electronic service who were non-compliant.

188- Some 5 attempts at conciliation filed by users against mobile telephone operators were being examined.

SECTION 4: JUDICIAL PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION

189- The violation of the rights of third parties was punished and proceedings relating to the safety of Journalists continued.

§1: Responses to Attacks on Journalists

190- The first hearing of the case concerning the suspicious death of **Ar-sène Salomon MBANI ZOGO** aka **Martinez ZOGO**, Journalist, Director of the radio channel *Amplitude FM* was held 25 March 2024. The case was pending before the Yaounde Military Tribunal.

191- The investigations opened following the suspicious deaths of Jour-

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nalists **Jean-Jacques OLA BELA** and **ANYE NDE NSOH** were continuing.

§2: Protecting the Interests of Third Parties

192- Through decisions rendered, courts protected the interests of third parties. To illustrate, by Judgment n°637/COR of 31 May 2024, the Ngaoundere CFI found **M.A.A.** guilty of contempt, false information, obscene publications, false report, defamation, abuse and cybercrime. He was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and a¹⁶ fine of CFAF 250,000FCFA. In addition, he was ordered to pay the victims the total sum of CFAF 4,000,000 CFA¹⁷ as damages. In Judgment No. 134/COR of 15 July 2024, the Banyo CFI, after having found him guilty of theft by electronic means, sentenced **A.S.** to 8 months imprisonment. The same court, by Judgment n° 183/COR of 13 September 2024, declared **P.M.** guilty of defamation via internet and sentenced him to 10 months imprisonment and to pay to the civil party the sum of CFAF 1,500,000¹⁸ as damages.

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193- In a nutshell, the State guaranteed of access to information through an increase in the number of press outlets and sources of information. The protection of consumers of electronic communications services continued through regulatory bodies and courts. However, the quality of mobile telephone operators' services and network coverage should be improved.

¹⁶ About 381.12 Euros.

¹⁷ About 6,097.96 Euros.

¹⁸ About 2, 86.74 Euros.

CHAPTER 4

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



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194- The State guaranteed to all, participation in political and public life. In this regard, it allowed participation, either directly or through representatives, in the management of public affairs at the national and local levels and ensured access to public service under general conditions of equality. The actions of the State also consisted in the preparation of elections.

SECTION 1: PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

195- Participation can be illustrated by the cases of the President of the Republic and Parliamentarians.

§1: The President of the Republic

196- In different sectors of life in Cameroon, besides the arbitration necessary for the proper functioning of public authorities, the President of the Republic among other things, signed about 600 decrees, all relayed on the website www.prc.cm. The decrees signed concerned appointments to civil and military positions, the establishment and organisation of public services, the ratification of treaties, authorisations to sign loan agreements, the financing of projects or even promotions in grade. He also promulgated more than 20 laws.

§2: Parliamentarians

197- The construction of the new premises of the National Assembly (consisting of 3 buildings) started in November 2019, to accommodate offices, a hemicycle and a banquet hall was completed. Inaugurated on 30 November 2024, the new structure, which covers approximately 37,500 m², is the result of a donation of approximately CFAF50,500,000,000¹⁹ from the People's Republic of China.

198- Pursuant to Law No. 2024/11 of 24 July 2024, the term of office of members of the National Assembly which was to expire in March 2025, was extended until 30 March 2026, due to certain constraints. In all, the National Assembly and the Senate held 6 ordinary sessions, during which 25 laws were adopted in so many areas²⁰.

¹⁹ About 77,099,236.64 Euros.

²⁰ The budget, air transport, the forestry and wildlife regime, fishing, statelessness, culture, the term

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199- During these sessions, the National Assembly and the Senate also monitored Government action through oral questions relating the poor quality of the telephone network, combating corruption, the quality of student training and the treatment of higher education teachers. The 2 Houses of Parliament also held a joint session for the swearing-in of members of the Constitutional Council on 2 April and 2 July 2024²¹.

200- With regard to parliamentary cooperation, the major event was the holding of the 30th African Regional Assembly of the *Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie* (APF), from 28 to 29 May 2024 in Yaounde, at which 18 delegations²² participated.

SECTION 2: PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT LOCAL LEVEL

201- At the local level, the management of public affairs was effected through elected or designated persons.

§1: Management of Public Affairs by Elected Persons

202- In addition to the extension, by Decree No. 2024/328 of 24 July 2024, of the term of office of municipal councillors from 25 February 2025 to 31 May 2026, the normative framework related to decentralisation was consolidated, the financial resources relating thereto increased and the training of stakeholders from Regional and Local Authorities (RLA) continued.

of office of members of the National Assembly, copyright, fisheries subsidies, archives, protection of personal data, the organisation of the civil registration system, local taxation, audiovisual performances, international terrorism, traditional medicine, civil protection, aids to maritime navigation, appellations of origin and geographical indications, etc.

²¹ Indeed, by Decree No. 2024/10 of 18 January 2024, the term of office of the President (**Clément Atangana**) and of 8 members (**Arrey Florence Rita, Bonde Emmanuel, Essombe Émile, Paul Nchoji Nkwi, Baskouda Jean-Baptiste, Bah Oumarou Sanda, Lekene Donfack Charles Etienne** and **Ahmadou Tidjani**) of this institution was renewed. By Decree No. 2024/11 of 18 January 2024, two other members (**Minkoa She Adolphe** and **Logmo Mbelek Aaron**) were appointed.

²² From the following countries and organisations: Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Tunisia, Europe Region of the APF and Pan-African Parliament. Furthermore, from 17 to 21 February 2024 in Luanda at the end of the 1st ordinary meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union within the framework of the new Samoa Agreement, Cameroon was designated as President of the Central Africa Regional Group.

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A: Consolidation of the Normative Framework on Decentralisation

203- The normative framework was consolidated with the enactment of Law No. 2024/20 of 23 December 2024 on local taxation, which repealed Law No. 2019/19 of 15 December 2019. This new law aims to consolidate the financial autonomy of Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs), that is Regional and Local councils by diversifying their own sources of income. As innovations, it transforms the divisional taxation centres into local and individuals taxation centres; increases by 1% the rate of the special excise duty intended to finance the removal and treatment of waste for RLAs ; simplifies local taxation with the introduction of a general synthetic tax for micro and small enterprises in place of several other council taxes; allocates to RLAs the entire product of the stamp duty on the registration card and a share of the tax on petroleum products intended for road maintenance; widens the base of additional council tax, etc.

204- Furthermore, Order No. 2/A/MINDDEVEL of 8 January 2024 to define the Code of Ethics for agents in charge of the council police came into effect. This new instrument determines the general principles and ethical values that should guide council police in the use of equipment and materials made available to them and in their relations with their administrations, public authorities, the population, judicial institutions and forces of law and order

B: Increase in the Financial Resources allocated to Decentralisation

205- The General Allocation to Decentralisation intended to support the operating and investment expenses of RLAs which stood at CFAF252,568,936,000²³ in 2023, increased to CFAF292,500,000,000²⁴. Over the same period, the budget of the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL) was doubled as it increased from CFAF50,217,000,000²⁵ to CFAF100,052,000,000²⁶. In addition, powers accompanied by financial resources were transferred to the RLAs. With regard to the Regions, 6 out of 20 powers were transferred.

²³ About 385,601,429.01 Euros.

²⁴ About 446,564,885.49 Euros.

²⁵ About 76,667,175.57 Euros.

²⁶ About 152,751,145.04 Euros.

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206- With regard to the implementation of development projects (electrification, construction of town halls, water supply, etc.), the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance (FEICOM) granted Councils funding of CFAF47,700,000,000²⁷ compared to CFAF41,233,526,451²⁸ in 2023²⁹. For an initial target of CFAF260,000,000,000³⁰ to be mobilised, FEICOM in 2024, mobilised CFAF293,000,000,000³¹, including CFAF195,000,000,000³² in tax revenue and CFAF97,000,000,000³³ in non-tax revenue.

C: Training of RLA Stakeholders

207- The National School of Local Administration (NASLA) trained the first batch of 99 council police officers from several regional and local councils. In all, in initial training and refresher courses, the school trained 2,500 learners.

208- On 25 June 2024, MINDDEVEL organised a workshop in Monatele to raise awareness and implement the monitoring and evaluation tool for the exercise of the powers transferred to councils. The workshop brought together 34 Secretaries-General and agents from the Yaounde City Council, the 7 Subdivisional Councils of Yaounde and the 9 Divisional Councils of the Lekie Division.

§2: Management of Public Affairs by Designated Persons

209- Focus is on the activity of the Public Independent Conciliators (PICs) and the administration of traditional chiefdoms.

²⁷ About 72,824,427.48 Euros.

²⁸ About 62 951 948,78 Euros.

²⁹From 1974 to 2024, FEICOM redistributed about CFAF1,200,000,000 (or 1,832,061,068.70 Euros) to the Councils and granted them financial assistance of nearly CFAF517,417,661,707, enabling the implementation of 6,289 projects.

³⁰ About 396,946,564.88 Euros.

³¹ About 447,328,244.27 Euros.

³² About 297,709,923.66 Euros.

³³ About 148,091,603.05 Euros.

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A: Administration of Traditional Chiefdoms

210- Following the vacancy at the head of some traditional chiefdoms, customary consultations led to the appointment of new traditional chiefs. Such was the case of the Lamido of Mogode and the chiefs of the Chudim and Mbeng villages. Among the new traditional chiefs, there were women, like **Marie Claire Tarassou** who succeeded her father at the head of the chiefdom of Sarare in Maroua III Subdivision.

211- In some traditional chiefdoms, crises of succession persisted or sparked off. This was the case of the chiefdoms of Bagam and Manyemen. NACC received 70 reports concerning allegations of corruption in the process of designation of traditional chiefs.

B: Activities of the Public Independent Conciliators

212- Reports produced by PICs in the North West³⁴ and South West³⁵ Regions show that to prevent the occurrence of disputes, they organised media campaigns and capacity development activities particularly for administrative and judicial authorities, parliamentarians, community and religious leaders, Council staff and civil society stakeholders. Thus, in December 2024 in Bamenda, the PIC for the North West Region organised a workshop for Council Treasurers, Secretaries-General and Mayors, to address issues related to the functioning of councils, and a workshop bringing together secretaries of civil status registries and civil status registrars to discuss ethical issues relating to the issuance of civil status documents³⁶. Similarly, in February 2024 in Limbe and in August 2024 in Buea, the PIC for the South West Region organised a consultation seminar with local authorities to raise their awareness on the free registration of civil status documents and to assess the state of local governance in the Region.

³⁴ <https://opic-cam.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Annual-Report-2024.pdf>

³⁵ <https://opicswr.cm/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2024-Annual-Report-Submitted-for-The-High-Attention-of-H.E.-The-President-of-The-Republic-of-Cameroon.pdf>

³⁶ It was also, in November 2024 in Bamenda, the organisation an information and training seminar for journalists, with the aim of better equipping them on the missions and mandate of the PIC, as well as their role in local development and good governance; and an information and training seminar for Community stakeholders, aimed at improving their involvement in the functioning of regional and local structures.

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213- In addition to working visits in RLAs and monitoring the quality of public services and the execution of public works, PICs received and dealt with complaints about alleged wrongful action or inaction by local authorities. The processing of the complaints consisted in examining them on the merits, advising complainants, or referring complaints that did not fall within the jurisdiction of PICs to the competent authorities.

214- In total, the PIC for the North West Region received 71 complaints (against 48 in 2023). By the end of the year, 80.28% of these complaints (compared to 91.67% in 2023) were addressed. These complaints were on issues related to rights of workers (29.58%), the right to economic development (19.72%), governance and ethics (15.49%), property rights (11.26%), administrative justice (8.45%), discrimination (4.23%), the integrity of the human person (1.41%) and others (9.86%).

215- For its part, the PIC for the South West Region received 43 complaints (against 34 in 2023), 31 of which related to its duties, among which 27 were processed. In terms of the subject matter of the complaints, 75% concerned the administration of councils in the Fako Division with more than 50% coming from entrepreneurs or service providers of the councils concerned whose grievances were on the non-payment or the prolonged delays in the payment of invoices.

SECTION 3: PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS

216- Preparation for elections resulted in the consolidation of the electoral system and activities of political parties.

§1: Activities of Political Parties

217- The number of political parties (367) remained stable and some of them organised congresses. This was the case of *Patriotes Démocrates pour le Développement du Cameroun (PADDEC)* political party which organised a congress on 14 December 2024 in Douala. The congress was coupled with a meeting of the political party and punctuated by sharing *political gains*, comprising especially computer equipment and rolling stock for the occasion. Similarly, the *Mouvement Démocratique pour la Défense de la République (MDR)* held its 4th extraordinary national convention in Maroua from 5 to 6 October 2024.

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218- Internal crises within political parties sometimes led to a judicial response. Thus, by Ruling No. 9 of 21 May 2024, the President of the CFI of Maroua prohibited the organisation of a congress envisaged by a faction of the *Parti Camerounais pour la Réconciliation Nationale (PCRN)*. This decision was confirmed on appeal by Ruling No. 9/REF of 25 September 2024 of the Far North Court of Appeal. As per Judgment No. 4/CIV/TPI of 4 September 2024, the CFI of Kaele rejected the application of this same faction for cancellation of a congress.

§2: Consolidation of the Electoral System

219- The resources of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM), the body in charge of overseeing electoral and referendum processes, were increased. Voter registration continued, as did dialogue, collaboration and cooperation in electoral matters.

A: Increase in the Resources of ELECAM

220- Concerning financial resources, the budget of ELECAM was revised upwards from CFAF12,183,000,000³⁷ in 2023 to CFAF12,433,000,000³⁸. Regarding human capital, Messrs. **Mboutou Ze Jean Bernard** and **Nanga Charles** were appointed members of the Electoral Board of ELECAM for a 4 year renewable term of office by Decree No. 2024/677 of 20 December 2024 of the President of the Republic.

B: Continued Registration on the Electoral Register

221- Different initiatives led by ELECAM and supported by political parties together with other stakeholders of the electoral system, notably in terms of awareness raising and deployment of proximity teams, enabled substantial increase in the number of voters from 7,361,875 in 2023 to 7,845,662 as at 30 December 2024, including 4,207,957 men, 3,637,665 women, 2,607,321 youths, 33,985 persons with disabilities and 26,800 voters from the diaspora. In April and May 2024, in order to intensify the registration of Cameroonians from the diaspora on the electoral register, ELECAM officials were deployed in 45 diplomatic representations of Cameroon abroad.

³⁷ About 18,600,000 Euros.

³⁸ About 18,981,679.39 Euros.

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C: Dialogue, Collaboration and Cooperation in Electoral Matters

222- In its inclusive and participatory approach to the electoral process, ELECAM continued dialogue between the stakeholders of the electoral system, notably with political parties and CSOs. Thus, in January 2024 in Yaounde, ELECAM discussed with party officials and civil society stakeholders. In addition, the 2nd edition of the National Permanent Consultation Platform between ELECAM and the other stakeholders of the electoral process held on 26 November 2024 in Yaounde under the theme “*the electoral dialogue as a pillar of democratic governance*”.

223- With regard to cooperation, officials of ELECAM met with the following in Yaounde to discuss electoral issues: the President of the National Election Authority of the Central African Republic (12 June 2024); the Resident Representative of the United Nations System in Cameroon (2 July 2024); the Regional Director for Africa at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (23 July 2024); the Acting Chargé d’affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia (12 September 2024); and a delegation from the National Election Management Agency of Chad (24 September 2024), etc.

224- In the area of collaboration, on 11 July 2024, the top management of ELECAM and a delegation of Senators led by the President of the Steering Committee of the programme *Parliament of sustenance and support to decentralisation* discussed *Decentralisation and elections*. On 6 August 2024, ELECAM signed a Partnership Agreement with *Un Monde Avenir*, a coalition of Cameroon civil society organisations and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation, aimed at increasing the participation of civil society in the electoral process, through civic education and awareness raising to boost voter registration and voter turnout.

225- Moreover, ELECAM participated in initiatives on electoral issues organised by third-parties. This is the case of the conference on the theme *Fighting digital threats to elections in Cameroon: strategies for combating disinformation during the electoral period*, organised from 27 to 28 March 2024 in Yaounde by Africa Fact-checking Fellowship Cameroon, a CSO working in the area of digital technology and its impact on elections. It also took part in the launching on 4 July 2024 in Yaounde, of the Project *Together for Cameroon vote* the main objective of which is to develop the ca-

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capacities of CSOs for a better impact on the democratic system and the electoral process aimed at credible transparent and inclusive elections.

SECTION 4: ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE

226- The main initiatives concerned the organisation of competitive examinations and selection tests as well as career and end-of-career monitoring and staff control.

A: Organisation of Competitive Examinations and Selection Tests

227- Compared to the previous year, the number of open places for competitive examinations and selection tests organised at the behest of the Ministry of the Public Service and Administrative Reform (MINFOPRA) increased from 2,685 in 2023 to 4,692 in 2024. The table below is quite illustrative.

Table No. 1 : Summary of Recruitments at MINFOPRA in 2023 and 2024

Category of examination	2023	2024
Entrance examination out of ENAM	300	140
Entrance examination into ENAM	335	285
Professional entrance examination	450	580
Direct entrance examination	1,210	170
Special recruitment	100	3,372
Selection Tests	290	145
Total	2,685	4,692

Source: MINFOPRA

228- Among the 4,692 recruited persons, there were 50% women and 19% English-speaking persons.

229- With regard to ENAM, 285 students recruited as shown in the table below.

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Table No. 2: Recruitment of 285 students into ENAM in 2024

Magistracy and Court Registry Division	Cycle	Number
Pupil Judicial and Legal Officers (judicial section)	A	15
Pupil Judicial and Legal Officers (administrative section)	A	10
Pupil Judicial and Legal Officers (audit section)	A	0
Pupil Court Registry Administrators	A	15
Pupil Court Registrars	B	15
Total		55
Administrative Division		
General Administration	A	30
	B	30
Labour Administration	A	20
	B	10
Social Affairs Administration	A	10
	B	10
Total		110
Finance Division		
Stores Accounting	A	10
	B	10
Taxation	A	10
	B	20
Prices, Weights and Measures	A	10
	B	10
Total		70
Special recruitment of English-speaking pupil judicial and legal officers and pupil court registrars		
Pupil Judicial and Legal Officers (Judicial section)	A	10
Pupil Judicial and Legal Officers (Administrative Section)	A	10
Pupil Judicial and Legal Officers (Audit Section)	A	10
Pupil Court Registrars	B	20
Total		50

Source: ENAM

230- In addition to these recruitments conducted under the supervision of MINFOPRA, should be added those made by the Ministry of Defence, the General Delegation for National Security, among others.

B: Consolidation of Staff Strength, Monitoring of Career and End of Career

231- By Information Note of 18 November 2024, the Minister of Public

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Service and Administrative Reform announced the signing, as part of the operation of physical counting of State personnel (launched in 2018), of a new series of orders revoking or dismissing 1,172 public employees. As at 10 December 2024, there were 4,027 public employees dismissed in this context. This operation made it possible to identify 8,766 public employees in breach of their duties and to achieve an annual budget saving of approximately CFAF30,000,000,000³⁹.

232- Moreover, from January 2022 to December 2024, MINFOPRA processed 7,398 retirement and disability pension files, 916 death benefits files, 2,842 survivor's pensions or beneficiaries files, and 82 reimbursements of deductions files, summing up to 11,238 pension and payment of benefits files.

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233- On the whole, in addition to the further consolidation of the electoral system, 2024 was marked by intense normative activity of the President of the Republic, and parliamentarians whose mandate was extended, as well as that of the municipal councillors. The deepening of decentralisation, one of the markers of which was the increase in financial resources, continued. However, a series of crises at the helm of some traditional chiefdoms was one of the challenges.

³⁹ About 45,801,526.72 Euros.



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CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

234- Overall, despite constraints and the persistence of some violations, the State continued to promote and protect civil and political rights.

235- The combination of preventive and repressive measures resulted in the protection of the right to physical and moral integrity and the right to liberty. Some of these include road safety measures, the fight against fires and trafficking in persons, personnel training and punishment of offenders.

236- Meeting procedural and institutional standards was the goal sought in guaranteeing the right to a fair trial

237- Diversifying and protecting sources of information, raising awareness of stakeholders and implementing regulatory mechanisms led to the preservation of rights of users of electronic communication and telecommunication services. However, compliance with their specifications remained a challenge for operators.



PART TWO

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



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INTRODUCTION TO PART TWO

238- With a view to guaranteeing economic, social and cultural rights, the State of Cameroon worked actively to facilitate access to health care, water and electricity, education, housing and feeding. In addition to creating and preserving jobs, the State also laid emphasis on social security and environmental protection, while inspiring competition in the field of sports and more broadly culture. The above is reflected in this part which, structured around 6 chapters, which reports on measures that guarantee:

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



CHAPTER

1

RIGHT TO EDUCATION



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239- The right to education was guaranteed by Government in the sub-sectors of Basic Education, Secondary Education, Higher Education and Research. Such guarantee was in a context characterised by persistent challenges as regards violence in schools and absenteeism of some teachers. Furthermore, an institutional reorganisation in the implementation of the national book policy was carried out and the protection of the right to education was ensured by the courts.

SECTION 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN THE BASIC EDUCATION SUBSECTOR

240- In addition to strategic innovations, measures taken to ensure the right to education in Non-Formal Basic Education Centres (NFBEC) and Functional Literacy Centres (FLC) and access to education at nursery and primary cycles. In addition, the fight against clandestine establishments continued. All these efforts made it possible to obtain results in all examinations.

§1: Access to Nursery Education

241- The supply of education enabled the constantly high demand to be met.

A: Demand for Nursery Education

242- In nursery schools, there were 644,367 kids in the 2023/2024 academic year, including 322,848 girls and 321,519 boys. English-speaking nursery schools had 254,257 kids (128,931 girls and 125,326 boys) and the French-speaking nursery schools registered 390,110 kids (196,193 boys and 193,917 girls).

B: Education Supply

243- Education supply consisted of material resources, including infrastructure, textbooks, facilities and human resources.

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1) Supply of Human Resources and Infrastructure

244- Students were taught by 33,583 teachers, including 32,829 women and 754 men. There were 14,315 schools (4,413 public schools, 8,758 private schools and 1,144 council schools) with 25,331 classrooms (6,009 in public schools, 18,355 in private schools and 967 in community schools) and 757,813 benches (237,110 in public schools, 497,370 in private schools and 23 333 in community schools). In all these schools, 4,044 had a playground, 10,653 a medicine cabinet, 182 a canteen and 5,758 a fence. Much more, 7,380 were powered by electricity, 758 obtained their water from wells, 409 from developed sources, 4,356 by CAMWATER and 2,995 from boreholes and others.

2) Supply of Textbooks

245- Essential manuals were made available to pupils, notably 495,919 *cahiers d'activités en coloriage* and Colouring WorkBooks (including 60,168 in *pré-maternelle* and Pre-nursery; 226,751 in 1^{ère} année and Nursery I and 209,000 in 2^{ème} année and Nursery II) ; 489,040 *cahiers d'activités en graphisme* and Drawing Workbooks (including 59,106 in *pré-maternelle* and Pre-nursery; 222,683 in 1^{ère} année and Nursery I and 207,251 in 2^{ème} année and Nursery II); 494,798 *cahiers d'activités en mathématiques* and Mathematics Workbooks (of which 58,404 in *pré-maternelle* and Pre-nursery; 225,633 in 1^{ère} année and Nursery I and 210,761 in 2^{ème} année and Nursery II).

246- Manuals were also made available to teachers, including 39,140 *cahiers d'activités en coloriage* and Colouring Workbooks, 40,199 *cahiers d'activités en graphisme* and Drawing Workbooks, 40,108 *cahiers d'activités en mathématiques* and Mathematics Workbooks and 29,864 *manuels sur le nouveau curriculum* and manuals on The New Curriculum.

3) Availability of Facilities

247- There were 25,525 toilets or latrines, of which 24,684 were built with solid materials.

248- In French-speaking nursery schools, there were 14,797 toilets or latrines, of which 14,317 were built with solid materials.

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249- In English-speaking nursery schools, there were 10,738 toilets or latrines, of which 10,367 were built with solid materials.

§2: Access to Education at the Primary Level

250- Education supply made it possible to meet demand.

A: Demand for Education

251- Pupil enrolment stood at 5,289,656, including 2,514,152 girls and 2,775,504 boys⁴⁰. In the English-speaking subsystem, 1,109,337 pupils were enrolled, including 554,187 girls and 555,150 boys; and in the French-speaking subsystem, there were 4,180,319 pupils enrolled, including 1,959,965 girls and 2,220,354 boys. The gross enrolment rate was 123.3%, the adjusted net schooling rate was 90.1%, the primary school completion rate stood at 80.7% and the percentage of repeaters was 11.56%.

B: Education Supply

252- To contain the high number of pupils, the school map was expanded and human resources deployed. Textbooks were distributed to pupils and teachers and facilities provided. Furthermore, incentives were given to girls.

1) School Map and Human Resources

253- Students were taught by 124,205 teachers, including 75,739 women and 48,466 men. In addition, there were 24,067 primary schools⁴¹ (13,386 public schools, 9,879 private schools and 802 parent or community schools) consisting of 104,443 classrooms (57,787 in public schools, 45,468 in private schools, 1,188 in parent or community schools)

⁴⁰ Compared to 5,155,547 in 2022/2023, an increase of 2.6%. The public sector registered the largest number of pupils (72.9%), followed by the private sector (25.3%) and finally community schools (1.8%). A total of 3,994 primary school pupils were registered in rural areas (58.7%) compared to 2,185,662 pupils in urban areas (41.3%).

⁴¹ Compared to 22,834 in 2022/2023, an increase of (5.4%). More than half of the schools were public, or 55.6% for a total of 13,386 schools, followed by private (41%) and community schools (3.4%). Depending on the setting, 6 out of 10 schools are located in rural areas, for a total of 14,359 primary schools. According to the education subsystem, 33.4% of primary schools were in the English-speaking subsystem.

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and with 4,944,292 seats (3,014,591 in public schools, 1,902,601 in private schools, 27,100 in parent or community schools)⁴². There were also 4,769 computer rooms, including 2,623 in the English-speaking primary schools and 2,146 in the French-speaking primary schools.

254- Moreover, at the national level, an average of 51 pupils made up a classroom. This ratio was 67 pupils per classroom in the public sector compared to 29 in the private sector.

2) Supply of Textbooks

255- Textbooks were made available to pupils, including 3,176,431 *manuels de lecture* and Language manuals and Readers⁴³, 3,070,263 *manuels de mathématiques* and Mathematics⁴⁴ textbooks, 1,662,516 *Sciences and Technologie* and Science and Technology⁴⁵ textbooks, 2,823,822 *manuels d'anglais et français* and English/French⁴⁶ textbooks, and 787,414 *manuels de sciences humaines*/Social Sciences⁴⁷ textbooks.

256- Textbooks provided to teachers included 205,178 *manuels de lecture* and Language manuals and Readers, 190,275 *manuels de mathématiques* and Mathematics textbooks, 118,086 *manuels de sciences et technologie* and Science and Technology textbooks, 164,938 *manuels d'anglais et français* and English and French textbooks, 83,391 *manuels de sciences humaines* and Social Sciences textbooks, 34,619 *manuels de langue et culture générale* and *National Languages and Cultures* textbooks, 42,861 *manuels de développement personnel* and Vocational Studies textbooks, and 84,152 *manuels d'informatique* and Computer Science textbooks.

⁴² More than half of the schools were public, 55.6%, followed by private (41%) and council (3.4%).

⁴³ (Of which 793,562 at SIL/Class 1, 689,528 at CP/Class II, 497,067 at CE I/Class III; 460,067 for CE II/Class IV; 392,145 at CM I/Class V and 344,062 at CM II/Class VI).

⁴⁴ (Of which 758,394 at SIL/Class 1; 668,202 at CP/Class II; 483,378 at CEI/Class III; 445,444 at CE II/Class IV; 380,731 at CM I/Class V and 334,114 at CM II/Class VI).

⁴⁵ (Of which 293,842 at SIL/Class 1; 265,577 at CP/Class II; 339,051 at CE I/Class III; 319,084 at CE II/Class IV; 234,482 at CM I/Class V; 210,480 at CM II/Class VI).

⁴⁶ (Of which 697,516 at SIL/Class 1; 605,290 at CP/Class II; 439,595 at CE I/Class III; 417,875 at CE II/Class IV; 353,022 at CM I/Class V and 310,524 at CM II/Class VI).

⁴⁷ (Of which 150,758 at SIL/Class 1; 137,183 at CP/Class II; 132,648 at CE I/Class III; 130,519 at CE II/Class IV; 119,710 at CM I/Class V and 116,596 at CM II/Class VI).

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3) Availability of Facilities

257- There were 65,195 toilets or latrines, of which 63,532 were built with solid materials.

258- In French-speaking primary schools, 45,385 toilets or latrines were identified, of which 44,352 were built with solid materials.

259- In English-speaking primary schools, there were 19,808 toilets or latrines, of which 19,180 were built with solid materials.

4) Incentives for Girls

260- Scholarships for academic excellence worth CFAF100,000,000⁴⁸ were distributed to 2,642 best female pupils who passed the *Certificat d'Études Primaires (CEP)* and First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) examinations in the 10 Regions.

§3: Strategic Innovations

261- The National Policy for Inclusive Education for the period 2024-2028 adopted on 8 October 2024, aims to promote access to education for all, including children with specific needs. Thus, in an inclusive approach to education, all children can learn together in the same class.

§4: Results of Examinations

262- The results of official examinations and different competitive examinations were published.

A: Results of Official Examinations

263- French-speaking subsystem (CEP):

Registered: 331987,

Sat: 325,653,

Passed: 290,325 (including 137,047 girls and 153,277 boys)

Percentage pass: 89.2%.

⁴⁸ About 152,671.75 Euros.

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264- English-speaking subsystem (FSLC):

Registered: 147,870;

Sat: 146,406;

Passed: 142,628 (including 72,365 girls and 70,263 boys);

Percentage pass: 97.4%.

265- The CEP and FSLC examinations recorded a pass rate of 91.7%. This rate is higher among girls (92.7%) than among boys (90.79%).

B: Results of Competitive Examinations

266- Results of the different competitive examinations in the French-speaking and English-speaking subsystems were published.

1) Results in the French-speaking subsystem

267- Concours d'entrée en 6^{ème} :

Registered: 201,540;

Sat: 198,018;

Passed: 155,002 (including 72,584 girls and 82,418 boys).

268- Concours d'entrée en 1^{ère} année technique:

Registered: 95,085;

Sat: 93,022;

Passed: 76,593 (including 32,141 girls and 44,452 boys).

2) Results in the English-speaking Subsystem

269- Common Entrance Examination into Form I (General Education):

Registered: 96,024;

Sat: 94,837;

Passed: 88,137 (including 46,139 girls and 41,998 boys).

270- Common Entrance Examination into Form I (Technical Education):

Registered: 14,454;

Sat: 14,263,

Passed: 12,981 (including 5,244 girls and 7,737 boys).

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§5: Access to Education in Non-formal Basic Education Centres and Functional Literacy Centres

271- The demand for education in the Non-Formal Basic Education Centres (NFBEC) and the Functional Literacy Centres (FLC) made it possible to contain the ever-increasing supply.

A: Demand for Education

272- The number of learners enrolled in NFBECs, during the 2023/2024 academic year was 7,895 (3,983 females and 3,912 males), compared to 6,845 learners for the previous year, an increase of 15.3%. The private NFBECs accommodated 4,592 learners (2,304 female and 2,288 male), while the public NFBECs accommodated 2,460 learners (1,259 female and 1,201 male). The proportion of learners enrolled in the NFBECs was higher in rural areas (4,800) or 60.8%.

273- Regarding the FLCs, the number of learners enrolled during the 2023/2024 academic year was 28,775 (17,050 girls and 11,725 boys) compared to 28,666 learners for the previous year, an increase of 0.4%. Public centres hosted just over half of all learners, or 51.3%. The rural areas alone accounted for 57.4% of all learners enrolled in FLCs.

B: Education Supply

274- During the 2023/2024 academic year, there were 235 NFBECs compared to 151 for the previous academic year, an increase of 55.6%. Private education accounted for 111 NFBECs, or 47.2% of all NFBECs. The rural environment recorded 51.5% of NFBECs. In the NFBECs, there were 824 teachers, of whom 422 were women and 402 men.

275- During the 2023/2024 academic year, 1,100 FLCs were recorded compared to 918 for the previous academic year, an increase of 19.8%. Public education alone accounted for 509 FLCs, or 46.3% of all FLCs, followed by private education (34.6%) and community education (19.1%). Slightly more than 6 out of 10 FLCs were located in rural areas.

276- According to the school census during the 2023/2024 academic

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year in the NFBECS, 824 teachers or supervisors were registered, including 422 women.

277- Textbooks were provided to NFBECS learners, namely 898 English and French textbooks⁴⁹, 125 personal development textbooks⁵⁰, 614 computer science textbooks⁵¹, 183 language and general knowledge textbooks⁵², 1,519 reading and language textbooks⁵³, 1,464 mathematics textbooks⁵⁴, 962 science and technology⁵⁵, and 334 of social sciences textbooks⁵⁶.

278- In the FLCs, there were 3,459 teachers or supervisors, including 1,608 women and 1,851 men.

279- Essential mathematics were provided to FLC learners, including 5,330 at level I, some 3,106 at level II and 2,738 at level III. These included agricultural manuals, guides to everyday life, calculus, environment, educational guides, reading or writing, masonry, carpentry, plumbing, childcare, health and science.

280- With regard to facilities, only 16.6% of NFBECS had a water source from CAMWATER, 6.6% from boreholes and 28.5% from electrical energy.

281- As for the FLCs, 10.1% were supplied by a water source from CAMWATER, 6.9% from boreholes and 16.3% were powered by electrical energy.

§6: Combating Illegal Private Schools

282- By Decision No. 315/51/14/D/MINEDUB/SG/DSEPB of 23 June 2024 to close down some illegal private basic education schools, 722

⁴⁹ Including 394 Level I, 355 for Level II and 149 at Level III.

⁵⁰ Including 42 Level I, 46 for Level II and 37 at Level III.

⁵¹ Of which 297 at Level I, 186 for Level II and 131 at Level III.

⁵² Of which 71 is for Level I, 71 for Level II and 41 for Level III.

⁵³ Of which 845 Level I, 442 for Level II and 232 at Level III.

⁵⁴ Of which 825 at Level I, 413 for Level II and 226 at Level III.

⁵⁵ Of which 469 for Level I, 334 for Level II and 159 at Level III.

⁵⁶ Of which 125 at Level I, 126 for Level II and 83 at Level III.

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schools were closed down as follows: in the Adamawa (16), Centre (115), East (34), Littoral (317), West (206) and South Regions (32) for the following reasons: lack of an Order to open a school; lack of authorisation, misuse of a third-party's Order, non-compliance with regulations, inappropriate premises, lack of sanitation and narrowness of the site, public order issues, lack of Order to extend a nursery school to cover the English-speaking section and the French-speaking section.

SECTION 2: GROWTH IN THE SECONDARY EDUCATION SUBSECTOR

283- This growth was effective through guarantees on access to education and the introduction of a single student number in the educational system. Furthermore, results were recorded at official examinations.

§1: Access to Education and the Single Student Number

284- To cope with the increase in demand for education, supply was guaranteed. In addition, the single student number was introduced in the education system.

A: Supply in Education at the Secondary School Level

285- Education supply was effective through the development of school infrastructure and equipment, notably the construction a one story building, consisting of 8 classrooms, offices and toilets; 21 blocks of 2 classrooms; 3 blocks of 3 classrooms and 2 offices; 2 specialised rooms (computer room and science laboratory); 6 blocks of latrines with 6 compartments; 2 fences; a sick bay; and a borehole.

286- Furthermore, supply was effective through the equipment of 52 schools with computer kits, classrooms with 1,360 benches, 4 workshops and a computer room and a multimedia room in technical colleges and technical high schools,.

287- There were 4,538 schools in 2024, including 2,866 public and 1,672 private schools. In general, and technical secondary education, the number of classrooms was 63,488: 35,177 in public schools and 28,311 in private schools.

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288- The number of classrooms in Government Teacher Training Colleges (G TTC) and Government Technical Teacher Training Colleges (G TTTC) stood at 1,124, including 689 in public G TTCs and G TTTCs and 435 in private TTCs and TTTCs

289- The number of teachers in public schools was 83,147, with 38,169 women and 44,978 men. In private schools, the number of teachers stood at 39,962: 13,337 women and 26,625 men.

290- The State granted subventions to 787 private secondary schools, including 166 Catholic private schools, 40 Protestant private schools, 25 Islamic private schools and 556 lay private schools.

291- The said subventions stood at CFAF2,455,000,000⁵⁷, including CFAF526,858,751⁵⁸ to Catholic private schools, CFAF123,377,308⁵⁹ to Protestant private schools, CFAF75,954,300⁶⁰ to Islamic private schools and CFAF1,728,809,641⁶¹ to lay private schools.

B: Demand in Education

292- There were 2,047,079 students in general secondary schools and technical and vocational secondary schools (compared with 2,009,141 students in 2023), that is, 1,411,943 in public schools (compared to 1,394,547 in 2023) and 635,136 in private schools (compared to 614,594 in 2023). The number of boys enrolled in school was 1,069,091 (compared to 1,059,449 in 2023), while there were 977,988 girls (compared to 949,692 in 2023).

293- The gross schooling rate and the net schooling rate were estimated at 47.38% (45.19% for girls and 49.58% for boys) and 38.53% (37.08% for girls and 39.98% for boys), respectively.

⁵⁷ About 3,748,091. 60 Euros.

⁵⁸ About 804,364.50 Euros.

⁵⁹ About 188,362.30 Euros.

⁶⁰ About 115,960.76 Euros.

⁶¹ About 2,639,404.03 Euros.

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C: Introduction of the Single Student Number

294- In order to ensure the security and traceability of the student's path and fight against fraud encountered in the movement of students, a single student number system was set up for Form I students.

§2: Overview of Official Examinations Results

295- The syllabus for the 2023-2024 academic year were covered and resulted in good results at the various *baccalauréats* and *probatoires* examinations, *Probatoire Technique et de Brevet de technicien Commercial et industriel*, the *Brevet d'Etudes du Premier Cycle (BEPC)*, *Certificats d'Aptitude Professionnelle Sciences et Technologie du Tertiaire et du CAP Industriel*, *CAPIET*⁶², *CAPIEMP*⁶³, GCE Advanced Level, GCE Ordinary Level, and at the Technical Vocational Education Examinations Intermediate Level.

A: Summary of Results at the different Baccalauréat Levels

296- Baccalauréat Général Scientifique:

Registered: 64,472;

Sat: 63,980;

Passed: 39,569 (including 19,855 girls and 19,714 boys).

297- Baccalauréat Littéraire:

Registered: 69,394;

Sat: 68,935;

Passed: 10,014 (including 6,495 girls and 3,519 boys).

298- Baccalauréats Techniques, Brevets de Technicien et Brevet Professionnel Industriel:

Registered: 25,476;

Sat: 25,322;

Passed: 18,649 (including 5,497 girls and 13,152 boys).

299- Baccalauréats Techniques et Brevets de Technicien Professionnel Commercial:

⁶² Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle d'Instituteurs de l'Enseignement Technique.

⁶³ Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle d'Instituteurs de l'Enseignement Maternel et Primaire.

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Registered: 14,010;
Sat: 13,937;
Passed: 11,088 (including 8,329 girls and 2,759 boys).

B: Results of *Probatoires de l'Enseignement Général*

300- *Probatoire de l'Enseignement Général Scientifique:*

Registered: 70,436;
Sat: 69,675;
Passed: 31,544 (including 16,108 girls and 15,436 boys).

301- *Probatoire de l'Enseignement Général Littéraire:*

Registered: 103,824;
Sat: 102,224;
Passed: 40,622 (including 23,830 girls and 16,792 boys).

C: Results of *Probatoire Technique* and *Brevet de Technicien Commercial et Industriel*

302- *Probatoire Technique* and *Brevet de Technicien Commercial:*

Registered: 15,903;
Sat: 15,748;
Passed: 9,583 (including 7,290 girls and 2,293 boys).

303- *Probatoire Technique* and *Brevet de Technicien Industriel:*

Registered: 48,697;
Sat: 48,107;
Passed: 22,376 (including 6,913 girls and 15,463 boys).

D: Results of *Brevet d'Etudes du Premier Cycle*

304- *BEPC ordinaire:*

Registered: 199,623;
Sat: 197,370;
Passed: 116,851 (including 60,301 girls and 56,550 boys).

305- *BEPC bilingue:*

Registered: 2,918;
Sat: 2,904;

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Passed: 2,204 (including 1,348 girls and 856 boys).

E: Results of *Certificats d’Aptitude Professionnelle (CAP) Sciences et Technologie du Tertiaire* and *CAP Industriel*

306- CAP en Sciences et Technologie du Tertiaire (STT):

Registered: 14,524;

Sat: 14,368;

Passed: 9,008 (including 7,724 girls and 1,284 boys).

307- CAP Industriel:

Registered: 40,447;

Sat: 39,930;

Passed: 33,820 (including 7,751 girls and 26,069 boys).

F: Results of *CAPIET* and *CAPIEMP*

308- CAPIET:

Registered: 1,754;

Sat: 1,743;

Passed: 1,707 (including 1,134 girls and 573 boys).

309- CAPIEMP:

Registered: 8,582;

Sat: 8,468;

Passed: 8,294 (including 6,439 girls and 1,855 boys).

G: Results of GCE Advanced Level

310- GCE Advanced Level General:

Registered: 69,317;

Sat: 68,645;

Passed: 42,054 (including 25,816 girls and 16,238 boys).

311- GCE Advanced Level Technical:

Registered: 10,132;

Sat: 10,049;

Passed: 6,270 (including 3,049 girls and 3,221 boys).

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H: Results of GCE Ordinary Level General

312- GCE Ordinary Level General:

Registered: 87,839;

Sat: 87,222;

Passed: 54,527 (including 32,790 girls and 21,737 boys).

I: Technical Vocational Education Examinations Intermediate Level

313- Technical Vocational Education Examinations Intermediate level:

Registered: 17,074;

Sat: 16,974;

Passed: 8,378 (including 3,743 girls and 4,635 boys).

SECTION 3: EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

314- Access to education at the higher education level was guaranteed and scientific research allowances were increased. In addition, training abroad was evaluated.

§1: Access to Education at the Higher Education Level

315- In 2024, the total number of students stood at 440,886, including 208,849 girls and 232,037 boys. This number was distributed among the 11 State universities (269,278, or 122,305 girls and 146,973 boys), institutions with special and transnational status (6,635 or 1,991 girls and 4,644 boys) and the 520 approved private higher education institutes in Cameroon in 2024 (164,973 or 84,553 girls and 80,420 boys).

316- Moreover, 96 students benefited from the Work study programme and 90 students also benefited from scholarships in several countries.

317- The number of permanent teaching staff estimated at 6,245 was made up of 712 Professors, 1,367 Associate Professors, 2,616 Lecturers and 103 temporary teaching and research assistants. As part of special recruitment, 150 teachers (113 men and 37 women) were recruited into the universities of Garoua, Maroua and Ebolowa.

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318- At the end of national examinations, 11,844 passed the *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur*, 764 passed the Higher National Diploma (*Diplôme National supérieur*) and 1,980 passed the *Diplôme universitaire de technologie* (University Diploma of Technology).

§2: Increases of Scientific Research Allowances

319- The allowances allocated to research staff of public research institutes were increased by Decree No. 2024/478 of 29 October 2024. These allowances payable monthly consist of the research allowances⁶⁴ and the technical allowances⁶⁵.

§3: Evaluation of Training provided Abroad

320- At the end of the 114th and 115th ordinary sessions of the National Commission on the Evaluation of Training Domains Offered Abroad, held on 27 November 2024, in Yaounde, 1,838 equivalences were granted out of 1,894 diploma equivalence applications from abroad. The fake diplomas detected were 19 in number. Moreover, 17 files were rejected due to non-approved online training, unauthorised delocalised training and non-compliance of previous certificate.

SECTION 4: Initiatives to Combat Violence in Schools

321- The campaign to prevent violence and hate speech in schools and universities, under the theme *Intensification of the fight against violence and promotion of good behaviour practices, a guarantee of academic success*, was launched in Bafoussam on 16 October 2024. It was an initiative of the National Civic Service Agency for Participation in Development, aimed at raising awareness of local operational technical teams in schools in the West Region.

⁶⁴ Research Supervisor: CFAF140,000 (About 213.74 Euros); Senior Researcher: CFAF130,000 (About 198.47 Euros); Research Fellow/officer: CFAF110,000 (About 167.94 Euros); Research Associate: CFAF90,000 (About 137.40 Euros).

⁶⁵ Research Supervisor: CFAF50,000 (About 76.33 Euros); Senior Researcher: CFAF40,000 (About 61.07 Euros); Research Fellow/officer: CFAF40,000; Research Associate: CFAF30,000 (About 45.8 Euros).

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322- Furthermore, the Ministry of Basic Education organised, a workshop on combating violence in schools, from 25 to 29 November 2024 in Mbankomo. The objective was to finalise the Strategy Document against Violence in Schools, capable of offering concrete and effective responses to this scourge.

SECTION 5: COMBATING TEACHER ABSENTEEISM

323- Based on radio announcements No. 18/24/MINESEC/SG/DRH of 29 February 2024 and No. 84/24/MINESEC/SG/DRH of 4 November 2024, some 2,128 and 1,509 teachers were respectively exhorted to report to the Ministry of Secondary Education (Door No. 507 bis) within 2 weeks of the publication of these announcements, with their job mapping sheet duly signed by their respective bosses, a recent attestation of effective presence and any other supporting documents of their administrative position, otherwise, disciplinary measures will be taken against them. Following these announcements, the teachers' data base was cleaned up at 95% and the salary of some 2,317 teachers was suspended.

324- In the higher education sector, by Radio Announcement No. 24/2532/UD/VRCIE/SG/DAAC/DA/DEPE of 21 October 2024, the Rector of the University of Douala requested 80 teachers absent from duty during the last census, to report to duty within a period of 15 days from the date of the said Announcement, failing which they were to be deemed unduly absent from duty.

325- In addition, Circular No. 24/00006/MINESUP/SG/IGS/DDES/DAJ of 24 October 2024 relating to the obligation of effective presence and attendance of higher education staff was signed. The Circular reminds teachers of the obligation to serve and devote themselves to service in accordance with the legal instruments in force.

SECTION 6: INSTITUTIONAL REORGANISATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL BOOK POLICY

326- The National Commission in charge of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the national policy on text books and other didactic materials was reorganised by Decree No. 2024/7858 of 31 December

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2024 with innovations consisting of: the new chair of the Commission being the Secretary-General of the Prime Minister's Office and the reconfiguration of its members. The said Commission, which assists Government in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the national book policy, school textbooks and other didactic materials, is in charge of the following: ensure compliance with selection criteria, updating and dissemination of books, textbooks and other didactic material; monitor and evaluate operations, projects and programmes relating to the book sector, textbooks and other teaching aids; supervise the activities of the National Council for the Approval of textbooks and other didactic materials; propose any corrective measures to the malfunctions encountered in the various segments of the book, textbook and other didactic material sector; and ensure the accessibility and availability of books, textbooks and other didactic material throughout the national territory.

SECTION 7: PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION BY THE COURTS

327- The protection of this right was affirmed by competent courts. Thus, by Judgment No. 278/COR of 28 May 2024, the Court of First Instance of Dschang found **T.J.** guilty of obstruction to schooling, convicted and sentenced him to pay a fine of CFAF250,000⁶⁶ and costs assessed at CFAF41,465⁶⁷. In addition, the said Court ordered imprisonment of 12 months in default of payment of the fine and issued an imprisonment warrant against him. This conviction resulted from the complaint of **T.K.E.L.** and **D.K.C.** who, abandoned by their father **T.J.** since their early age, were experiencing difficulties in attending school.

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328- Achievements were recorded in the guarantee of the right to education and boosting research, notably through the development of infrastructure, distribution of textbooks and increase in scientific research allowances. However, challenges remain such as the abandonment of duty by teachers.

⁶⁶ About 381.68 Euros.

⁶⁷ About 63.30 Euros.



CHAPTER 2

**THE RIGHT TO
HEALTH**



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329- In 2024, the Government remained focused on establishing a high-performing and equitable healthcare system to ensure the well-being of all. This commitment was translated into proactive initiatives in enhancing the normative framework, in health promotion and disease prevention, evidenced by the integration of new vaccines into the Expanded Programme on Immunization and disease management strategies. Furthermore, efforts were sustained on maternal, adolescent and child health. System strengthening continued through investments in health facilities and human resources, alongside targeted measures to improve healthcare accessibility, notably the consolidation of the Universal Health Coverage. To guarantee the health of the population, the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE) was allocated CFAF263 072 000 000⁶⁸ (3.90%) out of a State budget of CFAF6 740 000 000 000⁶⁹ compared to CFAF265 035 000 000⁷⁰ (4.18 %) out of CFAF6 345 100 000 000⁷¹ in 2023.

SECTION 1: STRENGTHENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

330- Traditional medicine was valorised through Law No. 2024/018 of 23 December 2024 relating to the organization and practice of traditional medicine in Cameroon. According to section 2 of the Law, traditional medicine shall form an integral part of Cameroon's healthcare system and shall contribute to universal access to quality care and services.

331- As per section 3, the Law applies to whoever is recognised by his or her community as well as by competent authorities as qualified to diagnose prevailing illness and disabilities; and provide healthcare or maintain well-being through spiritual treatments, manual techniques and exercises and/or use of plant, animal and mineral substances proven safe for humans or the environment.

332- The Law further contains elements on principles of the practice of traditional medicine, the conditions of its practice, the control of traditional medicine, protection of associated traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights. It also provides for the setting up of a national order of traditional

⁶⁸ About 401, 636, 641.22 Euros.

⁶⁹ About 1, 129, 770, 992.36 Euros.

⁷⁰ About 404, 633, 587.78 Euros.

⁷¹ About 526, 870, 229 Euros.

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health practitioners as well as for administrative and criminal penalties.

SECTION 2: HEALTH PROMOTION

333- Health promotion included among others, taking into consideration community action, initiating activities aimed at improving the living environment of the population and addressing illicit or harmful substances, underscoring a commitment to holistic well-being.

§1: Community Action for Health Promotion

334- The 1st Forum on Primary Health Care (PHC) and the Institutionalisation of Community Health organised by MINSANTE in Yaounde from 18 to 21 November 2024 brought together over 1,300 participants comprising experts, political leaders, community actors and international partners. One of the main objectives of the Forum was to define sustainable strategies for improving health indicators in the areas of primary and community health care, with greater involvement of local and regional authorities as well as local communities. Topics discussed included: financing primary healthcare; empowering community health workers; combating preventable diseases through coordinated community action; and the role of traditional and religious leaders in changing health behaviours.

§2: Improving the Living Environment of the Population

335- The 1st National Sanitation and Hygiene Week was launched in Yaounde on 19 November 2024 under the theme "Sanitation and hand hygiene in Cameroon: current situation, challenges and prospects.". In prelude to the launch, activities were carried out in the context of the 17th Global Hand Washing with Soap and Water Day on 15 October 2024. Activities included, educational talks with practical demonstrations of hand-washing with soap and water techniques in primary and secondary schools as well as universities, followed by sporting activities. A sports walk, a field visit to a treatment plant and a meeting of stakeholders aimed at identifying ways of improving on successes and finding solutions to challenges also took place.

336- State partners also carried out activities to improve on the living environment of the population. For instance, the Norwegian Refugee Coun-

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cil (NRC) built 30 shared household latrines in areas with high rates of open defecation in the North West and South West Regions, constructed 12 latrines and promoted hygiene practices for about 11,858 persons in the Far North Region and trained 39 hygiene promoters with a focus on water hygiene and diarrheal disease transmission, to enable them educate and inform communities in the East Region on hygiene.

337- On its part, UNICEF with its implementing partners reached 289,946 people (26% girls, 27% boys, 25% women and 23% men) with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) response.

338- Access to water (See § 499-509), and improvement on waste management (see § 565, 717-719) were also part of initiatives to improve the living environment.

§3: Combating Illicit and Harmful Substances

339- In response to concerns over drugs, MINSANTE adopted a National Strategic Plan to Fight against Drugs (2024-2030). The general objective of the strategic plan is to significantly reduce drug supply, demand and the consequences of drug use in Cameroon by 2030. It has 4 strategic axis, namely, the reduction of drug supply, reduction of drug demand, reduction of risks and harms related to drug use, and reorganisation of the institutional response.

340- Meanwhile, drugs were seized in the context of the Operation Halt Illicite Trade (HALCOMI III). By way of illustration, on 27 February 2024, 15kg of cocaine were seized; on 30 May 2024, another shipment of 24 kg of cocaine was seized; and on 4 June 2024, 8,400,000 tablets of tramadol worth FCFA 700,000,000⁷² were seized, all at the Douala International Airport. The seizure of cannabis included 1,614.8 kg on 2 July 2024 at the entrance to the town of Monatele in the Centre Region.

341- Furthermore, in the run-up to the World No Tobacco Day celebrations on 31 May 2024 under the theme, Protecting children from tobacco industry abuse, MINSANTE through its Sub Department of Mental Health organised nationwide awareness-raising activities on the harmful effects of tobacco consumption, from 22 May 2024 targeting young persons.

⁷² About 1,068,702.30 Euros.

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SECTION 3: PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DISEASES

342- Interventions carried out to prevent and manage diseases were geared at reducing morbidity, mortality and fostering healthier persons. These interventions concerned both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

§1: Disease Prevention

343- Efforts were made to reduce the occurrence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as vaccine preventable diseases and their impact.

A: Communicable Diseases

344- Actions were carried out to stop the occurrence and spread of priority communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases as well as epidemic prone diseases.

1) Priority Communicable Diseases

345- Regarding **malaria**, the National Multisectoral Framework for the fight against malaria in Cameroon, 2024-2028 was adopted⁷³. It is structured around 4 pillars, namely, political commitment at the national and community level to mobilise funding and other necessary resources, the strategic use of information to make decisions and carry out programmatic actions, the choice of the best policy guidelines for the fight against malaria and the coordination of national response.

346- After receiving 331,200 doses of the RTS,S vaccine (malaria vaccine) on 21 November 2023, Cameroon on 22 January 2024, included the said vaccine into its Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). Cameroon thus became the first to include the vaccine in its routine immunization programme.

347- As concerns **HIV/AIDS**, in order to improve on the accuracy of HIV

⁷³ It is a coalition of several Ministries: Ministry of Tourism and Leisure, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Communication, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development.

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screening, the plan to transition from a two to a three-test HIV screening algorithm in Cameroon was launched in Yaounde on 9 July 2024. This algorithm requires any new HIV-positive person to undergo three consecutive reactive tests in health facilities and community organisations. To ensure a smooth transition, a technical working group was set up by Decision No. 1403 of 19 March 2024 of MINSANTE.

348- Between 1 November and 1 December 2024 which included the 36th World AIDS Day, awareness campaigns reached 2,902,084 persons consisting of 1,363,884 females (47%) and 1,538,200 males (53%). A total of 24,027,837 male condoms and 349,506 female condoms were distributed, in spite of persistent stock-outs.

349- As concerns screening, 1,996,138 persons were tested for HIV in health facilities, including 46,025 positive cases, representing a seropositivity rate of 2.3%. Regarding safe blood transfusion, 166,761 blood donors were tested, revealing 1,530 cases of HIV.

350- As regards **hepatitis**, on the occasion of the celebration of World Hepatitis Day, the Minister of Public Health declared on 29 June 2024 that in order to prevent the disease, the hepatitis B vaccine shall be administered to newborns and to infected pregnant women so that it acts as a prophylaxis to prevent transmission to the newborn. The administration of the free vaccine was to be commenced in 2025.

351- Of the 168,219 blood donors tested for hepatitis B, 5,464 were positive, representing a seropositivity rate of 3.2%, down from 4.4% in 2023.

2) Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

352- Between 1 April and 30 July 2024, a national mass campaign against onchocerciasis was organised. The campaign comprised of the distribution of Mectizan by 28,000 community distributors to persons above 5 years old targeting 8,000,000 persons.

353- Also, deworming campaigns were conducted by the National Programme for the Control of Schistosomiasis and Intestinal Helminthiasis, during which children between 5 and 14 in schools and the community were

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administered Mebendazole and/or Praziquantel. The aim of the 2024 campaign was to treat 5,500,000 children of intestinal worms and to treat 3,300,000 for Schistosomiasis⁷⁴.

B : Non-Communicable Diseases

354- Interventions concerned among others, cancer, mental health and yellow fever.

1) Cancer

355- By way of preventive cancer care, awareness of the public was raised and free screenings of breast and cervix cancer were carried out in health facilities including the following: Laquintinie Hospital in Douala from 14 to 18 October 2024; Gynecological Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproductive Teaching Hospital (CHRACERH) in Yaounde during which over 300 women were screened in October 2024; and the Regional Military Hospital in Garoua in October 2024 during which 108 women were reached.

356- Also, a national free cancer screening campaign for cervical, breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers was started in January 2024 by the Cameroon Oncology Center (COC), in partnership with the Cameroon Cancer Foundation (CCF). It is in this context, for example, that from 6 to 12 June 2024, they carried out a free screening campaign in the Adamawa, North and Far North Regions.

2) Mental Health

357- MINSANTE carried out activities on mental health including campaigns against smoking through the use of shisha, alcohol and other drugs. On 28 January 2024, it launched a digital awareness campaign aimed at broadcasting messages urging people not to take drugs, and on 29 January 2024, a second awareness message urging people to call the toll free number 1510 for assistance with drug withdrawal. In the month of February 2024 alone, 2,396 calls were received through the said number from persons seeking help to stop the use of shisha, alcohol and other drugs.

⁷⁴ The campaign in the Centre region took place in May 2024 while the one in 7 Regions (Adamaoua, East, Far North, Littoral, North, West and South regions) took place from October to December 2024

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MINSANTE also organised in Yaounde, a meeting to raise awareness on measures that can be taken to improve on mental health, on the occasion of World Mental health Day celebrated on 10 October 2024.

3) Yellow Fever

358- Following 8 confirmed cases of yellow fever in the Adamawa Region, EPI organised from 10 April 2024, a massive campaign to administer 410,000 doses of yellow fever vaccine in the said Region.

C: Vaccine Preventable Diseases

359- Vaccines were administered to prevent diseases as in previous years. The table below shows the comparative situation of some vaccines between 2020 and 2024.

Table 1: Percentages for Vaccination Coverage between 2020 and 2024

Vaccine	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Penta 1	86.6	85.1	84.6	90.1	91
Penta 3	80.2	79.7	79.7	83.2	84.5
RR1	73.6	73.2	76.8	81.5	81.4

Source: MINSANTE

360- For vaccines introduced into the EPI between 2023 and 2024, coverage stood as follows in 2024: 79.9% for the second dose of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV2), 78.4% for Rota 3, 65.7% for RTS,S.

§2: Management of Diseases

361- Measures were taken to provide care for patients with transmissible and nontransmissible diseases.

A: Communicable Diseases

362- Management of communicable diseases included priority communicable diseases and epidemic prone diseases.

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4) Priority Communicable Diseases

363- Concerning **malaria**, some 2,937,790 confirmed cases were reported by health facilities and community health workers out of 10,958,500 consultations, representing a proportional morbidity of 26.8%. The annual incidence rate was 99.7 cases per 1,000 inhabitants compared to 104.7 in 2023. The East and Centre Regions had the highest incidence rates, while the North West and South West Regions had the lowest.

364- In terms of mortality, health facilities reported 2,299 confirmed malaria deaths, thus 7.8 deaths for 100 000 inhabitants.

365- According to EPP SPECTRUM⁷⁵ estimates, there were 513 000 persons living with **HIV** with 449 000 on ARVs and the viral load was suppressed in 418 000 persons. Particularly, for children aged less than 15, out of the 18 042 targeted, 12 537(69,5%) were identified among whom 11 131 (88,8%) out of the 12 537 targeted for treatment were put on ARVs.

5) Epidemic Prone Diseases

366- Response actions to some identified cases of cholera included Case-area Targeted Interventions (CATI) in the Soa Health District, Centre Region, conducting the After Action Review (AAR) of the cholera response, carrying out in-depth investigations of confirmed cases and formative supervision of cholera laboratories in the Centre, Littoral, South, South West, West, East, North and Far North Regions.

367- As for **meningitis**, 820 suspected cases were recorded, including 16 deaths, with a case-fatality rate of 2%.

368- In 2024, 28 Health Districts experienced a **measles** epidemic of 1,888 suspected cases, 854 (45.23%) cases were confirmed.

B: Non-Communicable Diseases

369- As concerns **kidney diseases**, there were 124 kidney transplants in

⁷⁵ Spectrum and Estimation and Projection Package (EPP) programmes are used to estimate key HIV indicators based on HIV surveillance and surveys.

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2024, representing 3% of patients. There were 1 026 new dialysis cases, bringing the total number of persons on dialysis to 4,306 of whom 410 died (10%). The prevalence rate stood at 15 per 100,000 inhabitants. Each region of the country had at least one dialysis centre.

370- As concerns **mental health**, between January and June 2024, the most prevalent cases of mental disorders were: psychosis (42.81%), depression (20.17%), and drug use (11.89%). Between July and December 2024, the percentages dropped as follows: psychosis (32.6%), depression (15.6%) and drug use (7.38%). Some 420 drug users were admitted into Addiction Care, Support, and Prevention Centre with men outnumbering women by almost 17 to one. Young people aged 15 to 34 accounted for 77.86% of these admissions. Moreover, between July and December 2024, some 126 new wandering mentally ill persons including 113 recovered from the streets were received at the *Village d'Amour* at the Jamot Hospital for treatment and 57 of whom were reintegrated into society. With regard to care of mentality ill persons in the community, 197 families in the Mfoundi Division consented to the provision of care to their mentally ill relatives at home by volunteers.

371- Knee joint replacement surgery began to be performed on 17 June 2024 at the Yaounde General Hospital. Also, the Douala General Hospital organised an orthopaedic surgery campaign from 12 to 17 August 2024 during which 21 patients suffering from gonarthrosis, a degenerative knee disease, were operated upon.

372- With regards to reported cases of **cancer**⁷⁶, suspected cases of breast cancer were 3,221 with 848 confirmed of which treatment was provided for 544; 2,946 suspected cases of cancer of the cervix with 657 confirmed cases, of which treatment was provided for 501; 1,351 suspected cases of prostate cancer with 657 cases confirmed, of which treatment was provided for 673.

373- There were 752 new cases of **sickle cell anaemia** compared to 955 in 2023, bringing the total to 3,770, with 173 deaths. The 1019 new cases of epilepsy brought the total to 5,578 with 242 deaths. As regards, **snake bites**, out of the 7,466 cases 406 persons died. Out of the 9 persons infected with rabies, 4 died.

⁷⁶ Note should be taken that information is not sufficiently reported by all regions of the country in the District health Information Software (DHIS2).

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SECTION 4: REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT AND CHILD HEALTH

374- Comprehensive reproductive healthcare, encompassing family planning were provided while the health of mothers, adolescents, and children was addressed, ensuring their well-being through targeted interventions.

§1: Reproductive Health

375- Out of the 722,625 persons targeted, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its local partners provided a range of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services to 346, 945, with 257,202 of them women and girls (74%). SRH services reached 150,182 persons while GBV services reached 196,763 persons. Activities carried out included awareness-raising, distribution of dignity and menstrual hygiene kits. Mobile clinics were also deployed, providing obstetric care and managing obstetric emergencies.

376- As of 27 December 2024, there had been 503 in-vitro births at CHRACERH since 2016 when it went operational compared to 400 by December 2023.

§2: Maternal Health

377- Following the launch of the universal health Care (UHC) in April 2023, by December 2024, 10,194 caesareans had been covered up to 95%.

378- Out of 1 088 041 women expected for ante-natal clinic, only 69.7% of them were received for the said clinic and in the delivery room, revealing a deficit on access to maternal health services and follow up. Of this number, only 677 159 (89.3%) were tested for HIV.

379- As part of its efforts to improve the quality of maternal and child health care, the Government, in partnership with UNFPA⁷⁷, acquired medical and

⁷⁷ The purchase is part of the Project for the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission and the Management of HIV in Children and Adolescents in Cameroon (PETVISIDAME), which aims to strengthen the training of midwives and state-registered nurses, in order to improve care practices in health facilities and community settings.

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teaching equipment for over CFAF500,000,000⁷⁸ for 25 training schools for Midwives and State Registered Nurses. The equipment included computers designed to improve learning conditions and facilitate access to digital resources as well as specialised ones such as complete gynaecological tables, and baby dressing tables for practical demonstrations. This equipment was aimed at enabling students to train in conditions that simulate the reality of care, helping to improve their practical skills and ability to manage cases.

380- Moreover, UNFPA in collaboration with MINSANTE organised at the Regional Annex Hospital in Mokolo from 30 October to 19 November 2024, a campaign for free surgical treatment of women suffering from obstetric fistula. This resulted in 40 women benefiting from the surgery.

§3: Adolescent Health

381- The 22nd edition of the AIDS Free Holidays campaign was launched on 31 July 2024 in Yaounde and lasted for one month. Some 700 peer educators deployed to the field carried out sensitisation on the adoption of responsible behaviour in the face of AIDS, STDs and drugs, as well as encouraged voluntary screening for HIV and hepatitis B and C. During the campaign, some 3,089,236 persons were reached.

382- In view of challenges linked to menstrual hygiene management, the Government and UNICEF, organised a town hall forum for the media on 22 October 2024 to discuss menstrual hygiene management in order to enhance communication and access to related products. Participants at the forum proposed that communication on menstrual hygiene can be improved by working with community radio stations and Cameroon Radio Television regional stations during national language programmes.

383- Also, the first congress of the Cameroonian Society of Adolescent Health took place in Yaounde on 14 and 15 May 2024 under the theme "Adolescents and Globalization : Health Challenges in Resource Limited Setting". The objective of congress was finding solutions to adolescent health challenges.

384- Additionally, in response to challenges encountered by adolescents

⁷⁸About 763,358.79 Euros.

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as concerns sexual and reproductive health, on 26 June 2024, the Cameroon Baptist Convention launched the manual, *Breaking the Silence on Sexual and Reproductive Health* which contains information on tackling challenges that adolescents face.

385- Furthermore, on 22 and 23 February 2024 in Ebolowa, Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare (CAMNAFAW) organised a meeting for traditional, religious and community leaders on comprehensive sexual education for girls at puberty and respect for the reproductive health rights of adolescents and young people. Moreover, from 16 to 18 January 2024, CAMNAFAW in collaboration with the Bonassama, Nylon and Nkongsamba District Hospitals, trained 100 friendly service providers in the Littoral Region. Some 100 providers were also trained in Ebolowa on 16 January 2024. One of the objectives of the trainings was to raise collective awareness that could lead to behaviour change in adolescents.

§4: Child Health

386- Preventing and treating childhood diseases was ensured in 2024.

A- Prevention of Diseases in Children

387- As concerns combatting malnutrition, in addition to actions by the State, its partners including UNICEF and its own partners screened over 116,000 children aged 6 to 59 months for malnutrition and provided nearly 55,000 children aged 6 to 23 months with micronutrient powders to enrich the nutrient content of their meals. They also provided counselling and support on the use of local foods for appropriate dietary diversification, reaching 149,000 mothers and caregivers.

388- For the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, 90.7% of women who tested positive during ante-natal clinic were put on ARVs. Of the 9,889 children exposed to HIV at birth and targeted for the PCR test, 8,615 (87.1%) underwent the test while 9,346 (94.5%) received prophylaxis treatment. PMTCT services were offered in 71.9% health facilities. .

389- Children also received various free vaccines including 5,044,347 who were vaccinated against polio under the UHC between April 2023 and December 2024. Concerning the malaria vaccine specifically, as at 31 December 2024, some 366,000 doses had been administered to children.

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390- Moreover, the first round of the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Action Week (SASNIM) took place in May 2024 during which children were given vitamin A and drugs against worms, and the community was educated on adequate water, hygiene and sanitation practices. During the second round that held from 6 to 8 December 2024, more than one million children aged 6 to 59 months were targeted for vitamin A supplementation and those from 12 to 59 months, for mebendazol and pregnant women were to receive for intermittent treatment for malaria.

391- On 10 October 2024, 20 health professionals offered free eye consultation in Yaounde on the occasion of the celebration of World Sight Day. The National Programme for blindness control had before then, in the same context, organised free eye screening campaigns including that at the Central Government Primary School Yaounde where 200 children were screened.

392- From 30 September to 4 October 2024, *Association de lutte contre la déficience auditive au Cameroun* organised a health campaign at the Bafoussam Regional Hospital Centre to screen for hearing impairments of children aged between 5 and 15 and donated hearing aids. On average, 100 children were consulted each day and 25 hearing aids fitted.

393- To mark the Day of the African Child, the Douala General Hospital initiated a one week long health campaign, during which awareness was raised on nutrition for babies' first 1,000 days, sickle cell disease and diabetes. On the occasion, a free sickle cell screening for persons aged between 5 and 25 was also carried out.

B : Treatment of Diseases in Children

394- Some 33 cases of neo natal tetanus were investigated including 17 deaths in all regions except the Adamawa and North West Regions.

395- A total of 85,233 children received life-saving Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment in the Far North, North, Adamawa, East, North West and South West Regions thanks to UNICEF which also provided 113,631 children, adolescents and caregivers with community-based mental health and psychosocial support.

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SECTION 5: STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH SYSTEM

396- Efforts to strengthen the health system through targeted measures aimed at enhancing healthcare infrastructure, human resources, and equipment as well as rendering services more accessible to the public were pursued.

§1: Healthcare Facilities, Equipment and Human Resources

397- Healthcare infrastructure and human capital were strengthened.

A: Availability of Healthcare Facilities and Equipment.

398- From Statics of the *Recensement Général des Formations Sanitaires* (General Census of Healthcare Facilities) (RGFOSA) du Cameroun 2024 (General Census of Health Facilities of Cameroon 2024), there were 6,973 functional health facilities including 2,955 public facilities (42.4%), 3,320 lay private facilities (47.6%) and 698 private mission denominational (10%) in 2024. Of all health facilities, 45% were found in rural areas and of all public facilities, 80% were found in rural areas.

399- As for equipment, RGFOSA results showed that in facilities of the 4th category, the most frequent equipment were oxygen concentrators (70.0%); ultrasound machines (61.9%); incubators (59.7%); X-ray machines (29.9%), dental chairs (38.8%) and ambulances (34.3%). Regarding facilities of the 3rd category, none of them had a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine and none of the 2nd category had a dialysis unit.

400- As part of the drive to strengthen the supply chain for Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI), 14 Land Cruiser refrigerated pick-ups with a volume of 5 cubic metres, 227 Yamaha AG 100 motorbikes, a dry transport truck and 6 latest-generation cold rooms were acquired in July 2024.

401- Also, in March 2024, 23 Land Cruiser vehicles were acquired for the National Blood Transfusion Centre, as part of the Project to Strengthen the National Blood Transfusion System (PRESYNATS).

B: Human Resources

402- The number of health staff for some specific categories in the public

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sector in 2024 was as follows: 306 Dental Surgeons (175 females and 131 males); 12,741 Nurses (7,590 females and 5,151 males); 1,172 specialist doctors (551 Females, 621 males); 2,792 Doctors-general practitioners (1,326 females and 1,466 males); 902 midwives (779 females and 123 males); 2,415 Medico sanitary technicians (1,557 females and 858 males).

§2: Accessibility to Healthcare

403- After going operational in 2023, the UHC which is meant to reduce cost of accessing health gathered velocity in 2024. Reducing health cost also involved taking other measures.

A: Consolidation of the Universal Health Coverage

404- Following the launch of the UHC in Bertoua on 12 April 2023, by December 2024, the following results had been recorded: 3,524,687 persons enrolled in the programme; 5,044,347 children vaccinated against polio; 1,080,424 free paediatric consultations carried out; and 10,194 caesarean sections covered up to 95%.

405- On 5 December 2024, an e-learning platform to train medical workers on aspects of the Universal Health Coverage was launched. The platform can be accessed on <https://e-learningqualite.minsante.cm/>.

B: Additional Measures to improve on Access to Healthcare

406- From 1 to 6 July 2024, the Mbandjock District Hospital hosted a campaign of free medical consultations. As for other services such as surgeries and provision of medicines, cost was reduced. In total, 60 persons benefited from this campaign. Also, in July 2024, the Magrabi Ico Cameroun Eye Institute, carried out free eye screening for some 400 persons, some of whom underwent surgery.

407- In the context of the celebration of the World Heart Day, the Douala General Hospital organised 2 days of free screening for heart diseases on 25 and 26 September 2024. Moreover, within the framework of the diabetes week, the Douala Gynaeco-Obstetric and Paediatric Hospital on 11 and 12 November 2024 organised free consultations and screening for cardiovascular diseases for diabetic patients as well as the free consulta-

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tion of a nutritionist. The Biyem-Assi District Hospital in Yaounde, launched a screening campaign to detect non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity and prostate cancer from 13 to 15 November 2024, aimed at raising awareness on the risks associated with these diseases and to promote preventive measures.

408- The Chinese Navy hospital Ship, Peace Ark was on a humanitarian mission in Douala from 7 to 14 October 2024. During this time, 106 doctors and health personnel administered care to 6,812 patients (many of them vulnerable persons) including 126 surgeries.

409- With regard to the availability and accessibility of medicines, Decree No. 2024/135 of 25 April 2024 to reorganize the National Supply Centre for Essential Drugs and Consumables (CENAME) was signed, aimed at rendering CENAME more efficient in ensuring the availability and accessibility of essential medicines and consumables at the best value for money throughout the country.

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410- One of the highlights of 2024 as regards the right to health was the valorisation of traditional medicine through Law No. 2024/018 of 23 December 2024 relating to the organization and practice of traditional medicine in Cameroon which makes traditional medicine an integral part of Cameroon's healthcare system. In response to increasing concerns over drug consumption a National Strategic Plan to Fight against Drugs was adopted.

411- Furthermore, in terms of disease prevention, the year was marked by continuous awareness campaigns and impressive national vaccination coverage. Equally promising, was progress made in the implementation of the UHC.

412- With regard to challenges, the budget allocated to MINSANTE dropped in 2024 and Stock outs were recorded for some inputs including those for the prevention of HIV.

CHAPTER 3

**RIGHT TO ADE-
QUATE STANDARD
OF LIVING**



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413- In order to ensure the sound development of persons under its jurisdiction, the State of Cameroon continued to take political, institutional, normative and operational measures to guarantee the enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living. These measures focused on specific aspects related to food, housing and water and energy.

SECTION 1: RIGHT TO FOOD

414- The budget allocated to Government departments responsible for conducting Government policy in the agricultural, animal and fisheries sectors, namely the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) increased from CFAF168,342,000,000⁷⁹ to CFAF171,692,891,000⁸⁰. These resources supported general measures and measures on food availability, accessibility and acceptability.

§1: General Measures

415- The aim of the general measures was not only to consolidate the normative, institutional and strategic framework and reduce abject poverty and food insecurity, but also to pursue the implementation of the import-substitution policy.

A- Consolidation of the Strategic and Normative Framework

416- At the strategic level, one of the highlights was the adoption at the beginning of 2024 of the Integrated Import Substitution Plan mentioned below (§424).

417- At the normative level, Law No. 2024/19 of 23 December 2024 to lay down the rules and regulations governing fisheries and aquaculture in Cameroon was enacted. The law focuses on the preservation and conservation of the purity and genetic quality of aquaculture species, the adoption of management measures to facilitate the installation of stakeholders in compliance with the rules of environmental protection, the control of production activities for aquaculture species in accordance with biodiversity,

⁷⁹ About 257,010,687.02 Euros.

⁸⁰ About 262,126,551.14 Euros.

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biosafety and animal, plant and food health standards. There is also Order No. 182/MINADER/CAB of 12 November 2024 to lay down the Terms of Reference specifying the conditions and technical procedures for exercising some powers transferred by the State to councils on the promotion of agricultural production activities and rural development.

418- At the institutional level, in October 2024 in Hamburg, Cameroon and the Central African Forest Initiative signed a Letter of Intent for Sustainable Agriculture, marking the launch of the partnership to jointly pool USD2,500,000,000⁸¹ by 2035, to ensure the transition of Cameroon towards green economic growth. Cameroon is called upon during the pilot phase of this initiative to implement 5 major operational projects aimed at consolidating agricultural value chains and building the capacities of local development stakeholders, supporting more than 300,000 producers in the cocoa and coffee value chains, etc. Among these projects, there is the Support Project for Quality Management in the production of Cocoa and Coffee.

B: Abject Poverty and Food Insecurity Reduction

419- The State of Cameroon carried out projects aimed at mitigating financial uncertainties, encouraging small productive investments, including in the agricultural sector, and facilitating spending on food, education and health. This is the case of the Adaptive Social Safety Nets and Economic Inclusion Project (PFS-AIE) which aims to provide cash transfers to 356,000 beneficiary families. In 2024, the PFS-AIE focused, as shown in the table below, on continuous cash transfer payments to already targeted beneficiary households and targeting new beneficiaries.

⁸¹ About 1,446,834,250,000 Euros.

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Table No: 1: Payment of Cash Transfers to Beneficiary Households in 2024

Pro-gramme	Beneficiary House-holds			Amounts transferred to beneficiaries in FCFA ⁸²		
	STATE	BM	Total	State	BM	Total
OCT	14,000	22,000	36,000	1,080,000,000	3,320,000,000	4,400,000,000
ECT	0	12,500	12,500		1,875,000,000	1,875,000,000
LIW	0	10,000	10,000		900,000,000	900,000,000
Total	14,000	44,500	58,500	1,080,000,000	6,095,000,000	7,175,000,000

Source: MINEPAT

Key: WB: World Bank; OCT: Ordinary cash transfers; ECT: Emergency cash transfers; LIW: Labour-intensive work.

420- It is worthy of note that the Food Security Support Project in Rural Areas of Cameroon was allocated CFAF3,700,000,000⁸³ to sustain food security and inclusive growth. The geographical area of this project comprises 5 production basins (Bénoue, Lekie, Mayo-Kani, Mungo and Mifi) extended to the additional production basin of Fako.

421- In the same vein, the Project for the Recovery and Development of the Lake Chad Region (PROLAC) which is executed in the 10 Councils of the Logone-and-Chari Division, produced outstanding results, including the completion of rehabilitation works on 2 wharves at Ivié and Zimado; construction of 2 hangars in Arainaba and 3 warehouses in Zina, Hilé Alifa and Fotokol; ongoing construction of the Waza and Blangoua warehouses with respective execution rates of 90% and 95%; supply of 167.5 tonnes of fertilizer to 1,428 producer organisations with 44,612 members including 18,077 women; distribution of 70 wooden canoes and 2 glass-shell canoes with 40 HP motor to 29,017 members of producer organisations; development of a fish farming area using the high-intensity labour method in Kala Kafra, for which the completion rate stood at 50.4%; development of 3 irrigated areas in Goulfey, Logone Birni and Makary councils; and the acquisition and distribution of 200 improved Kenyan hives to beekeepers in Kalamaoué Park. At the end of 2024, the physical and financial execution rate of PROLAC stood at 83%.

⁸² CFAF1,000,000 equal to 1,524.49 Euros.

⁸³ About 5,648,854.97 Euros.

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422- As part of the strategic monitoring of food security indicators from October to December 2024, some 10.82% of people on Cameroonian territory experienced acute food and nutritional insecurity.

C: Implementation of the Import-Substitution Policy

423- To support local production, the 2024 finance law allocated a budget of more than CFAF127,500,000,000⁸⁴ which is an increase of 10% compared to 2023, and provided for tax-customs measures (§ 690).

424- In a bid to serve as a catalytic tool to support the implementation of this policy, a 2024-2026 three year Integrated Plan for Agricultural and Fishery Import-Substitution (PIISAH) was adopted. This Plan that is intended generally to reduce the trade balance deficit, the cost of which is estimated at CFAF54,674,700,000⁸⁵ aims to: facilitate the development of private sector actions in the agro-pastoral area on secure and equipped areas; increase production and availability of local consumer products; and establish an environment conducive to the development of agro-pastoral activities. As part of the achievements of PIISAH in 2024, some 200,000 hectares of land were secured in the "Central Plain", including 3,000 hectares already managed by a private operator, 452 tonnes of seeds produced by the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) for priority foodstuffs (wheat, rice, maize, millet, sorghum, soya, palm oil, etc.), 12,800 tonnes of local flour produced, CFAF750,000,000⁸⁶ granted for the purchase of paddy rice, and CFAF700,000,000⁸⁷ allocated to support palm oil production.

425- As part of promotion of *Made in Cameroon* products, a team from the Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE) carried out raids in supermarkets in Yaounde and its surroundings from 25 to 29 March 2024, to assess the availability and representativeness of local products on the shelves. This team reiterated to the managers of these shops the need to increase the availability and visibility of *Made in Cameroon* products on its shelves, that is, at least 30%. Furthermore, 112 categories of products belonging to 12

⁸⁴ About 194,656,488.54 Euros.

⁸⁵ About 83,472,824.42 Euros.

⁸⁶ About 1,145,038.16 Euros.

⁸⁷ About 1,068,702.30 Euros.

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promoters of *Made in Cameroon* were posted on the Government digital public platform for the promotion of local products (www.ecommerce.gov.com). Besides, a *Made in Cameroon* showcase was put up in Maroua, and during the Ya-Fe Trade Fair in Yaounde which ended on 1 January 2024, a "Made in Cameroon Village" enabled the exhibition of food products from local specialised companies.

§2: Measures on Availability of Foodstuffs

426- Production was positively impacted by measures taken in the development of factors of production.

A: Development of Factors of Production

427- Research and training activities as well as different forms of support structured the development of factors of production.

1) Research and Training

428- By Joint Decree No. 3964/MINFOPRA/MINRESI of 16 July 2024, MINRESI facilitated the recruitment of 102 researchers for the 2024 financial year.

429- IRAD set out to develop (in collaboration with Pennsylvania State University) an intelligent application for epidemiological surveillance and quality seeds by developing biopesticides and biofertilizers. In addition to the agro-morphological characterisation, IRAD also characterised soils to facilitate the choice of crops and proceeded with the physico-chemical and technological analysis of wheat varieties and local flour. Further to the maintenance of 606 banana accessions, this research institute evaluated the impact of climate change on cocoa and coffee cultivation in order to implement adaptation strategies.

430- As part of the MINEPIA training programmes, 782 secured certificates of achievement were issued to the winners from the Jakiri, Maroua and Fouban National Zootechnical Veterinary Training Centres (449 men and 333 women); 264 young farmers and master fishermen and fisherwomen were trained (162 men and 49 women); 39 candidates for vocational training in fishing were recruited by the Limbe Nautical Arts and

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Fisheries Institute (LINAFLI); 10 executives of the Société de Développement and Exploitation of Livestock Production Company (SODEPA) were trained in cattle feeder techniques by the Livestock and Fish Value Chains Development Project (PDCVEP); and reference systems for the professions of artificial inseminators and butchers were also developed.

431- Furthermore, in the monitoring of electronic commerce, the firm *Rencontre des Entrepreneurs* (Meeting of Entrepreneurs), a digital marketing consultant based in Senegal, selected by the Commonwealth Secretariat General, trained 30 women on e-commerce and digital marketing from 21 to 24 May 2024 in Douala.

2) Multifaceted Support

432- On its own funds or with the financial assistance of partners, the State, through the framework made up of MINADER, MINEPIA, MINRESI and the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), as well as organisations under their supervision, pursued or initiated programmes, plans and projects, accompanied by various forms of support, in the agricultural, livestock, fisheries and animal industries sectors.

a) Support in the Agricultural Sector

433- To boost the production and productivity of agricultural sectors, 13,260 kg of basic rainfed and irrigated rice seeds were inspected and labelled, 559,875 kg of certified rice seeds were produced, 4 production plots of rice base seeds were inspected and 3 rice seed cooperatives were financed by the Support for Development of Agricultural Sectors-Phase II (PADFA II). In the same vein, some CFAF13,000,000,000⁸⁸ was allocated to subsidising more than 88,000 tonnes of fertilizer and acquiring seeds in selected sectors, namely: potatoes: 792 tonnes (distributed by the Support Project for the Production of Quality Plant Material-PAPMAV-Q), rice: 720 tonnes, certified corn: 933 tonnes, basic corn: 433 tonnes, soybeans: 100 tonnes, sorghum/millet: 630 tonnes, market gardening: 4 tonnes, wheat: 100 tonnes, palm oil: 285,000 plants⁸⁹.

⁸⁸ About 19,847,328.24 Euros.

⁸⁹ In the same connection, by providing agricultural inputs, the Support Programme for Strengthening Agricultural Production in Cameroon (PARPAC) made it possible to secure rural employment, im-

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434- Up by 5%, maize production was underpinned by the acquisition and distribution of 443 tonnes of certified basic maize seed, 993 tonnes of certified maize seed, as well as the provision of 5,751 tonnes of fertilizers suitable for the production of maize subsidised at 30% by PARPAC. Increasing by 3%, the production of PADDY rice was facilitated by the distribution of 720 tonnes of certified seeds for more than CFAF1,300,000,000⁹⁰, the arrangements carried out by the Development and Enhancement Projects of the Logone Valley (Viva Logone) and of the Benue (Viva Benue⁹¹) on 7,500 ha, the construction of 10 warehouses and 2 drying areas by the Yagoua Rice Expansion and Modernisation Company (SEMRY), the construction of more than 20 storage stores by the Upper Noun Valley Development Authority, the combined action of PADFA II and the Project for the Development of Irrigated and Rainfed Rice (PRODERIP).

435- Concerning the Viva Logone Project, in November 2024, activities were carried out, namely: continuation of the hydrological and hydraulic study accompanied by a safety plan for the Maga dam; the start of related work under the contract with the SINHOHYDRO-STECOL consortium for the rehabilitation works of the irrigated areas of SEMRY; the organisation of poster, information and awareness-raising consortium as well as promotion of co-financing of business plans in the Project area, etc.

436- As part of the implementation of the Viva Benue Project and with regard to the "*Improvement of infrastructure and water management*"⁹² component, the following achievements were made: progress in the

prove productivity, reduce pressure on food prices and make them accessible to the most fragile classes.

⁹⁰ About 1,984,732.82 Euros.

⁹¹ The Viva Benue Project had an overall physical execution rate of 25% and a financial execution rate of 25%, while the Viva Logone Project had a physical execution rate of 27% and a financial execution rate of 24.2%.

⁹² In connection with the *Support services for agricultural production* component, there are: the effectiveness of technical assistance for the management of business plans⁹², the establishment of Rural Economy Management Centres in Garoua and Lagdo as well as the membership of 388 organisations. Concerning the "*Institutional support and implementation*" component, there are: the construction of the building of the Technical Innovation Centre; the conclusion of partnerships with the Lagdo Professional Technical High School and the Garoua Technical School of Agriculture, followed by a call for applications for the selection of 500 youths wishing to train in the areas of hydro-agricultural schemes, irrigated production and fish farming; the signing of a partnership agreement with the University of Maroua, followed by a call for applications for the selection of 35 scholarship holders wishing to benefit from higher-level agricultural training for the 2024/2025 academic year.

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hydro-agricultural works on the 2 banks of the River Benue with notably the stripping of 109 km of access tracks or the cleaning of 21.63 km of canals and drains; the signing of a collaboration agreement between the Study Mission for the Planning and Development of the North Region and the Niger Basin Authority with a view to establishing an early warning system and sharing hydrometeorological data; the implementation of technical assistance to support the transfer of management of irrigated areas to farmers, encourage access of farmers to some agricultural services through electronic vouchers and promote the establishment of a technological innovation centre⁹³. With regard to the safeguarding plan, there was the effective implementation of the complaints management mechanism. A total of 341 complaints filed were processed, out of which 277 were declared unfounded and 64 complaints were well-founded. Among the well-founded complaints, 56 were resolved and 8 were still processed, representing a resolution rate of 88%.

437- Furthermore, with the aim of increasing the income and resilience of family farms in the Far North, North, North West, and West Regions, PADFA II presented, in November 2024, the following results: 4,299 new farmers affected, including 39,54% of women and 30.33% of youths (that is, 10,505 people already affected out of 216,642 targeted), 13,875 kg of basic rice seed, 10,400 kg of onion mother-bulbs and 229,548 kg of certified rice seeds produced, 12,000 kg of certified onion mother-bulbs, 245 kg of onion seed produced, 68 new business plans validated, 37 business plans already financed, 19 km of agricultural runways opened up, 178 manual drilling carried out in the North and Far North Region, 86.73 hectares of consolidated hydro-agricultural development works carried out, 178 manual drilling granted to cooperatives for an area of 415 hectares in the North and Far North Regions, etc.

438- As part of the sustainable management of agricultural production systems and food security, the following were recorded: regarding the subvention from the Fertilizer Revolving Fund of the National Confederation of Cotton Producers of Cameroon (CNPC-C), 60 tonnes of urea and 60 tonnes of NPK⁹⁴ ordered; in relation to the support for grain storage in the Common Initiative Groups/Cooperatives of cotton producers and food producers for food security (CNPCC), 6,357 bags of cereals stored; and 433 tonnes of maize and 110 tonnes of sorghum acquired and stored by the Grain Board.

⁹³ 5 associations of water users were formed on a perimeter of 1,122 ha under rehabilitation.

⁹⁴ Nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

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439- After having benefited from a financing of CFAF355,800,000⁹⁵ under the investment component, the Agropoles Programme achieved the following results: the establishment of 2 new Agropoles related to corn production in Ntui, a cattle fattening facility in Ngaoundere, continued financing for small-scale maritime fishing in Kribi with the supply of 2 new fishing units bringing the total support to 19 units (10m long canoes, 15hp outboard motors), the receipt of the 1st phase of the connection to the three-phase electrical grid of the Bazingang rice hulling plant and the handover to the Ambam Council of the Ntem Valley fresh water fish sales hall, the construction of 2 livestock buildings for the Mbouda egg Agropole, the acquisition of a tractor kit for the of Ouro Dole Maize Agropole and the construction of 3 buildings for broodstock for the *Hauts-Plateaux* pigmeat Agropole .

440- For its part, the Integrated Planning and Development Programme for the mining loop of the Dja and the adjacent border area (PADI-Dja) registered the following achievements: the establishment of a village savings and credit fund in the Djoum Council and 5 others in Mindourou, Lomie, Mintom, Zoulabot I and Messok; the rehabilitation of a hatchery in the Lomie District for the SCOOPS EPIDJA cooperative and the development of 6 fish ponds; the construction of 32 manual pump wells in the Meyomessala, Meyomessi, Djoum, Somalomo, Ngoyla, Messok and Mindourou Councils.

441- In addition, the Economic Resilience Support Project (PAREC) achieved the following results: the continuation of the selection of 57 small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives in the Centre, Littoral and East Regions for support in the agri-food value chain; the development of 57 personalised support plans in the said Regions and the funding by the Doume Diocese of 6 producer organisations to the tune of CFAF24,000,000⁹⁶.

442- Moreover, at the behest of MINADER, 2,000 motorcycles were acquired for some heads of agricultural posts and community huts built for them, 650 km of road were rehabilitated or built, 58 warehouses, 50 drinking water points, 6 community action centres were built, a cassava processing plant (out of the 8 planned) was inaugurated in Ngoulmakong and

⁹⁵ About 543,206.10 Euros.

⁹⁶ About 36,641.22 Euros.

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rolling stock for technical interventions and individual mobility was acquired by the National Centre for Agricultural Machinery Studies and Experiments (CENEEMA).

b) Support in the Sector of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries

443- The Livestock Development Project (PRODEL) financed to the tune of CFAF60,000,000,000⁹⁷, presented the following results in December 2024: the financing of 506 business plans (leading to a 29% increase in sales in targeted value chains), the reduction to 9.10% in the mortality rate of cattle under 6 months old in pastoral areas, the live-weight production of broilers per square metre in 45 days increased to 76%, the 80% increase in the number of weaned piglets per sow per year, annual milk production per cow up by 527%, annual honey production per hive up by 20%, the setting up of 26 market management platforms managed in a participatory manner by local councils and market users, adoption by approximately 38,000 producers of improved agricultural technologies and climate-smart livestock practices, etc.

444- As part of the development of animal industries, the following achievements can be mentioned: the production by the Kounden station of 1,230 breeding piglets, the issuance of 70 authorisations for the establishment of new units for the manufacture, storage and marketing of animal and fish feed (34 in the Centre, 18 in the Littoral and 15 in the West Regions), the issuance of 20 technical import notices for the importation of feed and inputs (8 in the Centre, 9 in the Littoral and 3 in the West Regions), the maintenance of 247 ha of fodder fields by the Wakwa station, the Ngaoundere dairy station and SODEPA (1,235 tonnes of hay obtained) and the setting up by the North West Livestock Development Fund (CDENO) of 107 ha of fodder fields (that is, 856 tonnes of hay obtained). There is also the establishment of 11 ha of corn field at the Kounden station for the production of feed for pigs for a production of 33 tonnes of corn, the support in feed and piglets by CDENO for 100 producers (10 women, 30 youths and 60 men), the production of 216,012 day-old chicks by CDENO for producers and the production of 200 litres of liquid nitrogen and 43,204 viable one-day-old chicks by the North West Livestock Development Fund. Furthermore, 15,000 preheated chicks of 21 days old, 2,700 one-day old

⁹⁷ About 91,603,053.43 Euros.

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chicks and 3,900 ready to lay pullets were distributed to 300 producers by the Emergency Programme for the Fight against Food Crisis (PULCCA).

445- Further, at the initiative of MINEPIA the following actions were carried out: the construction of 121 production, processing, storage and marketing infrastructure for livestock products through the resources transferred to RLAs; the continuation of the construction of houses for fishers in the South West Region in support of the Bakassi Peninsula Development Project (BADEP); the acquisition of 3 tractors of 130 HP for zootechnical stations, of 11 stalk crushers for dairy farmers and 32 mini sizing machines for farmers; the commissioning of 3 new modern butcher shops by SODEPA, namely 1 in Douala and 2 in Yaounde; support in fishing materials and equipment for the Community Centre of Artisanal Fishing of Kribi and to artisanal fishers, 35 outboard engines, 2 ice-making units of 6 tonnes per day and 1 double cabin pick-up; and the completion of the works on the Youpwe wharf fish market

446- This wharf, inaugurated on 27 December 2024, in Douala, is a symbol of the modernisation of production tools in fisheries, and is expected to create more than 1,500 direct jobs, reduce nearly 60% of post-catch losses, increase by 40% the income of fishers and by 35% the exports of fish products from Cameroon. Having mobilised a total investment of CFAF45,000,000,000⁹⁸, about 75% supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, this infrastructure includes a latest-generation cold store of 5,000 m², an ice production unit of 50 tonnes/day, a water purification system, an ISO certified quality control laboratory, a panoramic dining area, a secure - 200-space parking lot and air-conditioned administrative offices.

447- A total of 31 decisions to establish and 33 decisions to open establishments for processing, storing and marketing fish products, 4 technical notices for the export of shrimp to operators for a quota of 1,400 tonnes were issued.

448- As part of the mobilisation of funding, a Credit Facilitation Fund for the Development of Agricultural Value Chains, Livestock and Fish Farming was set up; an agreement with the Commercial Bank Cameroon for the implementation of the micro finance institution refinancing facility amounting

⁹⁸ About 68,702,290.08 Euros.

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to CFAF6,300,000,000⁹⁹ was signed with MINEPIA in June 2024; the Pork Sector Interprofession (INTERPORCAM) and the Dairy Sector Interprofession in Cameroon (OIP-lait CAM) were restructured; the 5th edition of the International Poultry Show held in Yaounde from 23 to 25 April 2024; an Agreement between the Natchigal Hydropower Company and MINEPIA to oversee the implementation of the fish development plan around the Natchigal Amont hydroelectric dam was signed; the Cameroon Interprofessional Aquaculture Exhibition (SIAC 2024) held from 2 to 7 December in Yaounde, etc.

B- Production Results

449- The table below provide information on animal and fish production.

Table No.2 Production in tonnes of the animal and fish sector in 2024

Animal production		Production of derived commodities		Fish production (January to September 2024)	
Speculation	Production	Speculation	Production	Speculation	Production
Cattle	94,300	Milk	131,300	Aquaculture	8,011
Goat	28,997	Eggs	95,501	Fisheries	166,622
Sheep	22,263	Honey	95,501		
Pig	39,676				
Poultry	50,836				

Source: MINEPIA

§3: Accessibility and Acceptability of Foodstuffs

450- The aim was to regulate supplies, control prices and combat smuggling, but also to guarantee the quality of foodstuffs.

A: Regulation of Supplies, Price Control and Combating Contraband

451- Consultations conducted by MINCOMMERCE with the main economic operators concerned made it possible to stabilise prices in the beef

⁹⁹ About 99, 618, 320.61 Euros.

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and veal sector (CFAF2,640¹⁰⁰ per kg of bone-in meat), flour (CFAF24,500¹⁰¹ per 50kg bag in large metropolitan areas), oilseeds (CFAF1,500¹⁰² per litre of refined oil and CFAF975¹⁰³ per litre of crude palm oil), sugar (one kg at CFAF835¹⁰⁴), rice (CFAF23,572¹⁰⁵ per 50 kg bag), fish (CFAF1,575¹⁰⁶ per kg for mackerel), poultry, etc. With regard to the sugar and poultry sectors, for example, the consultations took place respectively on 21 August and 21 November 2024.

452- To further facilitate the accessibility of products, especially food, and combat the high cost of living, a promotional sale of staple goods lasting 50 days, called Christmas for all, was organised in Yaounde as well as in all the regional capitals. There was also the promotional sale of 100% broken rice of Pakistani origin.

B: Guaranteeing Food Quality

453- The aim was to ensure safety, develop standards and certify foodstuffs.

1) Development of Standards and Food Certification

454- Regarding conformity assessment, the National Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR) certified 322 local products, including food products, compared to 370 in 2023, and issued 155 certificates of conformity in the agricultural sector compared to 308 in 2023.

2) Measures on the Safety of Foodstuffs

455- In terms of animal health, and veterinary public health, the Rabies Control and Elimination Project was launched on 2 October 2024 in Obala, the vaccination campaign against rabies facilitated by the donation of 250,000 doses of anti-rabies vaccines by the World Organisation for

¹⁰⁰ About 4.03 Euros.

¹⁰¹ About 37.40 Euros.

¹⁰² About 2.29 Euros.

¹⁰³ About 1.48 Euros.

¹⁰⁴ About 1.27 Euros.

¹⁰⁵ About 35.99 Euros.

¹⁰⁶ About 2.40 Euros.

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Animal Health was conducted and 52 weekly epidemiological bulletins reporting major outbreaks of confirmed and notified animal and zoonotic diseases were developed and disseminated. Moreover, the capacities of 50 stakeholders of the Epidemiological Surveillance Network for Animal Diseases of Cameroon were developed in this area, 11,867,550 doses of vaccines as well as 9,267,300 doses of diluents were produced by the National Veterinary Laboratory (LANAVET) and the control of animal diseases of 1,503 samples analysed for 18 suspected diseases by this laboratory was carried out.

456- Furthermore, as part of the permanent monitoring of the commercial environment, the staff of the National Controls and Fraud Suppression Brigade (BNCRF) of MINCOMERCE carried out actions in metrology, prices and quality in order to combat all forms of illegal business practices. With regard to controls related to food safety, this Brigade carried out 141 raids, inspected 3,512 structures, summoned 726 structures and drew up 476 reports. The infringements were as follows: failure to present the certificate of conformity of the products put on sale, failure to present the certificate of conformity of raw material, non-compliant labelling, refusal to subject products to quality control, non-compliance with price and trade regulations, offering for sale a product whose actual quantity is lower than that declared, putting into service measuring instruments without subjecting them to different metrological controls, etc.

457- In addition, the BNCRF seized 12 measuring instruments, 200 bags of 50 kg of rice, 1,139 bottles of wine and spirits, 315 bags of 50 kg of sugar, 14 cartons of 10 packs of cigarettes and 57,000 litres of refined oils. In all, the lump-sum fines generated revenue amounting to CFAF63,271,289¹⁰⁷.

SECTION 2: WATER AND ENERGY

458- In 2024, Cameroon made progress in the drinking water and energy subsectors.

¹⁰⁷ About 96,425.44 Euros.

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§1: Access to Drinking Water

459- The actions carried out focused on consolidating the normative and strategic framework and water supply.

A: Consolidation of the Normative and Strategic Framework

460- Decree No. 2024/176/PM of 26 February 2024 to lay down the procedures for managing water used for agricultural purposes and maintaining hydraulic infrastructure in irrigated areas in Cameroon was signed by the Prime Minister. The instrument aims to improve the efficiency of water use in agriculture by specifying the responsibilities of different stakeholders (State, RLAs, users) and by establishing mechanisms for the maintenance of hydraulic infrastructure.

461- Regarding strategy documents, the Strategic Development Plan 2025-2029 of CAMWATER was adopted on 18 November 2024 by its Board of Directors. This document aims to address the challenges of access to drinking water and sanitation in alignment with SND30.

B: Continued Major Water Supply Projects

462- The major projects include the Drinking Water Supply Project for Yaounde and its surroundings (PAEPYS) which was officially commissioned on 20 August 2024.

463- Phase II of the Project to improve drinking water supply in 9 cities continued with a progress rate of 28% for all the cities concerned, namely 15% for Maroua, 8% for Garoua and 5% respectively for Garoua-Boulai, Yabassi and Dschang¹⁰⁸.

464- Furthermore, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PAEA-MRU) made it possible in November 2024, to finalise data collection, revise the feasibility studies (Preliminary Draft Summary (APS), Detailed Draft (APD) and Tender File (DAO)) for the Drinking Water Supply (AEP) sys-

¹⁰⁸ This project will improve the water supply in these towns, with a total additional production of 107,000 m³/day; the construction of 1,794 boreholes and 19 drinking water supply points (AEP) as part of the three-year emergency plan for improving economic growth (PLANUT) Water component.

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tems in 60 villages and to submit the project document to MINEPAT. Moreover, during the same period, the overall progress rate of the Project for Studies and Preparation of a Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in Rural Areas (MRU Study Project) was estimated at 86.44%.

§2: Access to Energy

465- The main focus of Government actions was in the energy subsector concerned energy supply and access to petroleum products and renewable energy.

A: Energy Supply

466- The hydroelectric development project of Nachtigal Upstream (420 MW) entered the production level with the commissioning of its first 4 units, respectively in May, August, September, and November 2024. Through this commissioning, 240 MW of additional power was injected into the South Interconnected Grid (RIS). Construction works of the foot plant, the substation and the evacuation line of the Lom Pangar structure (30 MW) was completed. The 4th and last turbine was installed in October 2024, thus reaching the total estimated capacity of 30 MW.

467- The project for the Upgrading of Electricity Transmission Networks and Sector Reform (PRRTERS) enabled the construction of the 225 kV of Nyom 2 substation intended to evacuate the energy produced in Nachtigal in the RIS. Moreover, the construction of other facilities continued throughout 2024. These include, the kV line Nyom - Oyomabang which was completed and put into service; the 225 kV line Oyomabang - Nkolbisson the overall progress rate of which stood at 95%; the 400 kV line Edea - Nkolnkoumou Nyom 2 (overall progress rate: 79.8%); the 90 kV line Nyom 2 - Ngouso (overall progress rate: 45%); transformation positions of Yaounde and Douala (respective overall progress rates: 84% and 27.42%); the 225 kV Garoua - Maroua line as well as the 225/90/30 kV stations of Garoua and Maroua whose physical execution rate in October 2024 was 67% for the lines and 36.4% for the stations.

468- Furthermore, rural electrification works in 8 Regions of the country as part of public project management were underway with the extension of the North and South Interconnected Networks, as well as decentralised rural

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electrification through solar photovoltaic systems. In the Centre Region, for example, 1.5 km of extension was covered in the locality of Ezezang Phase II. In the Far North, 2.72 km were covered in the locality of Makalingai Goudron.

B: Access to Petroleum Products and Renewable Energies

469- In the petroleum and gas products sector, Government actions focused on supplying the country with petroleum products. From 1 January to 31 October 2024, a volume of 1,629,479 Metric Tonnes (MT), all products combined, was imported for consumption.

470- In 2024, construction works on a 1,000 MT Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) sphere in Bonaberi as part of the construction of new storage bins and pipeline for petroleum products with a view to improving logistics and increasing capacities were completed. In addition, the construction of 2 tanks of petroleum products of 6,500 m³ each, and the revitalisation of the fire defense at the Mboppi depot in Douala continued. In November 2024, the work execution rate was estimated at 35%.

471- Moreover, the development of natural gas resources was effective with the production and domestic marketing of a volume of 26,140 MT LPG by the SNH/PERENCO/GOLAR consortium.

472- Concerning renewable energies, the 2 modular photovoltaic solar power plants of Maroua and Guider officially commissioned on 22 September 2023, had in November 2024 injected about 104.16 Gigawatt hours (GWh) of electrical energy into the North Interconnected Network (RIN), equivalent to a saving of more than CFAF41,000,000,000¹⁰⁹, where this energy had been produced from diesel-powered thermal power plants as in the past.

SECTION 3 : RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

473- Initiatives were taken to strengthen the normative framework, increase housing supply (§2) and guarantee legal security of land.

¹⁰⁹ About 62,595,419.85 Euros.

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§1: Consolidation of the Normative Framework

474- In order to strengthen the normative framework, instruments contributing to promote access to housing were signed, including Joint Order No. 759/MINH DU/MINFI of 20 September 2024 to fix the income ceilings for access to low-cost houses in Cameroon¹¹⁰, of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINH DU) and the Ministry of Finance (MINFI); Decree No. 2024/513 of 30 October 2024 to lay down the conditions for the allocation and occupancy of administrative houses by State personnel in service at Cameroon's diplomatic missions and consular posts¹¹¹; and Decision No. 32/MINH DU of 26 March 2024 to establish, and lay down the organization and functioning of the Infrastructure Works Unit at MINH DU.

475- In the context of land security, Circular-Letter No. 2/MINDCAF/CAB/LC of 9 February 2024 to institute a Certificate of Possession of Administratively Recognised Customary Land Rights (CPDFC-AR) as part of the procedure for processing applications for direct registration of national land occupied and/or operated with a view to obtaining a land title was signed. This circular letter prescribes the establishment throughout the national territory, of the Certificate of Possession of the land rights referred to above, defines this document while providing information on the competent authorities and the procedures for preparation and issuance.

§2 : Initiatives to increase Housing Supply

476- In addition to taking forward-looking measures aimed at guaranteeing the right to housing, the development of building plots and housing construction, as well as the development of the urban environment and the construction of various roads and networks were taken into account.

¹¹⁰ The Decision sets the ceilings at 350,000 FCFA/month for rentals and 500,000 FCFA/month for the purchase of houses already built or under construction as part of the government program to build 10,000 social housing units and develop 50,000 building plots across the country. It specifies that in the event of competition, social housing is allocated as a matter of priority to students and young people under 35, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, victims of natural disasters or accidents, on call staff, women in distress, and previous occupants of the premises who were expropriated.

¹¹¹ The Decision defines the staff eligible for administrative housing, the monthly allowance allocated to them according to the areas of assignment, as well as the costs covered by the State.

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A: Forward-looking Measures to Guarantee the Right to Housing

477- MINHDU in partnership with *Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Normandie* in France, organised a Symposium on Urban Planning and Earthen Architecture from 24 to 25 May 2024 in Yaounde. The objective of this symposium was to promote the best architectural and urban practices in raw earth in Cameroon and in the Sahel, as well as share experiences of construction stakeholders to encourage among the population, constructions in local, affordable, ecological and sustainable materials adapted to the environment.

478- Furthermore, the 2024 Land Tenure Week held from 25 to 29 November 2024 in Yaounde, under the theme: *Land governance and sustainable development goals in Cameroon: challenges and opportunities*. Discussions on the crucial issues of land governance took place during this week with a view to improving transparency and land security, and the 8 priority areas¹¹² of the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF) were presented.

B : Development of Building Plots and Construction of Houses

479- The State provided building plots and financial resources for housing. Thus, as at 1 October 2024, the Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Authority (MAETUR) developed 20% of the urban land in Yaounde and Douala, on 11,500 ha, for 72,000 plots and 1,110 km of street lanes. It also began the development of the new city¹¹³ of Mas-soumbou/Diwom of 7,700ha, as well as the achievement of a plan of large frames on 4,000ha and the division of plots for a pilot phase of 550ha. Regarding the constitution of land reserves of large areas, MAETUR and other administrations, further defined the procedure for securing the projects at Mbankomo on 1,000 ha, Banseng on 2,500 ha, Bot-Makak on 2,500 ha and Missole on 4,000 ha. Moreover, as part of the "Land and

¹¹² Other measure were carried out including, the establishment of a responsible policy aimed at improving access to land as an essential means for restoring and preserving forest landscapes, as well as poverty and hunger reduction in rural areas; the modernisation of the quality of land and estate services, which was still maturing but was already being implemented in crisis areas (Far North, NW and SW Regions) and concerned among others, restoring the rule of law and social cohesion; sustainable city and land management improving land governance; the establishment of a modern land management platform in Cameroon with the EU; the capacity development of the main stakeholders on land issues.

¹¹³ This new town will have about 1,500,000 inhabitants.

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Sustainable Cities” programme financed by the World Bank, this structure initiated the restructuring of the neighbourhoods of Douala III on 95ha (Bobongo Cité Berges and Bonaloka) and Douala 5 on 70 ha (Makepe Missoke, Maturité and Ndogbati).

480- The Cameroon Housing Loan Fund (CFC) allocated an amount of CFAF11,759,083,056¹¹⁴ for the construction of 1,251 houses on landscaped plots.

481- As part of the Programme to construct 1,675 low-cost houses, the execution of the houses under construction stood at 89%. Moreover, the first phase of the Government construction programme for 10,000 low-cost houses and 50,000 building plots had an estimated completion rate of 29.8% as at 31 January 2024, that is, a total of 2,980 completed houses and 2,082 keys handed over to the buyers. Furthermore, MINHDU and MAETUR signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 20 August 2024 for the concerted development of building plots valued at some CFAF5,000,000,000¹¹⁵.

482- In collaboration with local SMEs like Alpha, City Centre, Andong companies, Government built 110 new houses in Mbanga Bakoko (Douala) and Olembe (Yaounde) in 2024 out of the planned 550¹¹⁶; that is, an achievement rate of 20%.

C: Development of the Urban Environment and the Construction of Different Roads and Networks

483- With regard to sanitation, the evacuation of river water and household waste, the National Strategy for Waste Management provides that Councils develop Council Waste Management Plans¹¹⁷. As at 30 August 2024, some 48 councils had developed and validated their waste management plans. Furthermore, MINHDU continued the construction of drains in Maroua by adding 1.2 km in 2024. As part of the Inclusive and Resilient Cities Development Project, 4,012 km of primary drains and 59,893 km of secondary drains were built in 2024.

¹¹⁴ About 17, 952, 798.55 Euros.

¹¹⁵ About 7,633,587.78 Euros.

¹¹⁶ This emerges from the speech of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, before Parliament in November 2023.

¹¹⁷ It covers the period 2007-2015.

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484- MINH DU signed contracts¹¹⁸ for the building of several roads to facilitate urban mobility in Yaounde. Focus was on the completion of the *Carrefour hôtel le Paradis-Mosquée* stretch, *Ngouso-Pharmacie Omnisport et bretelles* (1,809 miles); the execution of maintenance works on some streets in Nsimeyong; the rehabilitation of streets in the neighbourhoods of Nkolbisson, Accacia, Manguier, Ngouso, Bastos and Nlongkak.

§3: Measures to Guarantee the Legal Security of Land

485- Administrative and judicial protection of land was ensured.

A : Administrative Protection of Land Rights

486- In 2024, MINDCAF issued 22,141 land titles to individuals and RLAs and signed 41 Orders of declaration of public utility for the implementation of projects and housing construction. In addition, the State consolidated protection of land rights by signing several decrees on compensation for expropriated populations. Such decrees include Decree No. 2024/2595/PM of 1 June 2024 to compensate victims of loss of land rights and destruction of property as part of construction works on the 225 Kv lines, transformation substations including access roads as part of the interconnection project between the South interconnected network and the North interconnected network in Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region for a total cost of CFAF2,680,407,386¹¹⁹; and Decree No. 2024/2604/PM of 4 July 2024 to compensate victims of property destruction relating the security and road expansion works on the Koutaba airport area of “Koundja” in Noun Division, West Region for a total cost of CFAF35,173,500¹²⁰.

B: Court Protection of Land Rights

487- Courts heard many cases aimed at protecting land rights, and delivered judgments that promote the protection of the right to land ownership. By way of illustration, in the matter between **T. T. H.** and the State of Cameroon, by Judgment No. 16/TA/BFM/2024 of 26 February 2024,

¹¹⁸ This involved the signing of implementation contracts with technical design offices

¹¹⁹ About 4,092,225.02 Euros.

¹²⁰ About 53,700 Euros.

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the Bafoussam Administrative Court declared admissible the application for cancellation of Decision No. 35/L/F/34.02/BAAJP of 5 March 2020 of the Subdivisional Officer of Penka-Michel relating to the lifting of work stoppage by a third-party on land belonging to his late father. In the matter between **T.P., N.S.R. and others and the State of Cameroon**, the same Court, by Judgment No. 01/TA/BFM of 22 January 2024, annulled land title no. 17172 of Mifi Division established by MINDCAF on 11 December 2017 for **Y.M.**

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488- In 2024, actions aimed at guaranteeing access to sufficient food, water and energy, and decent housing focused on several areas such as the consolidation of the normative and strategic framework, continuation of projects, and supporting factors of production, the supply of petroleum products and renewable energies, initiatives for securing food, land, and protecting property rights, etc.

489- However, more efforts are needed to ensure sufficient and quality food, as well as decent and accessible housing for all social strata.

CHAPTER 4

RIGHT TO WORK AND SOCIAL SECURITY



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490- Measures were taken to guarantee entrepreneurship and decent work as well as social dialogue. Other measures included the promotion and protection of workers' rights as well as the right to social security.

SECTION 1: ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DECENT WORK PROMOTION STRATEGIES

491- Entrepreneurship and decent work were guaranteed through actions such as: The development of vocational training and increase in job offer, creation of companies as well as employment and self-employment development, foreign labour regulation and restructuring of business activities, promotion of handicraft and changeover of production units from the informal to the formal sector, promotion of local companies, development of the social economy, reward of employees and award of professional certificates as well as rewards for innovative Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

§1: Development of Vocational Training and Increase in Job Offer

492- In the areas along the Nachtigal dam project, the Nachtigal Hydro Power Company (NHPC) constructed and equipped auto mechanic, carpentry and clothing industry workshops in the Rural Crafts Section/Home Economics Section (SAR/SM) of Obala¹²¹, Mbandjock¹²² and Ntui respectively¹²³. Moreover, 3 SAR/SM situated in Mvomeka'a, Ngomedzap and Fontem were transformed into Pilot Trade Training Centres.

493- In addition, construction works for the Trade Training Centres (CFM) of Bandjoun, Maroua and Nanga-Eboko were completed and training was launched in Lembe-Yezoum and Nanga-Eboko CFMs. Similarly, the Project to Support the Promotion of Entrepreneurship, Skills Development and Competitiveness took off together with the Rehabilitation Project of the

¹²¹ At the SAR/SM in Obala, the auto mechanic workshop was constructed and equipped with 2 four-wheel drive vehicle chassis with a 4-cylinder diesel multipoint fuel injection, a 4-cylinder direct injection diesel engine inspection bench, as well as a fault detector for the training of trainees.

¹²² The SAR/SM in Mbandjock received a carpentry workshop equipped with metallic robots, hand-saws, backsaws, potable power jigsaws, set of scissors, as well as a three-phase powerline with a 60 KVV transformer.

¹²³ At the SAR/SM in Ntui, was a clothing industry workshop equipped with multi-purpose equipment.

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Rapid Vocational Training Centre for Industrial Trade in Pitoa. The main objective of the first project mentioned is to develop skills to meet the needs of the economy, promote entrepreneurship and employment in key sectors and improve competitiveness of companies. To achieve this, the President of the Republic signed Decree No. 2024/609 of 25 November 2024 to authorise the Minister of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development to sign a Loan agreement with the African Development Bank to the tune of 63.09 million Euros that is about CFAF 41.5 billion to finance the said project.

494- A total of 58,383 learners, 2,485 vocational training centres and 11,977 trainers were registered in 2024. Furthermore, 259 national and 45 foreign scholarships were granted for the 2024-2025 academic year.

§2: Creation of Companies as well as Development of Employment and Self-employment

495- The Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) undertook actions to instill the culture of entrepreneurship across all socio-economic strata and promote the opening of companies in this sector. These actions led to the creation of 15,894 new companies in the Business Creation Formality Centres (CFCE) among which 8,948 were sole proprietorship and 6,946 were companies, thus creating 12,000 direct jobs. Among these new enterprises, 5,235 were created by women.

496- The National Employment Fund (NEF) recorded 57,995 new job applications and assisted 30,927 persons to find paid work. It also funded 1,248 promoters of enterprises including 67 under the Micro Enterprise Support Programme and 1,181 as part of the Rural Employment Development Support Programme. Similarly, the Citizen Graduate Employment Programme enabled NEF to place 1,093 other youths on pre-employment internship in private enterprises. In addition, 3,257 youths received professional trainings in several fields.

497- The Integrated Support Programme for Actors in the Informal Sector funded 90 micro projects including 22 led by Cameroonian migrants returning from the Mediterranean Coast, thus creating 88 direct jobs.

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498- The transfer of powers to councils through the operationalisation of council employment offices (BEM) led to the creation of 31 BEM.

§3: Foreign Labour Regulation and Improvement of Enterprise Activities

499- Over CFAF 14,000,000,000¹²⁴ was collected from visa fees paid by foreign workers.

500- As concerns activities of Temporary Employment Agencies (ETT) and Private Employment Agencies (OPP), 49 licences were granted, including 35 to ETTs and 14 to OPPs. Moreso, 10,626 job seekers were registered in the ETTs and OPPs. However, 19 ETTs were suspended for hindering controls, refusing to present themselves and to receive missions from the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training.

§4: Promotion of Handicraft and Changeover of Production Units from the Informal to the Formal Sector

501- MINPMEESA continued the promotion and development of handicraft, as well as the intensification of changeover dynamics through the following actions: the organisation from 22 to 31 July 2024 in Yaounde of the 8th edition of the Cameroon International Crafts Fair; the roll-out of the craftsmen and craftswomen registration Application in the regions for the systematic issuance of professional handicraft cards; the identification of stakeholders of the informal sector to support them in becoming formal; participation from 25 October to 3 November 2024 at the 17th edition of the Ouagadougou International Handicrafts Fair through which **Rose Mary FOINTEN** won the 1st price for creativity thanks to her handwoven textile.

§5: Promotion of Local Companies

502- In order to promote the use of local agricultural products by agro-food industries, 6 companies, including Fruitscam SARL, NT Foods SARL, Proxima SARL, Lamana SARL, *Bonne Chair* SARL and the *Groupe La paix* specialised in bakery, production of babies food and juice received a sub-

¹²⁴ About 21,374,045.8 Euros.

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sidy of CFAF 215,000,000¹²⁵ from the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development in 2024.

§6: Development of Social Economy

503- MINPMEESA continued to support, create and structure social economy organisations and companies through actions such as: continuous registration of social economy units on the general registers; strengthening the structures of social economy organisations in the first half of 2024 by training council executives, and grouping social economy stakeholders into umbrella organisations.

§7: Reward of Employees and Award of Professional Certificates

504- In 2024, 16 Orders to grant Labour Medals of Honour were signed and 7,915 related attestations were issued. Moreover, 17 official ceremonies were organised for the award of MHTs.

505- In addition, about 15,274 professional certificates¹²⁶ were issued at the end of several vocational trainings.

§8: Rewards for Innovative SMEs

506- On 12 December 2024, SMEs participated in the Cameroon Business Today (CBT) competition organised in Yaounde. During this competition, 5 SMES received awards in the following order: the CBT gold champion award (CFAF 5,000,000¹²⁷) to *R-Jomak*, specialised in transforming cassava and producing improved '*bâtons de manioc*', which is odourless, not acidic, long shelf life as well as producing eco-friendly coal from household waste; the silver champion award (CFAF 3,500,000¹²⁸) to *Madsus SARL* enterprise specialised in electrical installation equipment (smart sockets, switches, lamps, etc.) made from aluminium, wood and silicon, that can be controlled remotely; the bronze champion award (CFAF 2,000,000¹²⁹) to

¹²⁵ About 32, 824.24 Euros.

¹²⁶ Diplomas for Professional Qualification, Certificates for Professional Qualification, Diplomas for Specialised Technicians.

¹²⁷ About 7,633.59 Euros.

¹²⁸ About 5,343.51 Euros.

¹²⁹ About 3,053.43 Euros.

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Chocolateries de Nohi; the special jury award (CFAF 1,000,000¹³⁰) to *Mom Innou* enterprise, specialised in leatherwork; the best promising enterprise award (CFAF 1,000,000) to *Munasap* which is making headway in the leatherwork sector too, particularly in the production of bags and shoes.

SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS

507- The right to health, security and well-being at work was guaranteed together with the promotion of labour standards, principles and fundamental rights. Also, the Judicial and Administrative Protection of Workers' Rights was ensured.

§1: Promotion of Health, Security and Well-being at Work

508- In the Centre, East, Littoral, West, South and South West Regions, Government carried out activities to encourage 151 enterprises under the obligation to create Occupational Health Services (OHS). These activities involved raising awareness of managers of these companies on the need and importance of creating OHS within their organisations. In the same regions, the operations of 255 OHS were evaluated based on standards¹³¹.

§2: Promotion of Labour Standards, Principles and Fundamental Rights

509- The State of Cameroon, the International Labour Office and social partners signed the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) on 14 May 2024 for the period from 2023-2026. The priorities of the DWCP are: promotion of productive and long-term employment for youths, women, refugees, internally displaced persons; increased access to social protection services for workers, particularly those in the informal sector, freelancers, migrant workers, refugees and socially and economically vulnerable persons;

¹³⁰ About 1,526.71 Euros.

¹³¹ The objective was to verify, depending on the enterprises, the existence of health check-up and treatment agreements, independent medical services or inter-enterprise medical services, the accreditation of occupational doctors and to ensure the efficiency of services provided by the said medical services such as systematic check-ups, employment check-ups, awareness raising campaigns and monitoring files for accidents at work and occupational diseases.

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and improvement of social dialogue and respect for the right to work.

510- On 11 July 2024, Cameroon equally signed the Statute of the Labour Centre of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation at Djeddah, in Saudi Arabia. The missions of this centre include: strengthen and stimulate social development efforts of Member States, encourage sharing of experience and expertise between Member States in order to encourage the implementation of laws adopted by the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Labour and support the development of a good governance system to fight against poverty and unemployment within Member States.

§3: Judicial and Administrative Protection of Workers' Rights

511- The rights of workers were protected by courts and company inspections were carried out to assess working conditions.

A: Assessing Working Conditions in Companies

512- In order to assess working conditions, prevent occupational hazards and labour disputes within companies, the Labour Inspectorates carried out 8,302 visits, at the end of which violations of laws and regulations were established and 799 formal notices served. Moreover, when examining and settling individual labour disputes, 11,366 conciliation, partial conciliation and non-conciliation reports were drawn up between employers and workers.

B: Judicial Protection of the Rights of Workers

513- Courts registered some 3,384 petitions relating to wrongful termination of employment contracts, 1,190 of which were filed by employers and 2,194 filed by workers. Of the 2,084 cases tried, 1,402 were in favour of workers and 682 in favour of employers.

514- For example, by Judgment No. 2/SOC of 20 March 2024, the Wouri High Court (HC) ordered **S.C.A** to pay Mr **O.S.V. of P.** the sum of CFAF 1,968,726¹³² for wrongful dismissal.

515- By Judgment No. 013/soc of 10 January 2024, the same court ordered **E.P. laïque la CITADELLE** to pay Mr. **M.A.** the sum of CFAF 3,539,051.25¹³³ for wrongful dismissal.

¹³² About 3,005.69 Euros.

¹³³ About 5,403.13 Euros.

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SECTION 3: PROMOTION OF SOCIAL DIALOGUE

516- Update of the trade union register continued through the identification of the headquarters of 16 professional organisations out of 21 registered since 2023 and update of data for 201 socio-professional organisations. Thanks to dialogue between Government and trade unions, 39 strike notices and possible protests were managed and social peace maintained.

517- Moreover, the *Trade Union Manager* application was deployed in the North and Far North Regions to bring the Administration closer to users and help local services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security gain some visibility over trade unions operating in their respective constituencies.

518- Negotiations for National Collective Agreements continued with the aim of improving working conditions and resulted in the signing of the National Collective Agreement for Pharmaceutical Products, the National Trade Collective Agreement and the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance (FEICOM) Company Collective Agreement.

SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

519- The promotion of social security was guaranteed and some social benefits updated. Similarly, social security litigation was guaranteed.

§1: Promotion of Social Security and Uprate of Some Social Services

520- Actions carried out involved updating some services and registering workers among others. Also, the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF) ensured that companies complied with their social security obligations.

A: Uprating Some Services and Social Security

521- Through Decree No. 2024/56 of 21 February 2024, the amount of family allowances paid to workers was increased from CFAF 2800¹³⁴ to CFAF 4,500¹³⁵.

¹³⁴ About 4.27 Euros, pursuant to Decree No. 2016/34 of 21 January 2016 to increase family allowances paid to workers.

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522- Some 112,154 social security contributors were registered in the NSIF database, including 68,776 covered by the compulsory scheme and 43,378 by the voluntary scheme, thus increasing the number of social security contributors to 1,472,463.

523- Out of the 426,101 social benefits recipients registered in 2024, there were 295,017 beneficiaries of family benefits (including 242,644 family allowances), 126,010 pension beneficiaries and 5,074 victims of occupational accidents and diseases.

B: Compliance of Companies with their Social Security Obligations

524- Out of a total of 39,586 employers subject to compulsory insurance, 27,129 submitted their tax return online, representing 68.53%.

525- NSIF registered 18,637 women and 24,795 men voluntary insurance holders, with 97% from the informal sector. Of all these voluntary optional insurance holders, 7,123 complied with their obligation to pay social security contributions, hence a rate of 16.42%.

§2: Social Security Litigation

526- Social security litigation concerned the recovery of social security contributions and social security benefits.

A: Social Security Contributions Debt Recovery Disputes

527- As regards disputes relating to the recovery of social security contributions before the Pre-Litigation Committee, 30 applications were submitted by employers for a total sum of CFAF 1,279,415,268.42¹³⁵. The Pre-Litigation Committee also rendered 27 decisions in favour of NSIF and registered 2 withdrawals from 2 employers.

528- Of the 131 cases pending before Administrative Courts, 10 judgments were rendered, including 6 in favour of NSIF, one partly against NSIF and 3 in favour of employers.

¹³⁵ About 6.87 Euros.

¹³⁶ About 1,953,305.75 Euros.

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529- Some 36 cases remained pending before the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court. The said Court delivered 9 judgments, that is 5 in favour of NSIF and 4 in favour of employers.

530- Enforced recovery initiated against some recalcitrant employers in addition to the surcharges and late payment penalties automatically generated in the event of non-compliance with obligations to declare and pay, enabled NSIF to recover the sum of CFAF 213,183,131,120¹³⁷.

531- For other more recalcitrant employers, NSIF brought the matter before courts such as the Special Criminal Court (SCC) where it lodged 4 complaints against them for misappropriation of public funds. The proceedings were pending before the said court.

B: Social Security Benefits Litigation

532- The pre-litigation phase took place before the Pre-Litigation Committee and the Regional Committees for Social Security Litigation which sit at the HC in the regional headquarters.

533- The Pre-Litigation Committee examined several petitions relating to social security benefits and issued 173 decisions in favour of NSIF, 26 decisions endorsing withdrawals by some social security contributors and 22 decisions declining jurisdiction. As for the Regional Committees for Social Security Litigation, they registered 78 cases and rendered 26 decisions including 21 in favour of NSIF and 2 in favour of employers. Moreover, 3 cases were struck off the cause list.

535- The Courts of Appeal registered 48 cases and rendered 10 decisions, 6 of which in favour of NSIF and 4 in favour of employers. The Supreme Court heard 30 cases and rendered a decision in favour of NSIF. The other cases were pending before the said court.

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¹³⁷ About 325,470,429.19 Euros.

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536- To guarantee the right to work and social security, Government carried out actions relating to the development of vocational training and increase in job offers, the creation of companies, the development of employment and self-employment and increase in some pensions. Challenges still remained such as delays in litigation management and poor dialogue between the Government and trade unions demonstrated by persisting protests and strike notices.

CHAPTER 5

**RIGHT TO CULTURE
AND LEISURE**



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537- In 2024, significant advancement was reached in the preservation of cultural heritage with the adoption of a law to regulate archives in Cameroon and in efforts to retrieve illegally exported cultural property. Participation in cultural and artistic activities was guaranteed and the moral and material interests of artists were protected. Furthermore, actions were taken to uphold the strategic importance of the promotion of official and mother languages. The promotion and development of tourism and leisure involved among other things, promoting the visibility of Cameroon as a tourist destination and strengthening infrastructure.

SECTION 1: PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

538- The highlight as regards preservation of cultural heritage was the adoption of a law to regulate archives in Cameroon. Preservation actions also included the inscription of the Ngondo Festival on UNESCO's Representative List, the launch of the inventory of intangible cultural heritage and promoting the exhibition of cultural heritage. Furthermore, progress was made to retrieve illegally exported cultural property.

§1: Preservation of Archives

539- Law No. 2024/001 of 24 July 2024 to regulate archives in Cameroon has as objectives among others, to organise the archiving and preservation of the archival heritage; organise the traceability, control and security of archives; foster the inclusion of an archival culture in national development strategies; and ensure the financing of the development and modernisation of the national archives system. The main innovations of the law include, the clarification of the terms used in the field of archives, the creation of a public body responsible for national archiving management, and the financial sustainability of the said system through a special fund to finance the development and modernisation of archives.

§2: Inscription of the Ngondo Festival on UNESCO's Representative List

540- The Ngondo Festival of the Sawa people was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2024. The Ngondo takes place annually from September

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to the first Sunday of December and is marked by a festive part and a sacred part. The popular and festive part is marked by a caravan touring the traditional Sawa areas with artistic performances, traditional wrestling competitions, a crafts fair among others. The sacred part takes place on the banks of the Wouri River in Douala on the first Sunday of December where people gather to watch the departure of a sacred canoe¹³⁸. This inscription gives it universal value

§3: Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage

541- The 18 month long pilot inventory of intangible cultural heritage in the Centre Region was launched on 2 July 2024 at the National Museum in Yaounde. The Project implemented by the Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC) in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa, aims to lay the foundations for the sustainable safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Cameroon, by adjusting the inventory system previously set up in the country.

542- The project involves capacity-building for community-based participatory inventories, raising awareness of intangible cultural heritage conservation among communities concerned and the general public, carrying out a pilot inventory in the Centre Region and strengthening the country's intangible cultural heritage conservation policy.

§4: Promoting Exhibition of Cultural Heritage

543- On 1 August 2024, *Musée de la Chancellerie des Ordres Nationaux* (The Museum of the Chancellery of National Orders) was inaugurated and now forms part of the National Museum. It is a place rich in history and symbols of Cameroon and comprises precious distinctions and coats of arms and the Order of Sporting Merit.

544- On 13 April 2024, the *Musée des Rois Bamoun* (Museum of the Bamoun Kings), a museum dedicated to the history of the Bamoun king-

¹³⁸ A person dives from the sacred canoe into the river with a basket containing the wishes and grievances of the Sawa people and emerges after some time with a message from the oracles. The message is relayed to sawa chiefs, then shared with the public. The message governs the life of the community until the next celebration.

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dom in Foumban was inaugurated. The museum which occupies 5,000 m² retraces the 6 centuries of Bamoun history through a collection of about 12,500 items¹³⁹.

545- Furthermore, from 17 June 2023 to 30 March 2024, the Associations *Route des Chefferies* and *Pays de la Loire Cameroun* organised an exhibition entitled “*Indépendance du Cameroun, libérons la mémoire*” (Cameroon Independence, Let’s Free the Memory) at the *Musée des civilisations* de Dschang. The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness of the history of Cameroon’s independence, through more than 300 illustrations and a dozen audiovisual documents¹⁴⁰.

§5: Progress in efforts to retrieve Illegally Exported Cultural Property

546- To facilitate the return of illegally exported property, in November 2024, the Interministerial Committee for the Repatriation of Cultural Property Illegally Exported Abroad, adopted the National Strategy for the Restitution of Cultural Property.

547- In January 2024, a Cameroonian delegation was in Germany to continue the identification and inventory of cultural property illegally taken from Cameroon when it was under the German Protectorate. The Delegation held talks with German officials at the Linden Museum in Stuttgart, in the context of Cameroon-German Dialogue, aimed at defining the framework for the return of the illegally taken property¹⁴¹.

548- Moreover, some cultural property taken away from the Bangwa people of the Lebialem Division by the Germans, during the Protectorate was returned and this was a reason for celebration on 30 March 2024 in Yaounde.

¹³⁹ Among the museum’s highlights are attributes of royal power, weapons, statuettes, masks, pipes, musical instruments and manuscripts by the famous King Ibrahim Njoya who invented the Bamoun writing.

¹⁴⁰ Some 20 researchers, brought together in a scientific committee, contributed in this exhibition which is based on a desire for historiographical production and academic transmission.

¹⁴¹ In the book, *Atlas de l’absence, le patrimoine culturel en Allemagne*, published in 2023, it is estimated the over 40,000 pieces of cultural goods taken from Cameroon are found in German museums.

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SECTION 2: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES

549- Varied cultural and artistic events as well as sporting activities took place, with the participation of the population.

§1: Cultural and Artistic Events

550- A photo exhibition dubbed « Soul Makossa man” was held at the National Museum in honour of **Manu DIBANGO**, the famous Cameroonian Saxophonist, from 21 June to 16 August 2024. The exhibition consisted of 22 original photographs of the musical icon. The same exhibition took place at the Maritime Museum in Douala from 20 November to 20 December 2024.

551- The prize award ceremony of the competition to promote young people’s cultural and artistic initiatives for peace-building took place on 9 and 10 September 2024 in Yaounde, in the presence of the Minister of Arts and Culture and the Director General of UNESCO. This initiative, was part of the project entitled “Strengthening the role of young people in promoting living together and multiculturalism through secondary education and non-formal and informal learning centres in Cameroon”¹⁴². Some 160 youths from the project’s 4 intervention zones (Dibombari, Mbanga, Mbouda and Foumban) were trained in plastic arts, singing/music, dance and theatre, culminating in a national competition to identify the best youth initiatives in need of support and promotion.

552- On 25 April 2024, as a prelude to Labour Day, MINAC organised in Yaounde, a Heritage Day with an exhibition including gastronomy and traditional regalia. Moreover, the 7th edition of the, International Fair of Women’s Voices, otherwise known as “*Escale Bantoo*” was held from 5 to 8 June 2024 in Yaounde under the theme, “The impact of the media on the development of the African music industry”. Also the 8th edition of the International Handicrafts Fair of Cameroon was held in Yaounde from 22 to 31 July 2024 at the National Museum in Yaounde under the theme Digital technology as a factor for sustainable development of the crafts sector

¹⁴² The project is being jointly implemented by UNESCO’s Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

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and the global inclusion of craftspeople . Participation was as follows: 11 countries present; 720 Cameroonian exhibitors, 520 of whom were supported by the Government; and 300 foreign exhibitors. An average of 3,100 persons visited the Fair each day.

553- Furthermore, from 1 to 3 December 2024, Ebolowa hosted the OBOM'Art Festival, a cultural event that brought together numerous artists, craftsmen and craftswomen as well as guests to celebrate and valorise local traditions and cultures¹⁴³. Activities at the festival included, exhibitions and sale of Obom-based products, workshops on the manufacturing of Obom products, which gave participants an insight into the traditional techniques used to make Obom. Discussions on the preservation of traditions and the cultural importance of the Obom.

554- Additionally, from 18 to 26 June 2024, the National Museum hosted an artistic and cultural holiday camp for children aged between 3 and 16. Activities at the camp included theatre, dance, pottery and music.

§2: Participation in Sporting Activities

555- As in previous years, school games were organized and Cameroonian national teams participated at other sporting activities nationally and internationally.

A: Participation in School Games

556- The 24th edition of the finals of the National Federation of School Sport (FENASSCO) A league games took place in Limbe in the South West Region from 3 to 10 April 2024, under the theme "School Games, a Guarantee of Peace and Sustainable Development". The games were an opportunity for over 2,000 students from colleges, high schools and teachers training colleges, competing in 12 disciplines, to showcase their sporting skills. The Centre Region came first with a total of 58 medals (36 gold, 11 silver and 11 bronze).

557- The 17th edition of the National Federation of School Sport (FENASSCO) league B were held in Bafoussam from 8 to 14 June 2024

¹⁴³ The Obom (an ancestral fabric of the forest peoples), is a symbol of the cultural richness and resilience of the forest peoples and is a fundamental part of their identity.

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under the theme: grassroots school sport, a crucible for the promotion of ethics, humanism and harmonious living together. Some 1,333 pupils participated at the games with the West Region grabbing 35 medals (15 gold, 11 silver and 9 bronze) to obtain the first place.

558- Furthermore, a total of 21 institutions of higher education participated at the 24th edition of the University Games from 25 May to 1 June 2024 in Garoua under the theme "University Sport and Professionalisation, Major Assets for an Entrepreneurial University". Some 400 athletes participated at the said Games.

B: Participation in other Sports Competitions

559- Cameroon, took part in more than 96 international competitions, both in Cameroon (18 competitions) and abroad (78 competitions). The cost of participation at these competitions was approximately CFAF4,641,524,461¹⁴⁴. In all, Cameroon National Teams won 471 medals (215 gold, 141 silver and 125 bronze).

SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF THE MORAL AND MATERIAL INTERESTS OF ARTISTS

560- International instruments protecting the interests of artists were ratified and measures were taken to improve on ethics and to combat piracy. Furthermore, royalties were collected and distributed to artists as well as financial assistance granted to them.

§1: Strengthening the Regulatory Framework

561- The International Convention for the Protection of Performers, adopted in Rome, Italy on 26 October 1961, was ratified pursuant to Decree No. 2024/330 of 24 July 2024. Cameroon also acceded to the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty (WIPO Copyright Treaty), adopted in Geneva, Switzerland on 20 December 1996, by Decree No. 2024/336 of 24 July 2024.

¹⁴⁴ About 7,086,296.88 Euros.

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§2: Measures to Improve on Ethics

562- In 2024, the Cameroon National Musical Art Corporation (SONACAM) took measures to improve on ethics among artists. To this end, SONACAM through its Ethics and Discipline Committee summoned and heard artists suspected of corruption. Some 16 artists were accused of acts of corruption including the direct collection of royalties and were sanctioned accordingly by way of suspension where the allegations were founded. Hence, 5 were dismissed from the board of directors of SONACAM, 3 were suspended for 3 years by the Ethics Committee, while one was suspended as president of a commission pending his removal by the general assembly of SONACAM.

§3: Initiatives to Fight Piracy

563- SONACAM, through its Anti-Piracy Commission stepped up checks on invoices and receipts issued by its revenue collectors throughout the country. To this end, the Board of Directors passed a resolution appointing certain administrators to coordinate the activities of SONACAM's regional anti-piracy commissions. This strategy led to the detection of offenders who were sanctioned: 6 collectors were dismissed, 11 collectors were warned and one SONACAM regional delegate was suspended.

564- In addition, SONACAM through its regional anti-pirating commissions carried out massive operations across the country and seized music downloading equipment and destroyed pirated CDs. More than 1,700 CDs were seized and publicly destroyed in Douala on 19 July 2024.

§4: Collection and Distribution of Royalties to Cultural Actors

565- SONACAM distributed royalties to artists in April and October. In all, CFAF139,658,335¹⁴⁵ was distributed to 2,400 artists.

§5: Financial Assistance to Artists

566- Financial assistance by the Government to artists was as follows for

¹⁴⁵ About 213, 218.83 Euros.

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various categories: cinema, CFAF 41,512,000¹⁴⁶; festivals, CFAF 36,674,000¹⁴⁷; music, 29,801,000¹⁴⁸; Literature, CFAF 5,525,000¹⁴⁹.

SECTION 4: PROMOTION OF OFFICIAL AND MOTHER LANGUAGES

567- Activities were carried out to promote the official languages of the country, English and French. This was the same for mother languages.

A: Promotion of Official Languages

568- The launching of activities for the 2024 edition of the Bilingualism week celebrated under the theme “Bilingualism, a vector for digitilising teaching to promote civic and moral values in a peaceful and emerging Cameroon”, took place in Bertoua on 29 January 2024. Activities on school campuses nationwide included traditional dances, songs, sketches, with pupils and students expressing themselves in both languages. The celebrations ended on 2 February 2024 with about 100 students from the 10 regions gathered in Yaounde for the closing ceremony as regards the secondary education sector while the closing for the primary education sector took place in Kribi.

569- Furthermore, between 23 and 29 June 2024, the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM) carried out missions to assess the practice of bilingualism at the Douala, Yaounde and Garoua International Airports as well as at the Douala, Kribi and Limbe Seaports. In the same vein, the NCPBM visited some diplomatic representations abroad.

B: Promotion of Mother Languages

570- The prize award ceremony of the 3rd edition of the National Language Book Writing Contest, organised by SIL Cameroun under the patronage of MINEDUB took place in Yaounde on 10 October 2024 during which 19 winners were awarded prizes.

¹⁴⁶ About 63, 377.09 Euros.

¹⁴⁷ About 55, 990. 84 Euros.

¹⁴⁸ About 45, 497.70 Euros.

¹⁴⁹ About 8, 435.11 Euros.

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571- Furthermore, an exhibition of books translated into the Ewondo language took place at the St Ignace Parish of Loyola in Nkoulou in the Centre Region on 21 February 2024 with the aim of sensitising the local population on the importance of mastering their mother language as an added advantage to excel in society.

SECTION 5: PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND LEISURE

572- No effort was spared in enhancing the visibility of Cameroon as a tourist destination. The holding of regular sessions of the National Technical Commission for Tourism and Leisure Establishments, led to an increase in the number of tourism and leisure facilities. The cleaning up of the tourism and leisure sector as well as the transfer of powers to councils continued.

§1: Promoting Visibility

573- The process to obtain intellectual property for some Cameroonian Dishes was in progress. Besides, the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL) participated in activities within the country including trade fairs, open days, festivals as well as in meetings internationally to promote tourism in Cameroon.

A: Promoting Visibility for Cameroonian Dishes

574- In order to promote Cameroonian cultural and traditional values, to boost food tourism and generate revenues through direct marketing and licensing to third parties for commercialisation, Cameroon continued to participate in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Project, "Intellectual Property and Gastronomic Tourism in Peru and Other Developing Countries: Promoting the Development of Gastronomic Tourism through Intellectual Property". The project involves 4 countries, namely Cameroon, Malaysia, Morocco and Peru. On 7 May 2024, phase 2 of the project was launched in Cameroon, with the objective of registering Ndolè at WIPO. To consolidate this quest for getting intellectual property for Ndolè, the year 2024 was labelled by MINTOUL "The year of Ndolè". The highlighting of Ndolè was the start of a process that will see the country's best dishes considered for intellectual property. There are 14 dishes

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including Achu, Koki, Mbokko Bè Ngniiri, Neé Gouo liè and Sanga earmarked.

B: Participation in Events at the National Level to enhance Visibility

575- MINTOUL participated in a number of fairs to promote the tourism potential of Cameroon. It took part in the Promote Trade Fair from 19 to 25 February 2024 in Yaounde, during which through its stand, numerous visitors were sensitised on the tourism language and various tourist sites of the 10 regions of the country. It was also present at the Trade Fair for Government Action (SAGO) 2024 and took part in the conference on *Governance and Improving the Living Conditions of Populations in the Tourism and Leisure Sector* on 26 July 2024 in Yaounde. MINTOUL further participated in the 15th edition of the annual Central African Cross-Border Fair (FOTRAC) in Ebolowa from 7 to 21 July 2024, which brought together nearly 150 participants from various countries. It further took part in the 4th edition of the Limbe International tourism fair on 21 November 2024 which had as theme, “*Valorization of tourism potentials as a key for job creation and economic development in Cameroon*”.

576- Furthermore, in prelude to the celebration of the International Labour Day in 2024, MINTOUL launched on 23 April 2024, open days in Yaounde, to showcase Cameroon as a tourist destination via the gastronomy of the 4 cultural areas of Cameroon (Fang-Beti, Sawa, Grassfield and Sudan-Sahelian). From 17 to 27 September 2024, in the context of the celebration of the 45th World Tourism Day, an information and awareness caravan, a sports walk, and a training workshop for staff in the leisure and tourism sector were organised in Douala by MINTOUL.

577- The *Chaîne des Restaurateurs pour la Promotion du Patrimoine de la Cuisine Camerounaise* (CRESPAC) in collaboration with MINTOUL organised the 3rd edition of the *Festival des Saveurs du Cameroun et du Monde, avec pour pays à l’honneur la Suisse* (Festival of flavours of Cameroon and the World with Swiss as guest of honour) from 26 November to 1 December 2024 in Yaounde, which aims to make Cameroon a culinary destination.

578- Additionally, from 2 to 13 September 2024, MINTOUL in collabo-

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ration with *Identité Numérique*, organised demonstrations of distinctive and innovative digital signage solutions in the MINTOUL hall.

C: Improving Visibility at the International Level

579- MINTOUL continued to consolidate Cameroon's presence at the international level and sell Cameroon as a tourist destination. As such, it participated in United Nations Meetings including the 67th Meeting of the UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa held in Livingstone, Zambia, from 22 to 24 July 2024, the first edition of the UN Regional Forum on Gastronomic Tourism in Africa from 26 to 28 July 2024 in Zimbabwe.

§2: Increased Offer in the Tourism and Leisure Sector

580- The regular holding of sessions of the National Technical Commission for Tourism and Leisure Establishments led to the granting of authorisations for the construction or operation of tourism and leisure facilities, the granting of licences to operate tourist agencies and approval to operate as tourist guides. The following results were achieved: 71 applications for the construction of hotels were granted out of the 116 examined; 48 applications for operating permits for hotels were granted out of 58; 15 restaurants were authorised out of 54 applications examined; regarding tourist agencies, 5 licences were granted out of 10 files examined; as regards tourist guides, 9 licences were granted of the 15 files examined and 14 applications for leisure facilities were granted out of 19.

581- The total number of approved hotels in Cameroon stood at 2,421, in 2024 with a total capacity of more than 38,385 rooms compared to 2,350 hotels consisting of 37,885 rooms in 2023.

582- The State also constructed conference halls at the *Centre d'Accueil de Kribi*. Other infrastructure was built within the context of decentralisation (See §588)

§3: Promoting a Culture of Healthy, Educational Leisure Activities.

583- The 2024 edition of the holiday camp which involved children from the 10 regions of the country was organised by MINTOUL in Mbalmayo

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from 1 to 10 August 2024, during which in addition to theoretical lessons and practical work, the children also learned songs, took part in sporting activities, in competitions of all kinds and learned basic principles of civic education.

584- Moreover, a training workshop for public and private sector leisure instructors under the supervision of experts of the National Institute of Youth and Sports took place in July 2024 in Mbalmayo.

§4: Cleaning up the Tourism and Leisure Sector

585- Inspections and joint controls with relevant Administrations were carried out in accordance with Order No. 102 /PM of 9 December 2020 setting out the procedures for carrying out inspections in tourism and leisure establishments. To this end, 809 tourism and leisure establishments were inspected in 8 regions; (62 in the Adamawa Region, 27 in the Centre Region, 87 in the East Region, 78 in the Far North Region, 157 in the Littoral Region, 32 in the North Region, 212 in the West Region and 154 in the South Region.

586- MINTOUL's Central Control Brigade and decentralised services also carried out unannounced inspections to suspected clandestine tourism and leisure establishments in the Centre Region. To this end, 36 furnished flats and 15 party halls were fined.

587- Furthermore, on 13 November 2024 in Yaounde, a campaign was launched to classify and reclassify tourism and leisure establishments in the Centre Region, with a view to guaranteeing the quality of infrastructure, equipment and services. At the end of this operation, 74 establishments were inspected.

§5: Transfer of Powers to Councils

588- In 2024, in the context of decentralisation, MINTOUL transferred financial resources to 37 councils for the development of tourist sites and leisure facilities. Some of the results of this transfer include: the construction of a fence on the Marim tourist site in the Nkum district and the construction of a rest house in the Benakuma council area in the North West Region; the extension

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of the Bamusso seaside eco-tourism theme park in the South West Region.

589- Moreover, the Ebolowa Recreation Park was effectively transferred to the Ebolowa Regional Council on 6 March 2024.

590- Furthermore, on 11 and 12 November 2024, a workshop was organised in Bafoussam for members of the regional and local councils (key actors in the tourism and leisure sector) to popularize and implement the transfer of powers to the said councils in the area of tourism and leisure.

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591- The adoption of the law to regulate archives set a strong foundation for archive management while tangible progress was made in the endeavour of retrieving illegally exported cultural property. In a move to leverage its unique culinary identity, Cameroon begun pursuing intellectual property rights for its distinctive dishes. Cameroonian national teams in various disciplines also represented the country well at sporting competitions. Furthermore, the growing number of tourism and leisure facilities witnessed over the years was maintained.

592- Some setbacks were piracy particularly in the music sector and the persistence of clandestine hotel establishments.



CHAPTER

6

**RIGHT TO A
HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT**



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593- The right to a healthy environment was guaranteed through consolidation of the normative and strategic framework, sustainable management of biological diversity, as well as combating desertification and climate change. Measures taken also concerned the fight against pollution and harmful or dangerous chemical substances or even the promotion and protection of forests and wildlife species, as well as the repression of environmental offences.

SECTION 1: CONSOLIDATION OF THE NORMATIVE AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

594- Cameroon improved its normative and strategic framework.

§1: Improvement of the Normative Framework

595- The normative framework was consolidated with Law No. 2024/8 of 24 July 2024 to lay down forestry and wildlife regulations, which governs the sustainable management of forest resources and wildlife, defines the rules relating to the conservation, protection, exploitation and renewal of these resources, while promoting the restoration of forest landscapes.

596- Furthermore, Decree No. 2024/5248/PM of 19 November 2024 to lay down the conditions and procedures for establishing zones for the protection and exclusion of lands and mineral substances from mining activities, contributed to the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas.

597- Decree No. 2024/5249/PM of 19 November 2024 to lay down some obligations related to the exercise of mining and quarrying rights, strengthened environmental requirements for operators in the extractive sector.

598- Furthermore, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife issued Order No. 63/A/MINFOF of 28 October 2024, making the exploitation inventory guidelines enforceable and Order No. 65/A/MINFOF of 4 November 2024 making the procedures for verifying development and pre-investment inventories in Cameroon enforceable.

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§2: Improvement of the Strategic Framework

599- The National Code of Conduct for Eco-guards adopted in March 2024 established the essential principles of ethical behaviour, respect for Human Rights, and ecological monitoring for water and forest personnel working in Protected Areas. This code of conduct comes to improve relations between the Eco-guards and the neighbouring communities.

600- The National Plan for the Development of Forest and Non-Timber Products was renewed and validated in June 2024. The main thrusts of the plan include consolidation of the legal and regulatory framework; sustainable management of resources; and promotion and support of transformation.

601- Furthermore, the Development Plan for the Faro Park was renewed and validated in October 2024. Its thrusts cover, in particular, the protection and surveillance of the park; participatory management and eco-development as well as capacity development of the human resources of the park.

SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DESERTIFICATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

602- The goal is to combat climate change and ensure the restoration of nature and the sustainable management of biological diversity.

§1: Restoration of Nature

603- Various initiatives led to the improvement of vegetation cover, notably the UFA-Reforest Project. The Project that aims at the sustainable management of timber production forests in Cameroon, made it possible in 2024 to reforest 28.03 hectares of plantations and enrich 5,934 felling areas, thus totalling 70,594 trees planted since the beginning of the project.

604- As part of its annual volunteer programme “30 Days of Y’ello Care”, MTN Cameroon organised a reforestation campaign from 15 to 19 June 2024, planting 2,500 trees in the Centre, Littoral, Adamawa, North, and Far North Regions.

605- In September 2024, the organisation *Graine de Viea* continued its re-

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forestation campaign in the Doume Council with the planting of more than 2,000 Tali trees.

606- A total of 300 trees of 3 different species were planted in 2 military camps in the Wouri Division and the awareness of 160 soldiers was raised on the importance of environmental preservation and the fight against climate change. Similarly, during the International Tree Day (which is celebrated every 21 March) the awareness of 240 students and teachers was raised in the Nkam Division.

607- Moreover, as part of the implementation of the Green Sahel operation, 80,000 trees were planted in 4 sites in Mayo-Sava and Diamare Divisions and the sites protected.

§2: The Fight against Climate Change

608- Concerning the coordination and monitoring of the commitments of Cameroon within the framework of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), it was noted that 3 NDCs extension workshops were held in agro-ecological zones. (Garoua, from 8 to 9 April 2024, bringing together stakeholders from the North, Far North, and Adamawa Regions; Ebolowa, from 18 to 19 April 2024, bringing together stakeholders from the Centre, South, and East Regions, and Douala, from 6 to 7 May 2024, bringing together stakeholders from the North West, West, South West and Littoral Regions).

609- The International Monetary Fund granted Cameroon funding of CFAF1 11,000,000,000¹⁵⁰ to support its commitments in the fight against climate change, thereby stepping up her capacity to implement adaptation and mitigation measures.

610- Moreover, on the occasion of the International Day of Forests, youths from the Far North Region, under the banner "U reporter", initiated reforestation campaigns in some schools in Maroua where 200 trees were planted, in order to mitigate the effects of high temperatures and raise the awareness of students on the importance of preserving the environment.

611- In addition, as part of the implementation of the Project for Reducing

¹⁵⁰ About 169, 465, 648.85 Euros.

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Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Land Degradation (REDD+), several workshops were organised including: the workshop to present the results of the Emissions Reduction Activities (ERA) from 15 to 19 April 2024; the workshop to evaluate the status of the national REDD+ process and the development of REDD+ tools in Cameroon from 1 to 4 May 2024; and the workshop on planning REDD+ activities for integration into the Common Fund's Work Plan and Annual Budget (PTBA) 2024, from 27 to 31 May 2024.

§3: Sustainable Management of Biological Diversity

612- In March 2024, Cameroon joined the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (SWM Programme), an international initiative aimed at improving wildlife conservation and food security. The Programme, which runs until July 2026, aims to sustainably and legally use wildlife for food and the livelihoods of rural stakeholders in Baka and Bantu villages, while conserving biological diversity.

613- In August 2024, MINEPDED, in partnership with the World-Wide Fund for Nature Cameroon and the *Agence Française de Développement*, initiated the second phase of the BIODEV 2030 project (2024-2026). This phase aims to consolidate achievements, notably the review of the National Strategy and Plan of Action for Biodiversity (NBSAP II) and the analysis of Sector Public Policy Instruments (SPPI), in order to align sector policies with biodiversity conservation objectives and contribute to the implementation of national biodiversity commitments.

614- A Cameroonian delegation attended the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity held from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia.

615- As part of the fight against water hyacinth, the fight against invasive alien species was intensified with the support of MINFOF and MINEPDED in the following council: Yabassi, Dizangue, Douala IV, Douala V, Lagdo, Mengueme, Ngaoundere III and Ngomedzap. The support provided to the Ngaoundere III Council was used to clean 4 hectares of Lake Bini from water hyacinth.

616- As part of the consolidation of the information system on biological diversity and ecosystem services, data concerning the Cameroon Biodi-

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versity Information System were collected, processed, validated and disseminated on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF¹⁵¹) portal.

SECTION 3: COMBATING POLLUTION AND HARMFUL OR DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

617- Several initiatives were taken to combat pollution and harmful or dangerous chemical substances.

§1: Combating Pollution

618- To address the garbage crisis in Yaounde, Government disbursed the sum of CFAF200,000,000¹⁵² to support the operation “*coup de poing*” launched in July 2024 to enable the resumption of waste collection activities.

619- The Cameroon Hygiene and Sanitation Company (HYSACAM) developed a programme to build waste transfer centres in Douala. These are transit facilities that allow waste collected by dump trucks to be grouped together before being transported by a higher-capacity, cost-controlled means of transport to the treatment facility. The first of these facilities was inaugurated on 25 September 2024 in Youpwe Quarters. Built on an area of 5,000 m², this waste transfer centre was funded to the tune of CFAF1,000,000,000¹⁵³ by the of Douala City Council.

620- As part of the finance law of the 2024 financial year, Government introduced a 50% reduction on the taxable value of imported new electric motor vehicles and motorcycles, a measure aimed at reducing air pollution¹⁵⁴.

621- Furthermore, 25,000 kg of plastic packaging were seized in June 2024 by Customs as part of the Halt to Illicit Trade operation (Halcomi III), and subsequently destroyed by approved companies. Much more, 3,785 facilities and 679 ships were inspected by representatives of the Ministry of Transport, which coordinates interventions of all technical services car-

¹⁵¹ It is an international network and data infrastructure funded by global governments with the aim of providing everyone everywhere with free access to data on all forms of life on Earth.

¹⁵² About 305, 343. 51 euros.

¹⁵³ About 1,526,717.55 Euros.

¹⁵⁴ Section 6 of the 2025 finance law.

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rying out inspections and controls, MINEPDED, the MINSANTE, MINEPIA, MINADER and MINFOF.

622- In addition, several sessions of the environmental permit (EP) application committee were held, at the end of which 239 EPs were issued.

623- Between 2022 and 2024, air quality measurement stations were installed, accompanied by standards aimed at reducing air pollution in construction, building management, industrial facilities, and vehicles.¹⁵⁵

§2: Combating Nuisances and Harmful or Dangerous Chemical Substances

624- The measures taken in this area include the adoption of the National Action Plan for Reducing or Eliminating mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Cameroon National Action Plan (NAP) for reducing mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) (2025-2030). The Plan aims to reduce mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining by 70% by 2030. As part of the implementation of the Minamata Convention, the Plan aims to protect human health and the environment from the harmful effects of mercury.

625- Cameroon adopted a National Plan to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (2024-2028), which aims to effectively combat antimicrobial resistance through the responsible use of quality-assured antimicrobials and pesticides, accessible to all.

626- Combating harmful or dangerous chemical substances was also characterized by: the equipment of the refrigeration and air conditioning department of 2 Centres of Excellence for Advanced Vocational Training in Limbe and Douala; the training on 12 and 13 June 2024 of about a hundred technicians and professionals from the refrigeration and air conditioning sector on green refrigeration technologies; the renovation and equipment of the laboratory in the Department of Energy and Thermal Engineering at the Higher Technical Teacher Training College (HTTTC) in Douala, with support from the Ozone and climate-friendly cooling project in West and Central Africa (ROCA).

¹⁵⁵ MINEPDED has 2 air measurement stations operational only in Yaounde.

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SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF FORESTS AND WILDLIFE SPECIES

627- The fight against poaching and illegal trafficking in animals and plant species and the promotion of forests and wildlife species were at the centre of the Government action.

§1: Promotion of Forests and Wildlife Species

628- Cameroon recorded, in community hunting zones, 272 tourists out of the expected 320, representing a reception rate of 87.74%.

629- The collection of CFAF950,000,000¹⁵⁶ was planned as part of wildlife resource management, but at the end of 2024, this amount was exceeded to reach CFAF1,000,000,065¹⁵⁷. The benefits of the 2023-2024 hunting season amounting to CFAF130,269,633¹⁵⁸ were handed over to the councils and neighbouring communities by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.

§2: The Fight against Poaching and Illegal Trafficking of Plant Species

630- Cameroon continued to collaborate with the *Africa-TWIX*¹⁵⁹ network, which is a system aimed at promoting cooperation and information sharing between authorities engaged in the fight against illegal wildlife trade in Central Africa. Thus, in 2024, more than 1,790 messages were shared via the network, involving 350 agents from member countries including Cameroon.

631- Local initiatives such as the SWM programme (see § 612) were also set up to raise rural community awareness of the dangers of poaching and encourage the reconversion of poachers towards sustainable alternative activities, such as agriculture or livestock farming.

¹⁵⁶ About 1,450,381.67 Euros.

¹⁵⁷ About 1,526,717.65 Euros.

¹⁵⁸ About 198,884.93 Euros.

¹⁵⁹ It is a digital platform facilitating the exchange of information between wildlife enforcement authorities in Central Africa.

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SECTION 5: REPRESSION OF THE VIOLATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

632- Administrative penalties were taken by MINFOF, including 7 decisions to suspend the activities of logging and wildlife companies. The suspension decisions also concerned exploitation activities of 5 community forests and 3 areas of cynegetic interest under community management.

633- The courts contributed in the repression of wildlife legislation. This is the case, for example, of the Court of First Instance (CFI) of Tibati which, by Judgment No. 25/COR of 13 February 2024, in the matter between MP and *Parc National du Mbam vs Djerem* and **B.L.M.** and **M.B.** found the defendants guilty of killing protected species in an area where hunting is prohibited, of movement without authorisation in a protected area and of movement without authorisation of the remains (of animals) of protected species, convicted and sentenced them to 10 months in prison and ordered them to pay damages fixed at the sum of CFAF5,669,000¹⁶⁰.

634- Furthermore, regarding the fight against pollution, the CFI of Douala-Bonassama-Bonaberi in the matter between The People and **DNP, T.J., E.N.J. vs V.J. and E.M.**, by Judgment No. 145/COR of 7 February 2024, found the defendants guilty of pollution and convicted and sentenced them each to 3 months in prison and a fine of CFAF1,000,000¹⁶¹ and damages in the sum of CFAF4,000,000¹⁶².

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635- In 2024, environmental protection in Cameroon remained a major challenge, particularly in the face of difficult waste management, worsening climate change, and the repression of violations of environmental laws. Despite encouraging initiatives, the magnitude of the problems required coordinated efforts, combining citizen engagement, technological innovations and consolidated public policies. Moreover, the environmental future of the country will depend on the collective capacity to combine sustainable development and preservation of natural resources.

¹⁶⁰ About 8,654.96 Euros.

¹⁶¹ About 1,526.71 Euros.

¹⁶² About 6,106.87 Euros.

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CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

636- Despite challenges mainly relating to the economic situation and security challenges in some Regions, the State deployed a range of measures, sometimes as a matter of urgency, to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights. Some positive aspects recorded include increase in school enrolment rate, creation of several jobs, progress made with implementing the universal health coverage, adoption of new strategic documents in the area of employment and organisation of several cultural events.



PART THREE

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND SPECIFIC RIGHTS



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INTRODUCTION TO PART THREE

637- In 2024, the State continued its efforts towards preventing and managing threats to peace all over the nation, as well as protecting the rights of forcibly displaced persons. The State also took into consideration the interests of socially vulnerable persons, detainees and women. Similarly, measures were adopted to improve the quality of governance and the fight against corruption continued.



CHAPTER

1

**RIGHT TO PEACE
AND SECURITY
AND RESPECT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**



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638- Peace and security were impacted by external or endogenous threats. However, the State continued to implement measures aimed at preventing insecurity and preserving peace and security.

SECTION 1: THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY

639- In the Far North, North West and South West Regions, sporadic raids by armed groups were observed, while the Littoral and Centre Regions faced the phenomenon of “microbes”. There were also some inter-community tensions.

§1: Incursions of Terrorist Groups into the Far North Region

640- *Boko Haram* carried out armed attacks against the Defence and Security Forces (DSF) and looted the local civilian population¹⁶³. Explosions of improvised explosive devices (IED), ambushes, as well as incursions by *Boko Haram* and ISWAP¹⁶⁴ groups were recorded.

641- The biannual security assessment meetings of this Region, including that of 3 December 2023 in Maroua, were an opportunity for the high command of the Cameroon Army to maintain the vigilance of DSFs, to welcome collaboration with the population and congratulate staff for successes achieved. As an illustration, on 11 May 2024, elements of Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) through “Operation Alpha” freed 300 hostages held by *Boko Haram*.

§2: Attacks in the North West and South West Regions

642- Although scarcity of armed confrontations with DSFs was observed, incursions of armed gangs resulted, among other things, in assassinations¹⁶⁵

¹⁶³ These include the attacks in Darak on 19 December 2024, during which 10 attackers were neutralized; 12-13 November 2024 in Tourou where several people were killed; from Ldamang on 13 November 2024 causing 9 deaths, including 3 women, of 23-24 November 2024 in Koutoula causing the death of the village chief and the kidnapping of several civilians, and that of Papata on 29 March 2025.

¹⁶⁴ Islamic State in West Africa.

¹⁶⁵ The attack of 20 May 2024 in Belo which led to the death of **Dr NGONG Innocent AKI-AMBOM**, Mayor of Belo and **ANGHI Aaron NGONG**, Subdivisional Inspector of Basic Education; attack of 10 May 2024 between Ayukaba and Eyangchang resulting in the death of 5

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and kidnappings with demands for ransom, the most striking being that of the Subdivisional Officer of Idabato and a council worker on the night of 30 September to 1 October 2024. A total of 90 cases of kidnapping for ransom were recorded.

643- Security assessment meetings, such as those in Buea on 17 April 2024, and Bamenda on 3 December 2024, made it possible to draw up an inventory of the threat and strengthen operational strategies in order to weaken the armed gangs.

§3: Security in the Littoral and Centre Regions

644- It was marked by the rise of the phenomenon of “*microbes*”. Indeed, on 20 September 2024, a group of youths from Cameroon, Chad, Mali and the Central African Republic, armed with knives and machetes, stormed some quarters of Douala, assaulting and robbing the population of Bali Bonapriso, New-Bell, and other quarters as they passed.

645- In response to this phenomenon, administrative authorities stepped up the security system by creating 19 mixed Gendarmerie/Police check-points and restricting the movement of motorcycles in the affected areas and their surroundings. Moreover, suspects were arrested and brought before judicial authorities.

646- The same situation was observed in Yaounde, in the Olembe and Nkooza neighbourhoods, on 12 December 2024. Thugs on motorcycles, wearing hoods and armed with machetes, forced inhabitants to hand over their belongings. Some 15 suspects were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities.

§4: Persistent Inter-community Tensions

647- In the West Region, clashes between the Bamoun and Tikar communities took place on 8 August 2024 in Magba. The toll of these clashes was 7 persons injured and admitted to hospital, 20 shops burnt down and 2 others looted in the main market of the city.

gendarmes; attack of 29 January 2024 in Buea which resulted in one death and one person injured, attack of 24 to 25 January 2024 at the Buns company base in Ndu.

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648- On 28 November 2024 in the Far North Region, a confrontation resulting in several dead and many injured, pitted the Moussey against the Massa.

649- The return to peace was possible thanks to the mediation of competent administrative authorities as well as the involvement of community and religious leaders.

SECTION 2: PREVENTIVE ACTIONS AGAINST INSECURITY

650- Measures were taken against the proliferation of weapons and securing borders. These measures were enhanced by the training of DSFs staff.

§1: Continued Fight against the Proliferation of Weapons

651- Coordination platform activities and control operations were maintained.

A: Coordination Platform Activities

652- The Interministerial Committee in charge of the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention, the Interministerial Committee in charge of the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540¹⁶⁶, as well as the interministerial committee in charge of the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons continued their respective activities, which included the meeting of 7 May 2024, preparatory to the participation of Cameroon in the 4th Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). This was a follow-up to the Regional Preparatory Meeting for this Conference held in Lome, Togo, from 29 February to 1 March 2024; the meeting on 14 June 2024 regarding the evaluation of the Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT) project with the consultant designated by the United Nations Office for Disarmament. In the same vein, Cameroon and the other Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) States shared their experiences during a Subregional training workshop held from 24 to 26

¹⁶⁶ Prohibition on providing support to non-State stakeholders for the development, supply, transfer or use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.

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April in Yaounde, on physical security and stockpile management as a tool for preventing the diversion of SALW in Central Africa.

653- Furthermore, on 18 October 2024, the Working Group within the National Committee for Aviation Threat and Risk Assessment in Cameroon was installed. It is responsible for constantly reassessing threats and their nature within the territory, conducting regular risk assessments taking into account the national, regional and international environment, identifying appropriate security measures including against terrorism and proposing mitigation solutions based on the risk. The same applies to the Coordinating Committee on National Policies to Combat Money Laundering, Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, established on 19 June 2024.

B: Arms Control

654- Arms controls has become stricter at all levels, particularly with the continued suspension of weapons purchase authorisations and controls at borders, seaports and airports.

655- By way of illustration, controls carried out by the Customs Administration resulted in the seizure of 3,144 munitions of war including 3,000 M16, 119 Kalashnikovs and 25 automatic pistols, 2 hunting ammunition, 8 compressed air guns and 46 cartridges, 1,200 firecrackers, 1,600 arrow tips, 8,600 arrows, 450 bows, 168 quivers, 96 knives, 827 daggers, and 220 machetes. In the category of dual-use equipment, it seized 163 bags of cyanide of 50kg each, 900 litres of sulphuric acid, 290 kg of ammonia, 800 litres of acetone and urea.

§2: Border Security

656- The deliberations of the 6th Ad hoc Border Commission, coupled with those of the 3rd Permanent Joint Security Commission between Cameroon and the Central African Republic, which held in Bangui from 26 to 27 June 2024, resulted in a convergent will of the 2 States to step up their presence at the level of the common border and efforts for a definitive demarcation.

657- The demarcation of the border with Nigeria was on the agenda of the

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6th extraordinary session of the Joint Commission for the Implementation of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), held in Yaounde from 26 to 27 June 2024. At the end of the deliberations, the following recommendations were made: to no longer make reference to the ICJ Judgment on the 3 localities subject to disagreement between the parties; a visit by the demarcation subcommittee on the disputed sites; and the preparation of a report to be submitted to the next session of the Commission.

658- Misunderstandings and security issues were the focus of discussions, in Djibloho, from 6 to 7 August 2024, at the 2nd session of the Ad hoc Commission for the Delimitation of the Maritime and Land Borders between Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe.

659- The fight against insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea and the consolidation of military cooperation at borders were the main items on the agenda of the 1st Conference of Chiefs of Staff of the Armies of Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe.

§3: Capacity Development of DSF Staff

660- Activities were carried out to combat the terrorist threats in all its components. Thus, operational exercises in response to hostage incidents were conducted in Yaounde in May 2024, by elements of the Special Operations Group (GSO). Similarly, Operation Resilience "Air 2024", bringing together all the components of the army, was held in Tsabal.

661- In addition, the awareness of non-profit organisations was raised on terrorist financing during 2 workshops chaired by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Territorial Administration, respectively on 23 May 2024, and 21 October 2024, in Yaounde.

662- To deal with IEDs, 51 police deminers were trained. From 8 to 11 July 2024, some 50 police, gendarme and customs officers from the Littoral, North West and South West Regions received training on the proliferation of IEDs and their destruction.

663- Regarding policing, 182 gendarmes attended refresher courses from 7 to 15 October 2024 at the Advanced Training Centre for Policing Techniques in Awae. In October and November 2024, some 100 police offi-

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cers were trained for 2 weeks in Yaounde, by the General Delegation for National Security (DGSN) on essential techniques such as policing and the fight against cybercrime and narcotics in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain in Cameroon.

664- New forms of threats, particularly digital ones, were discussed during a colloquium held at the International War College of Yaounde from 29 to 31 May 2024. Participants were made aware of the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence, as well as its dangers.

665- Through the enactment of Law No. 2024/24 of 23 December 2024, the State further consolidated its cooperation in the fight against terrorism by acceding to the Convention of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation to combat international terrorism, signed on 1 July 1999 in Ouagadougou.

SECTION 3: PEACE CONSOLIDATION

666- The instigators of violence in the North West and South West Regions were prosecuted abroad, while actions to consolidate peace, disarm, demobilise and reintegrate former combatants and ex-associates as well as strengthen living-together continued.

§1: Continued Arrests of Terrorist Leaders

667- The states of refuge for citizens of Cameroon origin involved in the violence in the South West and North West Regions continued to respond positively to the constant calls of the Head of State of Cameroon, coupled with the activism of Civil Society Organisations (CSO). Thus, on 25 September 2024, after a search of his home, Ayaba Cho Lucas, considered as one of the main instigators of the atrocities perpetrated by non-State armed gangs in the South West and North West Regions was arrested in Norway and remanded in custody. Legal proceedings against him were ongoing.

§2: Peace Building Measures

668- Civil-military actions were implemented and reconstruction operations in crisis regions also continued.

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A: Implementation of Civil-military Actions

669- As part of festivities to mark the 52nd edition of the National Day, the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) organised the open days of DSFs from 17 to 19 May 2024 in Yaounde. The objective was to consolidate the Army/Nation bond and inform the public about the different components of the DSFs.

670- From 25 to 30 June 2024, the population of Darak, Kofia, Soueram and Hile Alifa and all localities around Lake Chad benefited from a health campaign organised by Sector No. 1 of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) F. The people of these localities who were victims of the scourges of *Boko Haram*, received care for ailments related to ophthalmology, dentistry, surgery, and general medicine...

B: Reconstruction of Crisis Regions

671- The implementation of reconstruction plans and programmes continued.

1) Presidential Reconstruction and Development Plan for the North West and South West Regions

672- This Plan was adjusted by an order signed by the Prime Minister on 30 July 2024. It was a matter of adapting the operations to be carried out and the search for funding to the current context, by diversifying partners, mobilising resources, and taking into account the decentralisation process through greater involvement of RLAs.

673- On 17 September 2024 in Bamenda, the Steering Committee of the Presidential Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the North West (NW) and South West (SW) Regions reviewed the 4 years of implementation. It emerged that 258 projects were carried out. By way of illustration, for the 2024 financial year, due to the loss or destruction of official documents, special support was granted for the reconstitution¹⁶⁷ of the said documents in several councils to 800 people (NW: 400, SW: 400); 57 cultural events (NW: 49, SW: 8) and 6 workshops were organised for crisis prevention and peaceful habitation (NW: 1, SW: 5); and 3 alert units

¹⁶⁷ Due to the loss, abandonment or destruction of official documents such as birth certificates.

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were established (NW: 0, SW: 3). In addition, 15 community centres for women (NW: 4, SW: 11); 72 schools (NW: 50, SW: 22); 25 health centres (NW: 7, SW: 18); 37 water points (NW: 8, SW: 29); as well as 770 hectares of fields were rehabilitated in the NW; 4 and bridges were built in the NW. In addition, 2,261 farmers benefited from various equipment and other materials; 31 production units were set up (NW: 21, SW: 10); 7 markets were built (NW: 1, SW: 6); 71 groups of agropastoral farmers received various support (NW: 45, SW: 26) while 241 young start-ups were established (NW: 170, SW: 71).

674- Furthermore, on 21 August 2024 in Bamenda, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) donated agricultural equipment comprising 48 sprayers, 47 water pumps, 144 fire extinguishers, 48 1000-liter water tanks, 140 water bottles, 7 motorcycles, 43 mills, 120 aluminium sheets and 2 palm oil presses for 100 farmers. The UNDP also trained 30 women promoters of start-ups in the agro-pastoral sector on investment.

2) Special Programme for the Reconstruction and Development of the Far North Region

675- The Steering Committee of this Programme met in Yaounde on 20 February 2024 to take stock of actions carried out between 2023 and 2024, as well as adopt the budget and the plan of work for 2025.

676- Other activities carried out include: the rehabilitation of the Helvetic hospital of Mada in the Logone-et-Chari Division; the rehabilitation of the urban road network of Maroua; the construction of a water supply system at the University of Maroua campus (site of the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure Polytechnique de Maroua*); the construction of the bridge over the Logone river between Yagoua in Cameroon and Bongor in Chad; the construction of a bridge over the Mayo Tchanawa river (Mogode); the construction of the *Carrefour Djagalai-SOTREAS* factory (*Carrefour Général*, towards Mayo-Kaliao); and the beginning of works on the National Road No. 1, between Mora-Waza-Dabanga-Kousseri. Furthermore, the two projects concerning the acquisition of agricultural and fisheries inputs and the acquisition of agricultural and fisheries production equipment each recorded an execution rate of 90%.

677- Meetings were also organised in order to ensure consistency between

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the interventions of different partners and the actions on the ground. By way of illustration, a workshop was organised on 1 February 2024 in Yaounde and another from 1 to 2 April 2024 in Maroua which brought together all the stakeholders,.

§4: Continued Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Process for Ex-combatants and Ex-associates

678- National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (NCDDR) continued its activities.

679- Staff strength in the different regional centres reception centers for ex-combatants as at 31 December 2024 are contained below:

Table 1: Number of Ex-combatants and Ex-Associates (repentis-repentant persons) in reception centres as at 31 December 2024.

Centres	Men	Women	Children	Total
Buea (South West Region)	552	29	24	605
Bamenda (North West Region)	349	108	71	528
Mora (Far North Region)	643	651	1,003	2,297
Total	1,544	788	1,098	3,430

Source: NCDDR

680- Many fighters accepted the presidential peace offer by joining the regional centres of the NCDDR. There were indeed 3,791 ex-combatants in reception centres in 2023 compared to 3,430 in 2024. This decrease is explained by the reintegration of 708 of them in December 2024 into their communities.

681- As part of the experience sharing, the NCDDR received in April 2024, in Yaounde, a delegation from the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia. This cooperation was strengthened by the study visit of a Cameroonian delegation to Colombia. Beyond the Colom-

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bian experience in peace making and peace building, this visit enabled participants to gain insights into the practices of other invited countries, such as Nigeria, the Philippines and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

§5: Consolidation of National Integration

682- The National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism continued its awareness-raising activities against hate speech, violent extremism and the promotion of living together. It organised a conference in from 26 to 28 September 2024 on living together, hate speech, and inter/intra-community conflicts in Cameroon. From 23 to 29 June 2024, monitoring and evaluation missions were carried out on the practice of bilingualism at the of Yaoundé-Nsimalen, Douala and Garoua international airports, as well as in the Douala, Kribi and Limbe autonomous ports. From 23 to 29 November 2024, the implementation of the national policy for the promotion of official languages was also evaluated.in some of Cameroon’s diplomatic missions abroad.

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683- On the whole, despite the persistence of crises and fluctuating threats, the State deployed measures to ensure peace and security for all, through the fight against urban and inter-community violence as well as terrorism. The capacity development of DSF staff and international cooperation coupled with actions to strengthen social cohesion, also enabled the guarantee of the right to peace and security. However, the suppression of hate speech and the emergence of new forms of threat such as the increasingly frequent use of artificial intelligence remain challenges.

CHAPTER 2

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND COMBATING CORRUPTION



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684- The State of Cameroon remained committed to improving the quality of governance in the conduct of public affairs and the management of public resources. Particular attention was paid to combating corruption and attempts to misappropriate public property.

SECTION 1: MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF GOVERNANCE

685- Some of the measures taken include continued public-private dialogue, the reconfiguration of the National Investment Corporation-SNI, incentive for investment and the application of the principle of transparency.

§1: Continued Public-Private Dialogue

686- Cameroonian authorities continued dialogue with the private sector, represented by the *Groupement des Entreprises du Cameroun* Union of Cameroonian Enterprises (GECAM)¹⁶⁸. Members of the very first elected Board of Directors of GECAM, for example, were received on 24 April 2024 by the Prime Minister. Discussions focused on the prospects for public private dialogue. On 25 April 2024, the GECAM delegation was received by the Minister of State, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic, who indicated that the State of Cameroon remains willing to discuss sustainable solutions for improving the business environment, this through a more inclusive approach.

§2: Reconfiguration of the SNI

687- On 10 July 2024, the SNI was reconfigured by Decree No. 2024/291 to transform this company into a State owned and by Decree No. 2024/292 to approve its Articles of Association. This reconfiguration aimed to bring it into compliance with Law No. 2017/11 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the general rules and regulations governing public corporations in Cameroon and with the OHADA Uniform Act on Commercial Companies and Economic Interest Groups.

688- Its scope of expertise was expanded, making it the institutional investor of the State of Cameroon and the consulting firm. With the State of

¹⁶⁸ It is the most representative employer organisation.

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Cameroon as its sole shareholder, it is responsible for mobilising and directing financing to promote productive investments in the industrial, agricultural, mining, financial, commercial and service sectors. Even though the Ministry of Finance continues to ensure the financial supervision of this company, the technical supervision now falls under the responsibility of the Ministry in charge of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, which is responsible for ensuring that the activities carried out comply with the public policy guidelines of Government in the targeted sectors. Concerning its financial resources, the 2 decrees referred to above devote the recapitalisation of the SNI by increasing its share capital from CFAF26,134,000,000¹⁶⁹ to more than CFAF226,134,000,000¹⁷⁰, which is an increase of CFAF200,000,000¹⁷¹, to be financed by the State budget and spread over 4 successive annual instalments of CFAF50,000,000,000¹⁷² each.

§3: Investment Incentives

689- They resulted in new tax and customs measures and the action of institutional mechanisms dedicated to investment.

A: New Tax and Customs Measures to encourage Investment

690- The finance law of 2024, as per innovations, provided for exemption from customs duties for some strategically important imported equipment. This measure covered in particular, equipment and materials intended for the production of solar and wind energy, livestock breeding, fishing and the development of fish farming, which benefited from exemption from import duties and taxes. The measure also covered support for the development of the local automobile industry, that is a 50% reduction on the taxable import value of vehicle parts and components imported by local vehicle manufacturing and assembly companies for a period of 10 years.

691- Other measures were linked to the promotion of import-substitution, namely: the reduction of land royalties for agricultural enterprises, from

¹⁶⁹ About 39,841,026.10 Euros.

¹⁷⁰ About 344,739,060.10 Euros.

¹⁷¹ About 304,898,034 Euros.

¹⁷² About 76,224,508.50 Euros.

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CFAF50 to CFAF4¹⁷³ per m² for urban land and from CFAF25 to CFAF2¹⁷⁴ per m² for rural land; the application of the average rate of excise duty on hair, wigs, wool, beards, eyebrows, eyelashes, strands of hair and other textile materials imported for the manufacture of wigs or similar hair articles; the gradual increase in taxation on some goods as part of import substitution, excluding staple rice which remained subject to the reduced customs duty rate of 5%, the so-called "pre-cooked" and perfumed rice bearing the normal customs tariff rate; and the imposition of ad valorem excise duty at a rate of: 5% for cereal products and food preparations obtained from cereal flakes, 12.5% for refined vegetable oils, 12.5% for industrial sausages excluding fatty liver which is already subject to an excise duty of 25%, some 25% of kitchen wooden furniture, 25% for plastic furniture, 25% for office metal furniture, 12.5% for cocoa beans, including that intended for use as raw material.

B: Incentive Measures by Specialized Investment Mechanisms

692- In addition to the measures taken by MINJEC and MINPMEESA (§ 502 and 503), as well as by the Agency for the Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, the Investment Promotion Agency (API) continued its activities by signing 60 agreements with companies, thus stimulating the creation of 34,197 jobs.

693- In November 2024, the API claimed a total portfolio of 396 investment projects, with projected investments of more than CFAF6,960,000,000,000¹⁷⁵ and about 159,000 jobs to be created. In a bid to continue promoting investments in Cameroon, it co-organised with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade the 4th edition of the Economic and Investment Forum from 24 to 25 September 2024 in Yaounde, under the theme: "*Investing in Cameroon, a land of attractiveness*"¹⁷⁶.

¹⁷³ From 0.076 to 0.0061 Euros.

¹⁷⁴ From 0.038 to 0.0030 Euros.

¹⁷⁵ About 10,625,954,198.47 Euros.

¹⁷⁶ Organized on the side-lines of the 50th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), this high-level Forum brought together administrative and political authorities, businessmen and business women, financiers and different stakeholders of the business world from OIC member States.

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§ 4: Application of the Principle of Transparency

694- This principle was applied in the extractive industry and public contracts sectors.

A: Transparency in the Extractive Industry Sector

695- Cameroon, though suspended from the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), continued to participate in the Kimberley process while consolidating its normative framework in this area¹⁷⁷.

1) Suspension of Cameroon from the EITI

696- After having obtained an overall score deemed low (53 points) in the implementation of the EITI 2019 Standard, Cameroon was suspended from the EITI by the decision of the Board of Directors of this organisation adopted in March 2024. This decision was notably underpinned by “weaknesses (...) noted in the commitment of civil society in the EITI and its ability to use the process to influence public decision-making”. In view of the next validation in April 2027, Cameroon was called upon to provide corrective measures regarding the following requirements: Government commitment (Requirement 1.1), Business commitment (Requirement 1.2), Civil society commitment (Requirement 1.3), Governance of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (Requirement 1.4), Work Plan (Requirement 1.5), Licensing and Contracting (Requirement 2.2), etc. Measures to meet these requirements were underway.

2) Continued Participation in the Kimberley Process

697- Although the budget allocated to the National Secretariat of the Kim-

¹⁷⁷ The following decrees were signed: Decree No. 2025/5061/PM of 18 November 2024 to lay down the procedures for issuing mining titles, permits and authorizations; Decree No. 2024/5251/PM of 19 November 2024 to lay down the procedures for holding commercialisation, export, import and transit of mineral substances; Decree No. 2024/5250/PM of 19 November 2024 to lay down the conditions and procedures for carrying out fusion, refining, and manufacturing activities involving valuable precious and semi-precious substances; Decree No. 2024/5249/PM of 19 November 2024 to specify some obligations attached to the exercise of mining and quarry rights; Decree No. 2024/5248/PM of 19 November 2024 to lay down the conditions, the modalities for establishing protection and exclusion zones for land and mineral substances from mining activities.

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berley Process (CFAF1,080,000,000¹⁷⁸) was slightly lower compared to the previous year, diamond production practically doubled, from 3,305.8 carats in 2023 to 6,220 carats. To illustrate the meritorious action of the State of Cameroon, in 2019, the production was only 654 carats. This significant quantitative leap was explained by efforts made in tracing this precious mineral.

B: Transparency in the Management of Public Contracts

698- Transparency was obvious through continued digitisation of procedures, increase in controls and categorisation. Thus, 7,372 contracts were programmed and published online on the Cameroon Online E-Procurement System (COLPES) platform. Concerning public contracts controls, 2 large teams were deployed with 593 (compared to 537 in 2023) project owners and delegated project owners from public administrations and companies. With regard to categorisation, the number of companies and consulting firms categorised increased from 212 in 2023 to 284 in 2024.

C: Continued Digitisation of Procedures

699- The digitisation of procedures was continued in several sectors of public life, including public contracts (§ 698), customs, taxes, social security, the public service and even forestry and wildlife. By improving governance and mitigating pockets of corruption, digitisation contributed to further consolidate the collection of public resources. Thus, for the second year in a row, the Directorate General of Customs passed the CFAF1,000,000,000,000¹⁷⁹ threshold. It thus mobilised budget revenues amounting to CFAF1,055,900,000,000¹⁸⁰ in 2024, representing a rate of achievement of 96.5% compared to the target set, an increase of CFAF33,300,000,000¹⁸¹ compared to 2023.

¹⁷⁸ About 1,648,854.96 Euros.

¹⁷⁹ About 1,526,717,557,25 Euros.

¹⁸⁰ About 1,612,061,068.70 Euros.

¹⁸¹ About 50,839,694.66 Euros.

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SECTION 2: COMBATING CORRUPTION AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

700- In addition to prevention measures and the consolidation of the normative and strategic framework, the institutional mechanisms for combating corruption and misappropriation of public property (made up notably of the courts, the Supreme State Audit - CONSUPE, the National Anti-Corruption Commission-NACC and the National Financial Investigation Agency-ANIF) focused on cooperation and collaboration, as well as in control procedures, assistance, advice and investigation.

§1: Consolidation of the Normative and Strategic Framework

701- The Prime Minister signed Decree No. 2024/165/PM of 31 January 2024 to lay down the reorganisation and functioning of the Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the EITI. In terms of innovations, the decree takes into account the adoption of the EITI Standard 2023, enshrines the independence of the civil society, increases the number of organisations sitting on the Committee from 8 to 12, and enshrines the independence of the extractive companies, integrates the Ministry in charge of the environment and National Mining Corporation (SONAMINES) into the EITI Committee.

702- Furthermore, Regulation No. 04/24/CEMAC/UMAC/CM of 20 December 2024 relating to the implementation regime for targeted financial sanctions related to the financing of terrorism and proliferation in Central Africa, was adopted, as well as Regulation No. 02/24/CEMAC/UMAC/CM of 20 December 2024 on the prevention and suppression of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation in Central Africa were adopted.

703- Besides, as part of its 2nd Strategic and Operational Plan for the 2024-2028 fiscal years, the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court focuses exclusively on preventing and combating corruption. This thrust aims to consolidate its role of assisting Government and Parliament in combating corruption and improving good governance.

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§2: Prevention Measures

704- Preventive measures took the form of training, awareness-raising, information and communication activities.

A: Training

705- NACC organised 13 training sessions for both the Chairpersons and members of the anti-corruption units of ministries, RLAs, companies and public institutions as well as Judicial and Legal Officers of the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court and trainees of the 28th and 29th batches of the Staff College (*Ecole d'Etat-Major*), more than 1,000 participants in all. Topics addressed were related to: the protection of whistleblowers; leadership for change; the COLEPS platform; the new approach on reporting on corruption in Cameroon; the conduct and evaluation of a Quick Results Initiative; ethics, integrity and the suppression of corruption; governance and combating corruption in public contracts; preventing and combating corruption in Cameroon; the international, regional and national supervision of corruption; the action of NACC in combating corruption; and the types of offences related to corruption.

706- In addition to an awareness-raising session on accounting reform held on 10 October 2024 in Mbankomo, staff from the Audit Bench attended several training in Yaounde, including: a seminar-workshop on the analysis and evaluation of public policies and programmes, from 19 to 21 March 2024; a training seminar on the quality control of the audit work of the Audit Bench, from 3 to 4 April 2024; a "Digitalk" training session on the use of IT tools, from 1 to 3 October 2024; a Workshop on the financial management and audit of projects financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) on 5 June 2024; a Capacity development workshop on the analysis of Annual Performance Reports of Administrations; and a Workshop to report on Lessons learned from the Study Tour in Morocco on Conducting and Managing Performance Audits, on 17 October 2024.

707- ANIF officials attended several training sessions organised by both national and international institutions including: the training seminar for authorities responsible for investigating and prosecuting terrorist financing, organised by UNODC from 3 to 6 and from 10 to 13 June 2024 in Yaounde; the Training Seminar on Digital Investigation and Investigations into Cryptocurrencies, organised by UNODC from 10 to 14 June 2024,

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in Yaounde; the Regional Training Seminar on Analysis, Investigation, Traceability, and Confiscation of Cryptocurrencies, organised online by AML-FATF-ESCAVY from 17 to 27 June 2024; the training seminar for non-profit organisations (NPOs) on combating terrorist financing, organised by MINFI and MINAT from 23 to 24 May 2024 in Yaounde; the training seminar on corruption and economic crime, organised by *Scuola superiore Sant'Anna de Pise* in June 2024 in Yaounde; and the Managing Financial Investigations Programme, intervened from 4 to 15 November 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya.

B: Awareness-raising, Information and Communication

708- On the occasion of the 8th Edition of the African Anti-Corruption Day, commemorated on 11 July 2024 under the theme *Effective whistleblower protection mechanisms: an essential tool in combating corruption*, NACC organised activities including an awareness walk on combating corruption which brought together more than 500 people, from 9 to 11 July 2024 in Bertoua. It also organised a training seminar for chairpersons of anti-corruption units in ministries, companies and public institutions, as well as RLAs.

709- On 9 December 2024, as part of the 18th edition of the International Anti-Corruption Day under the theme *Uniting with youth against corruption: shaping tomorrow's integrity*, NACC organised a training seminar in Bafoussam for 110 chairpersons of anti-corruption Units. The main theme of this training seminar was the digitisation of public contracts procedures.

710- Furthermore, it conducted 7 awareness-raising campaigns¹⁸² on the evils of corruption and the importance of integrity in many localities of the national territory on the occasion of events such as: the Youth Day, the PROMOTE Fair, the Commonwealth Day, International Women's Day, the National School Sports Federation (FENASSCO) A and B Games, the University Games as well as during back to school activities for the 2024/2025 academic year. In terms of communication, NACC produced 20 bilingual editions of *Espace CONAC Magazine -TV* (13 minutes) broadcast on the CRTV and 20 editions of *Espace CONAC Magazine- Radio*

¹⁸² These awareness-raising campaigns consisted of the occupation of stands, discussions, distribution of copies of the Report on combating Corruption in Cameroon, the CONAC Newsletter, leaflets, stickers and flyers.

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(13 minutes) and 8 editions of *Espace CONAC Magazine Alerte* (Alert), broadcast on the CRTV Radio. A total of 12 editions of the *CONAC Newsletter* were produced, with one edition per month printed in 5,000 copies, making a total of 60,000 copies. On 26 September 2024, it published the Report on combating Corruption in Cameroon in 2023.

711- On 19 June 2024, the installation ceremony of members and the 1st session of the LBC/FT Policy Coordination Committee took place in Yaounde. In addition, ANIF published its 2023 Progress Report online on its website www.anif.cm and communicated information to structures requesting its statistics. In addition, ANIF officials attended regional seminars to raise awareness among managers of microfinance institutions on their obligations regarding the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing and the dissemination of the findings of the national risk assessment report, in October 2024 in Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Limbe and Garoua.

§2: Control, Assistance, Counselling and Investigation

712- These actions were conducted by ANIF, CONAC, CONSUPE and the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court.

A: ANIF Actions

713- ANIF received 1,551 suspicious reports from credit institutions and other businesses and professions. A total of **440** files were disseminated, including **249** to judicial authorities and 191 to other public administrations.

B: NACC Actions

714- A total of 10,520 complaints (compared to 10,795 in 2023) were made to NACC: 2,182 by letters, 7,158 through the toll-free number (1517), 314 by emails (info@conac.cm) and 866 by WhatsApp number (656 26 26 82). Complaints received by way of letters were distributed as follows by sector of activity: land affairs (538), finance (415), public service (371), education (240), public contracts (148), energy (103), public health (63), trade (69), forestry and wildlife (98), territorial administration (70), transport (55) and sport (12).

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715- Upon receipt of the complaints, NACC carried out 60 actions by means of rapid intervention (AIR) in order to catch alleged perpetrators of acts of corruption *flagrante delicto*. Following these AIRs, it initiated 14 proceedings (compared to 13 in 2023) before the courts for corruption and related offences.

716- In order to monitor the complaints of persons living outside NACC headquarters, Yaounde, NACC continued to implement the concept of "Anti-Corruption Clinic". Thus the clinic took place in Ebolowa from 15 to 19 April 2024, and Garoua from 18 to 22 November 2024 during which, 97 complaints were received, 11 people caught in *flagrante delicto* in the act of corruption were brought before judicial authorities and the sum of CFA1,016,500¹⁸³ seized during investigations was returned to the public treasury. In addition, 11 investigation missions were completed. .

C: CONSUPE Actions

717- Complaints recorded and control and verification missions carried out by CONSUPE concerned ministries, public companies, public institutions, private legal persons operating in the public contracts sector and RLAs. The comparative table below provides information on the subject matter.

Table 1: CONSUPE Activities in 2023 and 2024

	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints processed	Number of control and verification missions conducted	Number of audit mission reports	Number of reports forwarded to the Presidency of the Republic
2023	472	472	22	28	9
2024	219	206	8	4	4

Source: CONSUPE

¹⁸³ About 1,551.90 Euros.

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D: Activities of the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

718- As part of the execution of its annual programme for the 2024 financial year, the Audit Bench conducted both judicial and extrajudicial activities.

1) Judicial Activities

719- With regard to the examination of management accounts, following inspections carried out, several investigation reports were produced by the Divisions responsible for judicial inspection of the management accounts of public accountants, as reflected in the table below.

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Table 2: Examination of the Management Accounts of Public Accountants in 2024

Designation				2024
Accounts of public Accountants of the State	Examination Reports	For fine	Preliminary	3
			Final	0
		For discontinuance	Preliminary	23
			Final	19
		For <i>de facto</i> management declaration	Preliminary	0
			Final	0
For prescription for clearance certificate		0		
First Division				45
Accounts of regional and council Treasurers	Examination reports	For fine	Preliminary	1
			Final	0
		For ruling	Preliminary	321
			Final	0
		For <i>de facto</i> management declaration	Preliminary	0
			Final	0
For prescription for clearance certificate		0		
Second Division				322
Accounts of Accountants	Examination reports	For fine	Preliminary	10
			Final	0
		For discontinuance	Preliminary	110
			Final	70
		For <i>de facto</i> management declaration	Preliminary	0
			Final	0
For prescription for clearance certificate		12		
Third Division				202
Total Examination Reports				569

Source: Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

720- with regard to the ruling on the management accounts of public Accountants, the Audit Bench, as shown in the table below, issued 394 judgments in 2024 and rulings against 744 in 2023.

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Table 3: Judgments delivered by the Divisions in charge of controlling and ruling on accounts in 2023 and 2024

Financial year	2023			2024		
Designation	Preliminary	Final	Total	Preliminary	Final	Total
1 st Division	38	4	42	20	6	26
2 nd Division	321	192	513	243	17	260
3 rd Division	152	37	189	71	37	108
Total	511	233	744	334	60	394

Source: Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

721- Concerning the budgetary and financial discipline, sitting in its Joint Divisions on 15 February 2024, the Audit Bench reaffirmed its exclusive jurisdiction to rule on mismanagement..

2) Extrajudicial Activities

722- The Audit Bench conducted audits in the exercise of 2 specific missions, namely the audit of the accounts of public enterprises by the Fourth Division and the examination of the management accounts of Government departments and other public entities exercised by the First, Second and Third Divisions as shown in the table below.

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Table 4: Status of Management Examination Reports as at 31 December 2024

	Number of entities programmed in 2024	Number of ROP ¹⁸⁴	RIOD ¹⁸⁵	Number of ROD ¹⁸⁶
1 st Division	4	3	3	2
2 nd Division	6	5	4	0
3 rd Division	20	4	7	0
4 th Division	15	5	6	8
Total	45	17	20	10

Source: Audit Bench

723- Furthermore, at the request of MINEPAT, the Audit Bench conducted the financial audit of 13 projects financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and 3 projects financed by the World Bank, for the 2023 financial year. The “AfDB audits” carried out as at 31 December 2024 was as follows:

Table 5: List of AfDB audit projects for the 2024 Financial Year

Planned Audits	Adopted in Chambers	Forwarded to AfDB/ Supervisory authority/CEP	Approved by AfDB
Livestock and Fisheries Value Chain Development Project, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agricultural Value Chain Development Programme, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transport Sector Support Programme-Phase2- Rehabilitation of the Yaoundé- Bafoussam- Babadjou Road, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes

¹⁸⁴ ROP : *Rapport d’Observations Provisoires* (Provisional Observation Report).

¹⁸⁵ RIOD : *Rapports d’Instructions à fin d’Observations Définitives*. (Investigation Reports for Final Observations).

¹⁸⁶ ROD : *Rapport d’Observations Définitives*. (Final Observation Report).

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Transport Sector Support Programme Phase 1: Development of the Batchenga-Ntui-Yoko-Lena Road, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ketta-Djoum Road Development and the Yaounde-Brazzaville corridor Transport Enhancement Project - Phase 2, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes
Integrated programme for development and adaptation to climate change in the Niger Basin, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes
Road Transport Facilitation Project Bamenda-Mamfe-Ekok- Enugu corridor Addendum Transport facilitation programme on the Bamenda (Cameroon) - Enugu (Nigeria) corridor, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes
Studies of a Programme of 350 Simplified Drinking Water Supply Networks in Rural Areas, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transport Sector Support Programme - Phase 3: Construction of the Ring Road 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes
Addendum: Study of the Support Project to entrepreneurship and skills development for competitiveness and job creation in the building sectors, 2023	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: Audit Bench

724- The World Bank audits conducted as at 31 December 2024 stand as follows:

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Table 6: List of World Bank projects audited in the 2024 financial year

Planned Audits	Adopted in Chambers	Forwarded BM/ Supervisory authority/CEP	Approved by the World Bank
Rural Electrification and Energy Access Project in underserved areas in Cameroon	Yes	Yes	Yes
Road Transport Sector Development Project	Yes	Yes	Yes
Air Transport Sector Development Project	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

725- Concerning assistance to Government and Parliament, the Audit Bench produced a Report on the execution of the 2022 finance law, together with its opinion on the Draft Settlement Bill for the 2023 financial year, to which is attached the Regularity, Sincerity and Loyalty Certification Report of the General State Account for the 2023 financial year. In addition, on 1 November 2024, some 34 public accountants took their oath of office before the Audit Bench.

§3: Cooperation and Collaboration Initiatives

726- On 3 January and 18 November 2024, ANIF signed 2 Memoranda of Understanding, one with the Directorate General of Customs and the other with the Directorate General of Taxation, as part of the fight against money laundering, the financing of terrorism and its proliferation as well as customs or tax fraud.

727- For its part, NACC received working visits from: the President of the Bar Council, pupil Judicial and Legal Officers of the accounts section of ENAM, the Director General of Energy of Cameroon company (ENEO), the President and CEO of the television station *Canal 2 Internationale* and a delegation from the French Anti-Corruption Agency. In a bid to consolidate the fight against corruption in some sectors of activity, NACC signed agreements with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, officials from 22 community radios and some artists. It also took part in the

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deliberations of the Committee on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism.

728- At the international level, NACC delegations: attended the 14th Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa in Accra in May 2024; conducted a benchmarking visit on the extrajudicial tax recovery model of assets by the Anti-Corruption Agency of Sierra Leone in Freetown from 15 to 19 September 2024; and attended the Meeting of the Executive Bureau of the African Anti-Corruption Agencies in Algiers in March 2024.

729- NACC also contributed to the study conducted on money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the results of which were presented at the headquarters of the Central African Anti-Money Laundering Group (GABAC) in Libreville in November 2024.

730- In addition to the organisation of the 3rd edition of the Youth Congress of the Association of French-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions (AISCCUF) from 2 to 4 July in Yaounde, delegations from the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court went on a study trip to Morocco from 15 to 19 July 2024 on the conduct and management of gender and climate-sensitive performance audits; attended 2 AISCCUF roundtables and the General Assembly of Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions with Jurisdictional Functions (JURISAI) in October 2024 in France; and went on a study trip to the French Court of Auditors from 19 to 21 November 2024, on mismanagement.

731- As part of Government assistance in the management of public affairs, the Audit Bench took part in deliberations of the following: the Permanent Consultation Framework with the Ministry of Finance; the 14th session of the Steering Committee of the Public Finance Reform; the evaluation of the public finance management system according to PEFA (Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability) methodology, particularly with regard to pillar VII "*External Supervision and Audit*"; the National Admission Commission in Non-value of Tax Claims; the Platform in charge of clearing non-chargeable tax debts of public entities (on 6 March and 19 June 2024 in Yaounde); the 18th Discussion Forum with Senators on 28 June 2024; the 18th Discussion Forum with members of the Finance Committee of the National Assembly on 26 June 2024; the 29th Discussion Forum with members of the Finance Committee of the National Assembly on 25 November 2024; and the 15th Discussion Forum with Senators on 20 November 2024.

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§4: Repression

732- Repression took the form of administrative and judicial sanctions.

A: Administrative Sanctions

733- The table below shows activities of the Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council (CDBF).

Table 7: Activities of the CDBF in 2023 and 2024

Number:	2023	2024	Sanctions imposed	2023	2024
matters		1	Amount of balance	CFAF23,100,000 ¹⁸⁷	1,755,385,695
files for examination	8	13	Amount of special fines	CFAF13,695,124,723	4,000,000
sessions organised	31	23	Number of persons to pay a balance		2
matters examined	164	54	Number of persons subject to special forfeiture		0
decisions delivered	28	2			
acquittals	4				

Source: CONSUPE

B: Legal Proceedings

734- The comparative status below reflects proceedings at the level of preliminary inquiry (Table 8) and at the trial level (Table 9) before the Special Criminal Court.

¹⁸⁷ CFAF1,000,000 equivalent to 1,526.71 Euros.

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Table 8: Comparative Status of Preliminary Inquiries in 2023 and 2024

Number	Preliminary Inquiry	Inquiries completed	Persons committed for trial before the SCC	Beneficiaries of no-case ruling
2023	<u>47</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>13</u>
2024	<u>54</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>

Source: MINJUSTICE/SCC

Table 9: Comparative Trials in 2023 and 2024

Number	Procedures enlisted	Trials	Persons sentenced	Discharge and acquittal	Matters discontinued
2023	62	34	45	15	1
2024	44	20	39	26	?

Source: MINJUSTICE/SCC

735- The sum of CFAF147,028,627 was recovered in 2024 as against CFAF207,699,377¹⁸⁸ in 2023

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736- On the whole, the State of Cameroon continued to improve the quality of governance, notably by maintaining public private dialogue, reconfiguring the SNI and encouraging investment. With regard to combating corruption and misappropriation of public property, in addition to the re-organisation of the EITI Implementation Monitoring Committee, the dedicated institutional framework distinguished itself in prevention and repression, and also in control actions, assistance, counselling and investigation. Among the challenges, the probity of public officials needs to be improved.

¹⁸⁸ About 317,098,285 Euros.



CHAPTER 3

**DETENTION
CONDITIONS**



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737- The Government remained concerned about detention conditions and therefore increased the budget allocated to the Penitentiary Administration from CFAF 22,894,127,000¹⁸⁹ in 2023 to CFAF 25,722,894,858¹⁹⁰ in 2024. Thus, the mapping of prisons was carried out, the capacity of staff enhanced and human and material resources as well as infrastructure were improved.

SECTION 1: MAPPING OF THE PRISON POPULATION

738- The prison population was divided into 2 categories: general and specific.

§1: General Mapping of the Prison Population

739- The Penitentiary Administration had 91 prisons, of which 76 were functional, 10 were set up but were not yet functioning¹⁹¹ and 5 were temporarily closed¹⁹². The capacity of the 76 functional prisons remained the same as in 2023 (20,955). However, the number of detainees increased from 35,438 in 2023 to 36,821 in 2024. Prison overcrowding was significant in some prisons. With capacities of 1,500, 600 and 300 places respectively, the Douala New-Bell, Bafoussam and Buea Central prisons held 5,094, 1,158 and 2,000 inmates, respectively.

740- In contrast, the inmates in some prisons were less than the hosting capacity of the prison. These included the Bangangte (102 places for 85 detainees) and Banyo (70 places for 46 detainees) Main Prisons.

741- The tables below provide information on the number of detainees awaiting trial and convicts by region.

¹⁸⁹ About 34,952,865.64 Euros.

¹⁹⁰ About 39,271,595 Euros.

¹⁹¹ The Bandjoun, Bonaberi, Limbe, Mbankomo, Mundemba, Menji, Bangem Main Prisons and the Touboro, Batibo and Tombel Secondary Prisons.

¹⁹² The Fundong and Ndong Main Prisons and the Bali, Bavenga and Meri Secondary Prisons.

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Table 1: Statistics of Detainees awaiting trial by Region as at 31 December 2024

REGIONS	DETAINEES AWAITING TRIAL								TOTAL
	MEN		WOMEN		MINORS				
					BOYS		GIRLS		
	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	
Adamawa	620	33	18	1	39	0	0	0	711
Centre	4,969	89	219	11	194	0	4	0	5,486
East	1,243	168	42	0	121	0	1	0	1,575
Far North	1,531	257	35	2	77	15	1	0	1,918
Littoral	4,613	76	138	1	98	0	1	0	4,927
North	1,253	134	29	4	26	3	2	0	1,451
North West	695	7	54	0	15	0	0	0	771
West	1,584	3	48	0	79	0	3	0	1,717
South	683	17	22	0	28	0	1	0	751
South West	1,195	79	78	0	45	1	4	0	1,402
Grand Total	18,386	863	683	19	722	19	17	0	20,709

Source: MINJUSTICE

N: Nationals

F: Foreigners

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Table 2: Statistics of Convicts by Region as at 31 December 2024

REGIONS	CONVICTS								TOTAL
	MEN		WOMEN		MINORS				
	N	F	N	F	BOYS		GIRLS		
					N	F	N	F	
Adamawa	1,140	91	17	0	15	1	0	0	1,264
Centre	3,609	49	152	9	37	0	4	0	3,860
East	1,112	147	38	4	24	4	0	0	1,329
Far North	1,503	129	27	2	25	1	0	0	1,687
Littoral	2,344	22	69	0	12	0	0	0	2,447
North	1,223	136	26	1	4	0	0	0	1,390
North West	542	5	13	0	7	0	0	0	567
West	1,440	1	25	0	22	4	1	0	1,493
South	597	14	14	1	6	0	0	0	632
South West	1,309	82	33	2	17	0	0	0	1,443
Grand Total	14,819	676	414	19	169	10	5	0	16,112

Source: MINJUSTICE

742- Overall, prison statistics indicated that the number of detainees awaiting trial (20,709 compared to 20,410 in 2023) exceeded that of convicts (16,112 as against 15,028 in 2023). However, some prisons held more convicts than detainees awaiting trial. This was the case with the Ngaoundere Central Prison, which had 811 convicts and 379 detainees awaiting trial, the Nkongsamba (407 convicts and 176 detainees awaiting trial), Meiganga (114 convicts and 66 detainees awaiting trial) and Mokolo (371 convicts and 131 detainees awaiting trial) Main Prisons.

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§2: Mapping of Specific Groups of Prisoners

743- Minors, women, foreigners and other categories were the main specific groups of prison population.

A: Juvenile Detainees

744- Out of a total of 942 minors in prisons, 758 were awaiting trial (that is 80.47%) while 184 were convicts (that is 19.53%). The Centre Region had the highest number of minors in prison, while the North West had the lowest number.

745- The table below provides statistics on minors in detention.

Table 3: Statistics of Minors in Prison as at 31 December 2024

REGIONS	DETAINEES AWAITING TRIAL				CONVICTS				TOTAL
	BOYS		GIRLS		BOYS		GIRLS		
	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	
Adamawa	39	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	55
Centre	194	0	4	0	37	0	4	0	239
East	121	0	1	0	24	4	0	0	150
Far North	77	15	1	0	25	1	0	0	119
Littoral	98	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	111
North	26	3	2	0	4	0	0	0	35
North West	15	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	22
West	79	0	3	0	22	4	1	0	109
South	28	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	35
South West	45	1	4	0	17	0	0	0	67
	722	19	17	0	169	10	5	0	942

Source: MINJUSTICE

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B: Women in Prison

746- There were 1,135 women compared to 1,084 in 2023 among whom 702 were awaiting trial, as against 755 in 2023 and 433 convicts compared to 329 in 2023. The Centre Region recorded the largest number of women in detention, unlike the Adamawa Region with the lowest.

747- The table below shows statistics of women in detention.

Table 4: Statistics of Women in Prison as at 31 December 2024

REGIONS	DETAINEES AWAITING TRIAL		CONVICTS		TOTAL
	Nationals	Foreigners	Nationals	Foreigners	
Adamawa	18	1	17	0	36
Centre	219	11	152	9	391
East	42	0	38	4	84
Far North	35	2	27	2	66
Littoral	138	1	69	0	208
North	29	4	26	1	60
North West	54	0	13	0	67
West	48	0	25	0	73
South	22	0	14	1	37
South West	78	0	33	2	113
Grand Total	683	19	414	19	1,135

Source: MINJUSTICE

C: Foreign Prisoners

748- There was a total of 1,606 foreign prisoners, as against 1,383 in 2023, of which 901 were awaiting trial and 705 were convicts, representing 2.42% and 1.89% of the prison population respectively. This included 29 minor boys, no minor girls, 38 women and 1,539 men. The Far North Region had the largest number unlike the West Region with the smallest.

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Table 5: Statistics of Foreign Prisoners in Prison as at 31 December 2024

REGIONS	DETAINEES AWAITING TRIAL				CONVICTS				TOTAL
			MINORS				MINORS		
	M	W	B	G	M	W	B	G	
Adamawa	33	1	0	0	91	0	1	0	126
Centre	89	11	0	0	49	9	0	0	158
East	168	0	0	0	147	4	4	0	323
Far North	257	2	15	0	129	2	1	0	406
Littoral	76	1	0	0	22	0	0	0	99
North	134	4	3	0	136	1	0	0	278
North West	7	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	12
West	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	8
South	17	0	0	0	14	1	0	0	32
South West	79	0	1	0	82	2	0	0	164
Grand Total	863	19	19	0	676	19	10	0	1,606

Source: MINJUSTICE

D: Other Categories

749- These included 290 older inmates, 140 persons living with disabilities and 277 refugees, representing 707 inmates. The Buea Central Prison was home to the highest number of older inmates (108). The Douala (New-Bell) Central Prison had the highest number of inmates living with disabilities. The Bertoua Central Prison had the largest number of refugees (95).

SECTION 2: HUMAN, MATERIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL RESOURCES

750- There were 4,207 Penitentiary Administration staff, compared to 4,234 in 2023. This decrease in staff was due to retirements and deaths. The ratio was one staff per 9 inmates. The Government continued to strengthen the technical capacity of the Penitentiary Administration staff as well as physical and infrastructural resources.

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§1: Capacity Building for Penitentiary Staff

751- Approximately 354 penitentiary staff underwent a continuing training course at the National School of Penitentiary Administration (ENAP) in Buea.

752- In addition, nearly 150 penitentiary staff were trained on various topics relating to Human Rights in general and specifically to the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, organised by MINJUSTICE with its own funds or with the support of UNICEF and international organisations as well as CSOs.

§2: Development of Material Resources and Infrastructure

753- In addition to rolling stock and equipment acquired for some prisons, construction, extension and renovation were carried out.

A: Provision of Rolling Stock and Equipment to Prisons

754- Rolling stock for the Douala-Ngoma Central Prison and the Poli Main Prison were acquired, and contracts for the acquisition of various equipment for the Douala-Ngoma Central Prison were executed, including 150 bunk beds and 300 mattresses, 89 penitentiary registers, 53 fans, a generator, medical equipment and supplies for the infirmary.

B: Construction, Extension and Renovation Work in Prisons

755- The construction of the wall of the Yaounde Main Prison was completed, the women's and minors' sections at the Tignere and Tibati Main Prisons, an infirmary at the Ambam Main Prison and a building for sick persons at the Kousseri Main Prison were built, as well as the construction of a workshop for the manufacture of clothing for penitentiary staff in Yaounde was completed.

756- Damaged premises of the Yaounde Central Prison were renovated; the Ambam and Edea Main Prisons were extended; the women's and minors' sections of the Poli, Tignere and Eseka Main Prisons were renovated. The residence of the Superintendent of the Nanga-Eboko Main Prison was

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renovated, the National School of Penitentiary Administration was renovated and extended, and the Centre Regional Delegation for Penitentiary Administration was equally renovated.

SECTION 3: CARE FOR PRISONERS

757- Food and healthcare for detainees was guaranteed and some detainees benefited from programmes to prepare them for social reintegration.

§1: Feeding and Healthcare for Prisoners

758- The feeding and healthcare for prisoners was guaranteed as usual.

A: Food Supply to Prisoners

759- The budget allocated for food supply to detainees increased from CFAF 5,415,000,000¹⁹³ in 2023 to CFAF 5,465,000,000¹⁹⁴ in 2024, representing an increase of CFAF 50,000,000.¹⁹⁵ The daily ration per inmate per day was CFAF 412¹⁹⁶ as in 2023. As a result of logistical constraints, two meals a day were served in prisons, or a meal containing a double ration.

B: Healthcare for Prisoners

760- The health coverage of prisoners is analysed on both the budgetary and human resources aspects as well as the prevention and treatment of diseases.

1) Financial and Human Resources

761- The budget for the healthcare of detainees slightly declined from CFAF 1,150,000,000¹⁹⁷ in 2023 to CFAF 1,100,000,000¹⁹⁸ in 2024. The annual individual amount devoted to the detainees' health dropped

¹⁹³ About 8,267,175.57 Euros.

¹⁹⁴ About 8,343,511 Euros.

¹⁹⁵ About 76,335.87 Euros.

¹⁹⁶ About 0.62 Euros.

¹⁹⁷ About 1,755,725.19 Euros.

¹⁹⁸ About 1,679,389.31 Euros.

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from CFAF 31,943 (about 48.77Euros) in 2023 to CFAF 30,302 (about 42.26Euros).

762- The number of penitentiary health staff decreased from 250 in 2023 to 246 in 2024, comprising: 21 doctors, 64 nurses, 126 nursing aides and 35 health technicians. The ratios were one physician for 2,879 inmates, one nurse for 945 inmates and one nursing aide per 479 inmates.

2) Prevention of Diseases in Prisons

763- With a view to preventing diseases in prisons, 5,214 *Euvicol* Plus (cholera) vaccines were administered, along with 8,163 yellow fever (LAV) vaccines and 30 EPI programme vaccines (BCG, PENTA, OPV, IPV, VAT, ROTA, MALARIA, TPI, VITA). A total of 13,407 vaccines were administered to inmates.

764- As concerns communicable diseases, out of 20,646 prisoners screened upon imprisonment in 2024, the cumulative number of HIV-positive detainees in prisons was 1,395, of whom 478 were tested positive for HIV, representing a prevalence rate of 2.32%.

765- With regard to tuberculosis, out of 8,386 suspected cases, 1,008 prisoners tested positive, representing a total prevalence rate of 12.02%. A total of 720 new patients were on TB treatment, representing a rate of 71.43%. In the case of hepatitis, of the 1,641 cases tested, 161 were positive representing 9.81% and 36 were on treatment, representing 22.36%. The prevalence rate was 0.26%.

3) Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

766- A total of 98,610 consultations were recorded, including 8,998 out-patient consultations and 1,617 hospitalisations.

767- . The number of cases of alcohol-related disorders stood 610 and depression 237 was high.

768- In addition, out of 25,871 consultations for malaria, 20,904 cases were confirmed and treated. Some 2,290 hygiene and sanitation campaigns were carried out in all prisons in Cameroon.

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§2: Preparation for the Social Reintegration of Prisoners

769- Efforts were made by the State to improve education and literacy, vocational training and production activities, as well as socio-cultural activities and social assistance in prisons.

A: Education for Detainees in Prison

770- Measures were taken to provide schooling for juvenile prisoners, taught by Penitentiary Administration staff or by other detainees. Therefore, out of 334 inmates attending school (297 boys and 37 girls), 119 sat for official examinations (114 boys and 5 girls), and 82 were successful candidates: 48 passed the *CEP* compared to 30 in 2023, 11 passed the *First School Leaving Certificate (FLSC)* compared to 3 in 2023, 6 passed the *BEPC* compared to 9 in 2023, 8 passed the *GCE/OL* compared to 2 in 2023, 1 passed the *Probatoire Technique*, 1 passed the *Probatoire Général*, 1 passed the *Baccalauréat* compared to 2 in 2023 and 6 passed the *GCE /AL*, representing a success rate of 69 %.

B: Vocational Training for Prisoners and Production Activities

771- With the support of some partners, MINJUSTICE equipped certain prisons, in particular in computer science, sewing, hairdressing, carpentry, hand-crafts, as well as agro-pastoral activities, amongst others. Out of a total of 409 inmates who received various vocational training, 200 were awarded training certificates in various fields. 209 were trained in computer science (office automation), agriculture, livestock, sewing and hairdressing for both men and women, beauty therapy, handmade liquid soap production, leather goods, baking and the production of curdled milk or yoghurt.

C: Socio-Cultural and Leisure Activities

772- Socio-cultural, educational and leisure activities were organised for detainees. Out of the 304 planned cultural and recreational activities, 316 were organised. Furthermore, out of 136 intellectual activities, 132 educational talks were organised for prison inmates.

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SECTION 4: CONTROLS AND VISITS TO PRISONS

773- Controls and visits to prisons were carried out.

§1: Prison Controls

774- Controls were carried out by the General Inspectorate of Penitentiary Administration (IGAPEN) of the Ministry of Justice and judicial authorities.

A: Administrative Controls by the General Inspectorate of Penitentiary Administration

775- IGAPEN carried out controls at several prisons, including the Douala-New Bell, Douala-Ngoma, Bafoussam, Ebolowa and Buea Central Prisons; the Edea, Yabassi, Mbanga, Nkongsamba, Foumban, Mantoum and Bangangte Main Prisons; the Foubot and Buea Upper Farms Secondary Prisons. It also carried out controls at the National School of Penitentiary Administration and at the Littoral, West, South and South West Regional Delegations.

B: Judicial Controls

776- Controls were carried out by Judicial authorities. For example, the following controls were carried out: 4 at the Bazou Secondary Prison, 4 at the Banyo Main Prison, 12 at the Bengbis Secondary Prison, 6 at the Bafoussam Central Prison, 3 at the Douala-New Bell Central Prison and 4 at the Nkongsamba Main Prison. Irregularities found resulted in corrective action.

§2: Prison Visits

777- They were carried out by the Department of Human Rights and International Co-operation (DDHCI) of MINJUSTICE, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC), as well as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

A: Visits by DDHCI

778- As part of the preparation of the *Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2024*, teams from DDHCI of MINJUSTICE

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visited approximately 20 prisons between 19 February and 30 April 2025. The purpose of these visits was to get a first-hand appraisal of prison conditions experienced by inmates, identify irregularities and provide appropriate solutions.

B: Visits by the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC)

779- The CHRC visited 1,085 places of detention in 2024

C: Visits by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

780- CSOs, most of which were religious, charitable, cultural or sports associations visited some prisons to provide support. This support consisted of foodstuffs, sanitary products, clothing, basic necessities and other items.

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781- In conclusion, in addition to visits, administrative and judicial controls, measures to improve detention conditions and combat prison overcrowding were taken, including the development of penitentiary infrastructure. Challenges include the need to strengthen human resources and exploration of alternative measures to imprisonment.

CHAPTER 4

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF SOCIALY VULNERABLE PERSONS



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782- Government took measures to enable vulnerable persons among whom, children; persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and older persons to enjoy their civil and political rights, and socioeconomic and cultural rights.

SECTION 1: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

783- Measures were taken to promote children's access to civil status registration documents, participation in decision making, protect them against violence, exploitation and crime as well as provide alternative care for them.

§1: Right to Citizenship

784- Multiple initiatives for the registration of births and issuance of birth certificates were carried out in 2024. As regards the legal framework, Law No.2024/016 of 23 December 2024 to organise the Civil Registration System in Cameroon was adopted with the aim of modernising and improving the efficiency and accessibility of the system. Under the new law, the declaration of birth to the civil status registrar of the place of birth shall be done within 90 days as per Section 10. Where the child is born in a public or private health facility, the person in charge of the said facility or the physician or any health professional who attended the birth, shall be required to declare the birth within 30 days (Section 11(2)). If they fail to do so, the parents of the child have an additional 60 days within which to make the declaration to the registrar of the place of birth (section 11(3)).

785- Where the birth takes place in prison, the person in charge of the prison or doctor or health care worker or prison staff who attended the birth must report the birth within 30 days (section 11(4)). In the case where a birth has not been declared within the period of 90 days, it may be registered by the civil status registrar within 12 months of delivery, at the request of the territorially competent State Counsel (Section 12(1)).

786- Another initiative was the ongoing digitalisation of the civil status registration system¹⁹⁹ with a particular focus on birth registration which started

¹⁹⁹ By March, 2025, some 45 Civil Status Registry Centres in the country started issuing computerised birth certificates.

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in 2017 and spearheaded by the National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC). As at December 2024, some 50767 computerised birth certificates had been issued.

787- Demonstrating collaborative action, MINDDEVEL and BUNEC with the support of UNICEF, organised the First Mayors Forum on Birth Registration in Cameroon from 26 to 27 April 2024 at the Yaounde Congress Hall. To address the issue of deprivation from the right to identity, Mayors were challenged by the organisers to create new registration points in health centres and town halls, and to ensure the registration of children without legal identity in primary school in their various localities.

788- Through collaborative effort between the Cameroon Education Reform Support Project (PAREC) and MINEDUB, MINJUSTICE, MINSANTE, MINAT, MINPROFF, UNICEF, as well as BUNEC, some 48,232 declaratory judgments were delivered out of the 49,311 cases enlisted leading to the establishment of birth certificates for pupils of classes 5 and 6 in primary schools for the two subsystems of Education. Equally, at the end of the year, MINPROFF, signed contracts worth CFA142,000,000²⁰⁰ with some 12 councils²⁰¹ to register some 14,222 children in the civil status.

§2 Right to Participate in Decision Making

789- The 25th Session of the Children's Parliament was organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs under the theme, "For respect for the right to education of children, including those in need of special protection measures, in Cameroon: children are mobilizing". This pivotal session was aimed at clarifying the notion of a child in need of special protection measures; examining the impact of the non-enrollment in school of children in need of special protection measures; raising awareness on the benefits of appropriate and quality education for all children; empower children to be advocates among their peers for inclusive education within their communities ; disseminating knowledge of existing legal documents for the protection and promotion of children's rights and promoting inclusive education as a pathway to the social inclusion of children with specific needs.

²⁰⁰ About 216,793.89 Euros.

²⁰¹ In the Adamawa, Centre, Far North, North, South, South West and West Regions.

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790- During this Session, a special plenary was organised²⁰² on sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) which emphasised on the concept of “red zone”, that is high risk areas for SGBV. The Junior Parliamentarians decried early marriages and took the commitment to become sexual abuse and GBV ambassadors in their regions of origin.

§3: Alternative Care: Adoption and Guardianship

791- The interest of the child continued to be considered by the courts including in adoption and guardianship cases. By way of illustration, in judgment No.1531/TPD of 9 October 2024, the Court of First Instance Ebolowa, granted guardianship to the applicant invoking articles 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 4 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child which both relate to the best interest of the child.

792- In its judgment No. 44/CIV of 30 May 2024, the Mounjo High Court, granted the application for transfer of parental authority concerning a 12-year-old child. The court’s decision recognized the parents’ inability to adequately provide for the child’s education and development and their consent to transfer authority to the child’s aunt residing in the United States, who possesses the necessary means to do so. This ruling prioritizes the child’s best interests.

793- Furthermore, statistics from the courts nationwide revealed a significant interest in adoption and guardianship. A total of 710 adoption requests by Cameroonian citizens were granted, vastly outnumbering the 94 granted to foreign nationals, while some 519 guardianship requests were granted to nationals and 10 to foreigners.

§4: Protection of Children against Violence, Exploitation and Crimes

794- As regards protection from violence, the support system set up by MINAS made it possible to effectively respond to the needs of 33,462 children who had suffered at least one form of exploitation, violence or abuse, out of the 37,514 registered or reported to the operational services of MINAS in the field.

²⁰² By MINAS in collaboration with Effective Basic Services (eBASE Africa).

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795- Moreover, in November 2024, Cameroon with the support of UNICEF, established the Child Protection Case Management Information System (CPIMS+). Cameroon became the 6th country in West and Central Africa to adopt the CPIMS+ which is a database for secure case management, monitoring of vulnerable children including family reunion.

796- Furthermore, during the Cabinet Meeting of May 2024, the Prime Minister, Head of Government instructed the Minister of Labour and Social Security to continue implementing the National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cameroon. He also requested the Minister of Social Affairs (MINAS) to intensify prevention and monitoring activities as concerns children within the Community.

797- On 12 June 2024, a series of activities to mark the fourth Cameroon Children's Month was launched. The launch was associated with the first session of 2024, of the National Commission for the Protection of Children at Moral Risk, Delinquents or Abandoned Children, which had as theme, "a month free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, and above all a month to reflect on the conditions of children".

798- Meanwhile, prosecution of cases involving child victims continued as in the previous years. Perpetrators of offenses such as murder, capital murder, unintentional killing, rape among others in which the victims were minors were brought to justice. Trends from the courts revealed that about 577 minors (121 boys and 456 girls) were victims in these cases, leading to the conviction of approximately 1,268 perpetrators.

SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

799- Actions in favour of persons with disabilities included the establishment of identification documents, enhancing socio-economic integration and inclusion, promoting the right to education and ensuring participation in sporting activities.

§1: Establishment of Identification Documents

800- In the course of 2024, national disability cards were established for

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some 3,448 persons with disabilities (1,247 girls/women and 2,201 boys/men). Also, Government developed 3 pilot registration sites in the cities of Douala, Garoua and Yaounde in connection with the project to computerize the national disability card.

§2: Enhancing Socio-economic Integration and Inclusion

801- On 19 July 2024, the Government through MINAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with *Care International*. The objectives of the MOU which covers the period 2024-2026 include improving on the socio-economic integration of vulnerable persons and the promotion of gender equality and strengthening the resilience of communities. It has 3 axes, namely, the support for socio-economic integration and the resilience of vulnerable individuals and groups: the establishment of a base for the integration of projects for vulnerable individuals; and the support and implementation of projects, as well as the formal creation of social services establishments for vulnerable persons.

802- Furthermore, in September 2024, the National Committee for the Rehabilitation on Socio-economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities (CONRHA) launched the Competition for Disability-Inclusive Councils: to award the most disability-inclusive councils in Cameroon. The aim of the competition was to motivate councils to adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and foster the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities.

803- In addition, the second phase of the Project for the support and strengthening of the rights of persons with disabilities, accessibility, inclusive services and non-discrimination in Cameroon, was officially launched in Yaounde on 16 October 2024²⁰³. The project seeks to strengthen disability inclusion within public institutions in Cameroon by building the monitoring and enforcement capacities of disability-inclusive legislation of key right holders and duty bearers.

²⁰³ The first phase which started in 2022 ended on 31 May 2024, achieved the following among others: building of the capacity of stakeholders (including government actors and organizations of persons with disabilities), revamping of the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities (CONRHA) and the production and distribution of 3000 copies of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

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§3: Promoting the Right to Education

804- In October 2024, the National Policy Document on Inclusive Education- 2024 to 2028 (NPIE) was adopted. This Document aimed at providing quality and equitable inclusive education for persons with disabilities. It seeks to improve enrolment rates and access to education. The need for NPIE stems from the inequalities that existed in the past in the education sector and due to the low enrolment and training of persons with disabilities .

805- In addition, some 7,604 children (3,752 girls and 3852 boys) with disabilities or born of parents with disabilities were either placed in schools or had their official examination fees paid. Equally, the school needs of about 135 children in the inclusive school at the Cardinal Paul Emile Leger National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, and 109 children with disabilities in the specialised school at the same Centre were catered for.

§4: Ensuring participation in Sporting Activities

806- Cameroonian athletes with disabilities participated at various national and international events. Concerning the deaf, 8 athletes represented Cameroon during the World Deaf Athletics Championships in Taipei, China in July 2024. Some of these athletes qualified for the Deaflympics 2025 in Japan. Other disciplines and the number of competitions in which persons with disabilities took part at the international level included sport for the physically impaired (2 competitions), sport for the visually impaired (1), sport for the intellectually disabled (1), para athletics (7), para-badminton (5) and para Taekwondo (1). In all, persons with disabilities took part in 20 competitions at the international level, winning a total of 108 medals among which 34 gold,41 silver and 33 bronze medals

807- At the national level, persons with disabilities participated in the National Federation of School Sport (FENASSCO B) Games with the introduction of paralympic discipline especially “goal ball” .

808- Furthermore, during the 24th Edition of the National Federation of University Sports (FENASU) Games, some 63 students with disabilities (men and women) from 10 higher institutions took part in paralympic disciplines.

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SECTION 3: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS

809- The civil and political rights of indigenous persons were promoted, their economic social and cultural rights including the right to education and property advanced. Collaboration between the State and its partners was strengthened in furtherance to the protection of these rights.

§1: Civil and Political Rights

810- Government through MINAS, encouraged political participation and the promotion of citizenship of indigenous peoples, through awareness-raising and training workshops (organization of workshops to raise awareness among indigenous youths about the importance of their participation in political processes, including elections, decision-making and civic engagement).

811- In addition, at the 12th Session of the Intersectoral Committee to Follow up Programmes and Projects Involving Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples (CISPAV), held on 30 July 2024, which also marked the celebration of the 13th Edition of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in Cameroon, focus was on raising the awareness of indigenous peoples to declare births of their children, the establishment of National Identity Cards, registration on electoral registers and participation in sustainable development. The Session was held as usual to evaluate projects and programmes carried out by Government and its Partners from August 2023 to July 2024. Some of the results include, the establishment of national identity cards and birth certificates for Mbororos and indigenous forest peoples in the East Region (Mouloundou, Salapoumbe, Lomie) and South Region (Djoum Sub-division). For example, some 500 birth certificates out of the 1,000 requested were established for the Bakas.

§2: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

812- As concerns education, during the 2023/2024 school year, some 720 nursery and primary schools including those in localities inhabited by indigenous peoples were transformed to inclusive schools. About 400 indigenous children were in primary schools in the localities of Kribi and

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Lolodorf, 64 in secondary schools and 6 in higher learning institutions. Also some 198 peer indigenous educators were recycled by the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education and the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA) raised the awareness of Mbororos in the North West Region on the importance of sending children to school. Some 1,000 pupils (Mbororos) were reached out by the awareness raising campaign.

813- As concerns access to land, about 20 hectares of land was acquired for agriculture for indigenous Forest Peoples in the South Region while Mbororo women were trained on animal breeding (cows and goats) in Tibati.

814- Regarding cultural activities, festivals and cultural events were organised highlighting the traditions, dances, music and arts of indigenous peoples. These events aimed to raise public awareness of the cultural richness of indigenous communities.

815- Equally, cultural centres dedicated to the promotion and preservation of indigenous cultures, transmission of know-how and values were established in Lomié, Yokadouma and Djoum.

§3: Strengthening Collaboration

816- The MOU between Cameroon (MINAS) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) signed in 2019 was revised on 29 November 2024. It defines the strategic framework between the two parties to ensure the protection and promotion of the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples within the framework of biodiversity conservation. This revised MOU signifies enhanced collaboration on safeguarding the rights of indigenous populations within WWF's biodiversity conservation initiatives across Cameroon²⁰⁴.

²⁰⁴ The key areas of focus are: the Lobeke National Park; Nki, Boumba Bek National Parks, Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve, Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary, Campo Ma'an National Park, Manyangue Na Elombo-Campo Marine National Park, Korup, Mount Cameroon, and Bakossi National Parks, Banyang Mbo, and Mount Muanenguba Sanctuaries.

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SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

817- Government continued to work to enhance the rights of older persons through collaboration with international and local partners.

818- MINAS signed a two-year partnership, Memorandum of Understanding with *Care International* on 19 July 2024 in Yaounde for the support and care of vulnerable persons (including older persons). The said partnership has three thrusts namely: supporting socioeconomic insertion and resilience of individuals or groups, setting up of a data base of projects for the insertion of individuals or groups, supporting and setting up of productive projects and the formal creation of social establishments for vulnerable persons.

819- MINAS and its partners in the social sector carried out, awareness campaigns, and community education which enabled 5,983 older persons (2,991 women and 2,992 men) to access medical care.

820- Furthermore, Living Alternative for the Aging (LAFTA) opened a Recreational Centre for older persons in Yaounde on 12 January 2024. It is an entertainment center where older persons can meet their peers and discuss issues concerning them.

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821- The Government's dedication to promoting and protecting the rights of socially vulnerable individuals was maintained, even amidst challenges like the non-registration of the births of children. The enactment of Law No. 2024/016 on 23 December 2024 which aims among others to modernize the civil registration system and improve access to civil status documents offers a ray of hope for addressing challenges with birth registration. Moreover, MINAS should continue raising public awareness on the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities which is an important element in their protection.



CHAPTER

5

**PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION OF
WOMEN' S
RIGHTS**



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822- The promotion and protection of women's rights was among national priorities defined by the State, which prepared its Report on the evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2019-2024). The State remained committed in involving women in the management of public affairs, in development projects and in conflict resolution and peace-building. In addition, the State continued to ensure the protection of women's rights in the family, to promote their economic rights, and to pursue the fight against gender-based violence (GBV).

SECTION 1: INVOLVING WOMEN IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

823- The State reaffirmed its commitment to improve equal opportunities for women and men in the management of public affairs through the continuation of gender-sensitive budgeting (GSB), the inclusion of women in the electoral process and their appointment to decision-making positions.

§1: Continuation of the Gender-sensitive Budgeting Process

824- Circular No. 26/C/MINFI of 30 December 2023 on instructions relating to the implementation of finance laws, the monitoring and control of the execution of the budget of the State and other Public Entities for the 2024 financial year was signed. As a result, Government Departments had to implement their commitments to promote gender equality, made in the context of the National Development Strategy, the National Gender Policy and the Gender-sensitive Budget Document (GSBD) 2024, annexed to the Finance Law. To this end, budgetary appropriations allocated to expenditure marked as gender-sensitive in the computerized system known as the Integrated Budget Management System (PROBMIS) and retained in the GSBD should in no case be transferred to other types of expenditure.

825- In addition, initial discussions led to the update of the triangulation matrix between NGP and the strategic performance frameworks (SPF) of Government Departments in order to guarantee a better mastery of gender-specific issues. An inter-ministerial committee for the follow-up of GSB was set up under the leadership of MINFI. In addition, MINPROFF supported 10 pilot Ministries in GSB and 46 Government Departments on gender mainstreaming in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), built the capacities of 146 members of Regional Councils of the Littoral and Far North Regions and 61 officials of councils of the South and

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Adamawa Regions on gender mainstreaming in regional plans. Some 101 gender focal points of the Adamawa, North and West Regions were trained on gender mainstreaming and 55 staff of MINPROFF devolved services of the North West and South Regions were trained on the use of the Handbook on gender mainstreaming in policies, strategies, programmes and budgets.

§2: Women in the Electoral Process and in Decision-making

826- Efforts to increase women's leadership were sustained. For example, several women were appointed to senior positions during the period under review. Within Territorial administration, there were 27 female Sub-divisional Officers. There were 10 women in 3rd class chiefdoms, and in the Lambés, there were 256 female notables.

827- In the Army, 3 more women were promoted to the rank of Colonel, bringing the total number of female Colonels to 21. In the police, there was a significant increase in the number of female *Commissaires Divisionnaires* (chief superintendents), from 18 in 2018 to 44 in 2024.

828- Moreover, **Marie Solange NDOM** épouse **EBONGUE MANGA** was the very first woman appointed to the position of Director of the Laquintinie Hospital in Douala.

829- Following the annual voter registration process, as at 30 December 2024, there were 3,637,665 women out of a total of 7,845,622 registered voters.

830- MINPROFF carried out activities with regard to women's participation in the electoral process. Thus, from 4 to 5 May 2024 in Yaounde, a capacity building workshop was organised on women and youth leadership for an inclusive electoral process, for 100 women with disabilities. The awareness of 7,542 women and girls was raised on leadership and political participation through the media and educational talks were held in the 10 Regions; support was provided for 190 women traditional leaders during the 2nd edition of the Cameroon Women Traditional Leaders Forum organised by the *Fédération des femmes Chefs Traditionnels du Cameroun* -Cameroon Women Traditional Leaders Federation (FETRAC) on 1 November 2024 in Bertoua and 103 persons were trained on the leadership of women and youth for an inclusive electoral process, on 13 and 14 July 2024 in Bafia and Bikok.

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SECTION 2: PROTECTION OF WOMEN ' S RIGHTS WITHIN THE FAMILY

831- Protecting women's rights involved awareness - raising on promotion of the family, celebrating marriages for couples in free unions, protecting women in the event of divorce and protecting widows. The State also developed the strategy for assistance to families in distress and destitute families in 2024. The objectives of this strategy include providing financial or material support to needy families, providing comprehensive support to families affected by crises, promoting mediation and dialogue among couples, and strengthening the legal and institutional framework for family protection.

§1: Awareness-raising Actions and Formalization of Free Unions

832- Awareness-raising activities on positive parenting and hate speech reached more than 4,000 families; on paradigm shift in children's education reached 7,467,243 persons; and on the promotion of peace, living together, responsible use of social networks and social cohesion within families and communities, reached 9,216,252 persons.

833- Other activities were carried out in the context of the celebration of the Day, such as the organisation of a national buffet for families in partnership with *Institut Tyranus*, on 11 May 2024, at the *EPC Adna (Eglise Presbytérien du Cameroun, Adna parish)* during which 3,600 guests attended educational talks conducted by MINPROFF and NSIF officials on positive parenting, essential family practices and the treatment of domestic workers.

834- In addition, the awareness of 1,815,217 persons was raised on marital, family and domestic violence; families and communities were mobilised for the HIV/AIDS response as regards women and the family. Some 751 persons and families were mobilised for the adoption of essential family practices and the fight against obstetric fistulas.

835- Moreover, in order to provide security for couples in free unions, particularly women, the State had over the years taken the initiative to facilitate the collective celebration of civil marriages. A total of 1,436 of such marriages were celebrated nationwide in 2024.

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§2: Protection of Women in the Event of Divorce

836- Women were protected during divorce proceedings. By way of illustration, the *Tribunal de Premier Degré* (TPD) of Edea, by Judgment No. 72/TPD of 1 March 2024, dissolved the marriage between the **E.** couple holding the husband solely responsible for the breakdown of the marriage, and entrusting the custody of the two minor children to their mother.

837- The TPD of Mbanga, by Judgment No. 683/TPD/MBA of 1 August 2024, dissolved the marriage between the **T.** couple, holding the husband solely responsible for the breakdown of the marriage, ordering him to pay a sum of CFAF 5,000,000²⁰⁵ as damages to his wife.

§3: Protection of Widows' Rights

838- On the occasion of the celebration of International Widows Day on 23 June 2024, more than 3,000 widows were made aware of their rights. The State produced the audio version of the Widows Legal Guide in digital format (memory cards, USB drives) in four languages (*Pidgin*, *Ewondo*, *Ghomala* and *Ffuldé*). In addition, MINPROFF organised capacity building sessions for 1,432 widows on income-generating activities (IGA) and granted them multifaceted support to implement the skills acquired.

839- Widows' rights in matters of inheritance were protected by courts. Thus, the TPD of Edea, by Judgment No. 331/TPD of 18 October 2024, granted the right of usufruct to widow **M.** by appointing her legal guardian of her daughter who was a minor.

SECTION 3: PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

840- Women's property rights continued to be promoted and their economic empowerment was guaranteed.

§1: Continued Women's Economic Empowerment

841- As part of women's economic empowerment, MINPROFF's main initiatives in 2024 included: increasing the number of establishments in charge of women and the family in the country, through the construction of 5

²⁰⁵ About 7, 633. 56 Euros.

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Women and the Family Empowerment Centres - CPFFs (Mayo-Darle, Yinguï, Kekem, Batchenga and Yoko); the rehabilitation of 21 CPFFs²⁰⁶; the guaranteeing security for 5 CPFFs (Yagoua, Ndop, Meiganga, Bamenda 1 and Figuil) and equipping of 10 CPFFs (Nkongsamba, Soa, Mbanga, Ngelebok, Kumbo, Bafia, Esse, Buea, Figuil and Yinguï).

842- Also, 722 girls and women received support for professional integration at CPFFs. Some 8,444 girls and women were trained in various specialties (hospitality and catering, agriculture and livestock farming, ICT, clothing industry, decoration, aesthetics, -hairdressing, etc.) in CPFFs. Moreover the capacities of 896 women and girls were also built in agri-food processing and household products at the *Centre de Technologies Appropriées* of Maroua and the *Unité Polyvalente de Transformation* of Ngaoundere. Furthermore the acquisition of computer equipment for some CPFF was acquired as part of the "Digital Houses" Programme in partnership with the Orange Foundation.

843- Moreover, 149,523 girls and women were trained in entrepreneurship and management of income-generating activities through the launch of the "Let's talk Female Entrepreneurship" initiative in Yaounde from 28 to 29 August 2024 and in Douala from 29 to 31 October 2024.

844- MINPROFF also granted financial support for the establishment of IGAs to 418 women and 102 women's groups; strengthened the capacity of 255 leaders of women's farmers' organisations on the establishment of cooperatives; promotion of women's know-how at the national and international level, by supporting the participation of 150 women entrepreneurs in 5 fairs and trade shows, namely: the CEMAC Annual Cross-border Fair (FOTRAC) (7-21 July 2024 in Ebolowa); the Wood and Furniture Fair (22 June to 2 July 2024 in Yaounde) the National Women's Entrepreneurship Fair (6-9 June 2024 in Yaounde), the International Women's Entrepreneurship Fair (7-19 October 2024 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea) and the African Forum for Women Entrepreneurs (18-24 November 2024 in Yaounde).

845- MINPROFF also granted support in the form of agropastoral equipment to 1,492 groups of women with a view to improving their production capacities and reducing the arduousness of their work. MINPROFF built

²⁰⁶ Olamze, Rey-Bouba, Nkongsamba, Monatele, Yaounde 4, Ambam, Mbanga, Batouri, Meyomessala, Belo, Mbalmayo, Kousseri, Mbandjock, Nanga-Eboko, Ngaoundere, Tignere, Dschang, Bandjoun, Yagoua, and Douala 5

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the capacities of leaders of women's farmers' organizations on the establishment of cooperatives in Mouanko from 28 to 29 November 2024 and in Ebolowa on 24 September 2024; trained 3,500 women on individual and collective entrepreneurship tools, ecological agriculture techniques and agropastoral processing of cassava and maize, as part of the project dubbed, Empowering women for resilient economies and peaceful communities in the refugee-affected East and Adamawa Regions in Cameroon. A total of 59,523 girls and women were trained in entrepreneurship.

846- In addition, in the context of activities to mark the 29th edition of the International Day of Rural Women celebrated on 15 October 2024, more than 600 women's groups were granted agropastoral equipment to improve their productive capacities and reduce the hardship of their work.

847- About 6,951 women living in rural areas were trained on various themes (production, processing, manufacturing and marketing techniques of agri-food products, responsible use of pesticides and fertilizers as well as village chicken farming) and 10,386 women living in rural areas were informed of the opportunities offered by import substitution.

§2: Promotion of Women's Property Rights

848- This promotion was characterised by the issuance of land titles to women and the settlement of land disputes in their favour.

849- With regard to access to land, 4,593 land titles were issued to women in 2024 out of a total of 22,141. During the same year, MIN-PROFF built the capacities of 2,319 leaders of women farmers' organizations on land title procedures.

850- Women's access to land was also guaranteed through courts. For example, by Judgment No. 235/FD/24 of 1 August 2024, the Administrative Court of the Littoral cancelled Land Title No. 9740/MGO in favour of Mrs **SOMEGNIE Jeanne d'Arc** épouse **LATTA**. The same court cancelled Land Title No. 8218 in favour of Mrs **KENMOE** épouse **NOUNKE Charlotte** by Judgment No. 318/FD/24 of 7 November 2024.

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SECTION 4: COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

851- The State was committed towards preventing and punishing GBV, as well as providing care to victims.

§1: Prevention of GBV

852- This involved raising public awareness and training stakeholders.

A: Awareness-raising Activities

853- These include awareness-raising by MINPROFF and its partners²⁰⁷ of thousands of persons on GBV and women's rights across the 10 Regions through the media, educational talks and "socio-legal clinics" as well as the popularisation of the National Strategy to combat GBV and the Plan of Action for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

854- During the celebration of the 18th edition of the campaign "16 days of activism against gender-based violence which took place from 25 November to 10 December 2024 under the theme *Fighting back and rebuilding one's life after violence*, MINPROFF organised activities among which, educational talks, training the design and distribution of awareness-raising materials, digital campaigns, as well as radio and television programmes. Educational talks, training and distribution of awareness-raising materials activities reached 74,486 persons, including 57,718 women, 9,214 men, 4,915 girls and 2,639 boys.

B: Continued Training of Stakeholders in the Fight against GBV

855- Several stakeholders involved in the repression of GBV were trained. Mention can be made of the training of 213 Soldiers on GBV from 23 to 24 May 2024 in Bertoua and Motcheboum and 29 Gendarmerie Officers and Non-commissioned Officers on the holistic management of GBV from 3 to 14 June 2024 in Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam and Ngaoundere.

²⁰⁷ Including the *Association de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes* -Association for the Elimination of Violence against Women (ALVF); *Association Camerounaise des femmes juristes* (ACAFEJ), *Association des Bayam-Selam du Cameroun*- Association of Bayam Sallam of Cameroon (ASBY); CAM-CRIN; International federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA); ACAHIJEC...

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856- In addition, the capacities of 113 stakeholders from CSOs and devolved services of MINPROFF were built on the prevention of GBV in Bafoussam and Douala from 17 to 18 September 2024 as part of the implementation of the MINPROFF road map.

857- Within the framework of the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Project, a training session for SWEDD staff and focal team members was organised on gender-based violence and the complaints management mechanism. During this training session, 43 mentors and supervisors of safe spaces were trained on the mastery of curriculum content. This was followed by the training of 67 persons on the adaptation of safe spaces curricula and on the mentor's guide as part of the above-mentioned project, from 23 to 27 September 2024 in Maroua, in the Far North Region.

858- From 3 to 14 June 2024, on the initiative of the French Embassy in Cameroon, a training course on the fight against violence against women was held in Yaounde at the advanced criminal investigation training centre during which 24 Judicial Police Officers of the National Gendarmerie were trained on the reception of victims, management of the said victims during investigations and on the relevant normative framework.

§2: Repression of GBV

859- The State, through the justice system, continued to provide responses to various cases of GBV which manifested themselves in several forms including femicide, rape and other types of violence. In early 2024 in Douala, **H.B.** was arrested, charged and detained following allegations on social networks, of multiple cases of rape. The matter was pending.

860- In addition, several court decisions were rendered sentencing persons accused of killing women. To illustrate, by Judgment No. 166/CRIM of 12 March 2024, the Mfoundi HC found Mr **W.D.** guilty of capital murder of his concubine, the deceased **MEZOA ISSA NENE**, sentenced him to life imprisonment and ordered him to pay the sum of CFAF 25,000,000²⁰⁸ to her rightful claimants as damages.

861- In addition, by Judgment No. 317/CRIM of 7 May 2024, the same

²⁰⁸ About 38,167.94 Euros.

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court sentenced **A.M.D.** to 8 years in prison and ordered him to pay CFAF 6,000,00²⁰⁹ to the victim as damages for false arrest, rape and conditional threats.

862- By Judgment No. 30/CRIM/24 of 6 March 2024, the Ebolowa Military Tribunal found **E.E.F** (Civil Administrator) guilty of the murder of **TABA Lydienne** and sentenced him to 10 years in prison, to pay a fine worth CFAF 238,360²¹⁰ and to pay the sum of CFAF 45,000,000²¹¹ to the rightful claimants of the deceased as damages. The case was pending at the Court of Appeal of the South.

863- There were 76 cases of femicide in 2024 compared to 65 in 2023.

§3: Management of GBV Victims

864- According to statistics of MINPROFF, a total of 3,623 GBV survivors in the 10 Regions received holistic care. Some 4 safe spaces for the protection of women against GBV were set up by MINPROFF in the Far North Region (Meri, Mora and Mémé) with the support of the international organization for Migration (IOM) and in Yaounde 5, in the Fouda neighbourhood, with the support of UNFPA and the *Association Camerounaise d'Aide à l'Hygiene et à l'Insertion des Jeunes dans les Collectivités*. Also, some 3 platforms to combat GBV were set up in the East, North and South Regions.

865- The State also provided support in the form of agricultural equipment to local committees to combat female genital mutilation in Mora and Kousseri. Some 103 persons including 80 women with disabilities were trained on GBV victim care, prevention of GBV and gender based approach by MINPROFF on 13 September 2024 at the CPFF in Yaounde 4 through the organisation of a "socio-legal clinic", on 13 October 2024 in the MINPROFF Conference Room during a workshop organised by MINPROFF in partnership with *Sightsavers*.

866- Moreover, in the safe spaces of major host cities (Douala, Bafoussam and Yaounde), 1,136 dignity kits were distributed to survivors of GBV.

²⁰⁹ About 9, 160.35 Euros.

²¹⁰ About 363.91 Euros.

²¹¹ About 68, 702.30 Euros.

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867- In addition, on 11 December 2024 in Yaounde, a national consultation organized by CARE Cameroon, in partnership with MINPROFF and MINJUSTICE, brought together civil society stakeholders, public administrations and Officials of some United Nations Agencies such as UNFPA and UN-Women around the same table to discuss obstacles impeding the legal and judicial management of GBV survivors in Cameroon. During the meeting, several recommendations were made to the participants, such as increasing the number of collaborative platforms bringing together all stakeholders for holistic care of GBV survivors, pursuing the training of opinion leaders, law enforcement personnel and health professionals on the fight against GBV as well as continuous awareness-raising among the population on the importance of reporting cases of GBV to competent authorities.

SECTION 5: INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

868- On 27 September 2024 in Yaounde, MINEPAT signed the execution Contract for the implementation of the project dubbed *Promotion of gender transformative approaches*, co-financed to the tune of 21,000,000 Euros or about CFAF 14,000,000,000 by the European Union (17,000,000 Euros) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (4,000,000 Euros). The project will run until 2028. This Contract will, among other things, improve civic space as well as the legal and institutional framework governing the functioning of Cameroonian women's organizations and civil society organisations; enhance the contribution of these stakeholders to multi-partner efforts to protect displaced persons for greater resilience, social cohesion, dialogue and peace in communities affected by crises in the North West and South West Regions and those of neighbouring Regions hosting displaced persons; and enhance the mobilisation of stakeholders supporting the empowerment of GBV victims.

869- In addition, the 2nd session of the SWEDD Steering Committee which was held on 19 November 2024 in Yaounde, enabled the assessment of progress made since the launch of the project's activities in June 2022. It was revealed that during the period from June 2022 to November 2024, 155,758 adolescent girls were supported in schooling, 37,452 women and girls benefited from financial support to create IGA, 473 midwives supplemented their basic training with short continuous training sessions as part of the quality assurance of reproductive health services. Some 1,500

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community and religious leaders took the commitment to actively promote the enrolment and schooling of girls. Other activities focused on advocacy for demographic dividend-sensitive budgeting. Overall, the state of progress showed a 62% achievement rate of the objectives of SWEDD.

SECTION 6: ROLE OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE-BUILDING

870- The role of women in conflict resolution and peace-building was highlighted by awareness-raising activities carried out by the State and civil society organisations.

§1: Awareness-Raising Activities carried out by the State

871- Following Cameroon's participation in the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68), on 5 June 2024, MINPROFF organized the presentation of the Second Action Plan of the United Nations Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on "Women-Peace-Security" and thereafter raised the awareness of thousands of persons on the Plan through the media, round table conferences and educational talks.

872- Moreover, on 15 June 2024, at the National Museum in Yaounde, MINPROFF organized a forum on the theme: *Promoting peace through peace-building and social cohesion in Cameroon*. This event was organized in partnership with the NGO *Reach Out* and the Canadian High Commission. It helped raise the awareness of 760 persons on the "Women-Peace-Security" agenda, on peace-building and social cohesion.

873- In pursuance of the implementation of Resolution 1,325, MINPROFF also collaborated with GIZ to raise the awareness of 25 persons in Bamenda on the role of women and girls in peace-building in Cameroon.

874- In addition, MINDEF organised a round table on 4 March 2024 in Yaounde under the theme: "Women and Peace", during which more than a hundred women were educated on the history of war and the role of women in ancient Africa, on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its implementation in the Defence Forces as well as on the role of women as key stakeholders in peace-building.

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§2: The Role of Women in Awareness-Raising Activities carried out by Civil Society Organizations

875- State action of involving women in conflict resolution, peace-building and social cohesion was enhanced by the commitment of civil society.

876- This commitment was illustrated by the organization of a conference on peace in Maroua on 19 April 2024 by the National Women's Convention for Peace in Cameroon in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The objective of the conference was to assess the scale of the consequences of insecurity on the Cameroon-Nigeria border, and to identify the needs of displaced persons. Displaced and refugee women and girls attended this conference, and presented the difficulties they face on a daily basis.

877- In the same vein, a series of workshops was held in Garoua from 22 to 26 July 2024 as part of the implementation of the PBF GYPI DDR²¹² Project entitled "Women for Inclusive Reintegration in Cameroon". These workshops were designed to strengthen the commitment of CSOs in general, and women's organisations in particular, in the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and to support the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee in its collaborative approach with the civil society.

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878- Women's rights were promoted by the State with the continuous implementation of gender-sensitive budgeting, which was extended to all public administrations and institutions as well as to Regional and Local Authorities. Women's rights within the family and their economic rights were also promoted. Nevertheless, further efforts were still needed as regards the appointment of women to decision-making positions.

²¹² Peace building Fund-Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative-Disarmament, Demolization and Reintegration.

CHAPTER

6

**RIGHTS OF
FORCIBLY
DISPLACED
PERSONS**



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879- In 2024, despite a drastic drop in funding from partners that led, among other things, to a reduction in food distribution, the State continued to work to protect the rights of forcibly displaced persons in Cameroon, notably refugees and asylum seekers as well as internally displaced persons.

SECTION I: MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

880- Continued attention was given to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers, as regards reception and settlement, protection, health and nutrition, education as well as access to income-generating activities.

§1: Reception and Settlement of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

881- Refugees and asylum seekers in the national territory were sheltered.

A: Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

882- As at 31 December 2024, according to statistics from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Cameroon hosted 410,211 refugees (including 53% of women and girls and 55% of children) compared to 473,887 in 2023. Refugees from the CAR numbered 281,486 against 354,139 in 2023; Nigerians 125,431 as against 120,839 in 2023 and other nationalities 3,294²¹³ as against 2,997 in 2023. The decrease in the number of refugees compared to previous years was due to voluntary repatriation, resettlement and biometric verification²¹⁴.

883- The number of asylum seekers increased from 10,310 in 2023 to 16,050 in 2024; There were 5,130 Central Africans against 4,659 in 2023, 604 Nigerians against 29 in 2023 and 10,313 from other nationalities against 5,622 in 2023.

²¹³ These refugees came from countries such as Chad, Niger, DRC, Rwanda, Mali, Guinea, Sudan, South Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Morocco, Mauritania, Togo, Turkey.

²¹⁴ Refugees who did not consent to these operations were removed from the UNHCR statistical data.

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B: Implementation of the Right to Housing of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

884- Refugees were generally housed in communities in villages, in developed sites or in urban areas. Central African refugees living in communities were distributed in the East (Lom-et-Djerem, Kadey, Boumba-et-Ngoko and Haut-Nyong), North (Mayo-Rey) and Adamawa (Mbere, Vina and Djerem) Regions. Refugees were settled in 7 developed sites in the East Region, (Gado Badzere, Lolo, Borgop, Mbile, Ngam, Timangolo and Ngarisingo) In urban areas, they lived in the Centre and Littoral Regions.

885- The majority of Nigerian refugees lived in the Far North Region in the Minawao site while others were settled in the villages in the Diamare, Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga and Benue Divisions. Those living in urban areas were found in the Ndian (South-West), Wouri (Littoral), Mfoundi (Centre) and Mayo-Banyo (Adamawa) Divisions.

886- Refugees of other nationalities were in the cities of Yaounde (Centre Region), Douala (Littoral Region) and Langui (North Region), while asylum seekers were mainly settled in the cities of Yaounde and Douala.

§2: Protection of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

887- The protection of the rights of refugees included among other things, access to documents, collaboration with relevant stakeholders, as well as long-lasting solutions.

A: Access to Documents

888- In 2024, approximately 20,000 biometric cards were produced for refugees.

889- In addition, on 13 May 2024, the Government signed a partnership agreement²¹⁵ with the Augentic Consortium for the implementation in 2024 of a new secure identification system for the production of national identity, refugee and invalidity cards, as well as residence permits²¹⁶ within 48 hours.

²¹⁵ This contract involves the construction of 68 modern multifunctional centres across the 10 regions and 58 divisions, the establishment of 3 identity cards production centres in the cities of Yaounde, Douala and Garoua and the complete renovation of the 219 current identification posts.

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890- According to data from UNHCR, 18,050 refugees (57% women and 43% men) received refugee cards from the Government. The cards were issued in Touboro, Djohong and Yaounde. In addition, pending the issuance of refugee cards by the Government, 34,256 other refugees received valid identification documents from UNHCR²¹⁷.

891- At the end of December 2024, MINPROFF signed contracts with 12 municipalities to facilitate the civil status registration of 14,222 children, including refugee children. To this end, MINPROFF provided more than CFAF 142,000,000²¹⁸ in funding to the said councils of 7 Regions (Adamawa, Centre, Far North, North, West, South and South West).

B: Collaboration with relevant Stakeholders

892- The Government worked with UNHCR to improve the lives of refugees. Thus, with MINSANTE, the collaboration targeted, among other things, the registration of refugees for UHC; with MINAS, the collaboration concerned the inclusion of refugees in social welfare programmes, including IDPs and persons with disabilities; with MINDDEVEL, the partnership signed on 7 March 2024 focused on the socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in local and regional development plans.

893- In addition, in order to facilitate access to a database necessary for the protection of rights, on 15 February 2024, UNHCR signed with the National Institute of Statistics, a Memorandum of Understanding "to carry out the multisectoral survey to collect quantitative data from households of refugees, asylum seekers and host communities". This Memorandum was signed as part of a survey in 16 countries. Cameroon was one of the 3 countries selected for the pilot phase of the survey financed by the World Bank, which took place in June and July 2024. The collection of data which was to be used was completed at the end of 2024.

894- On 11 July 2024, MINREX renewed the Agreement for the establishment of the International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA) Re-

²¹⁶ This system became operational in March 2025.

²¹⁷ The rate of persons who obtained valid identification documents rose from 72% in 2023 to 87% in 2024.

²¹⁸ About 216,793.89 Euros.

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lief in Cameroon for a period of 5 years. This NGO has been working with the Government for years on behalf of refugees and IDPs in several areas²¹⁹.

895- The Multi-Year and Multi-Partner Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2026 was officially presented to the Government by UNHCR on 20 March 2024 in Yaounde.

C: Voluntary Repatriation and Resettlement of Refugees

896- Of the 10,000 voluntary repatriations to Nigeria planned for 2024, only the return of 242 refugees settled in the Far North Region was facilitated, due to security problems and the unavailability of some social services in areas of return. In the cities of Yaounde and Douala, 49 refugees (32 to CAR, 12 to Chad and 5 to Burundi) were repatriated with dignity. In the East Region, in March 2024, 300 refugees were voluntarily repatriated from the Gado Badzere site to Beloko in CAR. During the same period, about 300 other refugees left Kentsou for Berberati in CAR.

897- With regard to resettlement, average acceptance rate for applications for resettlement in other countries was 95% in 2024²²⁰. Some 1,176 applications (595 from women and 581 from men) were successful and beneficiaries were able to leave the country within 6 months of the acceptance decision. UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) supported the departure of 1,080 refugees (550 women and 530 men) to Australia, Canada, France and the United States.

§3: Health and Nutrition of Refugees

898- Refugees were provided health care and food.

A: Refugees' Right to Health

899- Awareness-raising campaigns on the prevention of cholera and monkey pox, among others, were organised for refugees. Preventive measures

²¹⁹ These include the construction of temporary and semi-temporary lodgings, food security and livelihoods, health, education, hygiene, sanitation.

²²⁰ Resettled refugees enjoy the same rights as the citizens of the host countries, including free education, health insurance, social security, vocational training and better employment opportunities.

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were taken to protect refugees against malaria and the immunization of 3,500 refugee children against malaria had a positive impact on the reduction in the number of cases. Measles vaccination coverage was 92.4% and 163,914 medical consultations were recorded. Similarly, 47,091 refugees were registered for UHC.

900- In addition, in accordance with Cameroon's commitments²²¹ made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, 22,738 refugees from the Minawao Site were registered for UHC. The assisted delivery rate at the Site stood at 97.2%.

B: Guaranteeing the Right to Food of Refugees

901- The reduction in external funding had an impact on the supply of food to refugees. For example, the World Food Programme distributed food over a period of 3 months only, compared to a monthly distribution in previous years. To address this serious shortage and potential unrest, a presidential donation of food and basic necessities valued at CFAF 100,000,000²²² was officially handed over to refugees at the Minawao site by the Governor of the Far North Region on 1 August 2024.

§4: Education of Refugees

902- Thanks to several incentives²²³, the right to education of refugees continued to be implemented during the 2023/2024 school year at the nursery, primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

²²¹ Commitment No. 2 concerns the inclusion of refugees in UHC, while the Government continues to bear 30% of their medical expenses and UNHCR 70%, in accordance with the MINSANTE/UNHCR Framework Convention signed in 2021.

²²² About 152,671.75 Euros.

²²³ Awareness-raising among parents on the importance of education, infrastructure and human resources, material and financial donations, free primary school, implementation by the Government and the World Food Programme of the integrated approach of the Education cannot Wait (ECW) project through school feeding, support from partners such as Plan International Cameroon, by covering, for the 2023/2024 school year, the school fees of 2,852 refugee children in the East Region (2,474 in primary schools and 378 in secondary schools), etc.

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A: Nursery School

903- Some 5,070 children, including 2,504 girls and 2,566 boys were enrolled in nursery school during the 2023/2024 school year. These students were distributed as follows: 2,949 (1,461 girls/1,488 boys) in public schools, 621 (285 girls/336 boys) in private schools and 1,500 (758 girls/742 boys) in parent or community schools.

B: Primary School

904- A total of 78,399 children were enrolled in primary schools, including 35,258 girls and 43,141 boys. They were distributed in various schools: 73,186 (32,666 girls/40,520 boys) in public schools, 4,820 (2,426 girls/2,394 boys) in private schools and 393 (166 girls/227 boys) in parent or community schools.

905- In Non-formal Basic Education Centres (CEBNF), 121 learners were registered, including 57 girls and 64 boys. Of these learners, 52 (25 girls/27 boys) were registered in public centres, 69 (32 girls/37 boys) were registered in private centres. In Functional Literacy Centres (CAF), 191 learners were enrolled, including 110 girls and 81 boys. A total of 63 (40 girls/23 boys) learners were registered in public centres, 70 (34 girls/36 boys) in private centres and 58 (36 girls/22 boys) in community centres.

C: Secondary Education

906- The number of refugee students enrolled during the year in secondary school is shown in the table below.

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Table 1: Summary of Refugee Students Enrolled in the Secondary School System by Education Sector and Sex

Education sector	Girls	Boys	Total
Public TVSE	611	942	1,553
Public GSE	2,536	3,399	5,935
Public TVSE -GSE	3,147	4,341	7,488
Private GSE	1,801	1,551	3,352
Private TVSE	178	237	415
Private GSE-TVSE	1,979	1,788	3,767
Public - private TVSE	789	1,179	1,968
Public-private GSE	4,337	4,950	9,287
public-private TVSE and GSE	5,126	6,129	11,255

Source: MINESEC

Key:

GSE: General Secondary Education

TVSE: Technical and Vocational Secondary Education.

D: Tertiary Education

907- As part of the Education Strategy 2030, which aims to enrol 15% of refugees who qualify for higher education in foreign schools, the DAFI scholarship programme achieved the results contained in the following table during the academic year 2023/2024:

Table 2: Number of Beneficiaries of the DAFI Scholarship by Level of Study

Academic level	Women	Men	Total
Level 1	9	10	19
Level 2	14	13	27
Level 3	19	18	37
Level 4	1	2	3
Total	43	43	86

Source: UNHCR

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§5: Support for the Empowerment of Refugees

908- UNHCR data reveal that 46% of refugees were engaged in income-generating activities²²⁴, 17% were students and 15% were unemployed.

909- In order to foster self-sufficiency, financial inclusion and economic participation of refugees, multifaceted support was provided to them in several sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, self-employment, entrepreneurship and vocational training. In the Far North Region, for example, about 5,500 persons, that is, 60% of women and 30% of the host community, received installation kits in the sectors of agriculture, livestock, fishing, vocational training and entrepreneurship. In addition, 994 hectares (ha) of land (483 ha in the East Region, 511 ha in the Far North Region) were made available to 1,759 farmers, including 1,012 women.

910- To facilitate the empowerment of refugees and cohabitation with local populations, the administrative and traditional authorities of the Mayo-Laddé village in Gawar allocated 100 ha of land to refugees to carry out agricultural activities²²⁵. In all, 200 households benefited from these plots where crops they planted produced 62 tons of rice and 228 tons of off-season millet.

911- In addition, the felling of trees around the Minawao site that resulted in limited access to firewood pushed refugee women living in the site to engage in the production of ecological coal. This activity enabled them to earn a living while protecting the environment.

912- UNHCR, Jesuit Refugees Service (JRS) and IHS Cameroon signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 23 October 2024 in Yaounde to establish and manage digital kiosks²²⁶ at the Minawao site. Under the terms of this Memorandum, UNHCR is responsible for allocating the installation site while IHS, in charge of making the Multimedia Centre at the Minawao site operational, was to provide, equip and maintain the kiosks for 6 months. After that, JRS will manage the kiosks and ensure that they con-

²²⁴ Housekeepers, drivers, farmers, labourers, traders, breeders...

²²⁵ In addition, 50 hectares of land were made available to host populations for these activities.

²²⁶ These kiosks are multimedia centres equipped with computers, printers, a 32-inch flat screen TV powered by a solar generator and an internal connection, plastic tables.

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tribute to the socio-economic development of the population of²²⁷ the Far North Region, including refugees. These kiosks aim to offer digital financial services and promote business, local entrepreneurship, e-commerce, e-health, education and governance notably.

SECTION II: MANAGEMENT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

913- As at 31 December 2024, there were 1,036,775 internally displaced persons (IDPs), compared with 1,075,252 in 2023.

914- Actions guaranteeing their rights covered several areas such as documents, education, health and empowerment.

§1: Access to Documents

915- On 24 April 2024, the Government and IOM officially handed over 507 birth certificates²²⁸, including 400 for IDPs in the city of Bertoua who were victims of conflicts in the North West and South West Regions. During the same month, 683 identification documents were produced for IDPs and vulnerable populations in the Yaounde 3 and 6 councils in the Centre Region. In the Littoral Region, especially in the Douala 4, Manjo, Nkongsamba 1 and Melong councils, 100 birth certificates were reconstituted and 50 national identity cards were produced.

916- In addition, MINEDUB launched a special operation on 22 March 2024 in Yaounde to establish and issue birth certificates to pupils, including IDPs in CM1 and CM2 for the French-speaking subsystem and Class 5 and Class 6 for the English-speaking subsystem. This led to the issuance of about 58000 birth certificates for the 2023/2024 academic year.

§2: Education of IDPs

917- During the 2023/2024 school year, 15,322 children, that is, 7,675 girls and 7,647 boys were registered in nursery school as follows: 4,721

²²⁷ Beneficiaries also included IDPs and host populations.

²²⁸ 107 birth certificates were issued to vulnerable people from host populations in the Centre, East and Littoral Regions.

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(2,287 girls/2,431 boys) in public schools, 9,622 (4,901 girls/4,721 boys) in private schools and 982 (487 girls/495 boys) in parent or community schools. As concerns primary school, 197,766 pupils attended school, of whom 94,352 were girls and 103,414 boys. There were 152,941 pupils (72,363 girls/80,578 boys) in public schools, 42,192 (20,835 girls/21,357 boys) in private schools and 2,633 (1,154 girls/1,479 boys) in community schools.

918- In CEBNF, 1,345 learners were registered, including 698 girls and 647 boys. Of these, 144 (100 girls/44 boys) were registered in public centres, 1,160 (583 girls/577 boys) were registered in private centres and 41 (15 girls/26 boys) attended community centres. CAFs had 813 learners, 498 girls and 315 boys. A total of 186 (155 girls/31 boys) learners went to public centres, 255 (141 girls/114 boys) to private centres and 372 (202 girls/170 boys) to community centres.

919- Concerning secondary education, the following table provides information on school attendance of internally displaced children during the 2023/2024 school year:

Table 3: Number of IDP Students enrolled in Secondary School by Education Sector and Sex

Education sector	Girls	Boys	Total
Public TVSE	1,969	2,978	4,947
Public GSE	13,773	11,268	25,041
Public TVSE -GSE	15,742	14,246	29,988
Private GSE	7,953	7,029	14,982
Private TVSE	900	1,252	2,152
Private GSE -TVSE	8,853	8,281	17,134
Public - private TVSE	2,869	4,230	7,099
Public-private GSE	21,726	18,297	40,023
Public-privateTVSE and GSE	24,595	22,527	47,122

Source: MINESEC

§3: Right to Health of IDPs

920- Several modern contraceptive methods were made available to

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women. These included condoms, contraceptive pills, injectable contraceptives, IUD and implants. With the support of UNFPA, reproductive health kits²²⁹ were constantly provided to women, as well as to health facilities.

§4: Support for the Empowerment of IDPs

921- This support was materialised, among other things through the provision on 29 July 2024 by Mr **KENFACK Simplicie**, Alternate Member of Parliament, of a plot of land of 600m² for more than 40 IDPs from the North West and South West Regions who were members of an agropastoral community development association based in Atouazong, a village in Dschang.

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922- The Government continued to take measures to protect the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons, some of which had direct results. For instance, they were empowered, their school enrolment improved and as regards health some refugees were enrolled for UHC. In addition, several collaboration agreements aimed at protecting the rights of refugees at various levels were signed. The impact of some of these measures are expected to be an acceleration in the production of identity cards through the new production system put in place, thus enabling an increase in the mobility and security of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as their access to social services.

²²⁹ These were condoms (Kit 1), hygienic delivery (Kit 2), post-rape (Kit 3), oral and injectable contraceptives (Kit 4), treatment of STIs (Kit 5), medicated delivery (Kit 6), intra-uterine devices (Kit 7), management of spontaneous abortions and related complications (Kit 8), suturing vaginal or cervical tears and vaginal control (Kit 9), delivery suction cup (Kit 10), cesarean section, obstetric surgery and other obstetric complications (Kit 11) and blood transfusion (Kit 12).



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CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

923- Despite persisting threats to security, worsened notably by the resurgence of the phenomenon of *microbes* and growing tensions between communities, resorting to capacity building for defence and security personnel, awareness raising, suppression of hate speech and continuation of the disarmament and reintegration process of ex fighters, among others, had a positive impact on the preservation of peace and living together. Besides the continuation of public-private dialogue, investment incentives and the application of the principle of transparency, innovations as regards regulations and laws helped improve the quality of governance while measures towards prevention, control by some institutions and repression were adopted to curb corruption and misappropriation of public property. To improve detention conditions, the budget allocated for prisons was slightly increased. Moreover, consideration of women as stakeholders in the development process continued as well as the protection of their rights including protection from violence.

924- In addition to measures taken to guarantee the rights of vulnerable persons, particularly the rights of children, the adoption of law No. 2024/16 of 23 December 2024 to organise the Civil Registration system in Cameroon was one of the major innovations in 2024. Furthermore, the drastic decrease in foreign aid did not prevent the State from providing care to refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs.

925- Despite all these efforts, several challenges still exist such as hate speech, insufficient representation of women in decision-making positions and prison overcrowding.



GENERAL CONCLUSION



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926- On the whole, this Report shows that despite endogenous and exogenous constraints, in 2024, the State of Cameroon continued, as in previous years, to implement its policy on promoting and protecting Human Rights and endeavoured to address challenges related thereto.

927- Cooperation with international and regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of Human Rights was illustrated at both contentious and non-contentious levels, notably through the processing of Communications and Urgent Appeals, attendance of sessions of some Human Rights Mechanisms and the submission to and defence of periodic reports before treaty bodies.

928- Moreover, at the level of the international public service, the dynamism of Cameroonian diplomacy was highlighted notably through the placement of its sons and daughters both in African and United Nations Bodies.

929- At the strategic level, the Presidential Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the North West and South West Regions was readjusted by an Order of the Prime Minister of 30 July 2024. Furthermore, in June 2024, the National Plan for the Development of Forest and Non-Timber Products was renewed and validated.

930- At the normative level, important international and regional instruments likely to have a considerable impact on the improvement of the Human Rights situation in Cameroon, were ratified in the areas of criminal policing between Central and East African States, the fight against international terrorism, fishing subsidies or concerning the status of stateless persons and the reduction of cases of statelessness.

931- At the national level, the regulatory landscape was reorganized in various sectors such as archives, fisheries and aquaculture, civil protection, protection of personal data, the civil status registration system in Cameroon, local taxation as well as the organization of traditional medicine in Cameroon.

932- At the institutional level, certain institutions were reorganised, such as the EITI Implementation Monitoring Committee, the SNI, by its transformation into a public owned company and by Decree No. 2024/292 ap-

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proving its Articles of Association, or by change of name, with the National Radiation Protection Agency (ANRP) which became the Radiological Safety and Nuclear Security Authority (ASRAN).

933- Moreover, pursuant to Law No. 2024/11 of 24 July 2024, the term of office of members of parliament which was supposed to expire in March 2025, was extended to 30 March 2026, while members of the national assembly and Senate met in a joint session.

934- In terms of infrastructure, the continued execution of overarching projects led to the enhancement of roads and urban networks in several towns across the country, as well as enhancement in health and education infrastructure.

935- Notwithstanding these major strides, certain circumstances strongly negatively impacted the balance sheet of the State. Some of the challenges included the resurgence of inter-community conflicts and the persistence of terrorist attacks in some regions, although these were decreasing; the persistence of road accidents and natural disasters; the increase in disinformation, hate speech and obscene content on social networks despite the presence of regulatory mechanisms. Managing the growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons was also recorded as a challenge

936- It is inferred that, for the enhancement of the Human Rights situation in Cameroon, the State should address these constraints and the identified challenges. This is dependent on the consolidation of the democratic culture and Human Rights, a sense of respect for the general interest, as well as living together.

APPENDIX



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The following contributed in preparing this Report: Ministries and Administrative structures, the senate, Independent Administrative Institutions and Public and Semi Public Establishments, international organisations and civil society organizations:

Ministries / Administrative Structures

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER);
- Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC);
- Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB);
- Ministry of Communication (MINCOM);
- Ministry of Defence (MINDEF);
- Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT);
- Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP);
- Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED);
- Ministry of External Relations (MINREX);
- Ministry of Finance (MINFI);
- Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF);
- Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP);
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU);
- Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE);
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS);
- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA);
- Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT);
- Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL);
- Ministry of Public Contracts (MINMAP);
- Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE);
- Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform (MINFOPRA);
- Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC);
- Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA);
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS);
- Ministry of Sports and Physical Education (MINSEP);
- Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) ;
- Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL);
- Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE);
- Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE);

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- Ministry of State Property, Survey and Land Tenure (MINCAF);
- Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF);
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC);
- Supreme State Audit (CONSUPE);
- Ministry of Public Works (MINTP);
- Ministry of Transport (MINT);
- Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI);
- Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL);
- General Delegation for National Security (DGSN);
- General Delegation for External Research (DGRE);
- Secretariat of State In Charge of the National Gendarmerie (SED);

Courts

- Supreme Court;
- Special Criminal Court
- The 10 Courts of Appeal;
- Administrative Courts.

Independent Administrative Institutions and Public and Semi Public Establishments

- Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC);
- Cameroon Water Utilities (CAMWATER);
- Cameroon Housing Corporation (SIC);
- Cameroon Housing Loan Fund (CFC);
- Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (MIRAP);
- Elections Cameroon (ELECAM);
- Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL);
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD);
- Investment Promotion Agency (IPA);
- National AIDS Control Committee (CNLS);
- National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC);
- National Communication Council (NCC);
- National Employment Fund (FNE);
- National Agency Financial Investigation (ANIF);
- National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC)

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- National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC);
- National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM) ;
- National Disarmament, Demobilization and Rehabilitation Committee (NDDRC);
- National Governance Programme (PNG);
- Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR);
- Urban and Rural Land Development Authority (MAETUR);
- Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART);
- Rural Electrification Agency (AER).

International Organizations and Civil Society Organisations

- United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHR-CA);
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR Cameroon);
- International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- Plan International Cameroon;
- International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)-Cameroon ;
- *Association Camerounaise des Femmes Juristes* (ACAFEJ)
- *Nouveau Droits de l'Homme* (NDH) Cameroun ;
- Cameroon Child Rights Civil Society Organizations Network (CAM-CRIN);
- Council of Imams and Muslim Dignitaries of Cameroon (CDIMUC);
- *Reseaux des Personnes Handicapées* ;
- CEPCA.

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